



COLLEGIO NUOVO
GOES INTERNATIONAL

FONDAZIONE SANDRA E ENEA MATTEI
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In collaboration with



With the contribution of



Collegio Nuovo goes international
Edited by Paola Bernardi and Saskia Avalle

INTRODUCTION

Thirty years after it was set up and in recognition of its hosting such an important event as the third meeting of the *Women's Education Worldwide* network in June 2008, which brings together many of the most prestigious women's colleges in the world, Collegio Nuovo is delighted to publish this volume. Its aim is to tell how it came onto the world stage and at the same time to provide a basic account of its history and the life of the college within the context of the University which is also such a feature of Pavia as a town. This publication is also envisaged as a new "business card" for the Collegio as it relates to its international partners, both current and those which we hope will become partners in the future.

Collegio Nuovo's international focus dates back to its very beginnings as an institution, which, as the Statute of the Fondazione Sandra e Enea Mattei states, is to "contribute in a very real way to the intellectual progress of the country, by education and assisting in the cultural development of young women enrolled at the State University and other institutions of a higher level in Pavia, who display distinct aptitude for study", indeed its international outlook is one of its main focuses. So much so that hosting its first foreign student and setting up in-house language courses date back to its year of opening (1978). This continued to expand over the following years, to the point where the Collegio can now count among its thousands

of students, both past and present, 249 foreigners (almost 25%) as well as the awarding of 405 grants or exchange posts in total, to more than 50% of its own students with foreign institutions. Next to this Collegio Nuovo can now also boast three partnerships with two universities – Mainz and Heidelberg – and a College – New Hall College Cambridge. In addition it takes part in the international network *Women's Education Worldwide*, where it also has a place on the Executive Board.

The book is divided into several parts. After a paragraph dedicated to the truly international spirit of the Collegio's Founder, Sandra Bruni Mattei, who also had a great influence on the choices of the Collegio in this regard, it begins with data about foreign students, study grants and exchange posts awarded, and active partnerships, and it also describes their nature and how they came into being. It is interspersed throughout with many accounts (more than 50) from students and Alumnae, both foreign and Italian, who came to Collegio Nuovo or who left to travel abroad, some unedited, others gathered from different editions of *Nuovità*, the annual report of Collegio Nuovo. In conclusion of this first part, the book provides a list of the numerous and prestigious foreign centres where its Italian students have had the opportunity to study and carry out research, thanks to the grants offered them by the Collegio.

There then follows a contribution from Anne Lonsdale, President of New Hall, and personal greetings sent in recognition of the thirty-year anniversary from the European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Ján Figel, from the President of the University of Mainz, George Krausch, from the Director of the Romanisches Seminar of the University of Heidelberg, Edgar Radtke, from the Presidents Joanne Creighton and Carol Christ from Mount Holyoke and Smith College respectively, both founders of the WEW network, and from the Director of the Dubai Women's College, Howard Reed, with which Collegio Nuovo has begun a close relationship. And Dubai is the setting for the subsequent interview, entitled *Talking about peace in Mall of Emirates, Dubai*, which Anna Lanzani, graduate of Collegio Nuovo, carried out with Naseem, a successful young woman from Dubai, during the annual international conference, *Insight Dubai*. The interview which ensues, with Michela Bertero, is an example of a Science graduate (as are

70% of current students at the Collegio) who has conducted her studies and career in European and US environments. In conclusion after, a brief outline of the Collegio, the book illustrates even if only concisely, the “Pavia System”, made up of a prestigious University (founded in 1361) together with many Colleges, of the *IUSS - Institute for Advanced Study of Pavia* and of a city which has always stood out because of its University.

This volume really gives an excellent idea of Collegio Nuovo’s path along the road towards internationalization: its exponential growth over the years in the number of foreign students it has welcomed and that of its grants awarded for study abroad, the expansion of its partnerships up until its entry into the *Women’s Education Worldwide*, which has led to further individual contacts.

It is a path which its Founder, Sandra Bruni Mattei, would certainly have approved of: To her, this volume, edited by Paola Bernardi and Saskia Avalle, is dedicated.

Bruna Bruni

President of the Fondazione Sandra e Enea Mattei

Paola Bernardi

Rector of Collegio Nuovo

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249 female university students or foreign graduates from every continent staying for at least a semester, 405 grants or abroad exchange places assigned to its students, all based on merit (269 for summer study courses, 5 for Erasmus courses and 131 for post-graduate courses of at least a semester), three partnerships with foreign institutions (two universities and one college), active membership in the Commission for international relations of the Italian Conference of Colleges involved in setting up a European network of colleges of excellence, participation in and Executive Board membership of the international network *Women's Education Worldwide*, which unites the most prestigious women's university colleges worldwide.

These are the data which convey the international nature of Collegio Nuovo and which would surely have brought gratification to its Founder, Sandra Bruni Mattei, from whom it all stems.

The cosmopolitan spirit of the Founder

Anyone lucky enough to have known Sandra Bruni Mattei, the Founder of Collegio Nuovo, without doubt remembers her as an extraordinary person.

She was extraordinary for many reasons: her lively intelligence, her decisive character, her steely will, her enlightened generosity and even her singular broadmindedness, which was partly due to her natural disposition but also to her knowledge of the world derived from her many journeys from one continent to another.

Not much younger than Karen Blixen, Freya Stark and many other women travellers born at the end of the 19th century, Sandra Bruni Mattei shared with them a desire to get to know the world as a means of education. They belonged to a generation of women who really paved the way towards female emancipation, not only in the very real possibility of going to university and in going on to follow a profession, but even to travel, alone, in far-away countries. Unlike Karen Blixen and Freya Stark, who, as young women, travelled in the first half of the 20th century and were real pioneers, Sandra Bruni Mattei set off on her travels later in life, after she retired from business in the Sixties: it was an age in which travel was easier, but when she was nevertheless getting on in years, which goes to show how her quest for knowledge knew no bounds. She set off for India, for instance, as she was approaching her eightieth birthday, in the company of Miss Dorothy Harris, an English friend of the same age (and not as part of an organised trip) and her friends recall, of those same years, her displeasure at not being able to reach Angkor in Cambodia, which was at that time theatre of the Indochina war. She set off with friends of the same age as her or with her niece Bruna Bruni (President of the Fondazione Sandra e Enea Mattei which encompasses the Collegio Nuovo) and there really is no continent that she did not visit. For her they were all opportunities for knowledge and learning. Like her frequent stays in London at Crosby Hall, a residential college run in those years by the British Federation of University Women: here she was able to meet and make friends with women from all over the world, from Japan to the United States and Australia. They were friends with whom she stayed in constant touch by letter in order to exchange regular news, opinions and comment. Her preferred reading matter, incidentally, was *The Observer*, *The Guardian's* historic weekly edition.

