

Sitting here on chairs + couches
that remember my firm and
hold the same view as I
yew ago, I don't want
to forget the privilege
+ luck that landed me
here the first time + helped
me to return again.
This week has been a
needed reminder of the
cadenza we all carry
in our own hearts. I
feel ready to return
and share mine with
children + teens who
have lost track of
theirs. grazie mille
Ancora.

Jane Delistobris
(93)
Portland, OR

April 29, 2004

Yesterday was our 25th
wedding anniversary. We
met here in the fall of 1976
Studying under Ralph Wood,
Dept. of Religion. This
changed our lives forever.
Thank you Dr. Wood, Mrs.
Arton and WFA.

Ann MacNaughton Rawls (77)
Drewster Stone Rawls (78)

Allora
un bacio
a Venezia

Venezia

spring
2004

"Twenty years from now
you will be more disappointed
by the things you didn't do
than by the ones you did do.
So throw off the bowlines.
Sail away from the safe harbor.
Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover."
" Mark Twain "



front row:- Kim Jenkins, Mike Colvard, Mandy Hubich, Meredith Ransom, Catherine Keen, Ann Tucker
Nancy Rinehart, Sarah McCoy, Kathryn Tucker, Lee Howell, Chris Reed
back row:- Mary Catherine Synder, Sara Sherman, Erin King, Julia Friedenbergl, Anne Kernodle,
Dan Holcomb, Lucy Shaw, Will Woodburn, Jay D'Errico



Amsterdam

Each friend represents a world
in us, a world possibly not born
until they arrive, and it is only
by this meeting that a new
world is born." ~Anais Nin



Vienna



Mt. Vesuvius



Pompeii



Switzerland

May 3, 2004 3:52 am

I was first swept away by the magic of Venice in 2000, when I made my first trip to Europe. I went to Wake knowing I had to study here for a semester, and now, four years later, here I am, leaving in five hours and desperately not wanting to go. I have made so many memories here. Some of my favorite times in this house were our house dinners, which are great group bonding activities. We had such a great time - I will miss all of my housemates so much! I would recommend everything I did, but for the top few: travel, eat gelato, eat pizza, go to Bar Da Ginos (you can never go enough!), go to San Marco at night, and hang out on the Zattere. Hit all the highlights of Europe, but be sure to go somewhere off the beaten path. We went to the island of Salina, part of the Aeolian Islands in Southern Italy, and though there wasn't a nightlife, or even a grocery store, I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. Don't forget to explore Venice. It still amazes me that I can go running after four months here and get lost, or find a ~~new~~ part of the city I never even knew about. Even if you aren't athletic, take a walk, turn down a calle you have never been down, get lost, and ~~then~~ then discover the true Venice. But most importantly, make this experience your own. Never in your life will you be able to do something like this, living on the Grand Canal for a semester with such great people, who will become the greatest of friends. Take full advantage of it. Allow yourself to get swept away in the magic, ~~and~~ enjoy every moment of it, and start planning your next trip back. I will miss everything so much and thank you to all my housemates for making this the best semester of my life!

So I did not realize
just how much I would
NOT want to write here. Maybe
because it is 6 A.M. & I leave for the
airport in an hour and a half, both sad &
happy. This has been an incredible experience, but
also not an easy time in my life. All I want to know
going back is that I have no regrets, because there isn't
this place, but if you read this, you already know. Life here
is slower, sometimes inconvenient for our own individual plans but
also intriguingly peaceful & calm. As for practical advice: Ice cream: fragola at Da Nico &
Strabon (sp?) at 12 Dope-which I just discovered this weekend, pizza: pizza (alida! the best
cappuccino ANYWHERE! & what to do there. Granda cheese, clementines, crochette at restaurants (trust me),
fish (milk or sword), Blarney, Connemara, wherever → visit someone you know who is abroad
ones, Ireland → Blarney, Connemara, wherever → visit someone you know who is abroad
a. see their experience + get a taste of old friendship, Vienna → just go my first real
snowflakes. Incredibly enough, never knew they had these actual shapes before, PARIS!
my alltime favorite place in Europa aside from home (Venice), do sit in cafes
do what you will, Aeolian Islands → drive or ride vespas, don't expect the beach
right outside your door, do expect an incredible moon. As for all
things sentimental: to the Vittis, who are so cool you like to
be around to my housemates: whether we have shared an
other or not. We have shared an
adventure & I will always have
memories of you (Remember
all good trash all

