Dear Alumni, Faculty and Friends:

2013 represents a significant milestone in the history of Temple University Rome, as we say good-bye to one dean, a constant presence on the Rome campus for the last 22 years, and welcome a new dean who will lead the Rome program through its 50th anniversary and into its next half century.

At the end of June, Dean Kim Strommen said arrivederci Roma, and returned to the United States and Temple’s main campus with his family, for a new chapter in his personal and professional life. In April, Mike Dever, Education Abroad director of operations, and I joined the Temple Rome faculty and staff for a wonderful evening celebrating Dean Strommen and his many contributions to the Temple Rome program. During my week in Rome, I met with many Rome faculty who sang Kim’s praises over and over again, and found myself helping to dry more than a few tears in the process.

From my perspective, Kim’s accomplishments are many, but it was the combination of his extraordinary organizational and administrative skills with his innovative talents, creative eye, and vision for what the Rome campus might be, that earned the program its current reputation as one of the best study abroad programs in Italy. If you would like to contact Kim, he can be reached at kim.strommen@temple.edu.

Fortunately for all of us, Dean Strommen’s connection and commitment to the Rome campus will continue! We expect Kim to be involved in the planning of Temple University Rome 50th anniversary events, which will take place in 2016-17, and which will most certainly include a reunion trip to Rome. Stay tuned!

Looking to the more immediate future, we are delighted that Hilary Link, currently Vice Provost at Barnard College and a scholar of Italian language and literature, will be assuming her role as dean of Temple University Rome at the end of December. Look for a profile of Dean Link in the next issue of Postcard.

Finally, I would like to extend our appreciation to Temple Rome Italian professor Maria Ponce de Leon, who has served as interim dean this semester, and the Temple Rome staff and faculty, for keeping things running smoothly this fall – grazie mille!

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Kim Strommen
Departs:
“Grazie Temple e Grazie Roma!”

In Fall 1991, students arrived at Temple Rome along with a new director, Kim Strommen. In 2013, the Temple community gathered to pay tribute and say farewell to Dean Strommen, whose initial three-year contract had become twenty-two years of dedicated service to TU Rome.

Those years have seen many changes. Enrollments increased to 550 annually and include students from more than 40 institutions, making Temple Rome one of the largest American study-abroad programs in Italy. While building on the strength of the art, architecture and art history program, liberal arts offerings were expanded and now account for 50% of enrollments, and International Business and summer sessions were added. Outreach and cultural programs were expanded; and major renovations and a third floor expansion in the Villa Caproni added studio, classroom, and study space.

None of this happened by chance. “I was new to Italy,” Kim explains, “but I understood the critical goal for the program was to engage Rome and Italian culture”. His goals have been met; today’s academic program takes full advantage of the Roman/European context, and students and Romans mix at gallery exhibitions, public lectures and a wide variety of events.

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Kim Strommen departs  
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Kim’s engagement includes his service on the Steering Committee of the Association of American College and University Programs in Italy, for which he was the Master of Ceremonies at the 30th anniversary celebration. He was an active member of the Italian Association of In-Line Skating which brought Italians and Temple students together on the streets of Rome, and he played blues harmonica in Roman clubs and at Temple Rome Jam Session Shows.

At the farewell tribute to Dean Strommen, Contessa Maria Fede Caproni offered warm expressions of appreciation at the family’s Villa Giovaneli-Fogacci. Teri Morelli, Manuela Proietti and Gianni Marangio, who organized the celebration, contributed thoughtful words and a moving video of staff, faculty and Italian neighbors bidding farewell. Denise Connerty, who hosted the event, also spoke and presented a video of home campus faculty and staff welcoming Kim and his family back to the U.S., where he will return to Temple’s main campus.

From Temple’s Provost...

