

THE HISTORY OF AACUPI

INTRODUCTION

The **Association of American College and University Programs in Italy** (AACUPI) today numbers some one hundred and thirty-five member institutions. It is recognized, both by the Italian Government and by US and Canadian authorities in Italy, as a unified voice for American and Canadian educational institutions that operate programs of study for their students in Italy.

How did this Association come about, what has it accomplished, and what are its aims and plans for the future? These are the questions this brief history will try to answer.

1978 – THE ORIGIN OF AACUPI

The Association of American College and University Programs in Italy was founded in direct response to prompting by Richard Arndt, Cultural Attaché at the American Embassy in Rome, and by John D'Arms, Director of the American Academy in Rome. A grant from the International Communication Agency of the Embassy of the United States of America in Rome provided financial support to cover organizational expenses.

When the handful of programs from Florence and Rome that first contemplated joining together in a voluntary association assessed their situation, they were forced to recognize that American programs operating on Italian soil did so under highly unusual conditions, with implications and ramifications for both nations involved. It was generally recognized that the concept of a university conducting a program overseas (as distinguished from individual students studying abroad) was a relatively new one in the world. Before Americans invented the idea, the only historical precedents for overseas university programs were provided by imperial or colonial models, as in the

University of Ceylon, which the British set up as part of their colonial responsibilities.

On February 4, 1978, at the American Academy in Rome, the following representatives of American college and university programs operating in Italy met to draft and approve the Articles of Association for what duly became AACUPI: Elizabeth Guider for the American College of Rome; E. A. Bayne for the American Universities Field Staff, Center for Mediterranean Studies; Kyle Phillips, Bryn Mawr College; Michael Campo and Patricia Osmond de Martino, Cesare Barbieri Center, Trinity College; Benedetta Galassi Beria, Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome; Thomas L. Hogan, SJ, Loyola University of Chicago Rome Center; William Cavendish and John Gillespie, John Cabot International College; Richard Piccolo, Pratt Institute; Hardu Keck and Don Aquilino, Rhode Island School of Design; Sister Mercita Lynch, CSC, and Portia Prebys, Saint Mary's College Rome Program; Augusto Pallotta, Syracuse University in Florence; David Stone, Temple Abroad/Tyler School of Art; Otto Seeler, University of Notre Dame; Astra Zarina, University of Washington.

Richard N. Gardner, US Ambassador to Italy, in 1978, addressed those representatives assembled for that pioneer gathering, pointing out what he considered the role of American academic programs in Italy and the nature of their relationship to the host country, stressing the importance of providing benefits in return for the privileges enjoyed in Italy, particularly, by relating effectively to the present concerns of the Italian people and by helping Italy build a secure and prosperous future. Ambassador Gardner urged those present to continue their efforts to promote a favorable image of America by their educational presence in Italy. In concluding, he promised the support of the US Embassy in Rome to the Association in those areas involving interaction between member institutions and Italian government authorities.

It was agreed that very first day that the Association should function on a national level, providing that the headquarters remained in Rome. All the representatives concurred that the laudable objective of improved relationships with Italian counterparts could best be realized by first assuring that our own programs promote the highest academic quality possible. On these bases, the group began to draft formal Articles of *Constitution*, which were then presented and approved at the second meeting held at the American Academy, on May 13, 1978.

UNIVERSITIES ABROAD: AN ANOMALY

From the very outset, it was clear that AACUPI should not try to impose the American educational model on other national educational systems. The new twist Americans have given to study abroad derives from a natural American curiosity, from a need for richer educational experience and exposure to other cultures so as to reduce their own provincialism. And, American society is prosperous enough to afford such a luxury.

In fact, the US model of an academic presence abroad is a historical anomaly, one which seems to have set an example only for Canada. The fact that North American overseas education represents an exception rather than the rule conditioned AACUPI's formation right from the beginning. And yet, Americans and Canadians believe that the extension of education overseas is a good thing, and they want it to endure. North Americans would, indeed, be pleased to see overseas educational extension adopted by other nations, and, in theory, most would make an effort to find ways to welcome similar programs in the US and Canada, if they were asked to do so.

IN THE OTHER'S SHOES

As AACUPI's founders started their discussions, they tried to put themselves in the other nation's shoes. Yes, American and Canadian universities receive foreign students, more of them than any other nations. But the North American academic and fiscal fabric would not tolerate any university program from another nation which came to set up a separately-housed complex, with its own faculty, and dipped selectively into aspects of American life as it pleased. North Americans would be puzzled by such an entity and would worry about who these people were and why they were there. US and Canadian immigration authorities and the Internal Revenue offices would study the matter very closely. AACUPI recognized from the very beginning that this kind of foreign presence raises particularly acute problems in a highly centralized state like Italy. What is more, we were in the presence of a phenomenon which brought two cultures into contact, but we were lacking those rules or laws which would help that contact proceed smoothly.

AACUPI'S GOALS

Thus, AACUPI's first and foremost goal was to become a clearing-house for information and ways of thinking about the problem of inter-nation exchange of academic programs (beyond the individual level of student exchanges). At the time, it was thought that a research or self-study group could try to pool information, either by mail, by word of mouth, or by more formal means, such as conferences and seminars. From this information and research function of AACUPI, new programs could get comparative information; moreover, perhaps the total information contributed by all such associations would raise the level of inquiry to a truly international level, resulting in some kind of consensus regarding programs of this sort operating abroad.

An important secondary goal was to provide a defense: how might we best define and coordinate our needs so that the American and Canadian Embassies and Consulates in Italy could assist us effectively in matters regarding our status and administrative issues? The idea was that AACUPI would have to be in a position to produce better results than its individual members could acting alone. A related issue involved academic standards: American education has always felt responsible for maintaining its own standards, if only out of fear that, if the educational world did not do it, some external agency would. AACUPI's founders felt that a standards committee was essential to every aspect of American academic activities on Italian soil.

Another important secondary aim was to take the offensive by developing a rationale for receiving Federal as well as private funding to underwrite overseas education, since international studies in the domestic context are reasonably well-financed, while similar studies abroad are not. Few, if any, academic programs in Italy or elsewhere exist without some form of subsidy, but no way has been found to channel new funds into the area of American and Canadian education abroad. At the time, it was felt that a Europe-wide group in which AACUPI participated would be of general benefit to its members.

THE MIDDLE ROAD

As a result of the numerous discussions by AACUPI's founders, it was decided that the Association should negotiate a middle ground between a general approach and a very specific one. Everyone endorsed AACUPI's dual role: at the local level, it could be flexible enough to

meet the needs of individual programs, while at the regional and national levels, it could be used to promote the general needs of all its members. Thus, for example, the specific approach would be used to plan shared lecture programs for all students in Rome, or in Florence, or art projects, say, or exchanges of students between cities for art study or other experiences. The general focus would make it possible for members to cooperate on a geographical basis, or even on the basis of subject matter. In any case, *ad hoc* cooperation was to be encouraged and enhanced.

1978

THE FIRST AACUPI CONSTITUTION

So, AACUPI was formed and given a *Constitution*, the Preamble of which read:

Desirous of enhancing and facilitating the international education interest of American university programs in Rome and Italy by cooperative effort; seeking to extend, protect and generally enrich their respective instructional programs and academic research activities by mutual assistance; seeking also to expand the scope of cooperative relationships between American programs and appropriate Italian counterpart institutions through educational and other cultural exchange; and being represented by authorized persons, the undersigned institutions are joining together in voluntary association.

The purposes described in the *Constitution* were to:

...include (but not be restricted to) the initiation and maintenance of regular communication among members and the sponsorship of such non-profit cooperative education policies, programs and collaborative activities as may be deemed beneficial for and by the membership; the Association may represent the collective interests of its members with American, Canadian, Italian or other official agencies as well as with non-member educational, cultural and philanthropic institutions or programs as may be deemed desirable by the majority of its members.

