Chance encounter with John Felice leaves lasting impact

On a rainy night in 1992, Michael F. Andrews, PhD, stumbled into the Church of Sant'Ignazio in Rome to take cover from the storm. Andrews, then a newly vowed Jesuit scholastic studying at the Gregorian University, quickly discovered he'd walked into a welcome Mass for students at Loyola's Rome Center. That night, he struck up a friendship with Rome Center founder John Felice and soon became an occasional guest at the center and its various student gatherings.

Nearly 25 years later, Andrews will return to the John Felice Rome Center, but this time he won't just be visiting. On August 1, Andrews will officially take the reins as the Rome Center's new director, bringing him back to the city that has been a frequent stop throughout his academic career.

Read more about Dr. Andrews on page 2
Dear Dr. Rooney,

I am Michael F. Andrews, PhD, and I am writing to you from Portland, Oregon. The sun is setting as I sit here at the JFRC, and I can see the Portland State University's campus lights in the distance. Upon learning of my appointment, I was honored and tremendously excited to serve as the new director.

Andrews says, “I am honored and tremendously excited to enrich the lives of students.”

Like so many immigrants, my maternal grandparents left Rome and Naples as young children in the early 1900s on steam liners bound for New York Harbor in order to make new lives for themselves. In a manner of speaking, it seems fitting that I return to the soil with my wife and daughter that my father left in order to seek a new life—what Dante called “la vita nuova”—more than a century earlier. It sometimes seems only after a long and circuitous journey that we are able to recognize our way back “home” again, or at least to a place where we started hearing the call.

Ignatius Loyola did not believe in accidents: all is grace, if one has the eyes to see it.

Andrews says, “I am honored and tremendously excited about serving as the new director.”

To the right is a letter Dr. Andrews wrote to Loyola President Jo Ann Rooney, JD, LL.M, EdD, upon learning of his appointment.

Michael F. Andrews, PhD

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE McNERNEY ENTERPRISE WITH My family and I begin our transition from Portland to Rome over the next several months, I am grateful for your support and patience, with the passage, blessings, and prayers of everyone who has been touched by the extraordinary vision of an extraordinary man who founded an extraordinary center that now bears his name: Felice happy, content, joyful.

With warmest regards,
Michael F. Andrews, PhD
Calcio through the years

Calcio day at the JFRC had a similar feel to NFL Sunday in its build-up to the evening matches. Nerves were tense for the brown team to continue their dominance. Every week walking to the field would be nonstop trash talk. After a win (brown team) or loss (blue team), the entire team showed up and had an absolute blast despite getting blown out on a weekly basis. While players on other teams may have gotten a bit snippy about teammates’ poor performance, my team was busy high-fiving and planning our post-game celebrations.

“Calcio was a great way to continue the sense of family at the JFRC, because no matter the bruises, we all would end the time eating and drinking together.”

—CHRIS RIEHLMANN ('07–’08)

Calcio added so much to my experience at the Rome Center. It was an excellent opportunity to physically unwind, meet local Italians, learn more about the neighborhood, and build lifelong bonds with my teammates. My friendship with Peter Manikowski started when I scored a goal late in the game while he was tending goal. Later my husband and I carried the gifts at his wedding, and Peter is now a referee for Major League Soccer in his spare time.

“As the infamous fall 2003 playoff match between the blue team and the poop brown team, I will only say it was a moral victory of epic proportions on our side.”

—MARY KOTYNSKI (FALL ’03)

“Probably my favorite part about calcio was how bad my team was. I was on the black team, and we stunk. We really didn’t win any games and went multiple games without scoring. However, every single person on my team showed up and had an absolute blast despite getting blown out on a weekly basis. While players on other teams may have gotten a bit snippy about teammates’ poor performance, my team was busy high-fiving and planning our post-game celebrations.”

“We saved the best for the last game though. After a season of playing with each other, things just clicked in this game and we demolished the orange team, bringing great shame to orange captain Sander Evers. Or at least that’s how I remember it…”

—BENJAMIN PIETRZYK (FALL ’03)

Wednesday nights at the JFRC revolve around a long-time sacred ritual that many a student has enjoyed: calcio. Two student life assistants or SLAs are in charge of getting students to sign up each semester. They ask students to fill out a short survey ranking their skill level, and then the SLAs divide students into 10 teams so that people of all skill levels are evenly distributed. Games take place at the Don Orione calcio fields, about a 15-minute walk from the JFRC.

