

**Report for International Programs Grant
Fred Moramarco, Dept of English and Comparative Literature**

During the past academic year, with the help of a \$1,000 International Programs Grant and additional travel assistance from the College of Arts and Letters, I attended two International Conferences, one in Siracusa, Sicily, and the other in Sevilla, Spain. As a part of the conditions for this grant, I agreed to make contact with a number of universities in Italy and Spain and do some preliminary work to establish exchange programs with these universities. Here is a report on the contacts I made and the possibilities for developing exchange programs.

Siracusa, Italy (Sicily): At the Italian American Studies Conference in Siracusa held early last November, I had the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a San Diego/Italy student and faculty exchange with faculty and administrators from a number of universities. The following three emerged as the best possibilities:

1. John Cabot University in Rome. This is a small, American based university located in the heart of Rome and deeply committed to International education. I met Carmen Scarpati, the Acting Registrar of the University and had several lengthy discussions with her about the possibilities of an exchange. Of everyone I talked to, she seemed clearly the most interested, and the most informed about the ins and outs of International Exchange Programs. The Rome Access guide calls John Cabot "the best US university outside of the US" and I think the American connection will make our students feel at home, while at the same time exposing them to the wonders of the Eternal City. They have major degree programs in Art History, Business Administration, English Literature, International Affairs and Political Science. They also have special programs in Italian Studies and internships with multinational corporations, international organizations and embassies. Twenty nine percent of the student body is from the U.S., 31% from Italy and the remainder from countries throughout the world. They already have exchange agreements with many American and European universities, including Harvard, Brown, UCLA, St. Johns, Temple, University of Michigan, University of South Carolina, Humboldt State University and many more. Students from all over the US are represented there each academic year. I have been e-mailing Carmen Scarpati and she is anxious to discuss the possibilities of an exchange further. Her e-mail address is cscarpati@johncabot.it She can be reached by telephone at (011) 39 06 681921 and a FAX will reach her at (011) 39 06 6832088 The mailing address is John Cabot University, Via della Lungara, 233, 00165 Rome, Italy. I strongly recommend we pursue this further.

2. I also met at length with Francesca Baelestra of the University of Siena. This is a large major Italian university, located in one of the most beautiful and historic cities in Italy. Professor Baelestra has a special connection to San Diego; she was my Teaching Assistant when I visited Italy in the 1970s and returned to study American literature and teach (as a TA) in the Italian Department here. She married a San Diegan and they returned to Italy where they have lived ever since. She taught for a long while at the Università Cattolica in Milan and now has a permanent and important position at the

University of Siena. Because of her San Diego background, she is very enthusiastic about establishing some kind of an exchange. Since most of the courses are taught in Italian, this exchange would be limited to fewer students, but it would give those students a full and deep immersion in Italian culture and language. Also, there are a number of "International Programs" taught in English that could be explored, for example, a summer Environmental Studies Program directed by Prof. A. Renzoni. Francesca can be reached at balestra@mailsrv.unisi.it The mailing address is Università degli Studi di Siena - Via Banchi di Sotto, 55 - 53100 Siena and the telephone is (011) 0577/232233. While the need for our students to speak and write Italian would limit the number of students involved, I think this might be a very special exchange possibility for the right students, and also for faculty.

3. Università Ca'Foscari di Venezia. What more wonderful experience of Italy could we give our students than a semester or year at Ca'Foscari in Venice where they will arrive for classes by boat each day and study in the most fabled city in all of Europe? I spoke with Michele Vanon Alliata, who teaches American Studies there and she introduced me to her Dean. There are many courses taught in English at this major Italian university, and so both the site and the possibility of students taking at least some courses in English would make it attractive for student exchanges. As for faculty exchanges, I'm ready to go tomorrow if we can work it out. One of Italy's most renowned American Studies professors, Sergio Perosa, teaches here and he spends half the year teaching at NYU. I'll bet we could woo him to San Diego for a semester; I'd certainly be delighted to exchange with him. In any case, Michele told me that they prefer to work out exchanges on the department level because the bureaucracy at the university makes university-level exchanges problematic. She is very excited about the possibility and I think we should definitely pursue this opening, at whatever level. Michele's address is Dorso Duro 671, 30123, Venice, Italy. Her e-mail is giovanni@doge.it She and her husband run an art gallery in Venice and are deeply knowledgeable about Italian art. This would be another plus for whatever students we would send there.

Sevilla, Spain, Conference on "The Rhetorics of Masculinity." This conference held early in March brought together Gender Studies scholars from all over the world. I focussed on two major possibilities for exchanges at this conference, and one other emerged after I left the conference to visit with my son in Santander. My son, Nicholas, met me in Sevilla and translated for me at the conference. He teaches at a university in Santander on the North Coast of Spain.

1. University of Sevilla. I spoke with Carolina Sánchez, the organizer of the conference, and she steered me to several people who are involved in initiating and developing exchange programs at the university. One of these was Maria Angeles Toda Iglesia who teaches in the Dept. of English and North American Literature. She knew more about exchanges than Carolina did, and I left with her copies of the standard exchange agreement for her to peruse. Sevilla is an important Spanish University and already has a fairly large population of American students. (They seemed everywhere as we went from

tapas bar to tapas bar). Prof. Toda Iglesia told me that they were very committed to foreign exchange programs and that at the university level these were the responsibility of Prof. Dra. María Heliadora Cuenca Villarín, the Vice President of International Relations. Her department address is Departamento de Lengua Inglesa, Facultad de Filología, Universidad de Sevilla, C/Palos de la Frontera, s/n. 41004 Sevilla, Spain. The telephone is (011) 34 954 55 1181 and her e-mail is hcuenca@cica.es This exchange would be very attractive to our students, especially Spanish majors who could live and study in one of Andalucía's most beautiful cities. I think it would be attractive to faculty as well. Sevilla is historic and beautiful and I already miss being there.

2. My son had made arrangements to get an appointment for me with Felix Churiacque, the Director of the Escuela Superior de Negozios in Cantabria, Spain where he teaches. Unfortunately, Mr. Churiacque was called out of town and was unable to be there for the appointment. Nonetheless, he expressed a great deal of interest in the possibility of an exchange with us, and this might be a good exchange for International Business majors. This is not a "comprehensive" or liberal arts university, but rather a Business oriented college, closer to National University than to SDSU. It is in an urban setting, with classes held in a single downtown building. There courses are primarily in business, marketing, product development, and so on. They are conducted in both Spanish and English. I left the exchange agreements for Mr. Churiacque to peruse and my son is following up the matter with him. I will have more information about this shortly.
3. The University of Cantabria, Santander, Spain. This is a university more like our own than the Escuela Superior above. It is on the north coast of Spain in the business-like city of Santander near Bilbao, the home of the new Guggenheim Museum that has been getting so much international attention. It is also good surf country, which will appeal to some of our students. (Probably the primary reason my own son, an SDSU grad, is there). When I was there on a weekend, the university was closed, but once again I left contracts with Nicholas for him to deliver to the person in charge of International Programs there. I will also have more information about this possibility shortly.

In all, I think my trip was quite fruitful and I hope we can follow up the faculty/student exchange possibilities in Rome, Siena, Venice, Sevilla, and Cantabria. If any of these come to be, I will be an active proponent of the exchange possibilities and will be happy to work up letters and fliers recruiting students for a year or semester abroad. I would also like to participate myself in a faculty exchange in Italy, particularly in either Rome or Venice. I think any of these locales would greatly expand SDSU's presence in Europe and give our students and faculty unique International opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,
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