Dear Rome Alumni, Faculty and Friends:

Welcome to the 2014 edition of Postcard! As noted in last year’s edition commemorating Dean Kim Strommen’s 22 years at Temple University Rome, 2014 has been a year of change and renewal. We welcomed Dr. Hilary Link as the Dean of Temple Rome in late December 2013, after she spent much of the fall traveling between her former home in New York City, Philadelphia and Rome. She arrived and hit the ground running in the New Year, and has not stopped since. Having served in many academic and administrative capacities at New York University and Barnard College, and with her doctorate in Italian Literature and fluent Italian as background, Dean Link is the ideal person to lead Temple Rome to its 50th anniversary celebration and beyond.

As you will see in the cover article, Link’s short-term goals are to engage broadly with the local community in Rome, creating even more opportunities for Temple Rome students to immerse themselves in Italian language and culture through internships, volunteer opportunities, joint art workshops with local institutions and eventually, collaborations and shared courses with local universities. An interdisciplinary scholar and thinker (her academic work and teaching has revolved around ekphrastic descriptions in Italian and other literatures), Dean Link’s curricular vision involves collaborative teaching and the creation of academic/thematic clusters which allow students to ponder broad themes from a variety of academic and cultural perspectives.

And of course, looming large on the TUR horizon is the monumental 50th Anniversary celebration—truly a historic milestone and one Temple University will celebrate with pride. Keep an eye out for information on the year-long celebration that will begin in Philadelphia in fall 2016 and conclude in Rome in spring 2017. We hope that all alumni, parents, and friends of Temple Rome will join us in celebrating this historic event. Within the coming months, Temple Rome will also have its very own website, and so we urge all TUR friends to make sure their current email address is on file with the Education Abroad office (study.abroad@temple.edu). When the website launches, we will reach out to everyone via email with the URL address.

As always, please let the Temple Rome staff know if you will be visiting the citta’ eterna and have a moment to stop by. The Villa Caproni awaits you—a presto!

Denise A. Connerty
Assistant Vice President
Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses
connerty@temple.edu
You have now been Dean for 6 months; tell Postcard readers, what is your vision for the future of the program?

Any time one enters a new role, especially when the institution in question is running just fine, it is important to spend time meeting as many “stakeholders,” and to be exposed to as many different perspectives on the institution, as possible. I have had individual meetings with every faculty member and many conversations with staff, and have been trying to engage with people in the local community to understand better how Temple Rome is perceived, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and what future directions the program should take. We have upgraded the furniture in the lounge and installed the (long-awaited) fiber optic wi-fi network, but I have refrained thus far from making major changes to the curriculum, to the program’s overall structure, to the way the program is perceived, etc. However, I have been spending a tremendous amount of time processing all the feedback I have gotten, and bouncing ideas off various faculty, students, staff, and external community members.

I have been energized and inspired by the conversations I am having, and some exciting ideas and possibilities have begun to emerge. I am immensely grateful first of all to Dean Strommen for leaving the program in such good shape and for being so generous with his time, historical knowledge and expertise; and then to the faculty and staff who have welcomed and embraced my style of leadership and vision, even though these differ from what they have been used to.

It has been a wonderfully engaging process to think creatively and strategically about where Temple Rome might go in the future, and I am just now starting to formulate concrete ideas on curriculum, on outreach to alumni and the local Roman community, on how to reframe the experience of study abroad at Temple Rome in ways that honor its past while reflecting the rapidly evolving global landscape we find ourselves in.

The faculty have enthusiastically engaged in some creative thinking about what Temple Rome might do additionally and differently, and what is so core to our identity that it must, per forza, remain as is. I fervently believe the future is bright for Temple Rome and that it has the staff, faculty, facilities and support from Main Campus to be even more of a leader in international education than it already is, and to be recognized further here in Rome as a leading academic and cultural center for Americans and Italians alike.

Now that the world is becoming more interconnected and more accessible to all kinds of students, why do you feel studying abroad in Italy is still important and relevant for students today?

I have spent a lot of time thinking about this issue, not only in the past six months but also throughout my years overseeing Barnard’s global initiatives. The world is becoming ever more interconnected, and it is the responsibility of universities and colleges to help prepare students to be successful, responsible citizens of that world.

Whether one spends time in Africa, Asia or Western Europe, giving US students the opportunity to live outside of their culture and their language, and to be uncomfortable in that transition at least initially—that is essential for today’s students. When a student studies abroad, he or she has to learn who he or she really is, has to be self-sufficient, has to act in a thoughtful and mindful way in a foreign context.