When in the mid-Sixties she founded her first college in Pavia, the women's section of the Ghislieri, she decided from the outset, in order to

entice students in their final years to go abroad, that anyone sitting their exams by the end of the July session had the 'right' to a stay abroad, financed by her personally, at Crosby Hall itself. This was somewhere that might seem to young women of the time, and indeed was, far from the 'swinging London' of Carnaby Street and the Beatles, but where Dr. Mattei knew well that there was a good deal to be learnt besides the language. She would certainly have made the same decision for the women students of Collegio Nuovo too were it not for her death in 1981. She said as much in an interview given to the journalist Sandro Rizzi published in the *Corriere della Sera* on 30th October 1973:

'If young students are given the chance to spend several years in colleges where they can exchange ideas freely, discuss theories and problems, make plans, come into contact with students from foreign universities and read newspapers from many countries, I am convinced that women and men will complete their education harmoniously and will go on to take up very high-level positions of responsibility in Italy or in various international institutions.'

It has therefore been almost a duty incumbent on anyone taking over from her, to ensure that the cosmopolitan spirit of its Founder should be carried on into Collegio Nuovo too, and that the collegial environment should immediately be international. The setting up of in-house language courses, hosting women students or foreign graduates, the search for international partners and the awarding of grants for study abroad reserved for female students were straight away the measures adopted by the Board, in accordance with the Rector, in a bid to reach that goal.

Foreign students

Alongside the almost eight hundred Italian women students, in its thirty years Collegio Nuovo has hosted, almost always for a whole year, a high number of foreign undergraduates or graduates, 249, equal to 24% of the total, as well as, of course, an even higher number for shorter periods. They have mostly been European (around 80%), but a fairly good number have

come from other continents too; they have mostly been students studying the Humanities, but with a number of students from other disciplines too, such as sciences. Throughout the world they form a precious heritage for the Collegio: not only have they enriched and broadened the community of the college with their presence but they now form an incalculable cross-border network of relations and links.

1978-1987. Becoming international before the Erasmus programme

As far back as its first year of opening, together with the 24 Italian women students, the Collegio had its first overseas guest, a Somalian graduate, who was studying Banking, and the following year another, this time from the United States (and now the owner of a plastic surgery practice in Maryland).

By the third year the number of foreigners had risen to eleven, a number which has remained fairly constant even in subsequent years, and the Collegio really began to become an international environment. The presence of foreign students meant courses could be organised in the three main European languages, even if similar courses had begun almost immediately thanks to the presence of bilingual students for family reasons or because of where they were from, such as Grace Bianchi (English), Speranza Carlevati (French) and Manuela Pierotti (German). Lise Chapuis, the French translator of a famous Italian writer such as Antonio Tabucchi, has been one of the first teachers:

In the autumn of 1982, I arrived at Collegio Nuovo. When the porter said, 'Yes, Dr.?', I thought that he was addressing someone behind me... so, even if I could read the language well enough, there was definitely still work to be done on my spoken Italian when I first set foot in this place. At first, the idea of an enclosed retreat frightened me a little but as time went on, I discovered a community of lively young women, who were always running through the corridors and ready to enjoy themselves at every opportunity.

More importantly, the College was really a place where I could speak the language with lots of the girls who studied a wide range of subjects and came from all over Italy as well as sometimes from abroad.

I gave some of them French lessons and even made an exchange with one: French lessons in exchange for piano lessons. Some of those brilliant and lovely

girls became friends with whom I visited the Po valley before going to visit them at home in Puglia and Sicily. I found this a wonderful way to become well acquainted with Italy and its language and accents.

In the meantime, I studied – I remember that I tried, among other things, to master the tonic accent and the *'bisdruciole'* which requires the accent to fall on the third syllable before the last and which is completely alien to the French tongue – but above all, I read voraciously.

The College library offered the necessary silence as well as a well stocked collection for those who had a real desire to read. The library also had dictionaries for those who were keen to understand the nuance of certain words, and this was a real gift for someone like me who is passionate about words.

Therefore, the College was undoubtedly the start of the path which afterwards led me back to France to translate works of Italian literature, which I have done for the last twenty or so years. I do this at my own pace, by predilection, taking pleasure from the words and in their beauty and the difficulty of finding French words which do justice to the Italian. I have thus translated books by Tabucchi and Manganelli reading up to such point that I now believe I have a greater knowledge of contemporary Italian literature than of French.

In recent years, I started to put forward the names of newer authors that I like and esteem, such as Rosa Matteucci or Giosuè Calaciura. I am putting aside an Italian collection for a small publishing house in Bordeaux with, I would say, the interests of our public in mind.

It is in this way, with a touch of nostalgia that I remember that time, now long ago that I spent at Collegio Nuovo. And it is not without a sense of enormous gratitude for the welcome of its Rector and her kind hospitality when I pass through Pavia that I consider how well she has maintained the links of the College with its Alumnae.

Lise Chapuis

At the end of the first decade of its existence Collegio Nuovo could therefore already count on having 54 foreign students most of whom stayed for almost the whole year (some even stayed for several consecutive years). Their fields of study were varied, including a certain number enrolled in Medicine, but with a net 60% of students enrolled in Italian Language and Literature. They were mostly young Europeans (77%) – in particular British (16) and Germans (11, almost all from the University of Mainz with which an exchange programme was set up as far back as 1980, about which there will be more later) and even Swiss (five) and French

(five) – but also from countries further off (23%) such as Venezuela (four), Israel (two), China, Turkey, Algeria, Somalia, the United States and Peru. In this instance they were less undergraduates, more graduates or young scholars. Ten years on therefore all the continents, apart from Australia, had already been represented at the Collegio.