When Kim Strommen became the dean of Temple Rome after 25 years of operation, the program was well-regarded but small with a reputation for excellence in the arts. 22 years later, Kim leaves behind a program that grew in enrollments, physical space, reputation and academic scope. He cultivated and nurtured an excellent local faculty, and provided opportunities for Philadelphia-based academic advisers and faculty to engage with students in Rome. He introduced countless students to the wonders of Rome and Italian culture, as well as the transformative nature of study abroad, changing hundreds of lives for the better along the way.

— Hai-Lung Dai, Provost, Temple University
Esteeem ed architect, generous colleague and beloved teacher, Franco Possemato was a valued professor of architecture at Temple University Rome from 2001-2012.

From Professor Emeritus John James Pron AIA: Franco Possemato supported the wishes of his students, but tempered their young egos to suggest that the art of architecture is so important to the world that it must function more than just to gratify the ego of the designer. But Franco never lectured his students. He advised, inspired, demonstrated, nurtured them—across their drafting tables, of course, but equally over a cappuccino in a neighboring café (his treat) or a plate of pasta on a field trip. To Franco—and probably to so many Italians—one’s professional work was never separated from living a full and meaningful life. Work and play, research and socializing, a glass of vino rosso and a discussion over the merits of a famed architect’s design—they all went hand-in-hand. And so, Rome and all of Italy was as much his classroom as the third floor architecture studio. His American students brought these values back to main campus and back to their homes—many fundamentally changed by Franco’s philosophy matched by Franco’s example.

Franco Possemato was responsible for the design and renovation of our third floor addition, which opened in the Spring of 2009. The light-filled architecture studio and other spaces transformed the Villa Caproni and will serve as a living tribute to his creativity and inspire future generations of Temple Rome faculty and students.
“Printmaking is both a craft and a technique, and one of the most difficult techniques in the art media,” reveals Professor Mario Teleri. “To get a good print you need good facilities and at TU Rome we not only have three intaglio presses but also two beautiful wooden lithography presses built in the 1950s for printing stones.” Teleri describes how “the students have the chance to work with limestone plates, just as the inventor of lithography, Senefelder, was doing in Munich in 1798. The print shop at Temple Rome is the best equipped of all the American programs in Italy.”

“The Temple Rome black and white darkroom was designed and built 30 years ago by photographer William Larson,” Professor Clink explains. “Its thoughtful design and layout have been the testimony to the many students of all different disciplines who have been introduced or re-acquainted with the pleasures and frustrations of black and white analogue photography,” she drolly comments, “while studying in Rome. It is the only darkroom of its kind left in Rome for study-abroad students to learn how to process and print 35mm, medium format or 4x5 film.”

Would you like to make a donation? Visit myowspace.com/makeagift and select “Temple University Rome.”
A group of Temple students walked across the Ponte Matteotti each week of the Spring semester to teach English to over 400 students at the prestigious Liceo Mamiani (high school), in Prati. Temple students immersed themselves in a significant Italian environment as cultural ambassadors both teaching and learning from their Italian students. The Mamiani project to expand TU Rome’s community services was organized by Daniela Curioso, TU Rome Italian Language professor, who dedicated months to meetings and planning with the Mamiani personnel. Daniela thanks “Mamiani President Sallusti and all instructors at the Mamiani for supporting this venture and to the Temple and Mamiani students who are its lifeblood.”

What do TU Rome students think of this unique opportunity? Madison Brown-Moffitt values the cultural exchange: “I love getting to know the students, our conversations always go a bit off topic but it is so much fun to take those tangents and see where they go. This has been one of my favorite experiences in Rome, learning about Italy and Italian culture through the eyes of the Mamiani students. I spend so much time in classes talking about Ancient Rome that it is a whole new perspective to learn about the modern country we are living in, beyond what we learn in the orientation week.”

Christina Bohn finds teaching English “a great addition to my study abroad experience,” and one that forced her “to step out of my comfort zone and practice my own Italian with professors and administrators at the school as well as broadened my teaching skills. I would definitely recommend this opportunity to any future Temple Rome students.”