All 10 teams have different colored jerseys and are led by two team captains. Games are commissioned by non-playing students. After the games are over, the SLAs lead students down the hill to Il Pepperoncino Dispettoso, a local pizzeria, to reflect on the games over beer and pizza.

The names of current calcio teams include Arancione, Azzurro, Bordeaux, Giallo, Lavanda, Nero, Pistacchio, Rosa, and Viola. All of the SLAs participate in calcio, as do staff members including Dean Sander Evers, Stefano Gaschetti, and Dean Dr. Michael Beazley.

We asked several alumni to reflect on their calcio days, and here’s what they said:

“I was on the red team, and we ended up winning the end-of-season championship. It was the first and only time I’d ever been on a championship team. Also, one of our good friends was tending goal. Later my husband and I carried the gifts at his wedding, and Peter is now a referee for Major League Soccer in his spare time.”

—BRIGID DAGENFIELD ('77–’80)

“My teammate, Peter Manikowski, and I are led by two team captains. Games are commissioned by non-playing students. After the games are over, the SLAs lead students down the hill to Il Pepperoncino Dispettoso, a local pizzeria, to reflect on the games over beer and pizza.

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Calcio provided an opportunity to meet new friends outside the classroom and allowed for a spirit of healthy competition and a sense of camaraderie.

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T his is a day in the life of self-proclaimed “history geek” Jonathan Conant, associate professor of history at Brown University, who was the first visiting summer research fellow at the Rome Center. The fellowship was made possible by the generosity of JFRC alumnus Dr. Scott Sullivan (JFRC ’67–’68), who along with his wife set up the Scott and Joan Sullivan Faculty Development Fund. Sullivan dedicated this gift in memory of Dr. Michael Fink, an art history professor who taught at the Rome Center for many years before he passed away. The fellowship aims to empower faculty and give them resources and opportunities to further their research while in Rome.

Though Conant has spent the past six years teaching medieval history at Brown University, his studies have taken him all over the world, including Iceland, London, Tunisia, Rome, and Paris. He’s published several books on late Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic North Africa. More recently, Conant organized a conference at Brown called “Listening to Silences,” during which he and five other scholars explored the roles of women and children in late antiquity from a multidimensional perspective.

While Conant acknowledges that his specific area of study isn’t for everyone, he speaks about his discoveries with unending enthusiasm. He describes his experiences at the Rome Center as “totally Dalí-esque” and spent most of his time in the “high-tech” Vatican library, which houses the second-highest volume of manuscripts in the world relevant to Conant’s specific area of research.

“The ability to go there every day was incredible,” Conant says, “it’s not a common experience. I’m very grateful.”

Conant spent four weeks in June 2016 lecturing on the previously unexamined relationships between the Carolingian, Byzantine, and early Islamic empires and the larger global context of those relationships. He has long been fascinated by the transition from Western European antiquity to medieval times, which influenced modern typefaces and handwriting reform.

“Forty years ago, historians didn’t really use archaeology,” he says, “Now you’re going to know about archaeology, and literary scholars have changed the way we read our sources, too. We’re a lot more skeptical, and the syntax is more sophisticted and nuanced.”

During his lectures at the Rome Center, Conant presented to both students and faculty and made efforts to talk about his findings in a way that would appeal to both audiences.

“The fellowship gave me an opportunity to present to any kind of audience,” Conant says, “rather than the more valuable were his conversations with fellow faculty members, who “gave me all sorts of different insights, and made me think of things I have never thought before.”

One of Conant’s most valuable Rome experiences involved seeing the physical remnants of a long-gone civilization, which helped to “reconstruct and change” his understanding of the Roman Empire. He describes waking up to a courtyard full of blossoming jasmine and olive groves at the JFRC and spending weekends at the MAXXI Museum or strolling along the Mivian Bridge.

“As one of those cities where you’ll be walking around and you’ll turn a corner and you’ll be like, ‘Oh my God, it’s the Pantheon? It’s the Colosseum?’” Conant says.

Not only was the city impressive to Conant, but the JFRC staff was as well, people whom he describes as “warm, welcoming, engaged, and interested in the students.” He remembers that the lecturers and resident assistants would often take students on guided walking tours around the city.

“The staff members at the JFRC were some of the most intellectually engaged and vibrant I’ve ever met,” he says.

For someone studying the rise and fall of ancient empires, the experience of studying at the Rome Center is transformative, Conant says, but even non-history majors can find something enriching about the program.

“The history and art and architecture is everywhere,” he says. “Get out into the city and see it. Spend time rambling around... ramble and explore, and be open to the randomness of the city.”