It began with a wrong pronounciation of Pavia and ended with an everlasting love for every Italian sound. Looking back to nearly 25 years ago, I am excited what I learned within a very foggy and rainy period from October 1983 to June 1984 at Collegio Nuovo. First of all I succeeded in learning Italian according to the needs of my home university in Mainz, Germany. Secondly, I encountered so many different and interesting young women whose conversations about their family lives made me look deeply into Italian homes and society. Not only due to architecture of the old part of the University in the city of Pavia, I sometimes felt that I had returned to Middle Ages: with dominant professors and devoted students. But on the other hand I was fascinated by subjects never offered in Mainz about Semiotics and the linguistic side of Philosophy. Of course, student life offered also a lot of fun like parties, cinema and theatre, exciting attractions for a twenty-something who was away from home for the first time. For me, Pavia was a tiny little town for studying and a good base for exploring all the medieval towns in Northern Italy.

So what remains? Well, I still feel at home hearing Italian sounds around me. And I do love Italian operas. But beside these obvious reminiscences, I am impressed about the treasures of Collegio Nuovo which I discovered only in recent years when the formation and training of young people became my profession at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Frankfort on Main: the idea of female networking among the 'alunne', the estimation of the value of formation or the impressive offer of lectures held in the College. I am, moreover, impressed how the Rettrice at a very young age had the far-sightedness to see the development of College structure and aims. So Collegio Nuovo's experiences are still in my mind and help me understand the world.

Brigitte Scheuerle

At that time the Erasmus programme had not yet been invented: the University of Pavia had however already various agreements with foreign universities and it was above all the prestigious colleges, like ours, together with Borromeo, Ghislieri and Santa Caterina, that were welcoming the better students and researchers. But it was also the reputation of some of

the Professors at the University of Pavia that was attracting young students even from afar: one above all, Maria Corti, was a real draw for anyone wanting to study the history of Italian language and literature! It was in fact thanks to her that at the end of the Eighties the Collegio was able to welcome two young Italianists, Mariko Muramatsu and Rodica Blumenfeld, from Japan and the United States respectively, who today are University Professors in Italian literature in Tokyo and at the Vassar College in the state of New York.

A College... for life: Collegio Nuovo changed my life plans in a radical and definitive way. To be more precise, I should say that the experiences and people that I came across there at that time of my life during the academic year of 1987-88, spent as a graduate foreign guest with a bursary from the Italian government, led me to take several important decisions.

The first affected my career decisions: in Pavia, I managed to develop and intensify my passion for Italian literature and literary criticism with Maria Corti, thanks to whom I also found a room waiting for me in Collegio on my arrival from the Far East. Now I teach Italian language and literature at the University of Tokyo. I think that I nurtured my eventual decision to pursue the studious life in those very days in Pavia, that were overcast but rich with not only cultural inspiration but also inspiration about life.

... and now for my personal life: during that intense winter, I got to know someone through a dear friend of mine and after a short while, we were married. Now we live in Tokyo where for the past six years our children have been growing up together with the stray cat which has followed us all the way from Italy. Who knows where I could be or what I could be doing today if I had never passed through Collegio Nuovo?! My husband, in more cynical moments during family discussions, says that he would like to sue the College for damages...

Mariko Muramatsu Ciferri

In 1989, through a recommendation by Maria Corti I was lucky enough to get a place at the prestigious Collegio Nuovo of Pavia. It is no exaggeration to say that in real measure I owe my success in the field of Italian studies to the time I spent at Collegio Nuovo. Not a native speaker of Italian, it was there that I developed true fluency and an understanding of the nuances of Italian and its literature. The research that ultimately achieved fruition in my book on Gadda's *Pasticciaccio* was conducted in the superb "Biblioteca" of the University of Pavia. At Collegio Nuovo there blossomed a vivid intellectual life of conferences and rich collegiality. I remember too the beautiful garden outside my window and

the birds that woke me punctually at five each morning, and I remember the lovely food and wine in the dining hall in which Italian and international students rejoiced.

The beauty of Pavia, the stunning architectural spaces of the Old University, the little pubs on the other side of Ponte Coperto, all live in my memory, but the knowledge I attained at Collegio Nuovo continues as a living dimension of my daily life.

Rodica Diaconescu-Blumenfeld

And it was thanks to other draws, such as Cesare Segre and Maria-Elisabeth Conte, that two philologists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Sofia Kantor and Maria Langleben arrived at the Collegio during the same period. Years later a Collegio Nuovo Alumna would attract one of these names to the University where she now teaches, and more can be read on this in the personal accounts...

Collegio Nuovo who took me in twice: in 1980 and in 1993 during two sabbatical years. Surrounded by young students from various faculties, in particular of Medicine, who accepted me as part of the group and also surrounded by the kindness of all the staff, the Collegio offered me the ideal environment to dedicate myself to my research projects. Situated on the outskirts of Pavia, a city full of charm, with medieval character, whose streets I so many times walked all alone or with my colleagues from the University, the Collegio had at that time a countryside atmosphere. There was a farm next to it and we could see the animals and the farmers. The Collegio itself, with its quadrangular structure surrounding a garden, reminded me, although it was very modern, of a church and its cloisters.

In addition to all the facilities that it offered me to work, what I remember most is the atmosphere of serious work – in order to stay there, students have to excel in their studies – and at the same time of willingness to share friendly moments and entertainment in the free-time, chatting with people about interesting topics, exchanging books or making comments on them, or just going to the cinema. Moreover, the Collegio offered numerous cultural activities that contributed to enrich our horizons with pleasant possibilities.

Apart from the work and social aspects, personally, I will never forget the kindness with which the Rector and all the staff made everything possible to make my life easier when I had to face a very serious health problem during my first stay, including taking in my relatives while I was in hospital and after, during my convalescence.

That is why the Collegio will always remain in my heart as a place and an experience that is always nice and comforting to remember.