A gradual tightening of Italian bureaucratic control over the entire nation resulted in tighter control over the operation of our American and

Canadian institutions. This control manifested itself with inspections of various US academic programs, first by the Social Security Agency (INPS), then by the Labor Office (*Ufficio del Lavoro*), and, finally and more seriously, by the *Guardia di Finanza* (equivalent to the IRS).

Now organized and ready to meet the challenges ahead, AACUPI began to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing its members.

1979

STUDENT VISAS

The very first real challenge AACUPI met involved visas. In 1979, AACUPI lobbied for and succeeded in getting authorization for Italian consulates in the US to issue visas to American students enrolled in American programs in Italy, which had not been possible previously.

AACUPI continues to work closely with the *Ufficio Visti* of the *Ministero degli Affari Esteri* to clarify and streamline increasingly complicated immigration procedures that regard all of our programs. Our students today still reap the benefits of these efforts.

1983

MUSEUM PASSES

In 1983, AACUPI succeeded in obtaining authorization from the *Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali*, which oversees national museums and archaeological sites, to issue annual passes to its faculty and students, giving them free admission to all sites and museums maintained by the Ministry. The resulting financial savings to member institutions were incalculable. Unfortunately, in 1993 the Ministry revoked its decision. Negotiations to persuade the authorities to reinstate the museum pass are on-going.

At the same time, agreements were reached with the municipal authorities in Florence and Rome granting free admission at municipal museums and archaeological sites to the faculty and students of AACUPI programs. These agreements remained in effect throughout the 1990s and into the first few years of the turn of the century. As of 2008, rare discounts exist, but only for groups of students accompanied by a professor for on-site lectures at a few monuments and sites throughout Italy.

The non-European Union status of North American students seems to be the decisive factor for not granting discounted entry to museums and monuments. Also, most galleries and museums on the North American continent are privately-owned and do not offer across-the-board discounts to Italian students within the concept of joint reciprocity.

1988

TAX-EXEMPT LEGAL STATUS: THE BARILE BILL

From May through December of 1988, the *Guardia di Finanza* investigated fifteen American academic programs in Florence on the grounds that these programs were evading payment of IVA (Value Added Tax), as well as income tax. Heavy fines were levied on several programs. This circumstance, combined with the promise of further investigations and even heavier fines, caused great consternation both in Italy and at the home institutions in the US. The resulting pressure on local and national political authorities, together with the timely intervention of the US Ambassador to Italy, Maxwell Rabb, brought about the passage of a clause in the tax law passed by the Italian government on April 29, 1989, whereby tax-exempt status would be granted to all affiliates of foreign colleges or universities or institutions of higher learning that are non-profit entities in the US and Canada, provided that they are recognized as such by the Ministry of the University and Scientific Research.

As early as 1986, there had been discussion about the possibility of having a law passed by the Italian Parliament that would protect and regulate the very special nature of the American and Canadian academic programs in Italy. Member institutions were asked to help put together a definition of our status – a status that is, by the way, non-existent in Italy as far as academic institutions are concerned – and to suggest solutions. After much discussion, Prof. Paolo Barile, a noted expert in Florence on the Italian Constitution, was asked to draw up a bill to present to the Italian Parliament for passage. The fee for this endeavor was paid with AACUPI funds and additional monies solicited from member institutions. The proposed law was submitted to Parliament on July 5, 1988. Passage of the tax-exemption clause temporarily postponed efforts at promoting the “Barile Bill.” But this was not to be the last word on this piece of legislation, as we will see later.

1990 THE “NEW” AACUPI: OFFICERS, DUES, GENERAL MEETINGS

In order to coordinate applications for tax-exempt status to the Ministry of the University on behalf of AACUPI members, AACUPI itself had to become a legally-constituted association. This step was also required to protect AACUPI's Officers, who were handling funds used for association purposes. Thus, the “new” AACUPI was constituted during the summer of 1990, which also made it possible to open a bank account in AACUPI's name. This new status, however, necessarily generated any number of difficulties, among them the lack of familiarity with the Italian legal system and the need to keep financial records and issue legal communications in the Italian language, as well as the necessity of formally reconstituting the membership. Coincidentally, the resolution of these difficulties has also given rise to new, significant benefits for the membership at large.

AACUPI's Officers consist of a President and a Secretary-Treasurer, elected to a two-year term by the membership, usually at the last General Meeting of the academic year. They are assisted by a Steering Committee and a number of *ad hoc* Project Coordinators. An up-to-date list of these individuals can be found at the end of this presentation. All work by the Officers and committee members is totally on a volunteer basis.

Annual membership dues are payable in US dollars or euros, beginning in June of each year, and are calculated using a basic flat fee, along with a formula taking into account the number of students in the program, the number of academic sessions held per year, and the ownership of property. Payment of annual dues entitles a member institution to attend all General Meetings and to receive all circulated information, as well as to participate in all Legal and Fiscal Management Organization Meetings and to receive at least eight Newsletters in both English and Italian prepared by the Studio Borio each year. Legal and Fiscal Management Organization Meetings are usually held in conjunction with the General Meetings.

Four General Meetings are held each academic year, usually on weekends. The first weekends in October, December, and February, and the third or fourth weekend in April have traditionally been convenient times for members to gather. Meeting venues rotate among Florence, Rome and other cities throughout Italy, with member institutions rotating

as hosts for these events. The host institutions often have been able to arrange special cultural events to coincide with these General Meetings, making it possible to visit monuments and sites that are otherwise inaccessible to individuals or individual programs. An official calendar of meeting dates and places for the following two years is sent out to the membership in June every year.

1993

THE CRYPTA BALBI PROJECT

In February, 1993, under the supervision of the *Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma* (the Archaeological Superintendence of Rome), AACUPI announced that it intended to submit a proposal regarding the future use as well as design strategies for a unique site in the center of the city of Rome, the *Crypta Balbi*. The area of the *Crypta Balbi* presents significant traces and archaeological remains of the Roman Theater of Balbo, a consistent portion of the medieval fabric of the city of Rome, as well as Renaissance and Baroque buildings.

To this end, AACUPI organized an international architectural competition, open to students of the architectural schools and university programs that are members of AACUPI, whose purpose was to propose architectural designs for new facilities to be used by AACUPI and its members in the area of the *Crypta Balbi*. The competition offered students the possibility of working within one of the most interesting excavations of the ancient city. One of the very few large open sites in the historic center city, this area challenged the competitors to integrate aspects of archaeology, urban design, building restoration and architectural design. The competition sought to:

- ⇒ define a strategy for intervention within the *Crypta Balbi*, proposing a new layer of inhabitation in connection with the archaeological context;
- ⇒ propose a *space for exchange* among members of the North American academic community, as well as *for interaction* with the Italian one;
- ⇒ stimulate the regeneration of the surrounding urban fabric.

The competition provided AACUPI with 102 design entries giving appropriate approaches to the creation of new facilities and the

adapted use of the Crypta Balbi in the center of Rome. It is hoped that this initiative will set a precedent for collaboration among Italian and foreign institutions, thus benefiting the city.

The Competition Winners were selected by a distinguished jury, consisting of:

Maria Letizia Conforto, *Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma*;
Antonio Simbolotti, *Ufficio Speciale Interventi Centro Storico di Roma*;

Alessandro Anselmi, *Facoltà di Architettura, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"*;

Mario Manieri-Elia, *Ufficio Speciale Interventi Centro Storico di Roma*;

Francesco Moschini, *Professore di Storia dell'Architettura, Politecnico di Bari*;

Warren Obluck, United States Cultural Attaché in Rome;

Marc Cousineau, Canadian Cultural Attaché in Rome;

Portia Prebys, President of AACUPI.

The results of the competition, announced in March, 1994, were:

1st Prize: **Gerry Smith**, Pennsylvania State University;

2nd Prize: **Erika H. Zekos**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;

3rd Prize: **Gregory G. Merges**, Pennsylvania State University.