FINK NOTES PROJECT

For many years, Dr. Michael Fink was a professor of art history at the JFRC. Before he passed away, he left a profound and inspiring impact on his students. Decades later, that impact is still felt by alumni, so much so that the “Fink Notes Project” has been created to pay tribute to him and keep his legacy alive.

Headquartered by JFRC alumna Catherine O’Brien (77-78), the project is collecting past class notes from former students of Dr. Fink, with the goal of compiling enough content to create something similar to a legacy book and recreate the courses Dr. Fink taught in Rome.

JFRC alumni interested in participating and/or who have notes they would like to submit, please contact Catherine at collegeedmccagac.com.

Purchase a tile on the Alumni Wall

The Alumni Wall is located outside of the newly renovated coffee bar near and new mensa. The wall is a prominent feature near an outdoor gathering space where students can study, relax, and interact. It spans nearly 11 feet tall by 34 feet wide.

Honor a loved one, a favorite Rome Center instructor, or your own JFRC experience with one of three tile and gift options. All tiles accommodate 23 characters per line.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Gifts to name a tile in the Alumni Wall can be made in a variety of ways:

• All at once
• Split into six month increments
• Recurring over 18 months
• Or other options

Order online at LUC.edu/liketorome

CONTACT US

If you have questions or comments, please contact Stephanie Tomakowski at stomako@LUC.edu or 312.915.6280.

*Fink Notes Project

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AVANTI! CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In July 2014, we launched the Avanti! campaign to complete John Felice’s dream and secure the permanent home of the Rome Center. The transformation of our campus is going very well, both renovating old spaces and paving the way for new construction. Through your support of this campaign, the Rome Center will:

• Erect a new building on campus
• Support student scholarships
• Provide real-world experiences for students
• Grow our endowment through planned gifts

Our fundraising goal is $6 million. As of April 15, the campaign has raised $2,093,301 or 35% of our goal of $6,000,000. We appreciate everyone who has given a gift thus far and hope others will consider this important collaboration. Avanti! Forward!

There are many opportunities for scholarship gifts, capital support, program support, and planned gifts. Please contact us if you have questions. You can make a gift online or learn more at LUC.edu/Avanti.

AVANTI! GOAL = $6 MILLION IN PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT

$4 MILLION

Outright Gifts

$1 MILLION

Planned Gifts

$4 MILLION

AVANTI!

Loyola has announced the expansion of its School of Law’s Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW) program, which is offered at the Rome Center. First implemented in 2011, PROLAW is a one-year master’s program for law school graduates who desire international careers in development of governance and the rule of law. The program is multinational, having trained over 100 legal professionals from 44 countries.

Beginning in fall 2017, PROLAW will offer a Master ofJurisprudence (MJ) degree in Rule of Law for Development. The degree will allow international professionals to receive advisory training in order to strengthen their efforts in their respective fields. It will be a one-year practice-oriented program for non-lawyers and will operate complimentary to the Master of Law (LLM) in Rule of Law for Development. The MJ program will allow professionals from varying disciplines to collaborate on efforts to enact sustainable change across the globe.

PROLAW MJ students will complete most classes with PROLAW LLM students, allowing them to engage in multidisciplinary discourse and better understand the material. The MJ program will require students to complete 30 hours of on-campus coursework at the Rome Center and a major role of law capstone within their respective home countries.

For more information, visit LUC.edu/prolaw.
August 18, 2017
CHICAGO GOLD ALUMNI APERITIVO
AceBounce, Chicago, IL
Calling all Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) to join your former JFRC classmates and welcome the newest graduates. This year, the gathering will be held at AceBounce, a new addition to downtown Chicago. Alumni will spend the evening socializing and playing against one another in ping pong (optional), alongside hors d’oeuvres and an open bar of beer and wine.

September 19, 2017
WELCOME HOME JFRC SPRING AND SUMMER 2017 ALUMNI
Loyola’s Lake Shore Campus, Piper Hall
The JFRC Alumni Board will continue its new annual tradition of welcoming back the newest class of JFRC graduates. JFRC spring and summer 2017 graduates will receive an invitation from board members to join them for a reception, the chance to meet board members, and the opportunity to catch up with JFRC classmates.

September 22, 2017
JFRC ST. LOUIS ALUMNI APERITIVO
St. Louis alumni, save the date for the next JFRC aperitivo in your city! Details will be communicated and posted on the JFRC Alumni Relations website. What better way to kick off fall than to get together with fellow alumni and share memories of your time in Rome. We hope to see you on Friday, September 22!