Nancy Rinehart
Belmont, NC

Top Ten Reasons Your Experience in Venice is Unlike Any Other in the World:

- ⑩ Because where else can you get a 4 Euro bottle of Frizzante or a 1.50 Euro Spritz and watch the sunset on the Zattere?
- ⑨ Because you can eat gelato every day without feeling guilty (and try a new place/flavor each time!)
- ⑧ Because while your friends back at Wake say that they are partying in Myrtle Beach for the weekend you can say that you're partying in BARCELONA for the weekend!
- ⑦ Because where else can you attend class four days a week and write a few papers and call it "studying" abroad?
- ⑥ Because when else will your biggest dilemma be the fact that one day, hop on a train, and actually go?
- ⑤ Because when else will your dilemma be the fact that someone stole the rest of your Ringo cookies and left the empty package in the pantry?
- ④ Because where else can you look out of your bedroom window onto the Grand Canal while a pair of gondolas drift by?
- ③ Because where else will a trip to the grocery store turn into a cultural experience complete with old ladies constantly cutting in line and dogs getting a little too intimate in the corner?
- ② Because where else will you get to incorporate words such as "Basta!" and "Perché No?" into your everyday vocabulary?
- ① Because, no matter what, a trip to Bar da Gino makes any day a thousand times better!

* Enjoy your semester in Venice, get to know and love your housemates, make the most of all possible opportunities, and most importantly, have fun! *

Ciao ~
Meredith Ransom (2:15 AM May 4th)
Apex, NC

May 2004

Have fun, travel, take lots of pictures, and eat gelato. This is the longest vacation I will ever have, and I had a great time. Learn about Venice, but make sure to visit other places. Have fun!

Kim Jenkins
Wake Forest, NC

Get Out & See it for Yourself!

Lucy Shaw
Vancouver,
Canada.

May 4, 2004
2:45 am

I feel like I've written a billion drafts of this, but now that I'm staring at the blank page, I don't know what to say. How do you sum up the best 4 months of your life on one page? My mind ~~still~~ can't comprehend the fact that in 5 hours I'll be leaving. Venice was home from the time I first set foot on the Casa Arton dock. It's such a special city, & I've been lucky to get to enjoy it with some of the most wonderful people - thanks for making this semester so great!! I ~~truly~~ have had the best 4 months of my life, living here on the Grand Canal, with a whole world at my doorstep. I've gone through the whole range of emotions in the past hours, days, & weeks as I've prepared to leave, not that I could be prepared! Today, however, I've realized that while this may be goodbye for now, a part of me will always live here in Venice, & Venice will always be a part of me - I live here, & nothing, even geography, can change that! Venice is a truly magical city - each day & each turn of a calle or canal brings new adventures. But it was the countless fritatturas at Barda Gino, trips to Billa, gelato monkeys, horse dinners, crossing Accademia and looking at Casa Arton, hearing the church bells & gondoliers as I sat at my desk, knowing my way around the city, knowing the people here, and even hauling my stuff back home from the train station after a weekend of traveling that made the magical city of Venice real, and it was the people - my "family" of travelling companions, the best housemates ever (to Barda Gino!), the Jitts, the wonderful people at Barda Gino, all the Italians we met - that made it home. I offer one piece of advice - make Venice & this experience your aim. Soak it up & don't worry if you don't see everything as long as you truly enjoy what you do see. "In Venice, one never loses the sense that life is being staged for the onlookers." Enjoy the onlookers' jealous glances but don't let them dictate what your experience should be. Relax & enjoy it. You're here & that's powerful! Enjoy these next four months - they go by so fast! Life is somehow more in Venice.

