

**Chester Biscardi, 1969-1970:**

*"I balanced my studies between literature, especially a lecture with the famed Mario Pazzaglia at the Università di Bologna, and theory at the Conservatorio G. B. Martini with Maria Fulgeri Bianchi."*

**Marti Wilmering, 1969-1970:**

*"It was life changing! I arrived in Bologna as a shy, introverted, hesitant, naive girl and left almost a year later as an adventurous, self-confident, somewhat more aware woman."*

**Betsy Clark, 1970-1971:**

*"Greatly expanded my life view, developed confidence, independence, and appreciation for other cultures."*

**Mary Lynne Donohue, 1970-1971:**

*"I loved Bologna! And everything (almost) Italian. Living in Bologna gave me a passion and confidence in traveling and communicating around the world."*

**Michele Reiling McCaffrey, 1970-1971:**

*"It completely influenced and directed the rest of my life. I use Italian to some degree nearly every day and sometimes teach an adult ed beginners' course. I read books in Italian on a regular basis. I read about Italian history, culture, art regularly. That year was a frame for the rest of my life. I returned as often as possible."*

**Rebecca Weimer Janssen, 1970-1971:**

*"This incredibly unique year left me with a profound love of the Bolognese culture and people (past and present) and increased my love for medieval and Renaissance Italy."*

**Janis Weatherly, 1973-1974:**

*"I made friends in Bologna that I still have."*

**Kathryn Raysses, 1975-1976:**

*"Simply put, it was the most wonderful year of my life. To live in Italy, especially in a beautiful medieval city that was off the tourist track, was an extraordinary experience. It impacted my life in many subtle ways."*

**Kathy Spada, 1976-1977:**

*"Completely changed my life!"*

**Audrey Clarke-Pounder, 1977-1978:**

*"It expanded my world view and gave me a life long interest in politics and social justice issues."*

**Geoffrey Meigs, 1978-1979:**

*"It was a revelation of beauty, of history, of culture and of good living. Since that year I have been anchored by a love of and appreciation for Italian culture."*

**Sandra Liliana Pucci, 1978-1979:**

*"Totally changed it. Hard to summarize in a few lines."*

**Lillian Sizemore, 1978-1979:**

*"learning and living in Italy as a year long resident has impacted my life and changed how see the world. Even at such a young age, it was difficult and scary, but I still maintain a life long friendship with my roommate of that year, and I have gone on to use the Italian language as an integral part of my work and profession, and continued scholarly works, including unpublished translations of rare materials related to my field."*

**Fred Rossi, 1982-1983:**

*"Helped develop a life long interest in travel and learning about different cultures. The food wasn't too shabby either!"*

**Anne Christopherson, 1984-1985:**

*"I am still here, are'nt I?"*

**Antonella Kim Johnson, 1984-1985:**

*"It provided me with the opportunity of meeting my future professional connections."*

**Kristin Frascella, 1985-1986:**

*"Realization of a goal And accomplishing something difficult (learning to speak Italian)"*

**Lisa Marie Gelhaus, 1985-1986:**

*"Totally - I changed my homeland thanks to the program, what else can I say? It was the best year of my life (that has lasted right up until now)"*

**Maureen McDermott, 1985-1986:**

*"Most important experience of my life. I knew then that I wanted to live in Europe and continue my love affair with Italy in some form. Also, studying abroad really impacted my desire to help others live/study abroad and now have a great living experience while meeting other students from all over the world."*

**Mimma Silvestri, 1986-1987:**

*"It brought me to make the decision to move to Italy after finishing my studies."*

**Hilary Bendon, 1987-1988:**

*"It fueled my lifelong learning about other people, other cultures and other languages."*

**Piero Garofalo, 1987-1988:**

*"It convinced me to change my career trajectory from economics to Italian Studies."*

