

# Sights and Studies

CIMBA Newsletter Spring 2011





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# Editor's Note

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of-the-CIMBA

Undergraduate Newsletter! It's hard to believe the semester is drawing to a close, when it seems like only last week we students were stumbling off planes, silly with jetlag, confused and culture shocked. Now, almost three months later, we easily navigate public transportation, chat with Italians in their native language, and have seen wonders that even the most detailed description could hardly do justice.

As you will see, this semester has been quite an adventure: a new face graces the CIMBA office; a student faced juxtaposing an injury with his desire for travel, another spent three months in the pasta capital of the world with a gluten intolerance. Despite challenges, students took advantage of their time in

Paderno del Grappa (and across) Europe to discover much about themselves and their classmates in the short time we spent together.

I greatly admire my fellow students. It took great courage to leave behind all that was familiar in favor of being thrown entirely out of their comfort zone. For many, myself included, this was their first trip to Europe, and many of us traveled here alone. No time was wasted throwing us into the accelerated academic schedule that allowed for so much travel time.

It is difficult to believe that soon we will be returning to America. After the initial culture shock, Paderno quickly became a second home to many of us, and I know I will miss this town and the culture I have

come to love. As our adventures changed us, this quaint Italian town was a comfort to come home to, a place to ground us from the whirl of change within ourselves.

As hesitant as I am to go back to America after this experience, I am excited to see how an international perspective will affect the lives of the CIMBA students and me after our return. I hope we will see the world a bit more clearly, and that we never lose our curiosity for that which we do not know.

With that, I take my leave, as birds near my open window beckon me outside into the warm Italian sun, where Monte Grappa, its rocks, rich shades of purple and blue, now spotted with green, greets me. Italy seems at its finest on this beautiful day, the weather a reflection of this semester at CIMBA: *meraviglioso*. Wonderful.

Aubrey Huff  
Editor  
Spring 2011



Huff after a camel ride in Morocco

# Life After LIFE

**Evan Thomas;**  
University of Kansas

After an overwhelming first week of classes, my tolerance for stress skyrocketed as I spent two and a half days participating in the LIFE (Leadership Initiative for Excellence) program. I learned very quickly just what that initiative was. I had found myself in a leadership boot camp.

This intensive leadership training course was a personal and team-building commitment that immediately immersed me into the most challenging emotional, physical, and spiritual experience of my college life.

I was immediately forced out of my comfort zone and into situations where I had to let my fears go and be passionate about who I am as a leader and a human being. There was no faking it, playing the part or doing just enough to get by. I had to continuously give 100 percent and be real at all times so I could break through my barriers and struggles to see my goals more clearly.

At the beginning of the program, we were given a brand new heart rate monitor. A visual tool on a projector screen showed each person on my team's heart rate at any given time, while also providing skin and energy conductance graphs. During this part of the program, we were taught to control our emotions and channel our energy into positive actions according to the basic principles-of Neuro-Leadership. I continued applying these strategies throughout LIFE and after the program.

This science of leadership dealt with the inner self and psychology of developing a powerful leadership mind, while allowing us to incorporate our own spiritual methods to achieve and formulate strategies that fit us, and pushed us towards our full potential. As many were Christ followers as I am, we found our self-reinforcement through His presence, while others used other thought rationalities to drive thought processes and monitor their behavior.

I could endlessly discuss the lengths to which these processes were connected, how they drove us to our passions, and forced us to create a vision and mission statement that



incorporated our basic beliefs and values, and analyzed and used how we could further change lives for the better in the future. However, it was almost too intense to describe, and knowing everything about this experience would lessen its potency should anyone ever decide to take part.

I wish everyone close to me had the chance to experience something like this, as it was truly three of the most unbelievable days in my 19 years of life.

Ultimately, we were molded into being leaders with people, and not to people, and that is an experience I will always value.

After graduating from LIFE, my team and I celebrated our achievements and our bond as a team. We shared our gratitude for the program, one we will always cherish, but one we hope we'll never have to do again.



Team 1020 celebrating their success

# What I Didn't Know Coming to Italy

**Kayla Foley;**  
University of Kansas

When moving to Italy, I knew that there would be many differences from America. I was prepared for the language barrier. I also knew that not having a car meant navigating public transportation systems. I was even grudgingly resigned to the fact that the Internet was not going to be high speed and that, unless I was in a major city, my favorite fast food was not going to be an option.

All that being said, I was still shocked when I encountered these differences and many others: some good, some questionable, and some just plain silly to me. Still, of all the differences, four things have stuck out to me the most, so if traveling to Italy, bear these in mind.

**Drying Clothes:** In Italy,



electricity is an expensive commodity and, as a result, few places have clothes dryers in them. This means that as you travel around Italy, there are almost always clothes hanging out on lines. Coming from a place where you decide to do your laundry one minute and the next you're folding and putting it away, the thought of the laundry process being an all-day event is seriously daunting!