Ann Tucker

4 May 2004 ~ 4:38 am

Wow - I only have three & a half more hours left in this amazing city, the thought of leaving is just now starting to sink in. I'll never forget how I felt before I came here... things in my life were finally falling into place and here I was running away to a foreign country, and leaving everyone I knew & everything I held dear to my heart behind. But looking back, I don't think I have ever made a better decision in my entire life. Learning to live here truly opened my eyes to another world, both around me & within me. I see things in myself I've never seen before, I have courage and strength beyond what I could have ever comprehended, and I have an eternal dream - the dream I call "life in Venice." For living here truly is a magical, inspiring dream that I will never forget.

To my Julian I've never had a better roommate & friend than I found in you; you are truly a blessing in my life I didn't expect and I could never thank you enough for everything I love you! To Sara & MC ~ you girls ready to build our houses in Cinque Terre? We've shared the best & worst moments, and through it all you two have quickly become best friends & partners in crime to me - words simply cannot describe how much you mean to me! To Miss Mandy ~ our adventures have been unforgettable and so has your friendship; we'll never find a "cheeseburger in paradise" like ours again! To Anne ~ my music buddy! Everytime I hear a cello concerto or the Firebird I'll think of you & the amazing orchestras we heard! You're such a sweetheart - never ever change! To Erin ~ "mia bella" you've given me so much faith in myself, don't lose that in yourself, ever! To all the other girls in the house this is getting too difficult, thank you all for your smiles, hugs, and unforgettable memories. To my boys ~ you all are the greatest ever! Will, thanks for the many pictures; Dan, thanks for always understanding me; Jay, thanks just for being you - you totally rock; aww guys - this is hard. You've all become my dearest friends ~ how can I say goodbye?!

*For all my friends entering this utopia after me → live everyday to the fullest & you will be greatly rewarded! Discover your own Venice and it will last forever in your heart.

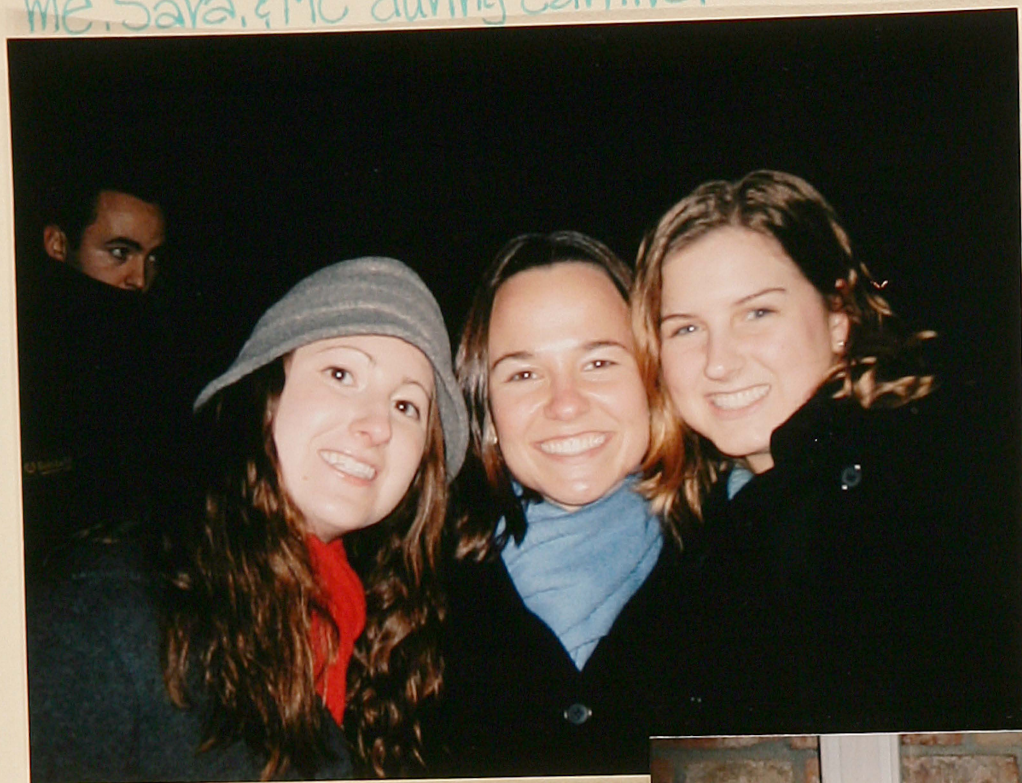
*To my Erik → I am thrilled you will be here this summer; I can't wait to share this experience with you! Just remember...

