Dear Alumni/ae, Faculty and Friends:

Greetings from Rome and Philadelphia! We hope you enjoy getting caught up on the news from Temple University Rome.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed last year to our first major annual fund appeal. Your generosity is providing much needed financial support for students and for Rome faculty development.

Those of you who studied with Jan Gadeyne will enjoy reading about the funding he has received to support his excavations of an ancient Roman villa near Artena.

Also, we are excited to announce that last year we acquired prime space on the third floor of the Villa Caproni. Renovations began last summer and are almost complete. The third floor, which will open this spring, will house a new architecture studio, classrooms, and lounge/study areas with beautiful third floor views of Rome. Look for more details and photos in the next Postcard.

We love hearing from you, and especially enjoy seeing you when you return to Rome. We’re starting a new feature inviting updates from our alumni/ae that will be included in future issues of Postcard. Be sure to send us your news at study.abroad@temple.edu.

Also, we want to know what you think about the newsletter. What do you read? Are there new features you’d like to see? Thanks in advance for your feedback.

Denise A. Connerty, Director of International Programs (connerty@temple.edu)

Kim Strommen, Dean, Temple University Rome (kim.strommen@templerome.it)

SEE INSIDE:
A Great Response from Temple Rome Alumni to 40th Anniversary Appeal

Support from alumni enabled Temple Rome Professor Jan Gadeyne to continue his archaeological excavations of a Roman villa near Artena.
Temple Rome had a great response to the appeal sent to alumni in late 2007 in honor of the campus’ 40th anniversary.

“Many new donors responded and made contributions, along with long-time supportive alumni. We are very grateful and thank all who have contributed to the Anniversary Campaign,” said Michael Dever, director of Finance and Accounting for International Programs and a ’91-’92 Temple Rome alumnus.

The money collected allows Temple to increase scholarship support to students via the Friends of Temple Rome Scholarship Fund and enabled Temple Rome Professor Jan Gadeyne to continue his archaeological excavations this past summer via the Rome Development Fund.

Increased scholarship support

Explaining the importance of scholarships, Dever said, “We cannot overemphasize, in these difficult times, how important it is for our students to have access to scholarships. Whether or not there is funding can be the deciding factor on a student’s ability to attend the Temple Rome Program.”

Dever pointed to a letter from Rome scholarship winner and anthropology major, Lauren Bedell-Stiles (’07-08), as a good way to understand the impact of these scholarships. In his letter, Bedell-Stiles wrote,

“The two semesters abroad provided an opportunity to mature as an intellectual being outside the structured requirements of the academy. And so I studied hard and learned—both in class and on my own by reading and traveling—of topics in history, art, culture, geography, language, etc., topics that no single other undergraduate anthropology student at Temple in Philadelphia will experience. I don’t imagine my parallel junior year at Temple Main Campus would have provided the opportunities afforded alternatively by studying in Rome.”

He went on to explain the “many intellectual joys” he experienced in Rome, including, “… the sculptural mastery of Donatello; the biting wit of Juvenal’s satires; the variation of Mediterranean Christian architectural church design through the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries C.E.; ancient Greek and Roman myths—the seduction of Leucothoë, the wrath of Leto, the fusing of Hermaphroditus and Salmacis; eating regional cuisine

[Image of Lauren Bedell-Stiles (Temple, TURome ’07-08) experienced “many intellectual joys” throughout Italy, in Ostuni (left), Genoa (center) and Venice (right).]
from the stiletto heel of Puglia all the way up the peninsula to Liguria; the sight of Rome from the Janiculum Hill at dusk.”

The letter concluded with an expression of Bedell-Stiles’ gratitude.

“And so I’d like to thank you [Temple Rome donors] again for assisting me in this intellectual adventure. As I’ve put more distance—temporally and spatially—between Rome and myself, so increases my appreciation of the whole experience. I’ve so many memories to now reflect upon. With confidence I can say I’ve emerged from two semesters studying abroad with a greater respect for myself as a thinking being and for those with whom I came into contact while outside the United States.”