**Recycling:** Back home in the States, I have a pretty simple method for disposing of waste products. If I'm through with something, or I don't want it anymore, I simply throw it away. End of story.

In Italy, there is a specific code of conduct for which waste bin you place each product in. After months here, I still can't keep track of the many different types of trashcans.

Luckily, the maids employed here on campus sort our trash for us, but in public I'm always afraid to throw trash away because I'm never really sure if it's the right trash can or not. Usually, I just end up sneakily tossing it in whatever random waste bin I can find, then tiptoeing away like a fugitive.

**Crosswalks:** Crosswalk? What Crosswalk? In Italy, people drive very differently than in the United States. The American concept of a crosswalk, does not apply



to Italian drivers. I can't count the number of times that I have nearly been annihilated on a crosswalk by a speeding car! At home, I can walk out into the street, right in front of a moving vehicle, not doubting that they will stop and wait for me to cross. In Italy, I look both ways, twice, and if I can even see a shadow of a car in the distance I bolt across the road!

**Produce:** Many Americans made this mistake, only to incur the wrath of an angry shopkeeper. In Italy, it is practically a sin to touch produce sitting out on the shelves. Rather, you ask the shopkeeper to pick it for you. Luckily, I was warned before committing the heinous crime myself, but future travelers be warned, if you should decide to have some fresh fruit or veggies while in Italy, *per favore, non toccate il prodotto!*

During my sojourn in Europe I have learned not

only about many new cultures but also about myself. It amazes me that a few short months, halfway across the world could open my eyes to aspects of my personality that I had never even considered before. These

moments have not been few and far between here. I'm so grateful for the opportunity I had to study in Italy at the CIMBA campus. I could not have imagined a more beautiful place to live and explore. Though very different from home and hardly what I expected, I've loved every minute of the challenge of learning about the Italian culture.



Produce in Naples



# Emma in Italy

**Emma Detwiler;**  
State of Delaware

Living in Italy for a fourteen year old is truly amazing! I have the opportunity to travel around Italy, France, and other places in Europe at such a young age. Not a lot of fourteen-year-olds have the chance to do that. My mom is a professor at CIMBA teaching Business Communication-and Intercultural Communication, so I see a lot of college life.

I also get to help out in the Undergraduate-Office, which teaches me a lot about what a real job is like. I am called the "Office Ninja," a nickname the office staff gave me. They do not even know why, for sure. Helping in the office is a very fun job because I get to hang out with some very

strange but very amazing people who enjoy what they do and who they are, such as Katy Jo, who is always cheerful, Anna, who works very hard but can also be laid back. As well as the guys: Jayme, Ilya, Dan, and Uros, who concentrate but can also have fun. I also can't forget the RAs who are just wonderful people and include me in very fun activities.

People are only one side of the experience I get to have. I also get to eat wonderful food, which is great because eating is my favorite thing to do! I used to like fast food until I tasted really healthy and very good Italian food. It changed my life! Pizza, pasta, grilled vegetables, and Tuscan steak are all my favorite foods, and I eat them all the time here.

Travel also changed my life. Every place I go to is different and beautiful! Each culture is different in its own way and makes me wonder how people



did things hundreds of years ago. Cinque Terre is my favorite place in Italy. The water is so blue and always warm. It is so pretty!

I do believe I am one of the luckiest kids on earth and I owe it all to Al Ringleb and Cristina Turchet for making it possible for me to be here! So thank you!



Emma Detwiler and her sister Abbey at Carnevale in Venice



Emma Detwiler in Nice, France

# Italy Without Pasta

**Holly Spier;**  
University of Delaware

The cafeteria aroma fills the beautiful mountain air each afternoon and evening. Regardless of the side dish, green salad, and meat option, there is always the reliable staple: white pasta with red sauce. Although meals don't always receive the best responses, a typical CIMBA student mindlessly grabs the tray, a dinner roll, some pasta, a pork chop, and some pudding. It is a meal that will appease the mass audience, vaguely reflecting Italian cuisine.

What if pasta was taken out of the equation? What if you could not eat pasta, bread, pudding, meat, croissants, or pastries? Why would you come to Italy?

This question arises every time I enter an eating establishment; it easily becomes the topic of dinner conversations. Studying abroad for a semester in the land of pizza and pasta is a challenge.

Because my body sees gluten, the protein found in wheat, malt, and barley, as a poison, I cannot eat the

foods that the typical American or Italian diet revolves around. It is something that developed about a year ago, so I know how all of those foods taste; I just can't eat them.

As a restaurant management major, I am a natural born "foodie." I love food: the texture, colors, smell, taste, variety, appearance; everything



about it stirs up an ingrained passion. Cooking and tasting are my two favorite pastimes, so the limiting factor of foods is hard to handle.