Sofia Kantor

I came to Pavia 22 years ago, in the winter of 1986. I was invited by Professor Maria-Elisabeth Conte to teach at the University of Pavia, for two semesters, during my sabbatical year. I have been to Italy a few times before and, as every visitor, I knew the country superficially, from the outside. I admired everything Italian: gorgeous art and beautiful landscapes, warm weather and blue skies, delightful music and the charming language. This time I came as a resident, for a whole year, to stay and work in Pavia. For an insider, Italy, right at the entrance, looked different, remote and chaotic, and the winter was cold.

Collegio Nuovo was distant from the University, and also seemed remote. I felt a total stranger – just for one night. When the next morning I sat down for breakfast among the students whose language I did not understand, I incomprehensibly began to feel at home. And indeed, within a short time, the inner world of the Collegio absorbed me as one of its own. This inner world was unbelievably well organized, like a clockwork mechanism – but it was a clockwork with a warm and kindly soul represented by the Rettrice. As a wise and watchful guardian, she stood at the center of the Collegio world, and kept it harmonious and hospitable. Embraced by the Collegio, I had a privilege to get really familiar with the people and the country. I shall never forget the Collegio – that's only natural, but the Collegio did not forget me – and this is another miracle of this little world, the family that does not abandon its children. During my Collegio year, I learned to speak Italian to the extent that in the spring semester I gave my classes in Italian – alas, I did not practice my Italian since then, and it is gone... But my attachment to Collegio Nuovo will stay forever.

Maria Langleben

The 5th May of this year, a large audience of Italianists and Italians resident in Ireland had the honour of meeting at the Robert Emmet Theatre of the Arts Building at Trinity College Dublin, to follow, with great enthusiasm, Cesare Segre's lecture on Ludovico Ariosto's masterpiece *Orlando Furioso*.

And I had the enjoyable task of inviting Professor Segre to come and visit us in Dublin – it was a dream which, to be frank, I had been chasing after for years – to carry out talks and help organise together with Professor Buseti, director of the Italian Culture Institute in Dublin, without whose cooperation and generosity, my much-awaited invitation would never have come to fruition. The evening of the 5th of May, I also had the great pleasure to present the Professor with a feeling of extreme excitement on behalf of Trinity College at a public conference.

I believed, strangely enough that so much time had passed since that time when, as a young Collegio Nuovo girl, I never missed a single one of my lectures during my two years studying Romance Philology.

Giuliana Adamo
(*Nuovità* no. 16 – 2005)

There were also two physicists, Chen Chenjia, from the University of Beijing, and Fügen Tabak, from the University of Ankara, who had come to carry out research with the group led by Professor Angiolino Stella, current Rector of the University of Pavia, and who later returned several times over the next few years.

In 1987, 1991, 1993, 1996 and 2001, I had an ICTP (International Center of Theoretic Physics) follow-up research program in Italy – a three month stay with Professor Angiolino Stella's group in the Department of Physics, Pavia University, working in the field of Optical Properties of Semiconductors. During these periods, I stayed at Collegio Nuovo five times. It is a very beautiful place and very near to where I worked. There is a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Rector of the College, all the members of the College and college students were very nice to me, I felt comfortable and enjoyed my stay very much. Also, during those occasions, I met several Visiting Professors who came from other countries, with whom I had the chance to talk. And I also met several girls who came from different places in Italy: they told me interesting stories about Italian culture and we had a good time in Pavia. So if I visit Italy again, I would choose to stay in Collegio Nuovo first.

Chen Chenjia

I suppose, among the guests from foreign countries I am the only one who stayed longest in Collegio Nuovo. I do remember very well 8th of Jan. 1986, the day I arrived at the College after completing my Ph.D in Turkey. I had a grant through the ICTP (International Center of Theoretic Physics) and was oriented to Pavia University. It was the first time that I stayed in the College for the whole year. During the following years I returned to Pavia and stayed in the College several times each time being very happy. The splendid hospitality, the gentleness of the staff, the warm atmosphere of friendship, the stimulating atmosphere of study offered always made me feel at home. College very kindly also welcomed my mother and my sister. I have made wonderful friendships with whom I still continue to be in touch.

The beautiful garden, May party, delicious Italian food (which I tried to resist, but being unsuccessful, I returned to Turkey every time with a few extra pounds), the gentle cook, his wife with her typical and sweet way of saying 'Buongiorno' are only some of the beautiful memories related to the College. I do smile with happiness when I receive *Nuovità* every year, New Year and other invitation cards. All the beautiful memories of the times I had there pass through my mind like a film. I am so happy and grateful to have remembered it.

Fügen Tabak

There has been an ongoing relationship with all of them, as there has been with many others. That is how in 1980, thanks to the agreement between the Arts Faculty and the Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology in Cambridge (now Anglia Ruskin University), the Collegio Nuovo became, for the female students of that college committed to spending at least a semester in the countries whose languages they were studying, almost the permanent base in Pavia: every year it played host to two or even three English students. Keeping contact with the Collegio, where they came punctually to visit their students, were lecturers Lucia Duff and Anna Bristow, a former student, through a strange coincidence, as we will see, of New Hall Cambridge. Hosting this group of students lasted around twelve years and involved in total around thirty girls. In the early Nineties, as the College became Anglia Polytechnic (and then subsequently Anglia Ruskin University), with the development of the Erasmus programme and at the same time the expansion of the residential structures of the University (now EDISU) to which the University of Pavia primarily sent students on the Erasmus programme, numbers of Cambridge students dwindled. On the other hand, however, the Collegio Nuovo had by now reached the maturity to be able to set up an agreement first hand with a similar British college, and so the exchange with New Hall came into being, of which more later.

1988 – 1997. Expansion of the exchange programme

The second decade of Collegio Nuovo saw numbers of foreign students almost double with 99 guests some of whom stayed for several years. The number of European students remained steady (78%) while fields of study became more diversified, with students in Humanities still the

majority (42%) while a good proportion (27%) were scientists, above all young scholars, and a large number of Political Science students (9%), Economics students (7%) and Law (4%). German students in Humanities most consistently made up the core (24) – due both to the exchange programme with Mainz and to the new one with Heidelberg (set up in 1991), of which more later – but there were also British (21), Spanish (17) and French (10).