Special Mention:

Scott Abrahams, Rhode Island School of Design

Lisa D'Abbondanza, University of Waterloo

Richard J. Garber, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Peter A. Larsen, University of Pennsylvania

Eric Toker, University of Waterloo.

In September-October, 1994, all the entries submitted to the competition were put on exhibit at the Canadian Academic Centre in Italy at Palazzo Cardelli in Rome, and the prizes were awarded at the opening of the exhibition.

In March, 1995, the *Crypta Balbi* Committee (Cinzia Abbate, Heidi Flores, Lorenzo Pignatti, and Portia Prebys), along with Ove Arup and Partners (England), Flacsol (Germany), ENEL (Italy), and Eurosolare, Società AGIP (Italy), made a formal application entitled *A*

Design Methodology for the Urban Re-Qualification of Abandoned Archaeological and Historical Sites to the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission for funding. The application was one of the finalists in this Europe-wide competition, which, unfortunately, the European Commission canceled in the spring of 1996. Funding for this project is still being sought.

1993

THE IRPET STUDY

In March of 1993, IRPET - *Istituto Regionale per la Programmazione Economica della Toscana* - commissioned and carried out, with the assistance of AACUPI, a report on the presence of our academic programs in Tuscany: “*Il Turismo con Finalità di Studio Accademico in Toscana.*” In brief, the results of this study showed that American students, in only 23 programs, spent a total of some 300,000 days studying in Tuscany in 1991-1992, with a direct expenditure of 40-42 billion Italian liras and an indirect expenditure of roughly the same amount. The study has been invaluable in demonstrating the importance of our programs as a component in the Tuscan economy.

An IRPET 2000 Study, comprehensive of programs throughout all of Italy, was commissioned by AACUPI with financial support by the Fondazione Carlo Marchi on the occasion of the symposium “Educating in Paradise” (October 5-8, 2000). The results are illustrated at the end of this publication, both in English and in Italian. A partial up-date to September 2008 is also therein provided.

1993

THE AACUPI PRIZE

Over the years, many Italian and American political, cultural, and academic figures have worked diligently to help AACUPI attain its goals. It was felt that some recognition of this contribution was due, so in 1993 the AACUPI Prize was initiated. On April 3, 1993, AACUPI honored **Valdo Spini**, Minister of the Environment, by awarding him the first “Premio AACUPI 1993 - AACUPI Prize 1993” for his continued support of AACUPI member institutions. To date, the AACUPI Prize has been given to the following distinguished individuals:

- Warren Obluck**, US Minister Counselor, for 1994;
Paolo Blasi, *Magnifico Rettore dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze*, for 1995;
Biancamaria Tedeschini-Lalli, *Magnifico Rettore dell'Università degli Studi di Roma III*, for 1996;
Massimo Cacciari and Mario Messinis, Mayor of Venice and Superintendent of La Fenice Theater, respectively, for 1997;
Valdo Spini, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, for 1998;
Cipriana Scelba, Executive Director Emeritus of the Fulbright Commission for Cultural Exchange Between Italy and the United States, for 1999;
Furio Colombo, Member of the Italian Parliament and distinguished journalist, for 2000;
Guido Fabiani, *Magnifico Rettore dell'Università degli Studi di Roma III*, and **John A. White**, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, for 2001;
Annamaria Petrioli Tofani, Director of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, for 2003;
Guido Fink, distinguished university professor, film critic and man of letters, for 2004.

The 1993 award ceremony, held at Georgetown University's beautiful Villa Le Balze in Fiesole, was an occasion for the North American and Italian academic communities to come together to celebrate reciprocal cultural exchange on every level. The 1994 Prize was awarded during a weekend of meetings hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center at Bellagio on Lake Como. In 1995, the AACUPI Prize was presented at a dinner and dance in the elegant Ballroom of Palazzo Calcagnini-Aresi (1876-77), the US Consulate in Florence. The Sarah Lawrence College Florence Program provided the venue for the 1996 Award, and, in 1997, the AACUPI Prize was awarded at Wake Forest University in Venice, and at the beautiful Palazzo Grassi in conjunction with AACUPI's presentation to the Mayor of Venice of a substantial donation for the rebuilding of La Fenice Theater, funds which were raised exclusively through the La Fenice Benefit Concert held in February of 1996.

In 1998, the historic Villa Corsi Salviati, then home of the University of Michigan-University of Wisconsin Academic Year Program in Sesto Fiorentino, witnessed the awarding, for the second

time, of the AACUPI Prize, to Valdo Spini, for his unceasing support of AACUPI initiatives and his untiring assistance to us in time of need. The very central and newly remodeled Palazzo dei Cartelloni, home to Bowling Green State University in Florence, hosted AACUPI for the Prize in 1999 to Cipriana Scelba, who dedicated over fifty years of her life to international education and educational exchange between Italy and the United States as Director of Italy's Fulbright Commission. On October 5, 2000, the Prize was awarded to the prominent intellectual Furio Colombo at a reception and dance hosted by the Consul General in Florence, Hilarion Martinez, in the elegant ballroom of Palazzo Calcagnini-Aresi on the Lungarno.

A few days after the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York, the 2001 Prize was jointly awarded to Guido Fabiani, *Magnifico Rettore* of the University of Rome III, and to John A. White, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, on the University of Rome III campus to celebrate the signing of a historical agreement of cooperation and collaboration between the two institutions. At a gala reception held at the Villa Taverna in Rome, home to U. S. Ambassador Mel Sembler and Mrs. Betty Sembler, Annamaria Petrioli Tofani was honored with the 2003 Prize for her long career as Director of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and effective support of AACUPI programs from that position. At the *Accademia delle Arti e del Disegno* in Florence, Smith College hosted the prize ceremony for 2004 on December 11, honoring Guido Fink, distinguished university professor, film critic and former Director of the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* in Los Angeles.

1993

ORIENTATION SERVICES FOR NEW DIRECTORS

On October 2 and 3, 1993, AACUPI organized in Florence a weekend orientation for new administrators of member institutions and for representatives of new member institutions. Friday afternoon, experienced directors gave a presentation on student services that included information on dealing with the Questura and *permessi di soggiorno*, on housing issues, on travel within Italy and throughout Europe, on health problems and the stresses of foreign study, and on social life. Saturday morning's session covered legal and fiscal terminology and dealings with faculty and staff, including hiring procedures, salaries, honoraria and benefits, citing pertinent legislation

and case studies. A history of AACUPI, its goals and purposes, was also presented.

This initiative was so successful from every point of view that it has become an annual event, held the first weekend in October, in conjunction with the first General Meeting of the academic year. Attended by professionals and academics from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, this orientation provides an opportunity to inform and update personnel working in the multi-faceted reality of study abroad in Italy.

1994

LEGAL SERVICES

In 1994, to confront some of the difficulties created by AACUPI's new legal status and to reduce individual program expenditures on information precious to all member institutions from legal and fiscal consultation firms that were, in effect, competing with each other, the legal firm of Studio Borio in Florence was contacted to serve as the Association's bilingual consultant in legal, financial and fiscal matters. Since that time, the firm has become expert in and offers services about non-standard private and confidential matters to member institutions, as well, at highly affordable rates established just for AACUPI members.

Studio Borio has also issued a series of Newsletters, in both Italian and English, containing information about the latest changes and interpretations in Italian law that affect member programs, thus making it possible for both the English-speaking and Italian-speaking administrators and professionals to keep abreast of the legal and fiscal requirements they all face. A list of the subjects covered in these Newsletters from 1994 to the present, both in English and in Italian, can be found in this volume. The service provided by the Studio Borio has made it possible to obtain highly professional Italian legal and fiscal advice, even for small programs which could not otherwise afford it, also resulting in considerable savings (as much as US\$80,000.00 annually in some cases) in legal consultation fees on the part of many larger programs. By signaling potential fiscal and legal difficulties for the operation of our programs, the firm makes it possible to mobilize AACUPI's membership to take countermeasures, before it is too late, and to act in unison.

