

**CIEE Classical Studies Program in Naples, Italy**

September 24, 2012

Newsletter 1, Fall 2012

**Ciao da Napoli!** – Warm greetings from the Resident Director of the CIEE Study Center at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”!

Our students arrived on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and immediately moved into the apartments they share with an Italian roommate (and Orientale student) for the whole duration of the semester. After the initial week of Orientation, and two full weeks of intensive language instruction, this week they are starting their semester classes.

So far, we have been struck by how sweet they are! And we will do our best, throughout the semester, to offer our support – so that they can become more and more independent and experience their stay to the fullest.



*(students during Orientation)*

**Orientation: Off to A Good Start!** – Besides offering Important information on health, safety, logistics, academics, providing an overview of the semester etc., Orientation is also a good moment to start exploring the city. This Fall, we took the students to Cappella Sansevero, in the heart of the historic center. This chapel was commissioned by Raimondo di Sangro, Prince of Sansevero, one of the most fascinating and controversial figures in Neapolitan history: writer, freemason, scientist, and alchemist. The chapel is a tribute to the most mysterious strands of Baroque art – full of statues frozen in mid-movement, glazed marbles, and enigmatic symbols. At the end of the Orientation days, we treated the students to a night of great music. Son of a Neapolitan woman and an African American soldier stationed here

at the end of WWII, active since the 1960s, James Senese conjugates the Neapolitan musical tradition with blues and jazz. A cross-cultural concert indeed!

*(Cappella Sansevero)*



**Hey Buddy...!** – During Orientation, students also met their language and culture peers, whom we like to call their “buddies”. Each student is paired with a “buddy” for the whole semester. CIEE students and their “buddies” undertake a number of cultural activities together, including visits to museums, excavations, and sites of interest, theater, cinema, sport matches, and more.

*(Mirko, Orientale student and one of the buddies)*



Both the roommates and the “buddies” have welcomed the American students wholeheartedly and they are as curious to learn more about the U.S. as CIEE students are curious about Naples, Italy, and Europe.

For the second semester in a row, CIEE staff happily remarks the success and importance of favoring exchange among American and local students, creating a community that is the very opposite of an “American bubble”.

Orientele roommates and “buddies” also introduce CIEE students to more local students, thus favoring cultural immersion and exchange.

#### **Language Instructions with Cool Instructors...**

Immediately after Orientation, all students undergo two weeks of intensive Italian language instruction. They sit in classes four and a half hours a day, completing assignments for the following day, and committing themselves to speak Italian with their roommates from the very beginning. This is a demanding and rewarding effort. Beginners learn the basis of communication and start to articulate very simple ideas.

Students continue their language instruction as a semester course and have committed themselves to speaking Italian more and more as their level in the language progresses.

When you learn a new language, you also start seeing things differently, and start experiencing the culture...

**Kayaking in the Bay!** – On the weekend immediately after intensive language Orientation, this great trip combined lots of cool stuff! Under the lead of an expert instructor/guide, we have explored the coast along the promontory of Posillipo, entered sea caves, gone by and above ancient Roman ruins ... and made a stop for a good swim, of course!

*(Dylan, UW Madison)*



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**What's New in Town: New Toledo Subway Station** – September in Naples has been rich in events! Among else, a few days ago, the newest station on the metro line has been opened, displaying both archaeological remains and contemporary art installations.

**Coming Soon: Napucalisse** – We're very excited at the prospect of this theater night. We're going to the wonderful San Carlo Theatre to watch and listen to Mimmo Borrelli's music epic *Napucalisse*, in which Pulcinella and Mount Vesuvius discuss an impending sense of apocalypse and satirize all forms of power.

**Semester Content Courses – to Begin This Week!** Regular semester courses begin this week. This semester, students are taking classes in Archaeology, Art and Architecture in Naples, Latin, and Anthropology. During Orientation, students are encouraged to welcome the chance to take classes that offer them a new and different content or approach to their subjects of interest. This is paired with continuous support, thus helping them making the best of two teaching/learning styles – American and Italian.



*(Naples seafront seen from Castel Sant'Elmo – photo taken by Giulia, roommate to CIEE students)*

I'll take my leave from you for now. *A presto!*  
If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact me! For more updates and details, please check our blog at <http://study-naples-cs.ciee.org/>. Now you can also find us on Facebook – with a brand new, and richer page! – as “Ciee Naples”.

I shall also use this opportunity to remind you that the deadline for Spring 2013 applications is November 1. We hope to be given a chance to welcome your students in the near future!

Best,  
Serena