**Robin Worth, 1987-1988:**

*"Hardest, best, most meaningful year of my life. allowed me to teach Italian and earn advanced degrees I. Related fields. Lifelong friends, including my Italian roommate whose 49th birthday we celebrated in Italy this summer."*

**Jessica Green, 1988-1989:**

*"Immeasurably. Too big a question for a computer screen."*

**Jessica DePinto, 1989-1990:**

*"It was the single best decision that I ever made. It opened my eyes to the world, the beauty of Italy and scholarship. I recently had the pleasure of witnessing two younger cousins, Jordan Stella and Sarah Kohut (currently in the program) experience BSCP."*

**Andrea Cancelliere, 1992-1993:**

*"Gave me self confidence I never thought I had."*

**Melissa DiMeglio, 1992-1993:**

*"I made life-long friends, returned to Bologna to work there after college graduation, and definitely became more globally-minded. I can still speak Italian (but I understand it better than I can speak it)!"*

**Troy Byler, 1993-1994:**

*"It was the most seminal year in my life, what didn't it impact...my height and where I was born."*

**Megan Rodgers, 1993-1994:**

*"Learned the Italian language. Learned to fall in love with Italians."*

**Amanda Kaiser, 1995-1996:**

*"The Bologna Program changed my life in countless ways. Deciding to go to Italy my junior year was probably the best decision I ever made in my life. It was an incredible experience that taught me so much about Italy, Italian culture and myself. I have spent the rest of my life living abroad, traveling and working in three foreign countries now. It has been a thrilling ride- and it all started with my Bologna experience. I think about my time in Bologna every day in one way or another. It is always going to be a part of me."*

**Uma Arunachalam, 1996-1997:**

*"I HAVE LIVED IN ITALY (ROME & VENICE) AFTERWARDS AND STILL CONSIDER ITALY HOME."*

**Kelly Blank, 1996-1997:**

*"The Bologna program changed everything for me. My time abroad made me truly fall in love with Italy. It made me want to continue learning about its culture, language, literature, and history. The experience also resulted in tremendous personal growth. The year in Bologna was definitely a defining experience of my life."*

**Heather Franzese, 1996-1997:**

*"The most lasting effects are my appreciation for quality shoes, affinity for espresso drinks, and knowledge of Italian art, architecture and cuisine. I made several friends there that I still see regularly."*

**E. Danielle Maglinte, 1996-1997:**

*"My time in Bologna opened my eyes to meeting new people and experiencing new cultures."*

**Margaret Russo, 1997-1998:**

*"Learning Italian opened up new employment opportunities for me. Living in Italy, I use many of the things I learned during the Bologna Program in my daily and work life."*

**Melissa Kops, 1999-2000:**

*"In so many ways, but mostly gave me perspective. Learning to communicate and navigate in another culture is important for understanding your own."*

**Mitrah Rasti, 2000-2001:**

*"The year of living and studying in Bologna had a profound impact on shaping the person I have become today. I had the privilege of experiencing what is only a dream for many, and my appreciation of it has only increased with time. Learning about and navigating through a different culture than that I grew up in broadened my horizons and has helped me to be adaptable, open-minded and curious. I've always been fairly independent but that took on a whole new meaning once I moved across the world. I feel I have unique perspective on life and a belief in possibilities that I never would have had without this amazing experience...after 15 years I sometimes even still dream I'm walking under the portici and through the piazze and conversing in Italian!"*

**Anna Wright, 2000-2001:**

*"I look back at the Bologna Program with so much gratitude. For the opportunity, of course, but also for the people I met there. They helped me become someone more capable, more aware, better prepared for the realities of independence."*

**Jared Ranere, 2001-2002:**

*"The Bologna Program has had an enormous impact on my life. It taught me that the world is a not as big as it seems and that all of it is available to me. I learned that there are many ways to skin the cat called life and you don't have to tread the beaten path. But, most of all, I made lifelong friends that I'm still very close with--Americans, Italians, and even a Brit. Those friendships are irreplaceable and we've shared countless amazing experiences together in the 15 years since BCSP and many more are ahead."*