1994

THE NEW “BARILE BILL”

The reintroduced Barile Bill was first included in the so-called “*Decreto Legge Milleproroghe*” of April 29, 1994, and was confirmed by the Government in a series of Decree-Laws until April of 1995. Since Parliament never ratified any of those Decree-Laws, the provisions of the Barile Bill were theoretically in force but not really applicable during that period.

Meanwhile, in 1994, a specific Bill (N° 1788) was presented to the Chamber of Deputies by then Minister Giuliano Ferrara; this Bill included the same provisions as the Barile Bill. From that point on, all efforts were concentrated on gaining approval for Bill N° 1788.

The Chamber of Deputy’s *Commissione Cultura* was assigned to discuss and approve the Bill. Unfortunately, this Commission did not fully understand the importance and real content of the Barile Bill’s provisions, so it approved the bulk of the provisions, but it deleted the essential paragraph regarding the independent nature of the employment relationship between the foreign universities in Italy and their faculty.

The amended Bill was passed on to the Senate, where it was renumbered to S2136. The Senate’s *Commissione Cultura* had been granted decisive authority so that its approval of the text without amendment would have meant the final approval of the Bill. Consequently, AACUPI and the US and Canadian diplomatic authorities in Italy made enormous efforts to have the canceled paragraph reintroduced, given its key importance for all foreign programs in Italy. In the end, it was the Minister of the University himself, Giorgio Salvini, who proposed an amendment which would have reintroduced the eliminated provision.

Unfortunately, in the spring of 1996, the Italian Parliament was dissolved before this Bill could be approved; the resulting General Elections changed the complexion of Parliament, and efforts were begun to find a sponsor to reintroduce the provisions of the Barile Bill when the new Parliament started its legislative activity. The Honorable Valdo Spini, long a supporter and friend of AACUPI and its aims, put his considerable prestige and influence behind this Bill, which was, once more, introduced before the Parliament for its approval. In this form, it would give final and suitable legal status to our programs. The proposed text follows:

PROVISIONS REGARDING THE AFFILIATION IN ITALY OF UNIVERSITIES OR INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL:

- 1) The provisions of the present Article shall apply to those affiliations in Italy of Universities or Institutes of Higher Learning at the university level that are headquartered in the territory of foreign States and are legally recognized there as non-profit entities, provided that:
 - a) their purpose and activity consists in decentralized study in Italy of subjects that are part of the instructional or research programs of their respective Universities or Institutes of Higher Learning;
 - b) instruction is given only to students who are enrolled in the respective Universities or Institutes of Higher Learning.
- 2) The affiliations, before beginning their activity in Italy, shall send to the Ministry of the University and Scientific and Technological Research, to the Ministry of the Interior, and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a copy of the Legal Act with which the decision was made to establish a seat in Italy, a copy of the Charter and of any other documentation, notarized by the Italian diplomatic or consular office in whose territorial jurisdictions they lie, that may be used to prove the possession of the requirements established under Paragraph 1.
- 3) The activity of the affiliations shall be considered authorized if the Ministry of the University and Scientific and Technological Research does not adopt any other provisions within ninety days of the receipt of the communication provided under Paragraph 2.
- 4) The authorization shall determine the applicability of the exemptions established in Article 34, Paragraph 8-bis, of Decree-Law N° 69 of 2 March 1989, converted, with changes, by Law N° 154 of 27 April 1989.
- 5) The contracts made between the Universities and Institutes of Higher Learning mentioned in Paragraph 1 and the teaching staff destined for their affiliations in Italy do not create an obligation to pay “*dipendenti*” Social Security taxes for their subordinate employees, provided that:
 - a) there is an expressed desire by both parties to exclude any hierarchical and disciplinary power on the part of the Institutions;

- b) the instructor has full academic autonomy;
- c) the working hours are pre-established by mutual consent;
- d) the duration set for the contract corresponds to the end of instructional activity;
- e) a global sum is set as compensation for the whole of the agreed-upon services;
- f) the instructor retains the freedom to carry out other activities for third parties.

A copy of the Barile Law as it was finally passed on January 14, 1999, is presented in this volume, beginning on p. 111 in English and on p. 301 in Italian.

1994

COMPLIANCE WITH CODES: LAW 626/1994

On October 1, 1994, Architect Rudolph Rooms presented a *Building Management Update*, both orally and in writing, to assist AACUPI members in assessing the technical responsibilities involved in specific situations in order to comply with the sundry laws, by-laws, codes, regulations (national, local, and European Union) of a technical nature. Sorting out codes for matters such as electrical installation, heating and ventilation systems, fire protection, waterworks, energy control, cooking and cleaning hygiene, etc., for which we are legally responsible and which are of great concern to our institutions, is a serious matter. Keeping faculty and student housing and classroom, office and library spaces in compliance with legally enforced regulations, while providing proper certification of compliance, is a continuous challenge in Italy, one that requires on-going vigilance. AACUPI assists its members as much as possible in these areas of concern.

AACUPI has sponsored official courses for informing and certifying personnel for compliance with the 626/1994 law regarding safety. Florentine architect Riccardo Patanè taught the first of the *Corsi di Formazione per Adempimenti della Legge 626 (La Sicurezza e la Tutela della Salute dei Lavoratori nei Luoghi di Lavoro, Sicurezza nelle Scuole)* at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome on September 3, 1999, and the second, at the Saint Mary's College Rome Program on April 19-21, 2004, and issued the national certificates of compliance.

Official, deposited documentation of risk assessment with approved evacuation plans coordinated with the local public health officials in the various municipalities where AACUPI programs operate continues to occupy the efforts of the individual programs to meet these challenges. Given the peculiar nature and location of each study center, AACUPI can do very little to attempt to standardize the application of these sundry codes at the present time.

1995

THE AACUPI BALLS

The first AACUPI Benefit Ball was held on September 29, 1995, in Florence, in the Ballroom of the United States Consulate at Palazzo Calcagnini-Aresi, at the generous invitation of Sue Patterson, the US Consul General in Florence. The administration, faculty, staff and friends of AACUPI member institutions enjoyed a fine dinner and an evening of dancing. One half of the funds raised from this initiative were combined with remaining AFAP Florence (Association of Foreign Academic Programs in Florence) funds to subsidize a scholarship for an Italian university student to attend the home campus of one of the member institutions located in Florence. The remaining funds were used to cover the costs involved in promoting the AACUPI *Crypta Balbi* Competition.

On September 27, 1996, an AACUPI Dinner-Dance was held in Rome in Villa Taverna, the home of the US Ambassador to Italy, Reginald Bartholomew, and his wife, Rose-Anne. Administrators, faculty, staff and guests of member institutions, together with AACUPI's guests from Italy's cultural and political world, had an opportunity to tour the Villa Taverna, considered one of the most beautiful US ambassadorial residences in the world, and its famous Renaissance gardens, spending a memorable evening together.

1995

THE AACUPI HANDBOOK

In November, 1995, AACUPI published the AACUPI **Handbook 1995: Political and Economic Life in Today's Italy** for use by member institutions with their students and staff and also made it available at cost to other entities operating in Italy. We realized that the initial enthusiasm

and euphoria on the part of a newly arrived visitor to “sunny Italy” can quickly turn to bewilderment as the newcomer is gradually overwhelmed by the sundry facets of Italian society that are easily misunderstood or, even, totally incomprehensible. Italy is a country that, besides boasting over 2,500 years of recorded history and culture, can readily seem to many, after the first novelty has worn off, to have failed to grasp many of the basics of modern society. This impression, strongly held by some and, often, even more strongly reinforced visit after visit, is unfortunate, to say the least.