These are skills that will serve all students as they move beyond university life and establish themselves on their own. Confronting another culture makes us confront our own culture as well, and essentially puts us in a dialog with our culture that we would not otherwise have. That dialog is as much about understanding the context we come from as the one we are immersing ourselves in, and therefore the time abroad is valid no matter where it occurs.

In addition, as a humanist, I have spent the past years thinking intensely about why US interest in humanities fields is waning, and what a global experience can add to a liberal arts education. As I have listened to our faculty lecture, and have tagged along on some inspiring site excursions, and have engaged in countless conversations with our faculty on what they teach and why, I have become inspired by how the hands-on learning Temple Rome offers complements what many students get on their home campus.

I am excited by the collaborative, interdisciplinary teaching we are beginning to explore here at Temple Rome, and I feel confident that offering students a 360-degree view of broader human themes from different academic perspectives (art, literature, business, sociology, architecture, etc) will inspire those students to bring their learning in Rome to bear on their studies on the home campus, and will provide a unique, multi-lens style of learning in the liberal arts that students cannot get elsewhere.
Community engagement and community service have always been a key principle of Temple University, from the first classes until today. That tradition continues at TU Rome, where students and faculty volunteer and engage with Rome in a variety of rewarding activities. Rather than being one-sided, these interactions enrich the cultural awareness of both Americans and Italians and, in today’s global society, the ability to communicate effectively and multi-culturally is a vital skill. Students studying abroad are challenged to reflect on their cultural assumptions and keep in mind how their assumptions about personal space, patterns of physical connections, etiquette, the expression of emotions, and even meals differ from those living in the local culture.

THE MORGAGNI SCIENTIFIC HIGH SCHOOL FILM FESTIVAL

This spring, Dean Link launched the “Film Festival” by welcoming the Morgagni Scientific High School students to TU Rome on three occasions. The “Film Festival” was organized by Katherine Krizek, Drawing and Art History and Elisabetta Ranieri, an English teacher at the Morgagni, whose students decided which films would be selected. Peter Gardner, Film and Carmela Merola, Italian Language and Literature, also participated in the three screenings and discussions.

Throughout the spring, TU Rome and Morgagni students first viewed selections from Cristalese’s Golden Door, Scot and Tucci’s Big Night and Spike Lee’s Do the Right Thing, and then discussed the stereotypes of Italians and Americans in these films regarding immigration, food and race relations. Ranieri’s students found the sessions to be “fun and interesting” and all hope to see this experience repeated; the TU Rome students profited from understanding how U.S. films shape notions of American culture among Italians.

THE MAMIANI PROJECT

The Mamiani project has grown vigorously for three semesters, and continues to expand. This year will likely see the Ripetta High School of the Arts added to the project. This past year, Temple students taught English at least once a week to students in English classes at Liceo Mamiani, a college preparatory public high school near the campus. Seven of the tutors were enrolled in Eli Goldblatt’s “Literacy and Society” class, and the others volunteered to be on Daniela Curioso’s team, working closely with Mamiani instructors Bianca Mazzola, Stephanie Salvadori, Massimo Diotallevi and Antonella Santambrogio.

Temple students concentrated on oral practice, suggesting activities, games and conversation topics; the Mamiani students taught the Americans idiomatic expressions in Italian and helped them to discover places and facts of Rome, thus actively helping their tutors to immerse themselves in Roman life.

TU Rome students had this to say about their experiences: “This experience added value to my semester abroad, because it helped me learn more about the Italian culture. My students taught me about Italian holidays, regions throughout Italy, and more. It also allowed me to give back to the Roman community, which warmed my heart because I try to do community service as often as I can,” said Corrinn Carroll. Maeve Rooney declared, “this was the best decision I made this semester. It really immerses you into the culture and teaching Italian students was a great experience, especially since my field of study is education.”
This exhibition was the third in a series of collaborations between Marilena Sutera’s printmaking class from the Accademia di Belle Arti and Katherine Krizek’s sketchbook class from Temple University. The main goal, for both the Italian and American students, was to share the social and cultural experience of making art together.

The works in this exhibition were based on pieces in the Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Moderna. Each TU Rome student was matched with a Belle Arti student and the teams of two roamed the museum together in search of a work of art that both found inspirational, with no restrictions on their choices. Then, each did a drawing of the chosen work and, in written form, collected the thoughts of the time spent searching and drawing.

The choice of language(s) used to express themselves was also free; English and Italian were used interchangeably between students.