Funding for Archeological Excavation

Thanks to the research of Professor Jan Gadeyne, a Roman villa is being uncovered near Artena, a small hill town about 40 miles southeast of Rome. This past summer Gadeyne and his team completed excavation of small private baths and other sections of the villa, and he hopes to be able to publish the results of his work. The villa existed from the 1st century B.C. to the 5th century A.D., and was built on a site occupied since at least the 6th Century B.C.

The importance of Gadeyne’s work in the field of classical art history and archaeology springs from the insights his research provides on the rural economy in Italy during the 5th and 6th century A.D. His work also illustrates the transformation of the Roman villa from a simple farmhouse to a more sophisticated residence in the Roman countryside.

“We at Temple Rome are excited that with alumni help we are able to support faculty research like Jan’s. It increases the prestige and presence of Temple Rome to the academic community in Italy and beyond. It attracts great faculty to Temple Rome,” said Dever.

As a result of alumni support, Gadeyne is inviting students interested in the field to participate in his future summer excavations and earn academic credit. Temple’s International Programs Office plans on a summer 2009 launch.

This initiative and student scholarships show clearly the positive impact of alumni donations for Temple Rome students and faculty.

If you would like to make a donation online, please visit myowlspac.com/makeagift.

PETER HAHN, TOM PIETKA (pictured) and ALEXANDER MESSINGER, all Temple, TURome, Spring ’99, won an important competition as part of SEPTA’s “Art-in-Transit, Percent for Art Program.” After six years, hundreds of meetings and boxes of paperwork, their creation, a kinetic sculpture with 22 floating stainless steel panels, graces the SEPTA Huntingdon Station. All three believe that the semester they spent in Rome influenced their way of thinking and designing and continues to influence their professional lives.
History Professor Howard Spodek from main campus, who spent the year teaching in Rome, is shown here, lecturing students on-site during an academic excursion to Budapest, Hungary. The excursion was part of his course on “Europe Divided and United 1939-1995.” He also organized an excursion to Tunisia for “The Mediterranean in Modern History,” a course that examines politics, religion and culture, focusing on food, art and architecture, clothing and lifestyles. A traveler himself, through his research, Professor Spodek is well-traveled in India.

The Gianni Caproni Art Prize was presented to visual art students Jessica Tyler, Brandon Baglivo, Harry Eichelberger III and Timothy Malone in April ’08. The prize is co-sponsored by Contessa Maria Fede Caproni (center) and her sister Princess Letizia Giovanelly Caproni. Their father, Gianni Caproni, was an aviation pioneer and founder of Caproni Airplanes in 1908. The Villa Caproni, on the Tiber near Piazza del Popolo, has been the site of Temple Rome since its founding in 1966.

Developed by Dr. Maria Ponce de Leon, a new course, “The Vatican in the Modern World” introduces the Holy See and the Vatican State through a wide-ranged study of 2000 years of history, governmental structure, art and communications. One of the highlights was a class meeting with Cardinal John Foley in his Renaissance-frescoed offices. Cardinal Foley, an American archbishop from Philadelphia, is currently the grand master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre after having previously served as the president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Other sites visited by the class included tours of the main basilicas of Rome; the Pope’s summer residence, Castel Gandolfo; the Vatican Radio station; the Vatican newspaper, The Osservatore Romano; and Italian television stations RAI2 and RaiSat. Guest speakers included officials from the American Embassy to the Holy See.