At home, "gluten free" labels flood grocery store aisles. Fitness freaks choose not to eat the ingredient because they feel like it is healthier to avoid it. Rice pasta sits next to Barilla, and Betty Crocker released their own line of gluten free cookie and cake mixes. It is well known that Italian cuisine is comprised of linguini, rigatoni, lasagna,

ravioli, pastry shop breads, and brick oven pizzas, but they must have some people who don't eat gluten. How do they survive?

It was my mission to come to Italy and discover a different side of Italian foods. I wanted to show the world that fresh produce, risotto, and polenta could sustain a person with this condition, especially one who decided to eliminate meat from her diet as well. I hoped to discover different food options that people do not know about, and introduce it to America in my future Gluten Free Italian Restaurant. I had a whole vision

planned out in my mind, and was set on discovering these secrets in Paderno del Grappa.

Unfortunately, as I received my first CIMBA meal, I discovered that this vision would be harder to conquer than I had expected. My first meal was comprised of peas, an apple, and cheese because the other options were full of gluten. After a few days of these patterns, I spoke with Silvia Ziliotto and the chefs so I'd be able to eat something of sustenance. Everyone was

accommodating, but the addition of rice and steamed veggies didn't help my career prospects. "Senza Glutine", or without gluten, became my typical Italian phrase in all eating establishments. I'd inform servers to tell chefs of my sensitivity, so I would not get sick from their food.

More often than not, servers understood my concern, but my only options were to turn to meats, which as a vegetarian, I opted not to do. I was disappointed to learn that my visions were not a reality.

Studying abroad in a foreign culture requires a person to adapt to many different aspects of their average lives. It brings us out of our comfort zones and points out the little things that set us apart from others; these small factors are how we define our culture. As I sit in a

villa on the Amalfi coast, I am still on a quest to discover these culinary secrets embedded somewhere in this magical country. Thus far, I have come across some fantastic seafood risottos, countless cups of café lattes and hot chocolates, limoncello, the famous gelato and most importantly, Nutella. My goal is to discover more meal options, but for now, a diet including at least one scoop of hazelnut gelato each week is just fine with me.



Spier with a gluten-free snack

# Phi Beta Delta

**Ben Lockin;**  
University of Iowa

Phi Beta Delta (PBD) is a co-ed honor society on campus with the purpose of helping the community while at the same time becoming a close and cohesive group of friends. It has been offered as an extracurricular activity at CIMBA since the spring of 2004. It was also the first international chapter of PBD when it was founded. This semester, like the semesters before it, PBD worked to leave a positive stamp on campus and the community as a whole.

To fulfill its goal of community service, PBD sponsored and helped with the wine tasting seminar on March 7th. PBD members

were there to help set up the event, serve the wine and cheese and assist with the teardown. It was a great event. Dr. Al Ringleb, through his many years of wine research, was able to entertain the crowd with his knowledge and experiences with wine. Everyone left that evening with a greater understanding of wine, the constant work that goes into its production and the importance it holds in Italy.



We also worked to increase the sports equipment on campus.

Through discussions with the CIMBA staff and student polls, it was decided that there was a dire need for another football, new tennis balls, and yoga mats. Part of each member's dues went into a fund to help purchase the new equipment. This also could not have been possible without the help of Cristina Turchet and Terra Schaad who donated their own

money to help Phi Beta Delta make these purchases. Beta Delta greatly appreciates their generosity.

The main community event PBD did this semester was a volunteer project at the Cooperativa in Castelcucco. The Cooperativa is an adult autistic community where autistic adults as well as social workers live. In early March, PBD took five members to help volunteer

at this wonderful organization. Though I was not able to attend, one student who went, Jackson Gibbon, sat down with me and shared his experiences.

Jackson mentioned that while he was there he was able to interact with an adult one on one. Besides simply being a friendly face, Jackson and other members assisted with arts and crafts. Everyone had a great time and was able to give back to the community. Due to the success of Phi Beta Delta's first visit, it sounds like a nice relationship between the Cooperativa and Phi Beta Delta will continue for years to come.



Robert Donohue - University of Alabama - at Initiation Ceremony

In addition to these past events Phi Beta Delta will have many upcoming events for future CIMBA students to look forward to. One of our many events this semester was making tiramisu. Keep your eyes peeled!



**PHI BETA DELTA**  
**MEMBERS**

- Brittany Avant
- Drew Clement
- Vanessa DiStefano
- Rob Donohue
- Danny Fabinski
- Jackson Gibbon
- Allison Hardy
- Katie Holt
- Ben Lockin
- Jordan Lohf
- Joshua Magness
- Jodi Manternach
- Karen Peters
- Matthew Powell



Drew Clement with Professor Marin



Ben Lockin sampling his work



Allison Hardy with Professor Marin

# Chinese at CIMBA

**Lin Sun;**

University of Iowa

“So you are from China, studying in the States, and now you are in Italy. That’s studying abroad abroad?” Well, I am. This kind of question always makes me proud of myself, and now I am telling you that studying abroad is super cool! It is even more fascinating to take an American study program in Italy as a Chinese student.

