At home at last

After 47 years, JFRC finds a permanent home

On July 1, 2009, Loyola University Chicago officially purchased the land and building where the JFRC has resided since 1978, fulfilling a dream of the center’s founder, John Felice, who passed away in 2008. The purchase is part of a strategic plan to make the JFRC the premier study-abroad program in Italy, and comes after an exhaustive, two-year search for a permanent campus.

“I’m so excited about this news,” says Kate Felice, wife of the late John Felice. “I know that John would be thrilled about it. Purchasing a building closer to town would have been prohibitively expensive and costly to renovate—with many permits needed along the way. Now, we can make necessary changes at a speed we can afford without interrupting the program.”

The fruit of months of negotiations with the previous owners, the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, the purchase opens new vistas for the JFRC. “The property acquisition in Rome comes after nearly five decades of putting down deep roots in Europe,” says Emilio Iodice, vice president and director of the JFRC. “Now, we’ve demonstrated to our students, alumni, and faculty our commitment to becoming the premier U.S. university study-abroad program.”

Going forward, JFRC leadership is testing the feasibility of major improvements to both the facilities and program. “By the end of this year, we hope to have started renovations to the facility that will include state-of-the-art technology and environmentally friendly features,” says Iodice. “Our hope is to turn the JFRC into a ‘green’ campus, one that will serve as a model for environmental excellence in Europe.”

A milestone for the JFRC, the acquisition will allow the program to invest in its facilities, students, and faculty in ways that would have been impossible while leasing and will usher in a new era for the Rome Center.
GREETINGS FROM EMILIO

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As many of you may have heard, this past summer was a landmark period for the JFRC. I’m pleased to inform you that on July 1, 2009, the leadership of Loyola University Chicago and the John Felice Rome Center successfully negotiated and closed on a deal to purchase our existing campus from the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. I know this ambitious, historic, and significant move to secure the future of your beloved JFRC will be recognized and celebrated by all of you.

This was the critical step in securing the future of the JFRC, and was the long-held dream of our founder, John Felice. The investment in the property and facilities on Monte Mario demonstrates an unwavering commitment from Loyola to this important program, and I am proud to have been a part of such monumental progress towards making the John Felice Rome Center the best study-abroad program available to undergraduates in Italy.

Even though this acquisition came at the end of months of negotiations, our work has just begun. Strategic planning for renovations, expansion, and funding needs are underway, and will require a great deal of time, effort, care, and support. Having met so many of you over the past two years and having listened to your memories of and aspirations for the center, I am delighted that the vision so many of you had for the JFRC is now underway. I pray that you will continue to support us in our efforts to build a truly remarkable institution—one you can all be proud to call your home in Rome.

Here’s to a spectacular future!

Warm regards,

Emilio Iodice
Vice President and Director
John Felice Rome Center

Wishing you could just hang out... on the Spanish Steps? Craving a gelato—the real kind? Yearning to sip a cappuccino—for two hours?

Well, wish, crave, and yearn no more... Ritornare a Roma!!

Four years ago, 304 John Felice Rome Center alumni and friends returned to the Eternal City for the first-ever JFRC All-Class Reunion in Rome. The suitcases weren’t even packed for the trip back home when attendees asked, “When’s the next one?”

Well, the next one is May 4–8, 2010. Here’s the tentative calendar.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cavallo named dean
Susana Cavallo, PhD, has been named dean of faculty for the John Felice Rome Center. Dr. Cavallo, who is also a professor of Spanish language and literature, has served as the associate director for academic programs at the JFRC since June 2007. As dean of faculty, Dr. Cavallo will be responsible for all academic affairs, including faculty recruitment and development, course offerings, and curriculum development.

JFRC students at Cannes
In the summer of 2008, three JFRC students, Charlie Noell, Alexandra Platt, and James Kilton, produced a documentary on the plight of Gypsies in Italy. Their film, “Sono Niente,” premiered at an international human rights film festival in Italy and was showcased at the Cannes Film Festival in the short film corner in May.