Members of L’Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio performed at Temple Rome as part of the Art and Culture in Italy Lecture Series, organized by Pia Candinas. This multi-ethnic orchestra, formed by immigrant musicians from more than thirty countries living in Rome, has become an international phenomenon. The multiply awarded documentary film, “L’Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio (2006),” by Agostino Ferrente, was screened with live commentary by Ferrente and by the founder of the orchestra, Mario Tronco.
Alumni will recognize the statue of Giordano Bruno, a maverick philosopher, who was burnt at the stake as a heretic during the Roman Inquisition in Campo dei Fiori on February 17, 1600. Each year, the Association of Libero Pensiero Giordano Bruno organizes a February 17th demonstration on the site, which includes speeches, poetry and music. Students enrolled in the “History of Modern Italy” course, taught by Dr. Federigo Argentieri, usually attend.

A group of alumni and friends who participated in the 40th Anniversary Reunion in Rome in March ’07 reunited in the fall at Rembrandt’s, the well-known restaurant in the Philadelphia Art Museum area. The food—including the best pizza in Philadelphia—was generously provided by owner Jan Zarkin. Included in the picture L-R: Mike Buczala, Bruce Rauffenbhart, Joann Zarkin, Kim Strommen, Benjamin Roerich, Charles Ecrert, Deborah Glass, Heather Rosen, Tracey Batt, Deborah Fowlkes, Stephen Fowlkes, Jan Zarkin, Ericka Green and Tascia Pregno.
“Looking back 19 years later, my time at Temple-Tyler Rome was the starting point of my international career and life. Going into the program, I was looking to try something new and study abroad in Rome. It ended up being an important doorway for me into the outside world,” said Robert Preece (Tyler, TURome, Spring ’89).

Preece explained that his experience at Temple Rome changed his life. After Rome, he formalized his major in art history, with an emphasis on contemporary art, and he developed a passion for art writing, which became the basis of his career.

Currently an independent writer and communications consultant, and a contributing editor for Sculpture Magazine, Preece wanted to enrich the experience of other Temple Rome students. He did just that by contributing a student project for the contemporary art history course taught by Shara Wasserman, who also directs the Temple Rome Gallery of Art.

The course, which introduces students to Rome’s robust art scene, includes weekly site visits to studios, galleries and museums and talks by prominent artists, critics and curators. Students see works ranging from Cy Twombly at Gagosian Gallery—a major New York City gallery with a new branch in Rome—to graffiti art.

Through her many connections in Rome, Wasserman also involves students in a variety of interesting projects, such as the one introduced by Preece. Together with the editor of Sculpture Magazine, Preece initiated a competition, “Just Get Published Project,” which invites students to submit reviews. Selected entries are published in the magazine.

“When formulating the ‘Just Get Published Project,’ I needed to find a place to run the pilot. I immediately thought of my former teacher Shara Wasserman and of Tyler in Rome. I knew the project would work in that environment,” said Preece.

The competition was successfully launched at Temple Rome when Sculpture Magazine selected and published Joli Reichel’s (Tyler, TURome ’07-08) review of the Giuseppe Penone exhibition at the French Academy/Villa Medici in Rome. Ultimately, Preece intends to expand his competition to include other universities worldwide.

Meanwhile, Wasserman’s class includes other innovative projects. In spring ’08 she worked with Massimo Mininni, a curator at the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna—Rome’s national gallery of modern art—to engage her students in installing two environmental wall drawings that were designed by internationally renowned artist Sol LeWitt. Twelve students worked with the Sol LeWitt Foundation (photo below). The resulting wall drawings were inaugurated in spring ’08 and are on permanent display at the museum.

Temple Rome students install an environmental wall drawing at the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna that was designed by internationally renowned artist Sol Lewitt.
Alumni Present Lectures and Workshops

A number of distinguished alumni returned to Temple Rome during the ’07-08 academic year to present lectures and workshops. Along with sharing their professional experiences, returning to Rome was an opportunity to reconnect with the program and to reminisce about their student days.

Robert Flynt, (Tyler, TU Rome ’76-77), is a noted photographer who focuses on collaborative dance and performance art projects. His work is represented at the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among other collections. Robert presented a public lecture and a workshop for the Advanced Photography class of Lucy Clink during the fall ’07 semester. He was in Rome for the premiere of “Body Scan,” a dance/image project at the Antipodes Festival in Brest, France, which will tour Europe and North America in 2009.

