



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Viva Italia! **Name:** Aimee Edwards
Other Team Members: Susan Pendergraft
Program: Oklahoma Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Italy
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: Imagine walking into the world of your lessons, experiencing firsthand the history and the language that are the core of what you teach. That's just what we did this summer as we explored Italy! Our journey not only changed the way we teach, but taught us the meaning of simple living. Our adventure began in Venice where we met Alberto Sarria, a master artist, who picked up a masque he had just finished painting, and told us a story about why it was called "pantalone". His expertise and knowledge is something we could have only experienced there. Next we went to Cinque Terre, "five Lands" where we observed the Italian culture virtually removed from tourism. Our next stop was Florence. There we found ourselves immersed in the art of the Renaissance as we visited the Uffizzi and the Accademia. Standing two feet away from the statue of David was a moment neither of us will ever forget! Our journey ended in Rome, and between the wonders of the ancient city, the Vatican Museum, and the authentic Italian opera we attended, it's impossible to choose a favorite!

Now, as we are back in the swing of a new school year, we are inspired by the art and music within our curricula, having embarked on a journey of a lifetime. Two weeks of non-stop hands-on learning about what we have taught for years –yet had never seen, gave us the knowledge and real world experience of the architecture, music, and the amazing art that is Italy. It has created a new excitement for us as well as our students and it was brought about by our personal voyage as the "Mama Mias".

Career Impact: *Gained a new appreciation for the differences of many cultures, not only Italian, as we interacted with people from cultures all over the world, especially in the bustling city of Rome.
*Exposed us to a different perspective on the world and forced us to reevaluate our own. The conservativeness of the Italians made us question our own consumerism and its effect on our planet.
*Motivated, refreshed, and rejuvenated us as teachers. Armed with stories, pictures, and new ideas, we couldn't wait for school to start, so we could share them with our students.

Classroom/Community Impact:*Students benefit from primary documents that relate directly to our curriculum including authentic venetian masks, hand-blown glass, newspapers, art prints, books, maps, photographs, videos, and cds.
*Our school community benefits from our newfound sensitivity for the challenges of our ELL students. Increased cultural awareness and respect for differences allow us to engage students from all backgrounds.
*Increased collaboration with peers and stronger cross curricular ties throughout our curricula. Italy is the tie that binds a wide range of subjects and skills into a cohesive teaching unit.
*Increased parent and community involvement.

Open Response: *With FFT Fellows in our district we set up an information booth at an Educator's Extravaganza to spur interest in FFT
*Designed classroom décor & lessons around our experience-bringing the culture to life
*Classroom activities: songs, art techniques, and "virtual visits" through our blogs, pictures, and stories, and exploring language in conversation
*Spring Cultural Fair including science & math through creations of da Vinci and architecture of Cinque Terre, language & expression through singing games, Math & Social Studies through creating and tasting food from the region.
*In-service about our experience with pictures and stories.

Quote: "We experienced timeless art in a beautiful country, surrounded by generous hospitality." Susan Pendergraft

Photos:



Learning the meanings of Venetian masks from the artist himself



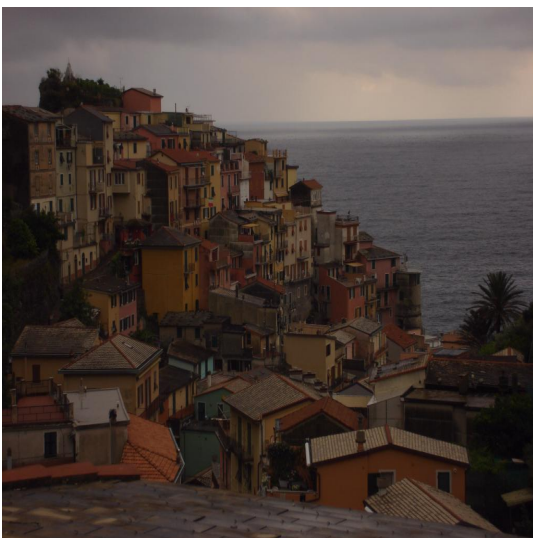
Exploring the Boboli Gardens overlooking Florence.



Teachers at the Trevi Fountain in Rome.



Taking in the architecture of Venice.



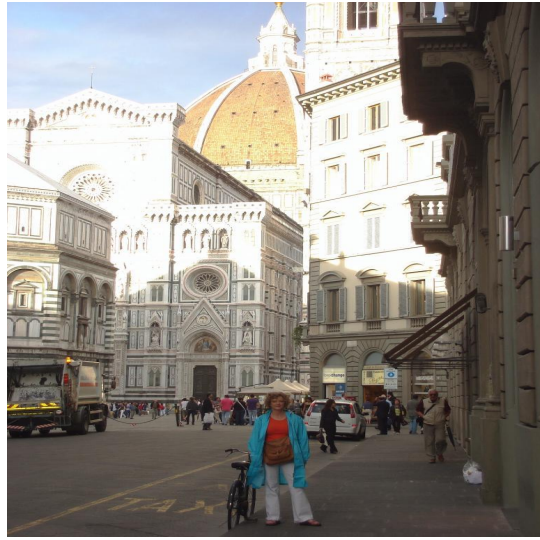
Viewing Riomaggiore-1 of the 5 villages of Cinque Terre from a hiking trail.



Standing in the wonder of the Colosseum in Rome.



Leaning Tower in Pisa. (It's a cliché, but you just gotta' do it!)



The Duomo in Florence was so majestic!