This was true except for one TU Rome student who was paired by chance with a Belle Arti student; both were Iranian and spoke Farsi for the entire outing,

The students were united by their choice of object, yet each remained unique in his or her interpretation, as suggested by the title, Punti di Vista: Points of View.
Spazio Aquadro, a Roman gallery under the artistic direction of Enzo Cannaviello, inaugurated an exciting exhibition dedicated to the works of Susan Moore, Painting and Drawing, and Lucy Clink, Photography and Drawing, of TU Rome in May, 2014. The gallery presents artists who best represent the current contemporary art scene in Europe and who are recognized by international critics. 2013’s exhibition, “New Italian Painting,” featured ten young Italian artists seen for the first time in Italy and received praise from the public and the critics. Among these artists, Silvia Mei was granted a solo show in New York and Enej Galae exhibited in Frankfurt and Berlin. Other acclaimed artists exhibited at the gallery include Pierluigi Pusole, Giuseppe Abate, Matteo Giagnacovo and Umberto Chiodi.

The gallery’s press release noted that Susan Moore and Lucy Clink’s exhibition was of great importance not only because of the reputation and critical recognition of the two artists but also because it could be a basis for developing closer ties between the Italian and American art worlds, and especially for “encounters and exchanges through future connections between the Roman gallery and the American university.”

To view their current works, please go to http://susan-moore.com/works_ritratti.html and http://lucyclink.net/2014/05/inside-outside-paintings/
TU PHILADELPHIA COMES TO ROME  On Tuesday, July 1, Dean Hilary Link was part of a Temple delegation to visit Rome Mayor Ignazio Marino at his office on the Campidoglio. The delegation also included Temple University Provost Hai-Lung Dai, his children and Dr. Antonio Giordano, Director of Temple’s Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine & Center for Biotechnology. Provost Dai and Mayor Marino know each other from Marino’s time as Professor of Surgery at the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and head of the organ transplantation unit.

In addition to a tour of parts of the Capitoline Museum, Mayor Marino hosted the delegation for an informal discussion in his offices. Provost Dai presented Mayor Marino, a long-time friend of Temple University, with a certificate recognizing him as a Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Medicine.

JAM SESSION 2014  Student Affairs Assistant Gianni Marangio, organized and hosted the annual Jam Session, offering music, fashion and stand-up comedy by talented TU Rome students and invited guests.

Photo courtesy of Kara Foran at: http://templerome.wordpress.com/author/karaforan/
Watch the opening video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-S7C4_60bU

PATRIZIA CAVALLI POETRY READING  The acclaimed contemporary Italian poet Patrizia Cavalli gave a reading of her work, noted for its classic metrical structure engaging contemporary language and syntax. Her collections include: Le mie poesie non cambieranno il mondo (1974), Il cielo (1981), Poesie 1974-1992 (1992), L’io singolare proprio mio (1992) e Sempre aperto teatro (1999), which won the prestigious Viareggio-Repaci Award, Pigre divinità e pigra sorte (2006), for which she was awarded the Dessi Prize and Datura, her latest collection of poems in 2013.

Photo courtesy Beth Burns Lynch at http://templerome.wordpress.com/2013/12/16/student-fun/
PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION IN ROME  Temple Rome had the honor of hosting Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter at its campus in Rome's historic Villa Caproni in March. Governor Corbett and Mayor Nutter were part of a delegation for the World Meeting of Families, also led by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, which met the World Council President Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia in Rome. The Pennsylvania delegation included business and civic leaders who travelled to Rome to discuss preparations for the triennial event sponsored by the Holy See’s Pontifical Council for the Family. The 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia will likely draw a global audience. The Governor, a life-long Catholic, personally invited Pope Francis to attend the Philadelphia World Meeting of Families; the Pope's decision will be announced approximately six months before the event.

Afterward, the Governor and Mayor toured the TU Rome campus, spoke informally with students, and attended a private reception with Dean of Temple Rome Hillary Link, Vice Dean of Tyler Hester Stinnett, who was visiting Temple Rome from Philadelphia, Director of Temple Rome’s Art Gallery Shara Wasserman, Tyler Painting Professor Susan Moore, and TUR International Business professor Aldo Patania. Also in attendance was the Honorable Fucia Nissoli FitzGerald, Representative to the Italian Parliament from the District of Central and North America. Following the gathering, Governor Corbett and Mayor Nutter spoke to a large crowd of TUR students and faculty about how important it is for the students to be ambassadors for the U.S., Pennsylvania and Temple, and they both encouraged the students to continue expanding their education through such international experiences. Corbett and Nutter then took questions from Temple Rome students on issues ranging from education cuts in the Pennsylvania budget and fracking, to the success of Jay-Z’s “Made in America” event in Philadelphia. Mayor Nutter himself noted that this was his second encounter with Temple Rome students in the last five months; in November 2013 while on a trade mission in the UK, Mayor Nutter met with a group of Temple Rome International Business students on a series of corporate visits.