Ron Abram, (Central Florida, TU Rome ’84-85), is an associate professor and chair of Studio Art at Denison University. Primarily an etcher, his work has been exhibited internationally, most recently at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art. In addition to presenting a lecture, Ron worked with the painting students of Susan Moore and the printmaking students of Mario Teleri.

Joe Viesti, (Temple, TU Rome, Fall ’70), who was in Rome on assignment to take pictures for a restaurant and shopping guide, met with Temple Rome students to discuss the commercial side of photography. Back in 1970, Joe was planning to go into law when he read in Temple Times about the new Temple Rome Program, co-directed at the time by Jake Gruber (CLA) and Neil Kosh (Tyler). Instead, after participating in the program and graduating from Temple, he joined the Peace Corps, founded a camera club in the Philippines, and has since traveled to more than 120 countries documenting festivals for a calendar series. Website: www.viestiphotocom
ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

Each year former students and Temple faculty, staff and friends visit Temple Rome. Read about some recent visitors below.

Nina Weiss (Tyler, TURome '77-78) reported that her year of study abroad at Temple Rome sparked her interest in travel and landscape. She returned to Italy for the 7th year to teach her Italian Landscape Workshop, which is designed for artists and art lovers at all artistic levels, and is centered in Todi and Casperia, in Umbria. Nina, who is based in Chicago, has traveled extensively to document foreign landscapes. For more information on Nina's European Landscape Workshops, including a new program in Ireland, visit www.ninaweiss.com.

Ken Wood (Tyler, TURome '97-98) was in the graduate printmaking program. After he received his M.F.A. degree, Ken taught Rome Sketchbook classes at Temple Rome for one year. He is currently a visiting assistant professor at Washington University in St. Louis. In this position he has taught at WU's program in Florence, Italy, which explained his visit to Rome.

Sharon Walker (Temple, TURome, Spring '94), who holds a degree in Foreign Language Education from Temple, is pictured front row right with her Italian language students from Central High School in Philadelphia. The students were in Rome for a study trip over spring break. “I know the students enjoyed seeing a real university study abroad program. It helped make their trip to Rome unique. I also enjoyed returning to Villa Caproni, and I’m happy to see the program doing so well!” Sharon met her husband through Temple connections when she returned to Rome to teach English in 1996. Their two daughters are being raised bilingual, with their first language as Italian.

Rachele Verdi (Temple, TURome, Fall '00) returned to Rome to study the art of pizza making at a professional school, Corso Professionale per Pizzaiolo at La Tavola con Lo Chef, where she was the only female enrolled. In the seven-week Pizzaiolo course Rachele learned to make several different kinds of pizzas: pizza tonda, pizza teglia, pizza la pala and pizza Genovese, with the goal of opening her own pizzeria in Philadelphia. “I returned to Rome to pursue my dream of learning how to make pizza. It was amazing. Being at the Rome campus brought back so many memories. I can now see why so many alumni come back to visit.”
Andrew Vlady (Tyler, TURome '67-69) was a graduate assistant in Rome for two years, just after the founding of the program in 1966. Andrew is pictured with the lithography press that he helped to transport to Rome from Northern Italy when Temple Rome’s printmaking studio was being established. The press has been in use ever since. He has had a successful career as a printer at Gemini, GEL, Los Angeles; operating Chiron Press, NYC; and founding and directing Kyron Ediciones Graficas Limitadas, Mexico City, for 32 years. Andrew was in Rome visiting his daughter, who is an official with the Mexican Embassy to Italy.