Ritor
OPENING NIGHT PARTY
The festivities will begin with a tour of the campus, a rundown of future plans for the JFRC, an introduction to JFRC leadership, and an opportunity to say hello to your classmates. From there, we’ll head down to a place familiar to all JFRC alumni—Piazza Navona—where we’ll take over several restaurants for a beautiful evening of al fresco dining.

RETURN TO ROME, RETURN TO CLASS
Besides the excursions and the gelato and the pizza margherita and the wine, there were the classes! Relive your JFRC experience by “taking class” from current Rome Center faculty. The day will begin with a 90-minute lecture in a JFRC classroom followed by a splendid Italian brunch in the courtyard. Then, it’s off to explore the city, where your professor will take you on an excursion related to what you learned that morning. A full description of all classes offered is available by visiting LUC.edu/romereunion. You’ll have the evening all to yourselves to explore Rome and its abundance of amazing restaurants.

DAY TRIPS
Details are still being worked out, but you’ll have your choice of four different day trips:

Orvieto
- Tour of Orvieto and the Duomo
- Sunset dinner at the historic Barbi Winery in the beautiful hills overlooking Orvieto
- Free time for shopping and exploring

Florence
- Palazzo Vecchio
- The Bargello
- San Miniato al Monte
- Fabulous Florence shopping

Naples
- Pizza at the most famous pizzeria in Naples
- Pastry at the oldest pastry shop in Naples
- Guided tour of the city
- Capodimonte Museum

Assisi
- Led by JFRC alum Anne Robichoud!
- Tour and Mass in St. Francis Cathedral
- The festivities of the Calendimaggio Festival!

WHAT ELSE?
- Choice of 3, 4, and 5-star hotels as well as the dorm setting of the JFRC
- Bus pick-ups and drop-offs for all events
- Online registration
- Discount for payment-in-full

* Subject to change without notice
The Società di Donatori consists of donors who make personal, annual gifts of $1,000 or more to the John Felice Rome Center to fund the center’s key priorities.

**CERCHIA DEL DIRETTORE**
($10,000+)
Ruthelyn (BA ’75) and Ronald Musil
Susan (JFRC Spring ’63) and Anthony Piazza (JFRC ’62–’63) LL
Kathy (JFRC ’63–’64) and Thomas Rucker (JFRC ’63–’64)
Katherine Vogelheim (JFRC ’72–’78) and John Hansen

**ILLUMINATI** ($5,000–$9,999)
Susan and George Donovan (JFRC ’75–’76)
Maureen (JFRC ’66–’67, BA ’68) and Robert Schuberth (JFRC ’66–’67) LL

**SOSTENITORI** ($500–$999 for alumni who graduated in the last 6–15 years)
Betty (JFRC ’65–’66) and Thomas Casey (JFRC ’65–’66)
Eugene Cecotti (JFRC ’65–’66)
Karen and James Centner (JFRC ’66–’67)

**AMICI** ($250–$499 for alumni of the five most recent classes)
Marissa Krupowicz (JFRC Fall ’01, BS ’01)

**BENEFATTORI** ($1,000–$2,499)
Gemma Allen–Nader (JFRC ’64–’65, BS ’66) and Albert Nader
Anonymous
Jacqueline Arnold
Joan Batchen (JFRC ’81–’82, BA ’83, MBA ’88)
Theresa and Lawrence Biggam (JFRC ’65–’66)
Mary Jo Blythe (JFRC Fall ’82)
Kathryn and Michael Carlson (JFRC ’66–’67, BA ’68) LL
Susan (JFRC ’69–’70) and William Carter

**BBA** (BA ’56)
Robert Rissone LL
Mary Pat and James Rohan (JFRC ’78–’79, ’79–’80, BA ’81, MSIR ’83)

**DONATELLI** ($10,000+)
Todd Waller, dean of students, and students of the JFRC Fall 2008 class join in an opening prayer in Assisi