SUSAN MOORE DONATES A PORTRAIT  The main floor student lounge received an exciting refresh, thanks to the new furniture installed by Dean Link and to the portrait generously donated by Professor Susan Moore, Painting and Drawing, whose work is in the collections of the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. TU Rome is honored to have the gift of one of her latest paintings.

New furniture and a painting donated by Tyler faculty member Susan Moore spruce up the Temple Rome lounge.
**Al Cinson** (Temple, TU Rome Spring ’74) studied film in Rome while on sabbatical from Kentucky State. He fondly recalls “the cultural setting, visits to studio production facilities and a number of unique theaters for film screenings” that enabled him “to offer a top notch film studies program on campus.” He has returned to Italy many times to maintain contact with relatives in the Abruzzi. “Thank you Temple” he adds, “for giving me the best educational experience of my life.”

**Justin Britt-Gibson** (Temple, TU Rome Spring ’04) came back to Rome for a vacation, taking a break from writing screenplays for the FX series, *The Strain.* He works in Los Angeles writing for film and other television programs and has had the “great fortune to collaborate with director Guillermo del Toro and producer/writer Carlton Cuse.”

**Denise Gallagher** (Temple/Tyler, TU Rome Fall and Spring ’77), right, and Tyler Art Education professor **Wendy Osterweil**, left, reunited in Rome last fall. Denise and Wendy became close friends in Philadelphia, where they studied Art Education. After teaching, Denise became an Occupational Therapist, and worked in psychosocial and physical rehab settings as a director of O.T. departments, but has continued painting and has begun working in video. While in Rome last fall, she had “magnificent reunions” with Contessa Maria Fede, whose children she taught English, and with Anita Guerra, who also studied at Temple Rome in 1977 and is currently a Temple Rome art professor. During her visit, Denise recalled, “I loved Rome so much that I stayed over the summer, worked as an au pair, and continued as a student in Rome in the fall.”

**Blaise and Alanna (Kalb) Miller** (Temple, TU Rome Fall ’06) TU Rome appears to be the place to meet. Blaise and Alanna also came back for their honeymoon. They now live in New York City where Blaise is a lighting technician for film and Alanna is a legal marketing recruiter.
Tamryn McDermott (Tyler, TU Rome Fall ’96) came to Rome for an artist residency at c.r.e.t.a. rome, an international center to promote ceramics and visual arts in Rome. She says that she will return to the U.S. “fueled with memories and inspiration,” much as she returned after her semester at TU Rome, when she fell “in love with this city.”

Lora Laborsky Meyer (Tyler, TU Rome Summer ’67) came from Manhattan to visit “after many years.” She had attended the first Rome Summer Session where she studied with Richard Callner and Charles La Clair.

Gail Hawkins (Temple ’73) stopped by on her way home from a Mediterranean cruise with a study group of writers. A native Philadelphian, Gail has won awards for her poetry and worked for the National Geographic and Warner Brothers among others. Currently, she lives in Burbank, California and writes screenplays.

Susan (Blumberg) DeCastro (Tyler, TU Rome Spring ’76) is now a professor of Fine Arts and Digital Design at Touro College in New York City, whose passions are “painting, teaching and Italy.” She is “thankful to have had the opportunity to have studied at TU Rome. Grazie tante!”

Michael Eudy (Tyler, TU Rome Fall ’05 and Spring ’06) brought his children, Cyrus and Frances on a campus visit. We hope the children will follow their father’s footsteps to Rome!

Eleanor Rounick-Weintraub (Temple, TU Rome ’78) came to Italy to visit one of their four children, who was studying in Florence. She noted that her “husband has never been to Italy and I am so excited to show him a little glimpse of this beautiful country.” Eleanor says her semester at TU Rome “was an incredible part of my life and I have always attributed so much of who I am because of this experience. I remained good friends with a few participants for many years,” including Susan Handleman Malzone, the Director of Elderhostel for Italy.
Among the record global audience of one billion people watching the World Cup final were TU Rome students studying “Global Sports” with Sociology Professor Kevin Delaney, an economic sociologist specializing in the sociology of sport. His Summer Session students had earlier cheered the Italian team in Piazza Venezia while analyzing the sporting event through a global lens. Professor Delaney views sports as a unique opportunity to study how globalization transforms sports and how sports, in turn, affect globalization. Delaney explains that “sports have been changed by global processes, including trends in urbanization and suburbanization, improved transportation, communication and infrastructure, and the global movement of labor and capital in the sporting world.”