Eight years have now passed since I left Collegio Nuovo... at the time I was “the French girl” who had come to finish her studies in Political Sciences in Italy... and I have to say that that year spent in Pavia “made me”. The girls that I met know how great that time was for me and I want to thank the College for the very warm welcome. From that point, as we would say in French “de l’eau est passée sous les ponts” and after spending two years in Paris doing administrative examinations, I was taken on for my first job in Haute-Savoie... After a further two and half years, the “Communauté urbaine de Bordeaux” part of the “Cabinet du Président” contacted me... and I have since become an “assistant to Alain Juppé”.

Anne Raimat
(*Nuovità* no. 12 – 2001)

The Spanish presence is surprising, even more so considering that no Spanish student had previously attended the Collegio. The reason for this was not only the growth during those years of Spain on the international scene, but also the establishment of an international Masters in the Economics Faculty. The number of Political Science students, meanwhile, was due to the particular interest taken in the Collegio by its then Dean, Silvio Beretta.

Even in that second decade students there were plenty coming from further a field (22%), the majority still being recent graduates than undergraduates: once more Venezuela (4), Turkey, the United States and Somalia (2), China, Israel, but even new countries such as Japan (2), Albania, Tunisia, Brazil, Mexico, Uganda, Armenia, Iran, India. Kamal Singh, the research student as she was then, has since become Vice-Chancellor of the Amravati University (India): this is the first case in the history of the Collegio Nuovo Alumnae.

When I landed in Italy in October, 1987, Professor Paolo Ferloni, of the Pavia University Electrochemistry Department, received me at the railway station and drove to Collegio Nuovo. At first sight I was very much impressed by its beautiful building and the upkeeping. I was given a room at first floor in the left wing. The room had all the facilities needed for comfortable living. The dining hall was very spacious, where I used to dine with my Italian friends. The peaceful, pleasant and studious atmosphere of Collegio Nuovo has filled my heart with joy and cheer. It was a dream place for study. I can never forget Collegio Nuovo for its cleanliness, neatness and very good administration. Everyone was extremely helpful and considerate for the foreigners like us. I will never forget my Collegio Nuovo.

Kamal Singh

It seems like yesterday when I received the letter of acceptance from the Italian Embassy in Tunis to register at an Italian University, a request that I hadn't made myself but was rather made by my father! His "beloved" and lovely Italy pushed him to surprise me in this way; in fact, working on a project with the European Union in collaboration with a society from Rome to accomplish an oasis that my father created in the south desert of Tunisia, I understood that he was responsible for such a surprise because when he came back home, smiling, joking with us and singing, he continued to repeat the word "acqua, acqua". I didn't believe that I deserved a grant to fly to Italy and study Biological and Medical sciences in a marvellous, historical and prestigious university, the University of Pavia. He drove me to the airport with my luggage and the inexperience of a girl of eighteen. Arriving at Pavia, I was driven to a college in the center of the new city, where I waited to meet the very "serious and severe" director of "Collegio Nuovo". Anxious and embarrassed, I met her and we talked about everything and I understood that I was again at home! This positive first impact and sensation have been confirmed during my beautiful stay in the Collegio and in Pavia. Indeed, I knew good people and my best friends Carole, Laura and Cristina, the actual President of the Alumnae Association, whom Dad called "donna in carriera [career woman] et Madame l'Ambassadeur" during the holidays we spent together in Tunisia. Today, eighteen years after my arrival as an inexperienced eighteen year old girl, I'm now wife of my beloved Khaled, who I met in Pavia and have two beautiful daughters with, Shirine and Nivine, born in this small beautiful town. Collegio Nuovo will be always an important part of my background and I will never forget the "sweet and sour" years passed far from my original country, Tunisia.

Faten Bethabet Mouneimne

It was a magnificent time in my life, a single year that is worth five, it is just unforgettable. I had a life-changing experience: first of all, I had the courage to live in a foreign country where I didn't know anyone and had to deal with every sort of problem that you can imagine. I met lots of people (and other foreigners who came from all over the world), I learned how to speak Italian, visited lots of places in Italy and learned to do many things that I previously did not know how to do by myself... I am very grateful to the Collegio for taking me in and giving me the opportunity to accomplish so many things.

Amina Awo Mohamed
(*Nuovità* no. 2 – 1991)

My beginnings in Pavia – I arrived in Pavia one foggy afternoon in October, so many years ago. I had so many expectations and so much luggage with me. Back at home, I had left, even if “temporarily”, my loved ones and a good job at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. In Pavia, a competition to enter a PhD programme in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technology at the University of Pavia was waiting for me. There was also a room in a “Collegio Universitario”, of which I knew very little...

Even if almost 15 years have passed by since my arrival, I can still recall my first impressions: the suffused atmosphere at the Porter's lodge, and the kindness of the people who welcomed me. Once in my room, the first thing I did was open the windows, although it was mid-autumn and the fog sneaked in everywhere. I could glimpse a big garden, and sense so much silence and peace – just what I needed after so many months of expectation and anxiety, and after such a long trip. I immediately took a picture to send to my mother.

I would not want to repeat again what I have read and heard so many times these years about the excellence of the place, I can only say that I have always found what I needed: the quiet when I had to study, the never-ending conversations and the good laughter during our free-time, the sense of security in times of confusion. Before my arrival, I had thought it was just a place to sleep, once arrived I understood it was much more than that.

When I finished my PhD, I went back home, but the longings in our hearts are stronger than any other feeling and I thus came back to Pavia, where the person who is now my husband was waiting for me. My “temporary” stay has become a “permanent” one.

For love I have become an Italian citizen, but above all *pavese*. Moreover, I have been lucky to enrich myself in the Collegio, which is so different from what I had first imagined.

Evelyn Ochoa Machiste

1998 – 2007. From exchange to a network

In its third decade, the number of foreign students numbered around 87: among them students in Humanities made up the majority (38%) and Europe was still the most represented (70%). Furthermore the Germans were still in the majority (23), followed by the British (12) and French (9).

From New College to Collegio Nuovo - In 1996-97, historians working on the antifascist writer Ignazio Silone published documents that they believed proved he had been a fascist spy. This bombshell launched from the *Archivio dello Stato* sent out shock waves which rocked, amongst many other things, the still somewhat shaky foundations of the doctoral thesis I was writing on Silone's Swiss exile. Until then I had been content to rummage through the secondary literature on Silone available in our libraries in Oxford, but at that point it became obvious I had to get closer to the action and the original sources. Luckily for me, New Hall, Cambridge did not have an exchange student to offer Collegio Nuovo for the next year, and the *Fondo manoscritti* at Pavia had just been given an early draft of Silone's celebrated first novel *Fontamara*. A scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the support of Rettrice Bernardi and Professor Carla Riccardi clinched the matter.