I travelled from Iowa City to Chicago to Madrid, then Venice to Bassano, and then finally arrived in Paderno del Grappa, my base camp for three months. The minute I saw it, I had a hilarious sense of its similarity with the countryside in China. As a city girl, I do not have a lot of authority to say that, but at least it matches my perception of Chinese countryside—old two or three story buildings, barns,

fairly narrow streets, and dogs in almost every household.

There are more fun details here: the adorable small cars, and the elegant Catholic statues everywhere, and I just love the cute shutters and flowers on the windowsills. It is a very peaceful small town to live, rest, and study in between my trips across Europe. It has nice weather, moderately moist, a little cold (but not as crazy as Iowa). Fog appears now and then and makes the sunshine soft and gentle. It is delightful to wake up every morning to bells from the local church and then enjoy a glance of the beautiful Monte Grappa through my window, if she doesn’t hide herself in a fog.

Despite all that beauty, the bells from the church are interesting enough for me. They are nothing like the long, rich philosophical bells I was used to from temples in Asia. The bells here are a more delightful “ting-ting” sound, which is pleasant. I feel like I’m living in a sweet European dream here.

As a big eater, food is too important for me to not talk about. Besides well-known pizza and coffee, Italy has



done a very cruel thing to me. I doubt whether I can appreciate any other ice cream from outside of Italy any more. Now ice cream from the States seems too sweet and that from China is too bland for me. Nothing is comparable to the gelato here, which has the most rich, creamy; there is no way I can describe it in English. It will be one major reason for me to feel sad to leave Europe.

Also, it happened to be the Chinese Spring Festival in my third week here. A group of Chinese students and a couple of professors went to a Chinese restaurant to celebrate it together, so I’ve experienced an interesting comparison between the Chinese restaurants here and those in the United States. Maybe it’s only some



Lin Sun enjoying food locally

individual cases from my limited experience, but I prefer the Chinese food here. Though it is still modified for local taste, it is much more similar to what I have in China.

On the spring festival, we had sweet and sour soup, spicy tofu, and some steamed fish, which is a little hard to find in America except in the Chinatowns of big cities. The other dishes, which I can find in the United States, were more Americanized. (I've never had any Orange Chicken in China before!). And the dumplings we usually eat for the Chinese New Year here are delicious.

It was a nice celebration away from home this year; it was just funny for me to speak English for a whole evening while celebrating a traditional Chinese New Year.

Besides all the enjoyment, I have learned a lot here. The most important difference for me to study abroad in the United States and in Italy is that while I speak some English, I speak no Italian at all. So it takes a lot of effort to ask for directions or order food in restaurants. I just make full use of all my nonverbal language and every single Italian word I know. I think I've improved my communication skills by

this, which is great as a Communication Studies major. Also, I've learned to make plans, decisions and coordinate between fellow travelers. Now I am better organized and more mature.

This is my experience of CIMBA as a Chinese student, studying in America, studying in Italy. I enjoy myself; I eat; I learn, and I grow up. I hope you do too!



Lin Sun and friends on a day out in Venice



Students, Professors Paula Fitzgerald and Roy Pettibone and Office Ninja Emma celebrating Chinese New Year in Bassano del Grappa

# New at CIMBA: Silvia Ziliotto

**Aubrey Huff;**  
University of Iowa

Winter melts into spring as the CIMBA Undergraduate campus in Paderno del Grappa welcomes new students. The business, journalism, and communications majors are not the only new presence on campus. A new undergraduate office assistant joined the CIMBA staff this past January. Silvia Ziliotto, a Paderno native, fills this role with pleasure.

Silvia, 25, was born in Paderno del Grappa. She is the second of three children and the only girl. Silvia's mother is retired; her father is a bus driver for CTM. Silvia's older brother, now 30 years old, no longer lives at home, but Silvia still lives with her parents.

"I lived with my family in Paderno since I was a child. We are very attached to this place," Silvia said.

Silvia spent the last several years studying English and German literature at the University in Trento. She enjoyed how different the languages were, though they originated from the same base language. In college, Silvia wanted to be a teacher, but after

graduation, she found herself drawn to CIMBA.

She pursued her office assistant position after being told about it by longtime friend and CIMBA Campus Coordinator and LEAP coach Anna Fiumicetti.

"I was fascinated by the CIMBA program and by the good reputation CIMBA had," Silvia said.

Silvia also considered this job the perfect opportunity to practice her English, a language she has been studying since middle



school. This is a very apt consideration, as Paderno del Grappa played host to about 180 American students during the Spring 2011 term.

"I've always liked [English]. It is a beautiful language. Also, English literature is one of my passions," she said.