Italy is as unique as it is complicated, and the fusion of these two traits has led many visitors to characterize Italy and the Italians in a superficial and simplistic fashion that is both incorrect and unfair. Of course, much has been written and said about this country that describes it in an in-depth and fair manner, but too often criticism with reference to Italy is the result of stereotyping and a lack of factual information.

The AACUPI **Handbook 1995** was an attempt to provide the student, the scholar, the business-person, the journalist, and public servants in international organizations, and even the casual visitor, who come to Italy for the first time, with the tools needed, from the very beginning, to examine Italy and many of her paradoxes from a position of open-minded critical thought, bolstered by an up-to-date, even if basic, understanding of present-day political and economic events. Given the nature of the tools presented, **Handbook 1995** could not have been either complete nor correct, if for no other reason than that a text about the political, economic and social reality of Italy is quickly dated and rendered even obsolete by daily events, given the fast-changing pace of Italy’s systems.

The authors, Lawrence Gray, William Howard, and Portia Prebys (all of whom donated their time and expertise to AACUPI for this initiative), did not seek to inculcate “the truth” about Italy and Italians into the readership of **Handbook 1995**, but, rather, to encourage the newcomer to go forth and explore and decipher what has intrigued and mystified literally millions of travelers, for millennia, about Italy and her people.

1997

THE BENEFIT CONCERT FOR LA FENICE

When the La Fenice Theater in Venice was destroyed by fire in 1996, the world of music and culture was horrified. Offers of assistance for its reconstruction were quick to arrive, and AACUPI, too, felt called upon to do its part. So, on February 14, 1997, AACUPI, under the leadership of Jeffrey Blanchard, organized a benefit concert to provide aid for the rebuilding of La Fenice. The concert was held in the *Sala Riaria* of the Palazzo della Cancelleria in Rome. Annette Meriweather, soprano, and Richard Trythall, pianist, performed Spirituals and music by “Jelly Roll” Morton and George Gershwin. The initiative met with an enthusiastic response, also attracting some foundation support to make its contribution to the reconstruction effort truly a significant one. AACUPI’s donation of fifty million liras went towards the purchase of new musical scores for the orchestra of La Fenice Theater.

1997

THE ORTO BOTANICO PROJECT

On March 14, 1997, after months of negotiations between AACUPI, the *Magnifico Rettore* Giorgio Tecce of the University of Rome “La Sapienza” and President Susanna Agnelli of the “Friends of the Botanical Garden” Association, the representatives of those entities signed an agreement undertaking the restoration of an important monument of Rome which has fallen into a sad state of disrepair, the “*Scala d’acqua - Nicchione*” planned and created by Ferdinando Fuga in 1741-44 as an axis of the garden of Palazzo Corsini, now incorporated in the Botanical Garden maintained by the University of Rome “La Sapienza”.

This project was conceived, from the outset, as an educational opportunity for North American and Italian university students to gain important “hands-on” experience in the architectural and artistic problems involved in the restoration of historically significant works. It also provides the basis, in the words of the agreement, for “a ‘space for the exchange’ of ideas, cultures and North American and Italian academic programs.” The project calls for North American students from AACUPI member institutions and Italian students from the University of Rome “La Sapienza” to work together, under the supervision of professional architects and archaeologists, with the aim of

recuperating this important part of the architectural and artistic heritage of Rome.

To date, this project has lain dormant due to bureaucratic complications within the University of Rome “La Sapienza”.

1997

WORKMEN’S COMPENSATION - INAIL

Just when it seemed that some resolution of the fiscal situation of North American institutions in Italy was near, another related problem raised its head, again pointing to the clear need for AACUPI as a clearing house of information that would not otherwise be readily available to its members. In Florence, the local office of INAIL (*Istituto Nazionale Per l’Assicurazione Contro Gli Infortuni Sul Lavoro*), the national agency that insures workers against injuries sustained at the workplace, sent inspectors to several program offices, insisting that those programs were obliged to open INAIL accounts for all their students, without distinctions nor limits, under recently enacted legislation requiring Italian schools and universities to do so, and threatening to levy heavy fines against programs for failure to comply.

AACUPI’s Officers and legal consultants immediately requested a meeting with INAIL officials in Rome to clarify the matter, given the objective complexities and uncertainties of the law. In conclusion, in September of 1997, INAIL issued a specific circular letter in which it recognized that the obligation to insure existed only in the case of students, professors or scholars who come to Italy to follow studio courses in specializations that require practical exercises that are, therefore, in theory, “dangerous” (for example, sculpture, painting, restoration, photography), thereby notably limiting the administrative and financial impact on the programs. The per capita fees charged would have been considerable, to say nothing of the administrative and accounting costs involved in doing the paper work. Thus, AACUPI achieved an important result, to the benefit of all member institutions from then to the present.

1999**EXHIBITION AND CATALOG “14 ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS”**

On the occasion of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) International Conference held in Rome from May 29 to June 2, 1999, AACUPI and a number of its member institutions sponsored the “14 Architecture Schools” exhibition and catalog, which offered to the participants of the conference and to the general public a synthetic picture of the didactic activities in Italy of some representative North American architecture programs.

2000**“EDUCATING IN PARADISE”: THE EXPERIENCES OF NORTH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN ITALY**

This symposium, held in Florence from October 5-8, 2000, sponsored by AACUPI and the *Circolo di Cultura Politica Fratelli Rosselli*, under the gracious patronage of Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy, and with the patronage of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, the Ministry for Cultural Assets and Activities of the Republic of Italy, the Embassy of Canada, the Embassy of the United States of America, the Region of Tuscany, the Province of Florence and the City of Florence, presented and discussed the experiences of North American institutions of higher learning throughout Italy. The President of AACUPI, Portia Prebys, organized the event along with Riccardo Pratesi, President of the *Circolo Fratelli Rosselli*; the Organizing Committee members were Ermelinda Campani, Heidi Flores, Adrienne Mandel and Renzo Ricchi.

The Opening Session of the symposium, held in the *Salone del Cinquecento*, Palazzo Vecchio, featured Cynthia P. Schneider, United States Ambassador to the Hague, as keynote speaker. AACUPI Research Institutions and Post Graduate Degree Granting Institutions, the American Academy in Rome, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, the Johns Hopkins University Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies in Florence, and the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, presented positions, followed by discussion on the burdens of leadership and uniqueness in the American and Italian communities led by Thomas Foglietta, United States Ambassador to Italy, Isabella Lanciotti from the

Commission for Cultural Exchange between Italy and the United States, Giuseppe Mammarella and Giorgio Spini.

The Afternoon Session held in the *Aula Magna* of the University of Florence presented a discussion on the undergraduate Liberal Arts programs in Italy and featured the directors of Dickinson College, Gonzaga University, Loyola University of Chicago, Smith College, Stanford University and Trinity College. A round table discussion moderated by Alfonso Procaccini and Mina Gregori discussed how the purposes of the programs, the courses offered and the experiences of the individual students have changed over the years. Then, directors of programs representing consortiums described their activities. The last round table discussion of the day addressed the harmony of intent and interpreting experiences within AACUPI programs, and it was moderated by Janet Smith and Antonia Ida Fontana.

That evening, a dinner dance was held at the home of the American Consul General, Hilarion Martinez, the Palazzo Calcagnini-Aresi, to welcome guests and participants in the symposium.

The Castello di Vincigliata in Fiesole hosted the activities for October 6, which began with a continued presentation of undergraduate Liberal Arts programs and a round table discussion on the didactic experiences of Italian and Americans teaching in Italy, moderated by Cristina Acidini Luchinat, Marcello Fantoni and Franco Pavoncello. Presentations on the subject of programs in historical properties and meeting the challenge of restoration and preservation along with day-to-day living followed, moderated by Rudolph Rooms and Roberto D'Alimonte. The contemporary art scene in Florence and Rome, with American art and artists versus Italian art and artists, was a subject of great interest to all listeners as described by Mary Beckinsale, Paola Bortolotti, Shara Wasserman and Marcello Fazzini. Experiences and agreements within the Italian university system proved to be a topic described in great detail by the speakers. Lastly, degree-granting undergraduate institutions operating in Italy were described.

