



Saint Viator Faculty Expand Their Horizons in Italy

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Mirella Rullo (far left), Saint Viator High School Italian teacher, stops at a street vendor's shop in Florence with Adam Clementi, 1997 Saint Viator graduate, and current IT specialist and webmaster, and his wife, Andrea, a 2002 Saint Viator graduate.

Rullo is enrolled in a three-credit college course that covers meaningful tendencies in methodology, linguistics and Italian culture. She is among nearly 80 teachers, representing countries all over the world, and one of only two from Chicago.

"It's an intensive course that aims at teaching the most interesting and meaningful of teaching methods," Rullo says. "We also need to observe Italian classes at different levels and work in one of the university's language labs."

Saint Viator Principal Eileen Manno says Rullo's study abroad is an example of her faculty members going the extra mile to continue their education.

"Her course of study this summer will allow her to bring challenging new learning experiences to her students," Manno said, "that go far beyond the usual high school experience."

During Rullo's stay in Italy, she drew a visit from Saint Viator High School's IT specialist and webmaster, Adam Clementi. The Palatine resident and 1997 Saint Viator graduate splits his time between working for the high school and the Clerics of Saint Viator, based in Arlington Heights.

He too is studying in Italy this summer, with his wife, Andrea, a 2002 Saint Viator graduate. Together, they are taking intensive language classes, while Adam Clementi works with the Viatorian community in Rome to update their Web site.

"One of the goals of the Superior General of the Viatorians has been to increase the global presence of the community," Clementi says, "especially through learning foreign languages."

The Rev. Mark Francis, C.S.V, is a native of Wheeling, who graduated from Saint Viator High School in 1971. He was elected to serve as superior general of the worldwide congregation in 2000, that includes more than 550 vowed brothers and priests and over 270 lay associates who live and minister in 16 countries worldwide.

Mirella Rullo, a native of Italy's Tuscany region, helped launch Saint Viator's Italian program 10 years ago in its Modern World Languages Department, but she hasn't stopped there.

This summer, she returned to her native country to attend a course at Università per Stranieri, designed for Italian teachers to enhance their teaching methods of the language and its broader culture to foreign speakers.

Located in the mountains of central Italy, in its Umbria region near the village of Assisi, the Università per Stranieri has become a major player in the development of the European Union and its emphasis on language education.

As the only Italian member of the Association of Language Testers in Europe, university officials continually work to develop common European standards of language proficiency and testing among its EU countries.