A typical workday for Silvia starts at nine in the morning, when she arrives at the office and opens it up. Throughout the day, she

manages campus issues and acts as a translator for American students needing to visit the nurse, who speaks only Italian. She also organizes program schedules and formal dinners for the students, and works closely with the cafeteria and maintenance staff. Her day ends at six in the evening.

Silvia recently graduated from the Leadership Initiative for Excellence (LIFE) program at CIMBA. Offered to CIMBA students, professionals outside of CIMBA, as well as Silvia, made up the last group of graduates.

When asked about her experience with LIFE, Silvia lights up.

"I was curious about the program because many people spoke about it, but did not tell me what exactly it was. Furthermore, I thought it was necessary to know what CIMBA offers to its students," she said.

Already a program not for the faint-hearted, LIFE was even more difficult for Silvia because English is her second language. The first part of the program surprised her, and she was a little afraid of how the program started, but after two days, she was happy to have taken part.

“It was an extremely intense experience that has allowed me to make new friends, to know somebody else’s life and work experiences and the chance to know myself better,” she added.

Silvia’s experiences participating in LIFE are just parts of what she loved about her time on the CIMBA campus so far. Ultimately, her favorite part of her job is the chance to connect with the undergraduate students. She is fascinated by learning about the habits and culture of American students and find their behavior interesting. For example, Silvia finds it funny that Americans never seem to be cold. She points out that the students wear shorts and t-shirts in the winter, and they almost never carry umbrellas. Americans’ focus on timeliness and exercise is also interesting to her. Working with Americans, Silvia said, is like having her

own study abroad experience in her hometown.

“Every morning, I wake up, and I am curious to learn something new,” Silvia said.

Another aspect of her job that Silvia loves is her co-workers. Most of the CIMBA office staff members are American graduate students, studying at the CIMBA graduate campus in Asolo, a town not far from Paderno del Grappa. It is a challenge working with them at times, Silvia says, because they speak so quickly with strong American accents that she feels she must ask for a lot of repetition.

Despite the occasional language barrier, Silvia says working with the staff members is “super amazing.”

“I have been here since January, but it has been like working here for years. I feel affectionate towards them. They are like another family,” Silvia said.

Her co-workers impressed her early on in her job because they are so different from each other, yet they are close friends.

“I esteem them because every one



of them has something special,” Silvia said.

Silvia’s closeness with her co-workers is also a concern to her. The graduate students working in the office study and work in Italy for only two years before they graduate. She worries that she will not be able to leave them when the time comes for the graduate students to return to the United States.

Despite her fears, Silvia maintains that the day she met her colleagues was one of her favorite moments of her job so far. Her other favorite memory was the day the students arrived on campus, the opportunity to get to know them arriving as well. In all, Silvia is happy with her job here, and values every opportunity to expand her knowledge and help the students.

“This is the beginning of a new experience and a new part of my life.”



Silvia Ziliotto organizing student activities

# Injured Abroad

**Taylor Dorman;**  
University of Kansas

As the pass came my way, all I could think about was scoring a goal in the pick-up soccer game full of guys that don't play the sport. I went in for the shot, my leg slipped, and the rest is a memory I will have forever. That day, I dislocated my ankle, broke both my tibia and fibula, and tore all the tendons and cartilage in my ankle.

I sat there with my friends around me, waiting for the ambulance to come. It had to be 30 minutes before it came and put me in. My friends couldn't come with me; Katy Jo from the front office gave me my passport and insurance card, and I was off on my own with the CIMBA car close behind. At this time, I had been in Paderno for three days, with no phone. I had maybe talked to my parents a couple times on Skype. Now, I was being taken to a hospital in Italy alone with a terrible injury.

The first night at the hospital was the worst.

Doctors and nurses took me to room after room, speaking Italian to me. I was so out of it at the time, from the shock, the pain



medication, and the speed at which this all was happening; I had no idea what was going on. They then told me my surgery would be on Monday. It was Thursday at the time. Until I got on the phone with Assist America, I did not know anything that was going to happen to me. Am I going to go home? Will I be

able to travel through Europe? Will I be able to walk in the next three months? All the questions I had could not be answered right away, but once Campus Life Coordinator Katy Jo and my friend Alex joined me at the hospital, I knew I wasn't going home. The CIMBA staff reassured me that I could still study and that everything would work itself out.

That Monday, I went into surgery. They numbed me from the waist down. I was awake during the two-hour surgery. A sheet over my head blocked my view. I didn't feel anything, but it was weird because I could feel them pulling my leg and could hear everything. The doctors inserted a rod with eight screws into my leg. Once I found out that I would be in the hospital for longer than a week, my dad decided to come [to Italy] and be with me.

Looking back on those days, I think about all the support I received from my friends, and the CIMBA students and staff. I had at least one teacher and CIMBA helper visit every day, and Al and Cristina took my dad out to dinner to show



Taylor Dorman in Monaco

him Italian food and wine. That meant so much to me.