Jonathan C. Wahl (Tyler, TURome, Fall ’88) is the director of the jewelry and metalsmithing program at The Jewelry Center, NY, NY. Named one of the top-10 jewelers to watch by W Jewelry in 2006, he has been awarded the Louis Comfort Tiffany Emerging Artist Fellowship, and his work is in the permanent collection of the American Craft Museum. Jonathan’s jewelry pieces can be seen at De Vera in SOHO, NYC and San Francisco, and in the publications, 1,000 Rings and 500 Metal Vessels.

Robyn Forbes Drucker (Tyler, TURome, Summer ’70 & ’71) recalled that the program was very small, with everyone living in the Villa Helene, traveling together, enjoying life in Rome, and working hard in the hot printmaking studio. “It was a wonderful experience with memories to last a lifetime.” The Villa Helene, next door to Temple, is now the Anderson Museum.

Jason Scuilla (Tyler, TURome ’04-05), an M.F.A. printmaking student in Rome, is now an assistant professor of art at Kansas State University. Jason’s year in Rome, under the direction of Mario Teleri, Temple Rome faculty member and master printer (pictured below at right), has had a major impact on his work, which is evident in his large-scale reinterpretation of Michelangelo’s “Last Judgement” at the Chapman Gallery at Kansas State. Jason received a University Research Grant in 2007, which enabled him to return to Rome for a residency and a one-person exhibition at Il Quadrato di Omega Print Shop and Gallery, directed by Mario Teleri.

Natalie Novelli DeWeese (Penn State, TURome, Fall ’78), who lives in Tucson, was in Italy to visit her daughter, Danielle, who was studying in Orvieto. Natalie also visited the Pensione Mondredi on Via Margutta, where she lived during her student days. She would love to catch up with other alumni from ’78.
FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Roberto Mannino, Sculpture, participated in group exhibitions: “Breaking the Mold,” a papermaking traveling show in 8 UK venues; International Papermaking Exhibition, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, Silver Spring, MD; “10 + 1 - Periferie Urbane - Ten Architects and One Artist,” House of Architecture at the Rome Aquarium; and “Support for Human Rights,” Rome. He also participated in workshops: Rhode Island School of Design E.H.P., Rome; Gaesteteatelier in Holluggard, Odense, Denmark; and the Paper Festival in Sarteano, Siena, Italy. His work was published in Architecture and Design Magazine, with an interview and photos on “PROGETTI nº 7,” and in an article in the summer issue of Hand Papermaking Magazine, “‘Beater finesse’ with a paper exchange between International papermakers.” His work was included in the 2008 COMIECO (nº 1 Italian recycling company), and in the MasterCard Collection in Rome via the Art4business organization.

Shara Wasserman, Art History, exhibitions director, curated “Trying to Land,” video works by fellows in media art, film and new technologies at foreign academies in Rome, for the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo. This show was held in collaboration with MACRO Museo d’Arte Contemporanea Roma. Wasserman also curated “CINEMART: Accademie all, Auditorium/Academies at the Auditorium,” a film festival of art films, documentaries and shorts, by residents in filmmaking at foreign academies in Rome for “Musica per Roma,” at the Auditorium Parco della Musica. In addition, she curated “Academy Architects at the Acquario,” an exhibition of residents in architecture at foreign academies in Rome.

Anita Guerra, Painting and Drawing, curated the decoration of Palazzo Farnese in Rome, Italy for Masquerade Ball at the French Embassy with her Temple students from “Painting on Paper.” She also curated group exhibitions including “Café VII: The Journeys of Cuban Artists” Interdisciplinary Art and Performance Gallery, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona; “Art in the Tropics,” sponsored by the Cuban American Bar

Study at Temple Rome
A FAMILY TRADITION

BEN MANDEL (Wesleyan University, TURome ’94-95), a studio arts major as an undergraduate, completed medical school at Johns Hopkins, and is now in his final year of general surgery residency in Madison, Wisconsin. His sister, SARAH MANDEL (Bard College), was also in the program in 2001-02.