**2009 Honor Roll**

**Donations to general operating, scholarship endowments, and travel funds have been invaluable in making the John Felice Rome Center a fixture in Rome. In fiscal year 2009, 606 alumni and friends of the JFRC contributed over $286,000 to various JFRC allocations. You helped raise over $41,000 for the Forza Roma Travel & Cultural Fund, over $22,000 for the John P. and Mary K. Felice Endowed Scholarship, and over $33,000 for Class Scholarships in fiscal year 2009. We had a great year and are incredibly grateful for all the JFRC alumni and friends who participated.**

**The following is a list of John Felice Rome Center donors and Società di Donatori members. Our deepest gratitude is extended to these generous individuals.**

**Società di Donatori**
$250–$499

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Linda MA ‘82, PhD ‘85 and Michael Bresolin (JFRC ‘74–’75, BS ‘76, MA ‘78, PhD ‘85)
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and W. Nicholson
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Joy Grossman (JFRC Spring ‘88) and Paul Horton
Marie (JFRC ‘64–’65, BSED ‘67) and David Hopkins
Leslie (JFRC ‘73–’74) and Thomas Kennedy (BA ‘68, JD ‘71)

Support the John Felice Rome Center

OUTRIGHT GIFTS You can give online, by check, credit card, automatic bank withdrawal, or with gifts of stock.

MATCHING GIFTS Many employers will match your charitable contributions. Check with your or your spouse’s employer for more information.

PLANNED GIFTS You may also choose to remember the JFRC in your will or estate plan. Please visit LUC.edu/PlannedGiving for more information.

Please know that your generosity is appreciated and will go a long way in securing the future of the John Felice Rome Center. For more information, please contact Robin Miller at rmiller1@luc.edu or 312.915.6363.

Mail your gift to:
John Felice Rome Center
Loyola University Chicago
Gift Processing
Department 4336
Carol Stream, IL 60122

Make your gift online:
LUC.edu/JFRCGiving
Loyola students in the pilot study-abroad program in Vietnam pose in front of the new representative office in Vietnam with Miss Vietnam 2006, Mai Phuong Thuy.

Loyola opens program in Vietnam

Loyola University Chicago has partnered with the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training to establish a University Representative Office in Ho Chi Minh City. The partnership, which became official in February 2009, makes Loyola the first university in the United States to have a site location in Vietnam.

Through the office, Loyola will work in three critical areas of need: English as a Second Language (ESL) education for health-care professionals, leadership programs for Vietnamese professionals and administrators, and study-abroad programs for U.S. students, which commenced in the summer of 2009.

JFRC PROFILE

Rich Martini
• filmmaker, teacher, traveler

A film director, producer, and screenwriter, Rich Martini (JFRC ’75–’76) returned to Rome in 2008 to teach the center’s first summer film course. Martini has directed feature films (You Can’t Hurry Love), documentaries (Tibetan Refugee), and even a Dogme 95 film (Camera – Dogme #15). He took some time out of his busy schedule working on Angelina Jolie’s next film, “Salt,” to talk to Il Bollettino.

All roads lead… “As a student at Boston University, I was trying to decide where to spend my junior year abroad. I ran into someone who told me about the Rome Center. Thirty years later, here I am. I’m still friends with everyone I met at the JFRC.”

…back to Monte Mario “Some years later I went off to Hollywood and became a filmmaker. Over the years, I’d stop by Rome now and then and visit professors. In 1995, I showed some films to a class at the JFRC, and then someone suggested I teach a class. Three years ago, I taught my first summer course at the JFRC.”