In Fall ’13 Professor Eli Goldblatt (main campus English Department) took advantage of this initiative to offer English 2897 Literacy and Society, a course about language and literacy as phenomena to study and enjoy. Students used texts in fields such as English as a Second Language, literacy studies, critical pedagogy, and autobiography to explore the social contexts in which people learn to read and write in a multi-lingual world. Goldblatt details, “after a short training module, students tutored Italian school pupils in English as a component of the course work”.

Anthony Parenti (Temple, Classics major) teaches English language to Italian high school students at Leceo Mamiani

Daniella Curioso, Italian Language Faculty and coordinator of the Liceo Mamiani outreach project.

Danielle Guiteras’ blog:

“...to the gorgeus island of Ventotene. The weekend afforded us plenty of opportunities to practice our Italian because unlike in Rome, very few of the Italians on Ventotene knew any English. The staff at Hotel Isolabella invited us into the kitchen to teach us how to make dinner on Saturday night. I spent most of my time cutting up squid, octopus, and shrimp. Antonio made slicing fish look so easy, but the chef couldn’t contain his laughter every time he looked at my pathetic work. Many of us agreed that the meal we ate that night was one of the best we had in Italy so far.”

Browse the posts at: http://templerome.wordpress.com/tag/
William Holtzman & Jan Gadeyne. After a successful career in technology, William Holtzman is co-founder of Zinn Education Project. He provides generous support for Jan Gadeyne’s excavation of a Roman villa at Artena, near Rome. A special 5-week course at the excavation site during the summer session introduces undergraduate and graduate students to the techniques of archaeological fieldwork—from pick axe to pencil. http://www.temple.edu/studyabroad/programs/summer/italy/index.html

Richard Englert, Chancellor and friend of Temple Rome (left), and Bret Perkins, Temple Trustee and Vice President, External and Government Affairs at Comcast Corporation in the “Fresco Room” at TU Rome.

Keith Stauffer (TU Rome Spring ’09, TU Architecture) and MaryAnn Pasquarello enjoyed “visiting again and seeing other American students experiencing the wonderful Rome campus.” Afterward, they journeyed south to Grumentum (Basilicata) to attend the wedding of MaryAnn’s cousin. Keith described the celebration, which included a nine-course dinner, fireworks and a water show, as “molto bello!”

Hester Stinnett, Vice Dean of Tyler School of Art, recognized artist and printmaker, and a staunch supporter of Temple Rome, visited the print shop and met with faculty and students.

TUTTE LE STRADE PORTANO A ROMA

The doors to TU Rome are always open to returning alumni, where a warm welcome awaits.
Emily Young (TU Rome Spring ’02, Trinity, MFA Brown) Emily unequivocally states that her studies of “visual arts, Italian language and Italian theatre,” during her semester in Rome, “and all I did and saw in Rome,” inspired her to become a professional actress. Her Broadway debut was in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson and she is now with the Fiasco Theatre, which just finished a highly praised run of Shakespeare’s Cymbeline.

Karen Oremus (’00-’01 Tyler-Temple, MFA in Printmaking, Tyler), who studied at the Academia di Belli Arte di Roma (Academy of Fine Arts in Rome) before her Temple Rome days, is currently an Associate Professor in the College of Arts and Creative Enterprises at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates, where she also serves as the Assistant Dean. Karen established the first printmaking studio in the nation’s capital, at Zayed University’s Abu Dhabi campus. Karen, a native of Canada, has worked internationally as an artist, curator and educator.

Terry Kessler Schwarz (TU Rome Fall ’69, Syracuse, MFA Tufts) The painter, calligrapher, illustrator, photographer, designer and teacher, and her husband, John, returned to Rome, where she had especially enjoyed studying printmaking and Italian. Terry shared her memories of travelling through Italy, accompanied by “trunks filled with our art works and books,” but also a delightful photograph of herself and friends at a Temple Rome party in 1969. The fashions have changed, but not her love of Italy. See: terrykesslerschwarz.com/

Polly Apfelbaum (TU Rome Fall ’77, BFA, Tyler ’78) (left) met with students, including graduate student Francine Kay Affourtit (right), while at the American Academy in Rome as the 2012-2013 recipient of the Joseph H. Hazen Rome Prize. Polly explained that she was enriching her critically acclaimed work by studying “Roman mosaics, Cosmati floors and the Baroque floors of Borromini’s Sant Ivo.” TU Rome students were excited to meet the renowned artist, who is represented by galleries in London, New York, Philadelphia and Vienna. See: pollyapfelbaum.com.