After ten days in the hospital, I was back in my room in Paderno. Fortunately, American crutches were found for me to use, which got me a lot of weird looks from Europeans. Once back, I got to start the semester.

At first, I was not in “crutching shape.” Going from one class to another was very tiring. As the weeks went by, though, it started getting better and better.

The injury did not stop me from doing anything abroad. I crutched though seven different countries, from Hungary to Monaco. I went everywhere I wanted to go. I saw tons of places; my favorites are Dublin and Monaco.

One thing I realized is that Europe is not handicap-friendly. Nothing is on one level. Restaurants are upstairs; bathrooms are downstairs. A lot of the time there isn’t an elevator, but I just did it. I kept on going. I went up and down more steps than I could imagine,

and it has been a journey that I will never forget.

My family has been great emotional support for me during this journey. My friends have been the best group of people I could ask for. It is not easy to travel with someone who can’t walk for three months, but they did gladly. I am so thankful for everyone that helped me through this injury. I met some amazing people through it.

I am starting to walk a little each day, but I still use my crutches. Hopefully, I will be walking off the plane when I get home. Until then, I’ll just keep on crutching.



# Injured Abroad: Parents' Perspective

## Case & Jennifer Dorman

Four days in to our son Taylor's Italian study abroad adventure, he had a real adventure. The phone rang at 1:15 in the afternoon, 8:15 pm in Italy. It was a young lady from Assist America calling to inform us that Taylor had an accident and was in the hospital in Italy. It was his ankle. He had fractured it playing soccer, and it was pretty serious. She informed us that he was safe and stable and that



we would be receiving a call from someone at the hospital in the next few minutes. My wife and I hurried home to receive a Skype call from Katy Jo with CIMBA. She was with Taylor at the hospital and was able to let us speak to him and to see him. This was incredibly reassuring, to be able to see him on Skype made all the difference in us feeling comfortable that he was OK. He informed us that the ankle was severely fractured and was going to require surgery very soon. We asked if there was

someone from the hospital we could speak with but there was no one available at the time. We had to make a decision; do we ask that he be transported back to the States for the surgery? We were not sure how good the healthcare would be and if we could trust the surgeons in Italy to repair the ankle as well as we knew they could in the

States. If we allow them to operate, should we be with Taylor for the surgery? It was a broken ankle, but it was severely damaged. We made the decision to go to Italy and be with him through the surgery.

Case arrived on Saturday, two days after the accident had happened and was greeted by Renato, a driver for CIMBA, at the Airport. He was very helpful although he did not speak English; he knew what had happened to Taylor and drove me to the hospital right away. As I walked into

Taylor's room, the emotion struck me. I was there now. I could support him and help him through this challenging time. The hospital was quiet over the weekend. We never saw a doctor, only the nurses coming in to give him pain medicine and food. It was challenging trying to communicate with the nurses and hospital staff. They did not speak English and we certainly could not speak Italian. Monday morning came, and

they arrived to take Taylor to surgery; again, there was no one to speak English to, only the nurses that we spoke to using hand signals primarily. They wheeled Taylor off to surgery and signaled for me to wait. Almost four hours later, they wheeled him back into the room. There was still no one to talk to, no one to say the surgery was successful or that they were pleased with the results. We waited and waited. Four hours later, they came to take him to x-ray his ankle. I walked down to x-ray with him and



saw the x-ray tech. I asked him if he spoke English, and he said yes. What relief! I could finally find out how the surgery went and if the ankle was going to be OK. He took Taylor into the room and was back out in 10 minutes. He showed me the x-ray and said he didn't like the results. He was worried that one of the pins was misaligned and that Taylor might need another surgery to correct this. Talk about taking your breath away. We were both very upset and definitely did not want to go through another surgery. I called Cristina with CIMBA on the phone and asked if she could send an interpreter to help us communicate to the hospital. She said Anna was

on her way and Anna arrived about 40 minutes later. Well, it turned out that x-ray techs are paid to take pictures and not to read them. The

surgery went well, and Saint Anna helped us through the communication challenges at the hospital. Five more days in the hospital, and we were in a cast and on our way back to Paderno Del Grappa where Taylor could resume his school and begin his recovery.

We would like to thank Dr. Al, Cristina, Anna, Katy Jo, Dan and all of the staff and professors that

supported us so well through this journey. It was an experience that we will remember always and the staff and the whole CIMBA family were truly remarkable in their support of our family.

With Sincere Thanks,  
Case and Jennifer Dorman

Editor's Note: As of this newsletter's release, I am pleased to report that Taylor no longer needs crutches and was cleared to walk by doctors.