DONNA (DIDOMENICIS) D’ANELLA (Temple, TURome, Spring ’79) returned to Rome after 28 years to visit her daughter, GINA DIDOMENICIS, who was studying at Temple Rome. “The visit was long overdue, but the timing was perfect,” said Donna.

JANE NEWMAN LUBART (Boston University, TURome ’74) has traveled extensively in Italy as a result of her Temple Rome student days. “It was great to get back to Temple Rome especially since my daughter, ALEXANDRA LUBART (U. Vermont), loves it as much as I did.”

EVAN REEHL RYER (Tyler, TURome ’03-04), who is an artist living in Brooklyn, is pictured here, with his sister, GLENNY RYER (Tyler, TURome ’07-08). Evan is employed by the Rob Lichtenstein Foundation where his supervisor, Cassandra Lozano, is also a Temple Rome alumnus.
Gregory Smith, Anthropology/Sociology, contributed to the realization of a documentary film recounting the efforts of a small locally based publishing firm in Abruzzo that created a series of broadsheets. These broadsheets provided local citizens with a voice. He continued working with the European Management Institute, exploring training options in fashion management and retail distribution systems geared to the needs of Italian small and medium enterprises. Smith also presented a paper at a conference organized by the Italian Psychoanalytical Society on work and stress in the contemporary world.

Aldo Patania, International Business, participated in the FastTrac Certification program run by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, MO. His participation, which was made possible by funding from Temple Rome, was solicited by the U.S. Embassy in Rome as part of its Partnership for Growth Program. This program was launched to enhance both entrepreneurship among Italian youth and the flow of U.S. venture capital into Italy. Patania also interviewed Mario Poletti Polegato, president of the GEO multinationalshoe company, as part of the “Face2Face – Capturing Creativity” series of interviews organized by the U.S. Embassy in Rome. In addition, Patania was appointed Academy Fellow of the International Entrepreneurship Academy (Intentac.org), which was created by the Jonkoping University of Sweden. As an expert on new technologies, he has also been invited to be part of the Editorial Board of the EffElle Editori publishing house in Bologna, Italy.

Alessandro Zanazzo, Photography, exhibited his audiovisual artwork in collaboration with the Russian contemporary music composer, Angelina Yershova in Montreux, Switzerland. He also was invited by the Ministry of Culture of Ethiopia to serve as a journalist and photographer for special events for Ethiopia Millennium. In addition, he was invited by the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority and by the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Italy, to participate in a media/press tour and to create documentation for communication, editorials and tourism development. He also served as the official photographer for the Embassy of Belgium during the visit of Queen Paola of Belgium in Rome, and as the official photographer/journalist representing Italy on the jury for the event, “Top Model of the World” in Romania.

Lucy Clink, Photography, published a pinhole photograph in the French Photo Poche series, “Le Sténopé.”

Liana Miuccio (www.lianaphoto.com), Photography, had her work featured in The Globe and Mail, February 2008, in a story on Naples. Miuccio was sent with a police escort to photograph Scampia, one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Europe, heavily controlled by the Camorra, the Neapolitan Mafia. The Scampia neighborhood was featured in the internationally acclaimed film, “Gomorrah,” based on the bestselling book by Roberto Saviano. Together with Saviano’s book and movie, Miuccio’s photographs are bringing international attention to Italy’s corruption, forcing the nation to address its organized crime crisis.
The Villa Caproni, the site of Temple Rome, is displayed in an oil painting (2008) by faculty member LUCY CLINK. The painting, shown at left, was presented to ROBERT REINSTEIN upon his retirement as dean of the Beasley School of Law and vice president of International Programs, at a gala reception in Philadelphia in June '08. “Bob’s impact on Temple has been felt globally through his work in developing and expanding international programs in China, at Temple University Japan, at Temple Rome and around the world,” said Temple President Ann Weaver Hart. Reinstein returned full time to teaching and scholarship, and, hopefully sometime, will join the faculty of Temple Rome’s successful Summer Law Program.