I arrived at Collegio Nuovo on an extremely foggy Sunday in November 1998, and wondered where everyone was... The weekend calm turned out to be very deceptive, however, and I spent the rest of my six months in a whirl of activity. Events in college gave me the opportunity to meet in person many figures instrumental in my research – Maria Corti, Bruno Falchetto, Elisa Signori, Arturo Colombo, Giuliana Rigobello. Pavia was my base for trips to libraries and archives in Milan, Turin, the Abruzzo and Florence, and my thesis really began to take shape. In the meantime, the fog lifted, I made a score of friends in Collegio and fell in love with the garden. Some would say I timed my stay very badly – arriving in November and leaving in April when spring had only just begun, but I have very fond memories of kicking up fallen leaves, cycling back from the opera through frosty winter nights and drinking innumerable hot chocolates with *torta paradiso* in town.

Although both my academic career and personal life have made me more of a Germanist than an Italianist since then, much more than just memories remain. I am for instance very proud of the fact that my daughter Anne-Leonie has a *nuovina* as Godmother – 'Madrina Mara' (Mattioli). Congratulations to the College on its anniversary, and long may it remain a place of new experiences and discoveries!

Deborah Holmes

“Collegio Nuovo, Vita Nuova” - “Pavia is famous for its fog, its mosquitoes, and... its University“, so I was told by many when I arrived at Collegio Nuovo in late September 2003. During my first month there I could see the Collegio slowly filling with all the Italian girls who had spent summer with their families. The reason why I interrupted my studies of Law at Munich University (Germany) was that I wanted to do History of Law and, in particular, Roman Law with Professor Dario Mantovani of Pavia University. He very kindly helped me to find a room in the famous all-female Collegio Nuovo, where I stayed for the following ten months.

During this time I often thought how much more difficult it would have been for a foreigner like me to make friends if I had been living on my own. There were two Germans, one Ukrainian, a British and a Spanish girl... and all the rest (about a hundred) Italians – so I learned the language very quickly!

On arriving the Rettrice welcomed me in a very friendly way and asked me a lot of questions about Germany, especially about current politics. The family atmosphere of the College is last but not least due to the Cuoco, the great college cook, and Riki, his assistant. In fact, I gained three kilos during my stay! I tried to lose them – however in vain – in the big Palestra, the gym, where every college girl can do sports whenever she wants to. Personally, I had a very great time there! Never shall I forget the evenings in the party room talking and celebrating with my friends, some of whom have become friends for life! We also enjoyed watching Italian and English films from the college library together.

Moreover, having to teach Italian girls my native language, as all foreign girls at the College have to, was an all new thing to me, even if I had only two students! To sum up, I came to Collegio Nuovo a bit afraid, and returned with many new experiences concerning my studies and even more concerning life. I have since been back twice for some days, thanks to the kind invitation of the Rector, to re-live the old times, but always in springtime – without the mosquitoes!

Tanja Johannsen

How are things going for that Dutch girl who stayed in College between March and May of 1998? For those who didn't meet her: who was or rather who is that girl? My name is Karen van Toorn and I was born in Rotterdam in Holland. I spent about 6 years of my formative years in Charleroi, Belgium which is town in Wallonia which is majority French-speaking. As I was really interested in languages, I decided to study Italian, which would be a new language to join my French, English, German and Dutch. I chose Sociolinguistics as a specialisation, which is the relationship between languages and society. I studied early Italian in depth: this became my subject of analysis for my thesis. When I finished, I got married and gave birth to my daughters, Liza and Britt.[...] On a professional level, I started at

Nationale-Nederlanden, the biggest insurance company of the ING group, an important banking and insurance group which started in Holland, with branches in 66 countries around the world and more than 90.000 people employed.

Karen Van Toorn
(*Nuovità*, no. 14 - 2003)

A language which seemed completely incomprehensible, the nightmare of verbs, everything lacking the final 's'. At the beginning, I found it very tiring, but now, the first thought that pops into my head when I wake up is in Italian. Living in a college was a new experience for me [she's a teacher in Mathematics at the University of Salamanca]. I thought it was a perfect combination of independence and security for a period as important as my student days. At Collegio Nuovo, I found all the necessary tools for studying but also for my own personal enrichment. It allowed me to meet people from all over Italy as well as the rest of the world. But I can't talk about Collegio Nuovo as if I were talking about one of the many things that I encountered in Italy, it wasn't just a room to stay in, it was my home.

Mabel Asensio Sevilla
(*Nuovità*, no. 12 - 2001)

One postgraduate from the Ukraine, one Slovak and two Belorussians arrived and after 2003, four Albanians, although these last four were not simply foreign guests, but College students to all intents and purposes, having passed entry exams. This was the first sign that globalisation had reached Collegio Nuovo.

The story begins in July 1992, when I took a plane, for the first time, to Italy – a country we Albanians could only dream about thanks to the commercials for the tuna Rio Mare which is cut with a bread-stick... let me just say that where I come from, there are no such things as bread-sticks! I had previously done three years of Medicine at Tirana University and after various attempts I managed to pass the first two years. I was readmitted into the third year of the Medical Faculty at the University of Pavia, the home of Varese. The year was rather a taxing one; I was far from home and in a foreign country. It was also hard work with the language-barrier, I spoke an Italian from films and commercials, but it was a new thing for me to learn medical terminology; moreover, I needed to communicate in fluent Italian during the exams.

In a cold and misty February, at a dinner put on by the Soroptimist Club from

Pavia, I had an encounter that later triggered the start of my adventure here in Pavia. Tita Gigli Berzolari introduced me to Paola Bernardi, who told me about the various colleges at the university and in particular Collegio Nuovo, where I had been a guest that evening.