Taylor & Case Dorman following Taylor's surgery at Castelfranco Hospital

# Bike Friendly Italy

**Roger Chope & Anne Morrow;**  
Portland State University

We have been fortunate to come to Italy to teach at CIMBA for many years, and, for the last four, both of us have been here for the spring term and brought our bikes. We have travel bikes made by an Oregon (Eugene – that would be University of Oregon territory) company, Bike Friday. They make an array of various small wheel bikes that you dismantle, carefully pack in your suitcase, and then walk to the ticket counter dragging what appears to a rather heavy, hard shell suitcase. Every time we return, one of the experiences we look forward to is more biking and more exploring.

Each year, we find new territory and new places to ride – either from here in Paderno del Grappa or other regions. This year we discovered new paths in Alto Adige and spectacular views from the Slovenian - Italian border in Friuli... but more on that later.

Over the years, we have cycled in several

regions, gathering information before we come and then more while here. Our bikes are road bikes; they do have a little wider profile tire than some road bikes but they are not meant for off-road trails. Mountain bikes open a whole new territory for adventures, and while we have been tempted to switch, we are committed road bikers.

Our first year here, 2000, we rode primarily from our apartment in Paderno del Grappa. One day, we realized we could fold the bikes, carefully load them in the Fiat, and drive to other regions. Our first discovery outside of the Veneto was Trentino, which shares the western border of the Veneto. It is a terrific region to bike in. There is a bike trail that runs from the northern border with Alto



Adige to the Veneto. The path is accessible at many points and is dotted with Bicigrills – bike stops with some food and drink. The path follows a riverbed so the hills are minimal, the views terrific.

Another very bike friendly region is Alto Adige. The region is just north of Trentino and shares a border with Austria. Bike paths cross the region both north to south and east to west. There are several long rides that can be combined with the train. We took the train from Merano to Malles, some 80 km., and rode a well maintained bike path back to the start. In spring, we rode through apple orchards that were





just beginning to blossom and past asparagus fields that were just being harvested. We saw much white asparagus, which gets its color from being covered with black plastic until it is pulled from the ground. Of course, we ate that asparagus with almost every meal.

A region we always return to for rides as well as food, drink, and history is Friuli. The region is the most Eastern part of Italy and shares a border with Slovenia. While there are fewer road bike trails, the roads are good, and auto traffic seems willing to share space with bikes. We visit Grado on the sea and ride paths there that wind through the lagoon. Even in winter the weather is mild,

and it is nice to ride on flat ground for a change.

Riding from school means going down and coming home on a steady hill, but both Monfumo and nearby Montello have been wonderful places to ride. There is lots of bike traffic. Many teams from nearby towns train here. We listen for the bullhorn shouting “a sinistra”, “a destra” which means a team is coming fast, and we need to quickly pull to the side of the road to get out of the way.

In general, we have found drivers to be courteous, with good bike awareness. We avoid major roads and stay on routes that have less traffic and some shoulders, and we rarely experienced problems with Italian drivers. We think they are used to bike traffic



and enjoy the position Italy holds in the biking world.

It's time to come back and visit, get on a bike, and see our part of Italy in a new, exciting way.



One of Chope and Morrow's small wheeled bikes outside of a bike grill

# Semester Overview

The following is a recap of the semester from Campus Coordinator Anna Fiumicetti. Anna has been the campus coordinator for the past seven years. She oversees the various programming and organizational needs of the campus and manages the Campus Life Coordinators and Resident Assistants.

- **184 students** attended the session, 87 females and 97 males. This represents a **28% increase** compared to last year.
- The students came from **22 different universities** across the United States, including 42 from University of Kansas, 36 from University of Iowa, 15 from Iowa State University, 13 from University of Minnesota, 12 from University of Connecticut , 10 from Clemson University among others
- **7%** of the student body was **not US citizens** (China -with 11 people-, Panama and Peru were each represented by one each this session).
- The students ages this term ranged from 20-24
- 160 of the students, or **87%, are business majors** of some kind, with the remaining 24 students or 13%, either communications, journalism or undecided majors.
- The faculty this term were from University of Iowa, West Virginia University, University of Colorado, Widener University, Portland State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Rutgers University and CIMBA
- **Average class size** this term was **28** students. The smallest class size was 4 student and the largest was 63.
- Students took on average 15 credit hours and had an average entering GPA of 3.3 with **36%** of the students having a **GPA greater than 3.5**
- The relationship and accessibility of the **professors score 4.27/5** in the end of year evaluations.
- **110** students participated in the **LIFE** Program and **54** completed the **LEAP** program. That represents **58% and 29%** of the student body respectively.
- The **overall experience** in Europe was rated **9.07/10** and the **impact** of this study abroad experience in the professional and personal life was rate **8.56/10**

# Contributors

## **Aubrey Huff**

*Editor; "New Face at CIMBA: Silvia Ziliotto"*

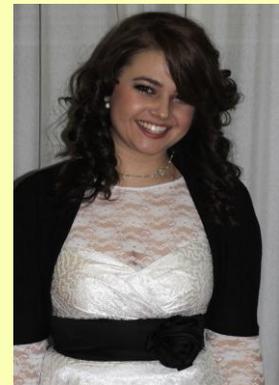
Aubrey, a junior at the University of Iowa, is a double major in Journalism and English. Wanting to challenge herself, she came to CIMBA to face something completely out of her comfort zone. Her favorite part about the program was meeting and becoming close to American students and locals alike. Marrakech, Morocco was her favorite travel destination. She hopes to return soon for more adventures.