Polly’s husband, Stan Allen (TU Rome Fall ’77, Brown, M. Arch. Princeton) the former dean of the School of Architecture at Princeton, “was on sabbatical this year and will go back to Princeton in the Fall of 2013.” The two “met in Rome and have been together ever since.”
TU ROME ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM AT THE THIRD UNIVERSITY OF ROME’S INTERNATIONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP Under the direction of Carolina Vaccaro, Temple Rome professor of architecture, fall 2012 marked the third time TU Rome and the Waterloo University Rome program have participated in the annual International Design Workshop at the University of Rome, Roma Tre campus. This year, the challenge was to design a new layout for the archaeological ruins in Otricoli, one of the most important archaeological sites not only of Umbria, but of ancient Italy. The week-long workshop was a brief but intense exchange between foreign and Italian students working together in the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome, Roma Tre, in Testaccio. One of the invited international architects tutored each design team of Italian and foreign students. The teams and their tutors developed their projects, which were submitted to the final jury of Italian and foreign architects and historians at the conclusion of the workshop.

Above: Temple Architecture student, José M. Sainz, (foreground) is teamed with Italian architecture students at the Third University of Rome campus for a week-long workshop.

FAMILY REUNION Renee and Laura D’Angelo (TU Rome ’13, TU Advertising) “recently visited our family, who live on the outskirts of Rome. The group includes nephews of our grandfather from Naples, and others related through marriage. Although we have skyped with them in the past, this is the first time we’ve met them in person.” The two spent the day sightseeing, eating “delicious homemade fettuccini” and “skyping with our mom and dad back home.” The two sisters used the Italian they had studied to talk to their relatives, who do not speak English; although, “communication was difficult at times, it was still an unforgettable weekend!” Renee and Laura’s sister, Stephanie D’Angelo attended Temple Rome in Fall ’08 from Temple, and paid a visit during the spring ’13 semester to visit her sisters.

At right: Renee and Laura D’Angelo (center) connect with family members who live near Rome.

TEMPLE ROME STUDENTS ON NBC NATIONAL NEWS Millions of people saw and heard about Temple as the university appeared twice in the NBC News coverage of the selection of the new pope on March 13. Earlier in the day, a reporter talked with three Temple students who were thrilled to experience such an historical event. After Pope Francis greeted the crowd, reporter Anne Thompson spoke live with two Temple students, one of whom, Mark Conway, was studying abroad at Temple Rome. “This is an awesome experience, one I’ll likely never experience again,” he said.

Above: Courtney Spencer (Temple Rome Sp ’13, Tyler/Temple), enrolled in Rome Sketchbook, draws on-site in St. Peter’s Square.

Above: Temple Architecture student, José M. Sainz, (foreground) is teamed with Italian architecture students at the Third University of Rome campus for a week-long workshop.
ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG COLLECTORS AT TEMPLE ROME

Temple Rome hosts the Association of Young Collectors bi-weekly meetings. The Association, founded in 2003, to promote the Roman art scene and collecting, is led by the well-known curator, Ludovico Pratesi, who has collaborated on many projects with Shara Wasserman, Director of Exhibitions at Temple Rome. The collectors normally arrive early for their meetings and walk through the undergraduate and graduate studios to see the work and visit with students. Shara Wasserman notes that the Association members consider meeting at Temple Rome to be a highlight of their program. The hospitality is returned; each semester a collector opens their home to Temple students. Shara adds that “the students will never forget the experience.”