**Shannon Winston, 2001-2002:**

*"The Program inspired me to pursue graduate work in Comparative Literature and translation studies."*

**Kornelia Kozovska, 2002-2003:**

*"I met my husband during that year and essentially linked my life permanently with Bologna"*

**Aissa Alcaraz, 2003-2004:**

*"It was an amazing time in my life. I felt that the year abroad really solidified my language skills. It opened my eyes to the culture and the experience really did change my life."*

**Anthony Nussmeier, 2003-2004:**

*"The program's impact on my life cannot be understated! It is safe to say that I would not have gone on to my chosen career without having had the life-changing year in Bologna. In the decade since I did the program I have thought many times about the program, the city, the people, etc. I have returned on numerous occasions and have sent some dozen students to study in Bologna through BCSP. Just the other day I introduced some of my fourth-semester Italian language students to the Bolognese dialect, and we read a poem in dialect about "Cappucen rass" (Cappuccetto Rosso)!"*

**Molly Taylor-Poleskey, 2003-2004:**

*"The year in Bologna gave me context to better understand the immigrant experience in America. It helped me focus my academic interests. It made me more resilient and flexible to change and different ways of doing things."*

**Amira Moreno, 2004 (Spring):**

*"It gave me more confidence to know I could solve problems in the real world. It allowed me to see how other people live and what values they adhere to. This was very enriching in my own life."*

**Lindsey Barnhart, 2004-2005:**

*"My time in Bologna exposed me to an incredible city and culture (and cuisine!) that I've carried with me ever since. It also has given me the self-confidence to embrace new opportunities in both my professional and personal life."*

**Ashley Spinelli, 2006-2007:**

*"BCSP had a profound impact - I met my husband on the program, and some of my closest friends. The program also changed the direction of my career, I decided to pursue a career in international education so that I could continue providing a similar experience to others. I now bump into Prof. Ricci at conferences and events. Although this story got many things wrong as the author took some creative license (it was a year in Italy, not a summer!) it is a nice little story about our relationship and how we met in BCSP pre-session language class: [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/fashion/weddings/a-shared-summer-in-italy-yes-to-study.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/fashion/weddings/a-shared-summer-in-italy-yes-to-study.html?_r=0)"*

**Rosalie DeFino, 2007-2008:**

*"It helped me gain confidence and independence about living independently in a new place. Italian language, history, and culture will forever be great interests for me."*

**Valerie Kornfield, 2008-2009:**

*"It expanded my understanding of different educational systems, improved my Italian language skills, allowed me to create relationships with Italians and with other international students, and allowed me to live surrounded by the rich culture and beauty of Italy."*

**Anna Rockwell, 2008-2009:**

*"I was not sure what I wanted to do in the future until I came to Bologna. After the program, I knew that I wanted to teach other college students Italian so that they could study abroad and have such a special experience."*

**Flor Macias Delgado, 2009 (Spring):**

*"It taught me to live on my own, in a different country. It made me independent, and thirsty for new adventures, and international experiences."*

**David Pestell, 2009 (Spring):**

*"I still refer to it regularly. I loved the time I spent there, I feel like I gained a lot of life experience, and have been dying to return (which I have, once!)"*

**Nic Perfetti, 2010 (Spring):**

*"I couldn't have asked for a better study abroad experience. I love Bologna and still have great friends from the program. It was an intense and rewarding academic experience."*

**Ariella Phillips, 2011 (Spring):**

*"Instilled a love (and capacity) for Italian that has influenced my academic career. I am still friends, close friends, with my Italian roommates from Bologna and return to Puglia every Easter to celebrate with them."*

**Morgan A. Pino, 2011 (Spring):**

*"Incredibly challenging and rewarding experience; helped my Italian language skills; learned to be independent; have a greater appreciation for arts and culture."*