## **Kayla Foley**

*"What I Didn't Know Coming to Italy"*

Kayla is a sophomore at the University of Kansas majoring in Business. She came to CIMBA to explore different cultures and places she had only read about in books. Her favorite parts about CIMBA and Paderno are the people on and off campus, as well as waking up to Mt. Grappa outside her window every morning. Overall, Prague was her favorite city to visit because she was able to see the Tyn Church that inspired many Disney Princess movies she has always enjoyed.



## **Emma Detwiler**

*"Emma in Italy"*

Emma is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Wilmington, Delaware, and a daughter of a professor on campus. Before coming to Italy, she was most excited to meet the CIMBA staff. With the program coming to a close, she is most thankful for meeting the amazing students and staff on campus. And, for her, Florence, Italy was the best travel destination.



## **Ben Lockin**

*"Phi Beta Delta"*

Ben, a sophomore at the University of Iowa studying Accounting, chose CIMBA because it was a study abroad program that offered many business classes. He has loved meeting many new people and the ability to travel to diverse places. His favorite cities were London and Munich—he can't decide which he liked better.



**Lin Sun****“Chinese at CIMBA”**

Lin is a sophomore from the University of Iowa. She is majoring in Communication Studies and is a Business major. She came to CIMBA to experience Europe and thus far her favorite city has been Rome. Besides traveling, her favorite part about the program has been the leadership seminar, LIFE.

**Evan Thomas****“Life After LIFE”**

Evan is from the University of Kansas. A sophomore by year, and junior by credit, he is a Business Management major with a concentration in International Business, and a minor in Political Science. Wanting to broaden his horizons outside the US, Evan came to CIMBA because it suited his management and leadership goals, as well as let him have fun and “munch fine Italian cuisine.” His favorite parts of his time spent at CIMBA include the LIFE experience, climbing Mount Grappa, riding camels in a Moroccan desert, and the extensive travel breaks. Cinque Terre was his favorite travel destination, and he highly recommends the local wines and fresh pesto.

**Holly Spier****“Italy Without Pasta”**

Holly is a junior from the University of Delaware where she studies Hotel and Restaurant Management and minors in Business Administration. She came to CIMBA to find a European husband (she kids), and to travel to increase her cultural awareness. Not surprisingly, traveling has been her favorite part about the program, and Paris has been her favorite travel destination thus far.

**Dr. Roger Chope****“Bike-Friendly Italy”**

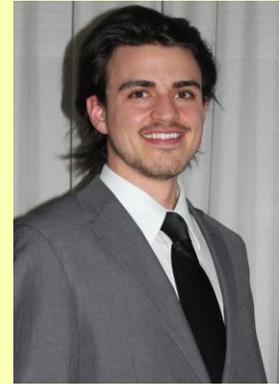
Dr. Roger Chope is a professor at Portland State University. He teaches courses in accounting and finance, and on the CIMBA campus he is an individual and team coach for students in the LEAP program. His enjoyment for teaching and coaching brought him to CIMBA, and his favorite part of the program is being a part of a great study abroad experience for students. Alto Adige of Northern Italy was his favorite travel destination of the year.



## **Ryan Damman**

### *Photographer*

Ryan is a Marketing and International Business major from Iowa State University. He came to CIMBA to take advantage of the once in a lifetime opportunity of traveling Europe. As a photographer, his favorite part about CIMBA was traveling and the amazing settings Europe provided to be photographed. In fact, so far he has taken 8,000 photos. The Amalfi Coast was his hands down favorite place to visit, and he would do so again if he had the chance.



## **Jordan Lohf**

### *Newsletter Ambassador*

Jordan is a junior at the University of Iowa. She is a double major in Journalism and Communication Studies, is attaining certificates in Entrepreneurial Management and Philanthropy and Fundraising, and is also working on a Spanish minor. She came to CIMBA to step outside her comfort zone, and her favorite part of the program has been experiencing so many new people and places. Ireland was her favorite travel destination, and she hopes to go back soon.



## **Taylor Dorman**

### *Injured Abroad*

Taylor is a junior studying at University of Kansas. A marketing major, his decision to study abroad was almost cut short when he was injured the first week of the program. Still, needing crutches did not prevent him from travelling all over Europe, including Dublin and Monaco, his two favorite destinations this semester.