I started the new academic year as a member of Collegio Nuovo, a “Nuovina”, after first passing the entrance exam, and I was offered a place to study throughout the course of my degree, free of charge. I couldn't not study, I couldn't miss this opportunity, it was the only one I had to move ahead in life. I graduated in July 1996 and I stayed in college for another year after graduating. Thanks to the summer study grants offered by the College I had the possibility of attending the theatre where they carried out Digestive Endoscopy at the George Washington Hospital in Washington D.C. The most difficult obstacle to overcome was the one to enter a Specialist School. As an Albanian student, I could only attend by supporting myself with my own financial resources. Everything turned out for the best thanks to the Collegio which paid the necessary sum into the bank for me which was to last for four years and at the end of my specialisation, I paid it back. Now I have a stable position in the Digestive Endoscopy Ward at the civil Hospital in Voghera, near Pavia. Collegio Nuovo really had changed my life.

Katerina Vjero

I had already stayed at Collegio Nuovo in 2002. Unfortunately, this was only for a month and it really flew by quickly. As I was packing my things up for the return trip, I thought: “How lucky these girls are who get to spend the best years of their lives in such a beautiful college.” I was sad to leave, saying goodbye to friendships which had formed during that great month, leaving Pavia and Italy... I never thought I would have the chance to come back...

October 2003. A year had passed. [...] I came back to College. This time it was for a longer period. I was enrolled, thanks to a grant from the Province of Pavia, into an International Masters in Communications and Technology. [...] Courses started on the 3rd of November and went on for eight months, at the end of which my colleagues and I were thrust into the world of work by means of a preparatory stage which gave us a qualification.

The lessons were extremely interesting both in terms of the chosen topics and the teachers' ability to explain, even if in the first couple of days, I was having a little trouble with the technical terms that were so complex and slightly different to my actual curriculum and were in a language that I hadn't quite mastered. Yet, from the very first day, I had the full support of my companions who were also doing a Masters and of some of the girls that I met in college and had

become close friends with. Everybody was kind, friendly and quick to help at any given moment.

One of my colleagues who was also doing a Masters who had studied Russian language and literature at University lent me her Italian-Russian dictionary; a new friend helped me to prepare for my first exams; some professors provided me the latest material which allowed me to deal with the material with greater ease.

Days and seasons went by and I could no longer envisage living alone, in a small and quiet apartment in Kiev, as I had done whilst living and working in Ukraine. I was in daily contact with my friends and family, but my previous life felt a long way away, perhaps someone else had been living it.

Natalya Mergel
(*Nuovità* no. 15 – 2004)

Students and graduates from other continents were almost absent, however, with the exception of Tunisia, India and Lebanon, except for short periods. That does not mean that there were not any, albeit fewer in number, but since it meant, as it had before, that there were mostly recent graduates or research students, the opening of the graduate section of the College in 2000, offered them new accommodation, more suited to their needs. Among the most consistent attendees over the years, Collegio Nuovo can include Professor Stefan Delureanu, scholar of Italian History and the Risorgimento from the Academy of Sciences in Bucharest, often, and for long periods, Visiting Professor at the Collegio, and his wife, Victoria, who is also highly educated in European culture.

The City on the Ticino became our destination of choice through a unique tie between the University of Pavia and Bucharest which came about as a result of the interest of our friend Professor Arturo Colombo. After staying at various Colleges, Collegio Nuovo became our cherished Italian home away from home. Attracted by the life-style and courses on offer, with every trip back we had the funny feeling of being at the top of a world which didn't cease to amaze us, even if there is nothing surprising about this, taking into account the more than capable and organised Rector (and College staff), with her farsightedness and visions, her pragmatism and dynamic nature, which all comes together in her parental concern for the girls.

The 'Collegio' has come into its own as a 'College', as a model of an institution which does not rest on its laurels. The uniqueness of College life which is created out of a thousand minute things of I don't know what, which is created and

recreated in a buzzing atmosphere. Being a College of reputation among some of the most prestigious in the world, it is also creating history by educating future female leaders. You need only look at the inspiring graduates Maria Paola Ferretti, Maria Francesca Nespoli and Saskia Avalle... who, in their own way, offered us their friendship, we therefore cannot finish with the invitation: 'broaden your horizons so that your dreams can come true'. Hence we say farewell and give our thanks for the wonderful hospitality, and we won't lose the fond memories of so many good moments, not least those from College dinners and parties, walks in the garden, a place of rest, tranquillity and hope.

Victoria and Stefan Delureanu

Grants for study abroad

Another important feature of the international stance taken by Collegio Nuovo has been the awarding of grants for study abroad, since 1981 for summer grants, aimed above all at language learning, since 1987 for those annual grants aimed at postgraduate courses in universities and research centres and since 1997 for those students on Erasmus programmes. Even in this instance the number is extremely high, 405, of which 269 for summer courses, 131 for postgraduate courses and five for Erasmus courses. All have been awarded according to merit.

On 6th February 1981 the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* published Decree 1033 of 16th October 1980, signed by the President of the Republic, as a result of which the Fondazione Sandra e Enea Mattei, which encompasses the Collegio Nuovo, was legally recognised. It was an important recognition, also because it meant the Collegio had access to stable annual funds from the Ministry of Public Education: these were funds which immediately enabled it to tackle institutional tasks with greater assertiveness. In fact until now it had been the Founder herself who had personally provided the means with which to balance the annual accounts, topping up the discrepancy between the running costs and students' fees, which were well below the costs themselves, and all available resources had been used as a matter of urgency to help students in less fortunate circumstances.

The first five exchange posts and grants abroad: Germany and England

The first Board of Directors met on 25th May 1981 and immediately, among the measures agreed, three summer exchange posts with the University of Mainz were awarded (the first students to go were Laura Demartini and Chiara Gagliardi – Medicine – and Silvia Romagnoli – Biology) as well as the first two summer grants (of 400,000 lire each) for England. These grants were awarded to two students from the South of Italy, both enrolled in Medicine, Angela Pucci who was to go to London (where she would return years later with another grant from the Collegio to study for a PhD in Pathological Anatomy) and Carmela Alongi. The two of them were also the first in a long line of students from the Collegio who in its first 30 years were to be given the same opportunity.