Say it again, Imam “I started making documentaries in 2000. I made a film about the Sister Cities Program, comparing Chicago with its sister city, Casablanca. One of the many things I learned at the JFRC—people are similar the world over. Mayor Daley told me, ‘Most foreigners don’t realize Chicago is a melting pot, tolerant of all religions.’ When I interviewed a prominent imam in Casablanca, he said, ‘Westerners don’t realize Casablanca is a melting pot, tolerant of all religions.’ They proved my point, using pretty much the same words.”

From Via Massimi to the red carpet “Video equipment is so inexpensive nowadays that anyone can make a film. Some of my students made a film that was so successful it made an appearance at Cannes. It’s really not about the delivery; it’s about the content.”

A wealth of experiences “Last summer, I was able to take a class to Cinecittà, Fellini’s soundstage. We spoke with a propmaster there who had worked with Fellini. He told us about how Fellini was inspirational, how he would have a grand idea and get you to stay up all night working on it, only to change his mind in the morning. Experiences like that are the great thing about the Rome Center. You get the chance to see and hear things you never would in the United States.”

All roads lead… “As a student at Boston University, I was trying to decide where to spend my junior year abroad. I ran into someone who told me about the Rome Center. Thirty years later, here I am. I’m still friends with everyone I met at the JFRC.”
STAY IN TOUCH

Facebook, it isn’t just for your kids (or grandkids) anymore!

Terry Colwell (JFRC ‘71–’72) is trying to get his JFRC class together via Facebook but has only located about 42 of his 200 classmates. He thinks that his classmates may not totally understand Facebook and are therefore reluctant to join. In an effort to get more JFRC alumni to join Facebook, the Alumni Association offers these tips to get you started:

Visit Facebook.com and fill out the required sign-up information (it’s free).

You’ll be taken to a screen with four steps.

To simplify the process, skip this screen by clicking on the “Profile” button on the top left of the screen.

Here, you’ll see what your Facebook profile will look like. Click on the boxes to add your personal information—you can add only the information you feel comfortable sharing—now start finding your friends:

• Click on the “find friends” button on the left side.
• Try searching for names of classmates and adding them.
• Try searching for Allison Coté, the Loyola Alumni Association representative for the John Felice Rome Center; search acote@luc.edu. Add her.

Above all, don’t be intimidated by Facebook. You can’t break anything. If you’re having trouble, feel free to call or e-mail Allison. She can be reached at acote@luc.edu or 312.915.6742.

Fill the forum...

Gotten married? Written a book? Become a parent?

Or done anything else you’d like your John Felice Rome Center classmates to know about? The Forum in Il Bollettino is the place to announce the big events in your life. If you have something to share, please e-mail JFRC-forum@luc.edu and it will appear in the next issue of Il Bollettino.

A capital reunion

The setting couldn’t have been more stunning, or the weather more beautiful, when JFRC alums gathered in Washington DC in April. The climax of the event, a dinner at the Embassy of Italy, featured Emilio Iodice, vice president and director of the John Felice Rome Center, and two JFRC alums, Ben Pietrzyk (JFRC Fall ’03, MA ’06) and Mary Mattingly (JFRC ’04–’05, BA ’06), who were recently engaged.

Visit alumni.luc.edu/rome for more news on JFRC alumni events around the country.

Michael Beazley (JFRC Fall ‘03, BA ’04, Staff ’05–’07), Szymon Choinski (JFRC Fall ’03, BS ’06) Alexandra (Alex) Manzella (JFRC ’04–’05, BA ‘06, Staff ’06–’07), and Colleen Weiler

Dinner at the Embassy of Italy
Attention JFRC alumni: 
get together with your class

Do you know that the Loyola Alumni Association has resources available to help you plan your own class’s reunion? With all of the excitement surrounding the John Felice Rome Center, now is a great time to celebrate the wonderful experiences you shared with your Rome classmates. We can provide you with your class roster and the name of a JFRC Alumni Board member who can offer guidance on pulling together a class-specific reunion.

Contact Allison Coté at 312.915.6742 or acote@luc.edu.