"leave only footprints, take only memories"

To my Viki ~ THANK YOU for changing my life. Your spirit is forever a part of me. Always, Cat Kuen

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me, Sara, & MC during Carnival



me & MC in the Aeolian Islands



fish face!



Cat's memories...

to the class of Spring '04 -
to Cat -



many thanks for your warm
and generous hospitality during
our recent visit to Venice. It's
truly an amazing city built
with such care for beauty. It was
great meeting you all and getting
to see the beautiful Casa Autom.

Our best to each of you,
Barbara + Harold Keen

thank you from my parents!



"i live for the
nights i won't
remember, with
the friends i'll
never
forget!"



me & my AWESOME roommate Julia

Sarah, Erin, Anne & me in Paris

May 4, 2004 5:40am

“Well tomorrow holds only mystery and who's to say what might be.” ~Vertical Horizon
This semester has been one of the most rewarding mysteries I have had in my life. Deciding to come to Venice was an agonizing decision for me - one which I struggled with for some time, yet it produced by far, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Words simply cannot describe what Venice means as it is different for each person but for me, it was the everyday occurrences - trying new gelato flavors, laughing at the tourists, grabbing a slice of pizza, to simply the ambiance of the city. The trips were amazing and produced incredible memories, but it is the entire experience that matters: from my wonderful housemates, some crazy adventures, discovering that I am more capable and stronger than I thought, to simply thinking that everyone around is jealous of our house / palace on the Grand Canal (by far the best housing you will ever get from Wake Forest!). Venice itself continues to amaze me - we were given a perfect reminder of this when we waded through our first acqua alta of the semester in San Marco tonight - the very last night of this 4 month adventure. Cherish the uniqueness of Venice and do not take it for granted. The time will fly. Make this your own as you will learn as much about yourself as you do about another culture. Thank you to my housemates who each have their own special personality have made this experience so much more meaningful and special!!

“Well I'll smile and remember it all, then I'll turn and go.” ~Sister Hazel
But remember that it's not goodbye. It's until we meet again.

Ciao ~ Mandy Hubich
Winston-Salem, NC

When I leave Caserta for the first time in 2 hours. Life here for four months will seem strange. New again will get to be in such a beautiful city, incredible country, and on the Grand Canal. The last 4 months are some of the best memories of my life. Utilizing us to pizza & take the first day and it taking us 2 hours to get back home, riding bikes in Amsterdam, Guinness in Dublin, Jive in Torino, later in Milan. So many things. Running to the train station at 7:00 AM & catch a 7:20 train to Bar Da Gino, Chicken on the Zattera. Acqua Alta in San Marco. Venice is an incredible place filled with incredible people and incredible sites. There's nothing like getting lost for hours in this town. Every street / corner has some beautiful to offer. Don't be content with just being in Venice, go out, be Venetian. Be a Venetian, Drink Spritzes in Santa Margherita like when. Watch Every Soccer game you have the chance to. Don't wait til the last day to do things. Go to the Guggenheim. Go to Brera & Morano for screaming in the middle of the night. In Conclusion, Don't forget anything to do here in Venice. It's the best time of your life. Even the Bad times here are better than good times at Wake. Forza Venezia!