On October 7, the historic Villa del Poggio Imperiale was the impressive background for the presentations on AACUPI architecture programs and the advantages for the professional school student of following a program in Italy, with discussion moderated by Cinzia Abbate, Lorenzo Pignatti and Francesco Gurrieri. In the afternoon, the IRPET Study was presented in detail, describing the economic effects of the presence of AACUPI programs on the Italian economy. Student services were also broadly discussed.

Lastly, on October 8, again at the beautiful Villa del Poggio Imperiale, heads of AACUPI-style associations in other European countries presented a description of their history and current issues. Legal, fiscal and political challenges were amply described. Riccardo Pratesi and Portia Prebys concluded by giving an overview of “Educating in Paradise”.

The complete Proceedings of “Educating in Paradise” were published in the *Quaderni del Circolo Rosselli* in 2001 (XXI, Fasc. 73, 2/2001, Alinea Editrice, Florence). A copy is available free of charge from AACUPI upon request. The complete Proceedings can also be found on AACUPI’s website at www.aacupi.org.

2001

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The International Seminar on Architectural Design, “Continuities and Discontinuities”, took place at the Mattatoio in Testaccio in the Pirani and Sabatini Lecture Rooms of the University of Rome III from February 22 to March 2, 2001, with the full cooperation and collaboration of the Department of Architecture of Rome III, AACUPI and six architecture programs, members of AACUPI: Cornell University, Iowa State University, Pennsylvania State University, Pratt Institute, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Miami. This initiative permitted forty-eight American students and forty-eight Italian students to participate together in lectures, workshops and juries conducted by twenty-two prominent and highly experienced American and Italian architects and professors of architecture, among whom were Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, who came to Rome specifically for this project. The real intellectual exchange that occurred between the students and professors was the kind of cultural interaction all in AACUPI have aimed at for many years. It is hoped that this seminar can be repeated in future years. AACUPI’s participation was supported by a generous grant from the U. S. government through the Public Affairs Office of the United States Embassy in Italy.

2003

STUDY DAY SERIES CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AACUPI

I. Teaching Art History

The first Study Day in a series celebrating AACUPI's 25th Anniversary Year was held on February 8, 2003, hosted by Roger Williams University at the Institute of Fine and Liberal Arts housed in the prestigious Palazzo Rucellai in Florence, to discuss teaching art history on AACUPI programs. Janet Smith described the preparatory questionnaire covering courses taught in art history and the issue of content and how it has changed over the years; assignments; instructor expectations, on-site teaching; field trips. Ezio Genovesi, Robert Huber, Susan Madocks and Carolyn Smyth discussed how art historians adapt recent trends in art history curriculum to teaching on-site in Italy, course offerings and approaches. They also examined pedagogical problems and stressed how effective surveys, monographic treatments, treatment of one artist and thematic topics may be. Anna Barsanti, Filiberto Bracalente, Patricia Osmond and Lorenzo Pignatti examined how students have changed over the last twenty years and how programs and professors have had to adapt to them. Requirements including credits, expectations, commitment, readings assignments and grading were also described.

In the afternoon, Cinzia Abbate, Jan Gadeyne, Kate Magovern and Elaine Ruffolo presented specific types of field trips and problems related to group size, museum entries for groups and student attentiveness. Practical information for field trips, especially to Sicily, was outlined by Monica Ginanneschi, Anthony Oldcorn, Francesco Sgariglia and Robert Shackelford. Amusing anecdotes such as taking a boat ride with students along the coast of Puglia and being accused by police authorities of importing clandestine immigrants entertained everyone.

II. Teaching Classics and Archaeology

The second Study Day celebrating AACUPI's 25th Anniversary Year was held from February 28 to March 2, 2003, in memory of John H. D'Arms, at the Villa Vergiliana on the Via Cuma in Bâcoli, sponsored by The Vergilian Society of America. Marilyn Skinner welcomed the group, as did Consul Gloria Berbena and representatives of the *Soprintendenza Archaeologica delle Provincie di Napoli e Caserta* and

the *Comune di Bàcoli*. Ingrid D. Rowland gave a moving homage to John D'Arms. Marilyn Skinner described the Villa Vergiliana as a center for scholarly exchange and J. Rufus Fears described it as a center for the teaching and study of Roman history. Alexander McKay addressed the teaching and study of Vergil at the Villa and Philip Barnes spoke about the Villa as a center for cultural appreciation, most specifically the musical landscape with Scarlatti, Pergolesi, *et al.* The afternoon was dedicated to discussions on teaching Latin, Greek and classical literature in translation and archaeology on-site versus in the classroom. The next day, attendees participated in an extensive visit of the archaeological area of Baia.

III. Teaching History and the Social Sciences

The third Study Day celebrating AACUPI's 25th Anniversary Year was held on March 29, 2003, sponsored by the California State University International Program in Florence and held at Sant'Andrea in Percussina, Machiavelli's home in exile. Sally Scully and Marcello Bellini began the day by discussing general course strategies, techniques and tricks, and the special problems of U.S. students abroad with political, religious, social and racial preconceptions. Thomas Goud and Patricia Osmond presented the topic of teaching ancient history to the North American student. Franco Franceschi, Fabrizio Ricciarelli and Roberto Sabbadini considered Italian history before the Risorgimento and the concept of its being unteachable. Natalia Piombino offered the Risorgimento as a popular course in study abroad. Objectivity in teaching the Shoah was discussed by Paolo Nello. The European Union taken as history, as economics, and as politics is current pertinent material for study by our students, as illustrated by Roberto Mancini, Tamara Evans, Federiga Bindi and Susan Senior, and it takes course work beyond Italy into the international realm, as detailed by Charles Jarvis and Andrea Orciani.

After a tour of Machiavelli's House and the Winery attached, luncheon discussion at the nearby Albergaccio centered on political theory and reality beyond Machiavelli, moderated by Luca de Caprariis. The afternoon was dedicated to innovative courses such as the land and identity of Sicily as presented by Justin Vitiello, and food in Italian culture presented by Peter Fischer, among others. Conclusions showed opportunities for curriculum development, as well as potential mechanisms for the exchange and sharing of ideas and resources.

IV. Teaching Literature

The fourth Study Day celebrating AACUPI's 25th Anniversary took place on October 25, 2003, at Georgetown University's Villa Le Balze in Fiesole, and it was organized by Stefano Baldassarri, Marcello Fantoni and Kate Magovern. Stefano Baldassarri opened up the morning session by considering language and the "golden mean" between translations and originals in teaching undergraduates. Dorothea Barrett presented teaching techniques for a course in literature in translation, as well as for courses in writing and in post-Modern fiction, all of which was followed by much discussion from the floor.

After a delicious lunch taken with the wonderful view from Villa Le Balze, Eric Nicholson investigated the why, when and how of interdisciplinarity in teaching literature on study abroad programs. Paolo Venerando brought forward major issues in teaching Italian literature and culture to American students poor in historical and philosophical background, such as the problem of studying Petrarch without any knowledge of Plato, or Cicero, despite Umberto Eco's charge to approach the text of a contemporary author just as if it were an ancient text. John Pfordresher described his experiences with teaching Anglo-American literature in Italy: portrayals of "Innocence Abroad" force an examination of personal and national identity on the part of our students.