The sporting world explored by Delaney’s students included the Netherlands, France, Spain, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Croatia as they researched various reactions to the World Cup, a revelation for some students who assumed that U.S. sports were universal. Equally surprising for others was to understand how soccer is male-dominated in many countries, unlike the way it is regarded in the U.S. Other research projects included the histories of some Italian teams, including S.S. Lazio, and the global economic inequalities influencing many national teams.

While for most fans the game ended with delight or disappointment after the final match, Delaney and his students continued to use the World Cup match to expand their academics beyond the classroom, analyzing the structure, organization, financing, and culture of globalized sport.

Candace Jensen (Tyler, TU Rome ’07) and Owen Schuh (Tyler, TU Rome ’06) came back to Rome, where they had met, and to see northern Italy for their honeymoon. They now live in San Francisco where Candace works as a graphic designer and artist, while Owen is represented by Kit Schulte in Berlin. Candace and Owen very generously asked their wedding guests to donate to the Temple Rome Scholarship Fund, raising more than $1500.

Lisa (Castrogiovanni) Lindman (Tyler, TU Rome Fall ’79 and Spring ’81) came back to see what is new and what has stayed the same at TU Rome.

Laurie Kalb Cosmo, Art History was elected for a three-year term to the Board of the International Council of Museums of Ethnography (ICME), which is a subcommittee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Anna Tuck Scala, Art History was invited by Professore Mario Alberto Pavone to lecture his doctoral students in Art History on her research on Neapolitan baroque painting at the University of Salerno. She also published her article, “Un dipinto di Andrea Vaccaro (e Massimo Stanzione?) ad Aversa,” in Quaderni dell’Archivio Storico Istituto Banco di Napoli Fondazione.


Aldo Patania, International Business organized a Distinguished Lecture Series at The American University of Rome with the three U.S. Ambassadors in Rome to discuss their specific tasks as heads of the U.S. Missions to the Italian Government, to the Holy See and to the U.N. Agencies in Rome. In February the Italian Minister for Integration, the Hon. Cecile Kyenge, came to deliver a distinguished lecture to students on “The Italian Melting Pot.”

Anna Tuck Scala, Art History was invited by Professore Mario Alberto Pavone to lecture his doctoral students in Art History on her research on Neapolitan baroque painting at the University of Salerno. She also published her article, “Un dipinto di Andrea Vaccaro (e Massimo Stanzione?) ad Aversa,” in Quaderni dell’Archivio Storico Istituto Banco di Napoli Fondazione.

Greg Smith, Anthropology/Sociology organized a lecture on the UN Habitat project for public space by his associate, Prof. Garau, both of whom have been involved in the Biennial for Public Space since its inception in 2011; this was a high point for urban studies this year at Temple Rome. Greg Smith’s article on the pedagogy of field courses came out this spring in the prestigious journal, Planning Theory and Practice. He also completed an article on Pasolini and the idea of the sacred expressed in the film La Ricotta, and is now working on the article, “Performing Citizen Narrative,” based on research carried out in Rome’s famous public housing project, Corviale. Finally, he presented this research at the faculty of Architecture of the University of Naples ‘Federico II’, where Smith was a visiting professor in 2012.

Carolina Vaccaro, Architecture participated in two National Competitions, the first was for the Complesso Parrocchiale di Santa Maria del Carmine, in the Archdiocese of Sorrento, at Castellammare di Stabia. The second was for the design of the Region of Lazio’s Mobile Pavilion and the exhibition space for the International Craft Fair at Fortezza da Basso, Florence.

She is also involved in organizing the Wall Walk Project Program, promoted by the Association of American College and University Programs in Italy and the University of Roma 3. The Wall Walk Project aims at strengthening the relationship among Italian and North American University programs in Rome through a rich series of events, exchanges and communal didactic and research projects continuing until 2017. Finally, Vaccaro is currently renovating a private apartment in via Archimede in Rome.

Shara Wasserman, Art History/Director of Exhibitions was a panelist at the MACRO, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, and presented three of the artists that participated in her exhibition “Fiber Art Again” at the TU Rome Gallery of Art.
We want to hear from you! Email us at study.abroad@temple.edu.
Alumni, please bring us up-to-date on what you have been doing. Students, do you have a blog? Please share the link with us.

PASSING THE TORCH

Former Temple Rome Dean, Kim Strommen, passing the torch to Temple Rome’s new Dean, Hilary L. Link with the help of the Main Campus Education Abroad staff.

First row, left to right: Mary Guerrero, Maureen Gordon, Beth Lawson, Belinda Christensen.
Second row, left to right: Sara Sequin, Michelle Isel, Hilary Link, Kim Strommen, Denise Connelly and Mike Dever