Ci vediamo presto

LE
Howell

May 4th, 2004 3:25PM

Ever since I can remember my parents have always told me of the magic of Venice. They actually met in this very house 30 years ago doing the same thing I am doing now; going to the same places, seeing the same sites, having the times of their lives. It's weird, Venice has always seemed so mythological to me because of all of their stories. Now I have had the chance to figure out the magic of Venice on my own, and I will never be the same again. That sounds cheesy, I know, but this semester has changed me in so many ways, some that I don't think I'll even realize until I get back ~~into~~ reality in the States. Although I would love to keep this myth of Venice alive, I have to say that it is the people more so than the place that has made my experience here so amazing and life-altering: the people in this house, the visitors, the Italians, the help. Everyone has touched my life in a very special way, so much so that I can't believe 4 months have already passed and I have to leave them. The places we've been together, the meals we've cooked, the gelato we've eaten, the smiles, laughs and tears we've shared I will always carry with me because they have become a part of the best 4 months of my life and therefore, a part of me. I'm not ready to leave yet, not in the least, but I know I am prepared. I have grown so much here and I know I can face anything now, thanks to this wonderful experience. I only hope that my kids and their kids and their kids have such an opportunity because I wouldn't trade it in for anything in the world. Alright, this is long and sorry enough... ENJOY this wonderful city and experience! Make the most of every opportunity and cherish it for the rest of your life.

always

Sara

Sherman

Edinburgh, NC

If I were to sum up this semester, which has obviously been and will most likely be the best 4 months of my life, I would use one word: Gonzo. A term created by Hunter S. Thompson, it is the result of accident and desperation. I would advise everyone to live their life in Venice in true gonzo-fashion. Go to Torino to see Juve play without having tickets or any idea how to get to the stadium. Try cooking dishes that you've only seen in restaurants without a recipe. Invite Faye from Senegal to play knock-out in the courtyard. Steak the St. Charles bridge in Prague and "proot" the Chinese tourists at the table next to ^{you} in Munich's Hofbrauhaus. Eat like kings at restaurants where you cannot understand the native tongue but put your faith solely in the hands of the waiter. Swim in the Grand Canal on your final night in Venice. Go all out and be creative because your time in Venice goes by all too fast. Thanks to everyone for making this semester so special.

Will Goodburn

May 4, 2004

May 4, 2004 6:10pm

I never thought this day would come... but suddenly I'm faced with the reality that I must leave what I've called my home for the last 4 months. Words can't begin to describe what I feel for this city, but like everyone else that falls in love with Venice, I can only say, cherish each day... do something new, discover a part of the city you haven't yet seen. Go out and meet people... you won't remember years from now what you learned in your classes here as much as you will the people you've met and the time you've spent out in the city. Don't be too friendly with Italian men, girls... they will think you want to date them. Drink a Spritz everyday... try as many kinds of gelato as you can. Watch the sunset on the Zattere. Most importantly, get out of the house. I hope to come back here someday... this has truly been an experience that I will never forget, nor will anything in life ever come close to it. It's all what you make of it. I hope you find Venice to be as dear to your heart as I do. These will be some of the best days of your life.

-Sarah McCoy
Chagrin Falls OH Class of 2006

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY, SINCE THE OLD IDIOM HAS NOW BEEN REVERSED; A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS. THE THINGS I COULD WRITE FAIL IN COMPLETING THE FULL PICTURE OF MY TIME HERE. IN LOVE GOD HAS BROUGHT ME, AND TAUGHT ME HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE JUNGLE ^{CALLLED} ~~OF~~ EUROPE. WITHOUT A STEADY GUIDE SURLEY I WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TRAVERSE THIS JOURNEY, AND WITH GRACE. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BITTERSWEET EMOTIONS WHEN I THINK OF VENICE, AND I HOPE YOU WILL TAKE IT TO.

MICHAEL COLUARD
JUNIOR Spring 2004



top: me, Marycatherine, Sara & a Firenze
middle: me, Sara, Cat, MC @ sunrise
bottom: Anne, Erin, me, Sarah M.

• Live every moment to the fullest, take advantage of everything, and genuinely savor every day. Your semester will be over faster than you could imagine.

Thank you so much to everyone! I know I'm a sap, but it's OK. You've helped me grow as a person & I'll take our memories with me forever.