V. Teaching Italian Language and Culture

The fifth Study Day celebrating AACUPI's 25th Anniversary was held at John Cabot University in Rome on May 20th, 2005, organized by Berenice Cocciolillo and Franco Pavoncello, with assistance from Paolo Venerando on the program and Carolina Ciampaglia as liaison with publishers of texts for the teaching of Italian. Monica Merli and Paolo Venerando presented a general roster of problems related to teaching Italian in AACUPI programs, including the concept of Italian as a foreign language even in Italy and whether or not it could ever be a true second language for our students. Berenice Cocciolillo and Rosa Cuda compared the American teaching approach to the Italian one, the courses taught in Italy with those taught on the home campuses and investigated the autonomy of the study abroad instructor within the realm of the language departments on the home campuses with regard to textbooks and methodology.

After a memorable Roman lunch in a characteristic restaurant in Trastevere, Imperatrice di Passio, Federica Capoferri, Daniela Curioso, Renata Carloni, Laura Di Pofi, Rosa Filardi, Donatella Paolini, Fiorenza Quercioli and Silvia Sozzi discussed techniques and strategies for achieving greater contact with the language and culture, for motivating students in language learning, for developing language competency unrelated to earning course credits. Carolina Ciampaglia, Paolo Bultrini and Giuseppe Cavatorta gave an exhaustive discussion on the choice and availability of textbooks.

The complete Proceedings of all of the Study Days were published in five volumes by AACUPI. A copy of any or all of the volumes is available free of charge from AACUPI upon request.

2003

SYMPOSIA ON STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BEGIN

On the morning of December 13, 2003, as part of the second General Meeting of the 2003-2004 academic year hosted by James Madison University at The British Institute of Florence, Sir Harold Acton Library, in Palazzo Lanfredini on the Lungarno Guicciardini, the situation of alcohol use and abuse by students studying in Italy was widely examined. AACUPI legal counsel Gian Franco Borio presented Italian law on drug abuse, and addressed the issue of US prescription medicine, such as Ritalin, that, though illegal in Italy, is widely used by AACUPI program students.

In conjunction with the fourth General Meeting of the 2004-2005 academic year, held at Florida State University in Florence, Clinical Psychotherapist, Mary Ann Bellini, and Medical Doctor and Surgeon, Alessandro Corsi, were asked to address representatives of AACUPI member institutions on “Students in Cultural Transitions: Maintain a Healthy Balance”. On Saturday morning, April 16, 2005, they discussed culture shock, as well as mood and anxiety disorders in program students. Similarly, on Sunday morning, April 17, their subjects were eating disorders, substance abuse and sexual and gender identity disorders. Much animated participation from the floor took place at both sessions.

Drs. Bellini and Corsi again addressed AACUPI representatives on February 11, 2007, at the third General Meeting of the 2006-2007 academic year held at Gonzaga University in Florence. The topic covered during the day-long symposium was “Awareness, Assistance and

Prevention in Three Major Topics: Binge Drinking, Date Rape, Body Image”, with attention to statistics on binge drinking, on the increase of sexual aggression in the student population in Italy, and alcohol-related sexual assaults. Also discussed were binge eating, bulimia, low self-esteem and facilitating resilience in students.

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, this time in Rome, as part of the third General Meeting of the 2007-2008 academic year, hosted by the Catholic University of America Rome Program, in collaboration with Loyola College in Maryland and DePaul University, at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas - Angelicum University in Rome, Roman Psychiatrist Ruggero Raccah spoke about “Self-Esteem and Juvenile Depression” and General Practitioner and Specialist in Gastroenterology, Giuliana Zanninelli, addressed “Self-Medication and General Emergency Assistance for Students”. Both Drs. Raccah and Zanninelli spoke about drug and alcohol abuse in the afternoon session, which was followed by intense testimonials and comments on the day’s topics from the floor.

It should be noted that attendance at all AACUPI symposia on student health and well-being is open to all faculty, staff and administration of AACUPI member institutions at no charge and all sessions are off-the-record. AACUPI intends to schedule symposia on student health and well-being in the future on an annual basis.

2005

SAFE DRINKING INITIATIVE

Increasing alcohol abuse on the part of young people, both Italian and foreign, has become a worrisome development in Italy in recent years, and the subject of much discussion by citizen groups intent on maintaining traditional decorum and behavior in the historical downtown areas of Italy’s art centers, despite the increasing influx of tourists and students to these attractions of constant interest. The local and national Italian press has not given objective coverage to the situation at hand, especially as regards Florence, pointing out shocking abuse on the part of American students without describing the situations in commercial establishments that often put student safety and well-being in jeopardy in direct breach of existing national and local legislation. AACUPI member institutions feel strongly that thousands of our students throughout Italy do not engage in over-drinking and unruliness and strongly desire to

communicate this to our Italian hosts. The challenge is to continue to try to find creative ways to educate our students about the dangers of over-drinking and the beauty of proper drinking – if their own ethic allows them to do so – to investigate alternative activities for our students to get involved in more intelligent nightlife, and to expect the proper and timely enforcement of existing laws regarding bars and clubs serving alcohol in Italian cities, mostly in Florence which, to some students, appears, at times to be a small downtown campus. .

Since January of 2005, AACUPI's Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Shackelford, has chaired the Alcohol Work Group in Florence to discuss alcohol abuse with AACUPI legal counsel Gian Franco Borio and committee members Antonio Artese, Mary Barbera, Andreina Bianchini, Patrick Burke, Helen Burroughs, Lisa Cesarini, Sally Heaven, James Kaufman and David Travis, to communicate with the US Consulate, the Prefecture, the Questura of Florence, with City officials such as the *Assessore alla Sanità* and the Municipal Police of Florence, and to identify resolutions of the sundry problems. This group fervently continues its activities in view of the increasing numbers of incoming students to Florence every few months who continuously need to be informed of the grave conditions existing on the streets and in establishments serving alcohol; it spends many hours, weekly, brainstorming with external, local, private and public organizations on how to alleviate the situation at hand.

At a ceremony held at the US Consulate in Florence on July 14, 2005, AACUPI signed a formal agreement with the *Sindacato Imprenditori Locali da Ballo* (SILB) and the *Federazione Italiana Pubblici Esercizi* (FIPE) to promote together safe drinking initiatives for students studying in the Florence area who frequent in their free time establishments serving alcohol. This agreement aimed at informing the students of the dangers of intoxication and at assuring bilingual services in fully-licensed bars and discos dedicated to assisting students who have abused alcohol, such as calling a taxi, or an ambulance, in case of need. The federations representing these establishments also agreed to no longer offer and advertise promotions that could lead to the abuse of alcohol, such as “free drinks for ladies”, “pay one get five”, “Tuesday nights all you can drink free before ten”, etc.

In Rome, in April, 2005, the local AACUPI directors met with Deputy US Consul General Peggy A. Gennatiempo and police officials from the historical center to discuss alcohol use and abuse in the Eternal

City. It was decided that Rome is too large a city and our programs too spread out within the city to launch effectively a Safe Bar Program similar to that initiated in Florence. Further discussions were held throughout 2006 and 2007 with Consul General Barbara Cummings regarding student safety in Rome.

In March, 2006, the “Smart Bar – *Protocollo Divertimento Sicuro*” initiative was formally announced to the press in Florence, presenting a logo developed to promote and identify the Smart Bar initiative and a list of establishments that would display the logo in recognition of their accordance with the goals and procedures newly put into effect.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, representatives of the US Consul General have been available by appointment, both in Rome and in Florence, to visit AACUPI programs to speak to incoming students about safety in Italy, including drug and alcohol abuse. This service has proven invaluable to AACUPI directors.

Early in 2008, AACUPI distributed a booklet of “Documentation and Press Clippings related to Student Services Issues Including the Smart Bar Initiative in Florence: 2004-2007” to the membership-at-large. Copies of this documentation are available from AACUPI upon request.

On August 15, 2008, The City of Florence promulgated new regulations of the Municipal Police outlining guidelines for the proper behavior of both residents as well as visitors, copies of which were distributed to all member institutions (*Norme per la Civile Convivenza in Città, Regolamento di Polizia Urbana, Comune di Firenze, Allegato Parte Integrante della Delibera di Consiglio n. 69 del 24.07.2008*). Copies of this document are available from AACUPI on request.