**Anne Gabrielle Boucher, 2012 (Spring):**

*"It's made me confident in my ability to adapt to different cultures and in communicating in Italian. It's also made me feel like I understand Italian culture quite well."*

**Lauren DeMaria, 2012 (Spring):**

*"Bologna has a special places in my heart. Since the BCSP program, I have gone back to Bologna 3 times, twice for an extended amount of time. The summer of 2013 I was an au pair for a Bolognese family for two months, and in the summer of 2014 I did orthopedic research at the Istituto Rizzoli and was an au pair for three families in Bologna and Rimini. Bologna has become a second home to me, and I my goal is to continue making it a part of my life for as long as possible."*

**Cristian Garcia, 2012-2013:**

*"It reinforced my love for all things Italian, especially the life style, relaxed pace, and the opportunity I had there to realize who I was and what my values were, really captivated me."*

**Br. Josemaría Guzmán-Domínguez O.P., 2012-2013:**

*"Where to begin? Well, the BCSP made possible my plunge into Italy, into her language, her literature, her very life. Thanks to the agreement with UniBO I was able to engage with some of the best scholars of*

*Italian literature, especially Dante. I was also blessed to make some wonderful Italian friends with whom I have remained in contact. Bologna truly became my home and remains so. The biggest impact on my life, however, was to be in the city where Saint Dominic, the founder of my religious Order, lived and died. I was blessed to be able to discern my vocation in prayer at his tomb, and to get to know the history of the 800 year old Order right there where it all happened. I truly believe God placed me in Bologna to deepen my love for him and to call me to this new life I am living. For that, I am truly grateful to the BCSP and all who made my year in Bologna possible."*

**Julia Kelsoe, 2012-2013:**

*"More than anything, the Bologna Program tested my limits of comfort--in a good way! From having to find an apartment within two weeks of arriving in Bologna to taking oral exams for a class in which I was the only foreign student, the program constantly challenged me to immerse myself in an Italian lifestyle. From language barriers to cultural differences, the assimilation process was undoubtedly difficult at times, but I feel all the more proud that I was able to surmount these challenges and thoroughly enjoy my experience abroad."*

**Noelle Turtur, 2012-2013:**

*"Bologna was amazing. Bologna made me more confident, more open to uncertainty, more patient, more fun. And obviously, it contributed greatly to my education and my career goals in academia."*

**Kelly Stretz, 2013 (Spring):**

*"If I had never done the program, I never would have met my husband and moved to Italy, so obviously it had a significant impact. In addition, I found that the program gave me confidence that I have been able to apply in every part of my life."*

**Roniquee Marksman, 2013 (Fall):**

*"It helped me become aware of the roles that culture and social norms play in our lives. Afterward the program, I was more curious about and wanted to understand better people with vastly differing perspectives"*

**Gabriel Ray, 2013 (Fall):**

*"Living in Bologna greatly contributed to my understanding of Italian culture, and since studying abroad, I've become much more involved with the Italian community in New York. Additionally, having the opportunity to teach ESL through BCSP served as a foundation for my work as an educator in the U.S."*

**Sarah Martin, 2013-2014:**

*"It changed my entire perspective of myself. Being abroad gave me the opportunity to dream of things I didn't know existed and cultivate abilities I didn't know that I had."*

**Carla Perez, 2013-2014:**

*"It changed the way I felt about myself as an independent person and it definitely prepared me to live anywhere in the world."*

**Emily Irsfeld, 2014 (Fall):**

*"I absolutely loved the Bologna Program and wish I could do it every year. It helped my improve my Italian a lot and strengthened my resolve to return to Europe by any means possible."*

**Delaney Churchwell, 2014-2015:**

*"I finally got comfortable speaking Italian; really learned to be resourceful and to navigate unfamiliar environments; was able to better develop my thoughts about Italy based on my experiences and not just what I'd heard/read."*

**Giovanna Dacanay, 2015 (Spring):**

*"It made me a lot more independent and connected me to my Italian heritage on a greater level than before."*

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