- Julia Friedenberg
W-S, NC '05

(4 May 2004)
It's sunrise & I'm sitting on the little balcony off of the living room, smoking my morning cigarette (or, rather, a late night cigarette since I haven't slept yet), smelling the wisteria and looking out on the canal. This is my favorite spot in all of Venice. I'm trying to think of what I could possibly write that could even almost do justice to this semester. Let me just say, 100% honestly, that this experience has been the most profoundly amazing one of my life. I came here knowing no one and I'm leaving with the best of friends.

I want to write something that will be somewhat relevant to future Casa Artomites. So, here's a list of what I've learned/my advice to you.

- When hooted, ^{at}yelled at, or even snorted at by Italian men, ignore them. Trust me...
- Ca'Doro has the cheapest gelato, but the gelateria on the San Tronaso Canal is the best. Likewise, Pizza al Volo is good, cheap & open late but is NO substitute for Pizza Caba.
- Don't gossip - I know it's easy to slip up but it only ends up hurting people. And the walls are very thin.
- Always make eye contact when you cheers or 'cin cin' or you'll have bad sex for seven years ;)
- Go to the Aeolian Islands & rent a vespa - but don't crash it!
- Happy Hour @ the Internet cafe - if you don't love spritz's immediately you'll learn to when they're only 70¢ each!
- Find a few places/things to do in Venice and make them part of your routine. It'll make them & your semester all the more special.
- Travel, travel, travel! But do NOT neglect Venice. After every where I went, Venice is the most beautiful. Stay in Venice your last month or so...
- If you jump into the grand canal from our dock, make sure there's someone strong to pull you back up. NOT that I would know ;)
- Take the time to really seek out individual relationships with your housemates and also to do whole-house things. The best nights were when we all partied together. Don't resign yourself to any one clique.
- Climb to the top of the campanile of San Giorgio - the view is spectacular.
- Put on galoshes, splash in puddles late at night & take lots of pictures. (+ Pray for l'acqua alta => so fun!)
- Love your housemates, party with them, eat with them, laugh with them, cry with them & travel with them. But remember, this semester is ultimately about you; take the time to really take everything in.

To whom this may concern-

If you're reading this, you're wasting
your time. Go out, get a drink, + experience
Venice for yourself.

That is all,

Dan Holcomb AKA Danimal, Tain, The Man, LeLe, Better than You
Eden Prairie, MN Spring Semester '04

Of the last 3 in Venice, I am the first to leave.

I have been thinking about what to write for the past
month now - there it is Thank you. Those that made
this semester what it was, Thank you. The city that
now holds a place in my heart above all others, Thank
you. For a thousand memories without a single regret, Thank
you. You won't know till you leave. Don't let this
place pass you by. Grab hold. Live this dream.
Realize that the dream is a reality, but only for a
little while. Stop reading, grab a drink and drink
to the fact that everyone who was here before you
is jealous that they are not in your shoes now.

Chris Reed Spring Semester '04
Annapolis MD

June 1st, 2004 10:30 pm

I just can't believe it's over. I'm not ready to go and I don't think I ever would be.
Venice has become my home and it is an amazing place. I really don't know even
know where to begin. I've had the longest time to think about what to say, yet there
is no way for me to express how much this experience has meant to me. I'm leaving
here a changed person (for the better that is!) with some of the best memories and best
friends of my life. I couldn't have picked a better group to spend this past semester with.
I love you guys more than you will know and thank you for being who you are!!
Most of the advice that I could leave has already been said so I won't be repetitive,
but all I really want to emphasize is to get out and travel as much as possible. I
saw and learned so much and really realized how fantastic Venice is. Right now, Dan
and I are the last two of our group left in Venice. I've spent the last month
travelling all around Europe and it was incredible. There is so much more still left
that I want to see and do, but sharing memories with Dan over a spritz in Santa
Margherita I came to realize all that I had seen and done. I've learned so much
about life and about myself. The point I'm trying to make in this rambling is just
get out there in every way possible at every opportunity and explore this fabulous life you're
living. Don't take it for granted. Go out and experience Venice for what it really is and
travel every time you get a chance. It'll be over before you think.

Mary Catherine Snyder Columbus, GA

Spring 2004
slideshow