2007

VICARIATO DI ROMA

In the fall of 2007, David Dawson Vásquez was named AACUPI liaison with the University Pastorate Office of the Vicariate of Rome to promote the presence of AACUPI students at the VI European Convention of University Students held in the spring of 2008 and the European University Day.

AACUPI SURVEYS

Over the years, in an effort to come to a better mutual understanding of the composition and complexion of the American and Canadian programs operating in Italy, AACUPI has invited its members to respond to a series of questionnaires to survey various topics. Participation is strictly voluntary, and the results are anonymous and shared only among those programs that respond to a given questionnaire. Member institutions have found these surveys an invaluable tool for assessing their relative positions in such pressing matters as faculty and staff pay scales, fee structures, student housing costs, and the like. AACUPI will continue to provide this service for member institutions willing to participate in surveys of this nature.

2008 INTO THE FUTURE

The problems that will face AACUPI in the future are many. Legal and administrative problems will continue to plague AACUPI members, just as they plague our Italian counterparts. As Italy's relationship with the rest of Europe undergoes transformations, the formal and informal relationship to the European Union of Americans and Canadians must be defined and redefined at every level.

In mid-March, 2008, Officers Prebys and Shackelford, along with legal counsel, Gian Franco Borio, traveled to Paris for a meeting of college and university programs in France, held at New York University in France to celebrate the formal founding of APUAF, *Association des Programmes Universitaires Américaines en France*, an AACUPI-like initiative for US programs in France. They took part in the Round Table "Perspectives on Creating a Pan-European Association of American University Programs", proposing that a pan-European association be formed to promote common goals such as VAT exemption and preferential immigration rules regulated by the EU, visas and stay permits.

AACUPI has long worked in collaboration with APUNE, *Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España*, and AASAP/UK, Association of American Study Abroad Programmes in the United Kingdom. All four associations intend to present a common informative program at the annual conference of the Forum on Education Abroad to be held in Portland, February 18-20, 2009.

Also to this end, AACUPI many years ago became an Associate Member of AAICU, the Association of American International Colleges and Universities, which unites degree-granting American-style institutions of higher learning that are fully accredited by US regional accrediting associations, but which operate in the European and Middle-Eastern regions.

Member institutions are:

- American College Dublin
- The American College of Greece
- American College of Thessaloniki
- American University in Bulgaria
- The American University in Cairo
- American University in Kosovo
- American University of Afghanistan
- American University of Armenia
- The American University of Beirut
- American University of Central Asia
- The American University of Paris
- American University of Sharjah
- Franklin College
- Haigazian University
- Institute for American Universities
- John Cabot University
- Lebanese American University
- Richmond: The International University of London

Associate members are:

- AACUPI
- Forman Christian College
- St. Louis University, Madrid Campus

AACUPI supports “The Cairo Declaration” approved at the Meeting at the American University in Cairo, April 10-12, 2008, by the Presidents, Provosts and Chief Academic Officers of AAICU, the text of which is reproduced below:

AAICU CAIRO DECLARATION

AAICU is a leadership organization representing academic institutions conceived and organized on the American model of higher

education. Institutional autonomy, vouchsafed by independent boards of trustees, and accreditation by a major recognized U.S. accrediting authority are conditions of full membership.

AAICU member institutions aim at a global standard of excellence by providing privileged spaces of intellectual interchange, academic freedom and responsibility. They also promote the pursuit of learning and of democratic values so their graduates are prepared for the rapidly changing needs of the twenty-first century. AAICU member universities are important contributors to research and development locally and internationally. With strong roots in their respective host countries—where they enjoy wide recognition—they are embedded in their international settings. AAICU members are therefore capable of bridging cultures and fostering dialogue among nations within the framework of the American liberal arts tradition. They are both expressions of and vehicles for the growing international acceptance of the U.S. system of higher education and the increasing importance of English as the language of international communication. In the contemporary knowledge-driven world, with its global economy and trans-border social issues, they play a crucial role in establishing, embodying, and verifying standards of educational excellence.

AAICU's capacity to monitor educational quality is of particular value at a time when institutions proliferate which claim to follow and satisfy U.S. standards. AAICU institutions provide, furthermore, tested venues for increasingly popular study abroad programs, assuring the compatibility of credits with US practices and providing the benefits of extensive knowledge of the host countries.

AAICU provides a valuable forum for the exchange of information and ideas among its members, thereby facilitating mutual institutional support and continuous improvement. It serves as an advocate for American style higher education overseas and it provides guidance to new institutions that share its aspirations and values. It seeks to reflect the efforts and achievements of its members making them more visible to constituencies in the United States and abroad.

AAICU institutions are among America's most important cultural assets in different regions of the world, and are deserving of both public and private support. In particular, AAICU urges the federal government to support the work of our institutions through expanded eligibility and funding of existing programs such as:

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) grants through the U.S. Agency for International Development;
Research support through federal science and technology agencies like the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities;
Educational grants and scholarship support from the U.S. Department of Education; and
Educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the U.S. Department of State.

AAICU further urges U.S. foundations and corporations to strengthen their support for U.S. higher education institutions around the world, recognizing the vital role of these institutions in advancing social progress, fostering economic development and educating future leaders in their respective host countries.

For further information on AAICU, please consult www.aaicu.org.

AACUPI will continue to serve as a clearing-house for information from many sources and to initiate activities of general benefit to members. It cannot, however, do more than give suggestions and indications regarding the many options and responses required by multi-faceted questions. Indeed, how could AACUPI possibly formulate a single, unified response to such issues when not even Italian entities are able to do so? Or, how could AACUPI (and its Officers) be held responsible for providing information that, in many areas, simply can never be considered right or wrong, black or white?

As we have seen, there is ample evidence that working together has brought tangible results in the past. This is due, in large part, to the generous contributions of time and effort on the part of the Officers, Committee Members and Project Coordinators over the years; they have consistently dedicated themselves to working for AACUPI's welfare without any kind of financial remuneration.

Much has been done, and much remains to be done. Is there not a challenge for the future in dealing directly with concerns regarding the number and quality of students in AACUPI programs, and in seeking and obtaining subsidies for these students? The quality and quantity of these student bodies must be sustained and improved, hopefully through

recognition of the work that all AACUPI members are doing in Italy. Would it not be easier for a single, unified entity to search for grant money from private and public sources for use by all member institutions? The *Crypta Balbi* Project has demonstrated that both public and private agencies do respond to a concerted approach.

Another possible future line of action would be to seek support for the teaching staffs in AACUPI programs. Many programs cannot afford a large, full-time faculty. To fill in existing gaps or to enrich what is now on offer, it is worth considering looking for funds to support, for example, two or more full-time professors annually whose services would be shared by AACUPI members.

Could the AACUPI membership not share the sponsorship of a lecture series or a “mini-course” in the various localities where AACUPI exists? Given the fact that many institutions cannot afford to maintain extensive libraries, would it not be worth discussing the possibility of a central catalogue of individual program libraries which house collections that have been carefully geared to individual study needs. The list of possibilities is endless, as is the list of jobs to be done.

WHO WILL FACE THESE CHALLENGES?

All those involved in AACUPI are acutely aware that challenges of this sort take time, and no one has a great deal of time left over at the end of the day. Beyond each program’s daily legal and fiscal concerns, certainly, the specific and general focuses inherent to a common approach to problems is to AACUPI’s advantage; its flexible organization at the local level has given rise to most pleasant undertakings like the AACUPI Balls and the La Fenice Benefit Concert, while AACUPI’s promotional work at the regional, national and international levels has sought to create good-will and understanding, with initiatives like the AACUPI Prize and the IRPET Study. If the past is any indication, surely AACUPI and its members will rise to the occasion and work together to guarantee its future on Italian soil within the united Europe of tomorrow.

Rome, September, 2008.