Above: Young Art Collectors Association meet at the Temple Rome Gallery of Art. Shara Wasserman is 2nd from left, Ludovico Pratesi is 5th from left.

PROFESSOR MOORE AND TU ROME ALUMNA ORGANIZE THE “FESTA DI ROMA” AT TYLER

Professor Susan Moore (standing 3rd from left) and a group of 2011-12 TU Rome students exhibited 170 works from both semesters in the “Postcard Project” at the “Festa di Roma” on the Tyler Main Campus. Moore said the well-attended exhibition “was a great way to represent all of the studio arts on the Rome campus.” She gave presentations before and after the event to students interested in learning more about Temple Rome. Dean Strommen credits Susan Moore for her energetic support for study abroad on the home campus in Philadelphia, and for her many contributions to the program when she is teaching at Temple Rome.

INFERNO: A DANCE INTO DANTE’S EIGHTH CIRCLE OF HELL

Jillian Harris, choreographer and dance faculty member from the main campus, and her students enrolled in Summer Session course “Creative Process in Dance” performed this site-specific dance, which transports viewers to the eighth circle of the underworld. The location chosen was the “Scalo De Pinedo,” a staircase leading down to the bank of the Tiber, close to TU Rome. The project was supported by an Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance Dean’s Grant for Research and Creative Achievement and the Department of Dance’s Rose Vernick Fund.
Lucy Clink, Photography and Drawing exhibited “Recent Landscapes and Drawings” at St. Stephen's Cultural Center in Rome, and in the group exhibition, “Through Foreign Eyes” at the Archeological Museum of Agro Falisco at Civita Castellana. She organized and participated in a Moku Hanga Japanese woodcutting workshop for colleagues and local artists. Elspeth Lamb, from Glasgow, an expert in the Moku Hanga technique, conducted the two-day workshop, held in TU Rome’s printmaking studios.

Frank Dabell, Art History was a lecturer and study leader for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Morgan Library and Museum, and the Edith Wharton Society during their trips to Italy in 2012. He published reviews of The Ideal Renaissance City, in Urbino, and Luca Signorelli, in Perugia and Orvieto, for The Burlington Magazine. He spoke at the Newport Symposium, and lectured on Piero della Francesca at the Frick Collection. He was also the translator of “Art and Anatomy in Renaissance Italy” for The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin, vol. LXIX, no. 3, and of texts for the Morgan Library, Princeton University Art Museum and Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, as well as for the scholarly journals Paragone of Florence and the Umeni of Prague.

Jan Gadeyne, Art History, History and Classics continued as co-director of the excavation of the Roman villa on the Piano della Civita of Artena with the participation of Temple students. Co-edited Perspectives on Public Space in Rome, from Antiquity to the Present Day, the proceedings of the “Prima Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico” held at the University of Rome, Roma Tre, which includes his “Shortcuts: Observations on the Formation of the Medieval Street System in Rome.”


On-site lectures were presented to the Graduate Program in Architecture of Yale University, Pratt Institute, Avicenna: Academy for Leadership of The Netherlands and the Tunghai University of Taiwan. He led a visit of the Rome branch of FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano) to the archaeological site and museum of Artena and presented lectures on late antique Rome for the course Law and the Humanities at the Law Faculty of the University of Rome “Roma Tre.” He was appointed as an officer of the Rome Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Peter Gardner, Film presented “No Romance Without Finance” at the annual MLG-ICS on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University. The paper interrogated popular culture’s use of economic terms to represent romantic relationships and the corresponding eroticization of economic language.

Laurie Kalb Cosmo, Art History Laurie Kalb's paper, “Exhibiting African Art in Italy,” addressed the African art collection at the Ethnographic Museum in EUR, and discussed the “exhibitionary disconnect between African art collected by Italians during colonial times and the silence surrounding the Fascist buildings in which they are currently housed.” Her participation at the conference was made possible by support from Temple Rome.

Laurie Kalb at a UNESCO world heritage site in Africa.
Anita Guerra, Drawing and Painting executed a triptych watercolor commission for Molly and Jiri Stejskal of Cetra Language Solutions of Elkins Park, PA.

Aroop Mahanty, International Business conducted the seminar “The Spread, Monti and Austerity Policy” with members of the Italian Ministry of Public Administration and gave the lecture “Managing in high-context Latin European cultures—the case of Italy” to visiting Lee University students at the European School of Economics. He has also submitted “Is the BOP Strategy—Applicable to OECD countries?” to The Journal of Marketing.

Roberto Mannino, Sculpture was awarded a commission for a large-scale permanent installation of handmade paper sculptures for the Sala Dante at Palazzo Poli. This historical palace is the backdrop to the Trevi Fountain but also houses the National Graphic Arts Institute. The installation was inaugurated with a concert as part of the “Festa della Musica.” Additionally, Mannino taught a wood carving course at the Municipal Applied Art School in Rome in conjunction with the “Roma Capitale” event, and contributed to Catherine Nash’s work, Authentic Visual Voices: Contemporary Paper and Encaustic.

Liana Miuccio, Photography Miuccio’s documentary, Extended Portraits: Old Testaccio Market was shown at the “Nuovo Mercato” in front of the MACRO museum in Testaccio. Her work was funded by Temple University, the University of Rome “Roma Tre” and the Province of Rome.

Susan Moore, Painting and Drawing participated in two group shows. The first was The Linda Lee Alter Collection at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. The second, also in Philadelphia, was Haunting Narratives: Detours from Philadelphia Realism at the Woodmere Art Museum.

Greg Smith, Anthropology and Sociology published Storia e antropologia nella Marsica moderna, on the ethnography of the Abruzzo and a collection of essays, Public Space in Rome through the Ages, coedited with Jan Gadeyne, with Smith’s chapter on the Rome of Pier Paolo Pasolini.

He is currently working with Abruzzo residents to produce a volume on spatially oriented citizen narrative, and another project on public space for the 2013 Biennial of Public Space, for which he is on the organizing committee and co-chairing a session on narrative as a tool in urban research. The session brings to Rome speakers from all over the world. Smith will discuss performative narrative relating to a citizens’ theater project he has organized at Rome’s most famous public housing project, the Corviale.

Anna Kiyomi Tuck-Scala, Art History published “I Borghese e l’Antico,” a review of the exhibition at the Villa Borghese Gallery, Rome in the European Architectural History Network Newsletter, as well as her book, Andrea Vaccaro (Naples, 1604-1670): His Documented Life and Art. She presented Ernesto Gaudiello’s volume, Sorrento…where sirens dare to tread, which cites Tuck-Scala’s earlier literary guide to Sorrento.

She was interviewed for forthcoming Canadian radio documentary on Artemisia Gentileschi and submitted her essay, “Un dipinto di Andrea Vaccaro ad Aversa,” which is to be published in Quaderni dell’Archivio Storico Istituto Banco di Napoli Fondazione.

Carolina Vaccaro, Architecture published her essay “Una Palazzina dei Parioli” in the forthcoming volume, Storie di Case. She and her team won the international competition for “A Pedestrian Bridge integrated with the Termini Railway Station, Italy.” She is awaiting judgment for the “International Competition for Mobile Pavilions for the City of Stockholm” and for the Russian competition, “Art-Ovrag 2013: Garden City Festival Competition – Balancing Pavilion.” She is completing her submission for a second international competition for the “Design for an Urban Block in the Centre of Belgorod, Russia.”
TERI MONACO MORELLI, Student Affairs Coordinator; KIM STROMMEN, Dean; and MANUELA PROIETTI, Assistant to the Dean; just before Thanksgiving dinner, organized by Teri and Manuela in the school gallery, back in the early 90’s (when an entire class of students could fit in the gallery). After 22 years Kim left his position as Dean of Temple Rome and returned to the United States; he credits Manuela and Teri for their loyalty and outstanding service during his administration. See story on page one.