I attended many ‘Ferienkurse’ (summer language courses) during secondary school. The legendary professor Barbieri, a real gem in the Cremona Secondary Schools, who recently passed away, was already sending us to Austria or Germany in the seventies. Us “kids from the Cremona zoo”, germanophiles in bud who wanted to exchange our air, smelly with compost of Northern Italy with the more refined air of Middle-Europe.

This is why my stay at Mainz presented itself before me like a mirage: finally a little pure Deutsch would be practiced after the early years of laboured scientific English. Goodness me! Enough with the abstract, referees, the news and articles. I needed a little Deutsche Sprachlehre für Italiener and I really wanted to smell Suppe and Kartoffeln as I walked down the street. Inevitably, I immensely enjoyed the holidays as if I were still a schoolgirl (it had only been three years since I left school but I already felt terribly old): studies, visits to Mainz, Koblenz, a long stay in Berlin (I still have the paintings in the Brücke Museum in my mind), the legendary Lorelei, the Konditorei (excuse me the rhyme!), an international mix of friends and of course an unforgettable love story with a rather gorgeous French man...

Silvia Romagnoli

It was my third year of course at Pavia Medical School and as a student of Collegio Nuovo I got a grant to attend an English course. It was August 1981 when I flew to London for one month. It was not the first time I had travelled abroad on my own, but I still remember my first trip in London underground from Heathrow airport to my host family home. I do not know whether it was the curiosity of youth, the will of knowledge or my incapability to keep calm,

but I spent every working day attending an English course and the Outpatient's Endocrinology Department of West Middlesex Hospital. It was as busy a time as an interesting one, but it was not only work and study, and I really enjoyed living in London and getting in touch with its cosmopolitan life. Anyhow, at that time I could not imagine going back to London and living there for almost two years from the end of 1990, because of a research stage in Cardiovascular Pathology. And it started again thanks to Collegio Nuovo, with a six month post-graduate grant. But that is another story and a further opportunity I was offered by Collegio Nuovo.

Angela Pucci

The number of grants and the amounts (from 400,000 lire in 1981 rose quickly to a million lire in 1984) continued to increase each year in line with demand, so much so that in 1985 they had already doubled. In its decade year (1988) 36 grants had already been awarded: 16 for Mainz and 20 for England. Students from all faculties benefited, the majority being Science students in keeping with the composition of the college community, which was made up on average by at least 70% of students enrolled in Science faculties.

1988 – 1997. Numbers of Collegio students abroad more than doubled

In its second decade, thanks also to the new exchange programme with Heidelberg, set up in 1991, the number of summer grants awarded jumped to 120, with an average of 12 a year, of which there is always one, (in some cases two) for Mainz, five for Heidelberg and at least six for England. Almost all were grants for attending language courses, but some students also began to benefit from them for courses in international research centres as part of their thesis: in this instance, the first student was Magda Arnaboldi, who in 1988 used the summer grant at the CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in Geneva, before one of her international moves, sometimes even with postgraduate grants from the Collegio, from Chile, to the United States and Australia before landing, for now, at the ESO, the European Organisation for Astronomical Research.

When I was 23 year old, I was attending the last year of my Bachelor Degree in Physics, at the University of Pavia. I had the opportunity to be assigned a short

research project with Dr. Marco Roncadelli, who invited me to work at CERN, in Geneva, Switzerland, during the summer of that year (I was due to submit my graduation thesis in the Fall). Collegio Nuovo offered me a fellowship to cover the additional living expenses for the July-August months I spent at CERN. I remember the curiosity and the excitement at the idea of working for two months in this International Organisation. I was then often studying in the CERN Library, and once I had the amazing chance to sit opposite to Professor Edoardo Amaldi, who was going to give a seminar that day on detecting gravitational waves. I remember he was sitting in front of me, while reviewing his view-graphs for the talk and checking additional journals for references. I was surprised by the simplicity of this man, who was then a very famous professor. I was even more surprised when he talked to me, asking me whether I was a student and about my thesis work. He was very open and friendly in his address, and wished me all the best for my studies.

I am now an associate astronomer at the European Southern Observatory, in Garching, Munich, and 20 (!!) years have gone by since that summer. My career in Astronomy has reinforced that earlier curiosity and excitement for doing research, and confirmed that the true scientists (and great people) do have the simplicity and openness of mind which I found in Professor Amaldi (and previously in Professor Gigli Berzolari too).

Magda Arnaboldi

1998 – 2007. Learning a foreign language, and more

The number stayed high in the Collegio's third decade too: there were 118 grants awarded (including those which went to Erasmus students), with an average still of almost 12 a year, almost all (110) for European countries, above all Germany (54 – of which 12 for Mainz and 42 for Heidelberg, besides a further nine which, not taken up by the students of the Collegio, were awarded to students from fellow Colleges in Pavia), England and Ireland (50, of which 20 to New Hall, the Cambridge college which has been twinned with ours since 1997) and in fewer number France (five), Spain (three), United States (two) and other countries.

San Francisco with its skyscrapers, the Bay Bridge: it was all exactly as I had imagined it to be, so much so that it seemed unreal. I found myself here thanks to a study grant from Collegio Nuovo to attend a language course at Mills College, a renowned female university in the United States. [...] I discovered that personal involvement and creativity are the bedrock of American teaching: this is how it was

for someone like me who was not used to the nature of the interdisciplinary system of studies [Medicine], it was a good moment for reflection.

Alessandra Marchesi
(*Nuovità* no. 8 – 1997)

During this decade there was a notable drop in demand for purely language courses probably as a result of the widespread introduction of this type of stay during secondary years and also, according to some Collegio Nuovo students, due to the reduction in time available during the summer because of the more intensive rates of study of the new teaching systems. Nevertheless despite this, there was a further increase in students using the study grant in research centres or laboratories and even grants awarded for special occasions, such as a trip to the Ivory Coast to study the plans for a new hospital for a degree dissertation, to Brazil to follow an international architecture seminar, and to Dubai (three) to take part in the *Insight Dubai* meeting, of which more later.

Starting my third year at university, with the weighty task of a thesis to write and a thousand different obstacles to overcome, I would have liked to have transported myself to another place, far from here: I decided to do an Erasmus exchange the following year. I chose Spain, a country idealised as a student paradise: hot weather, lively with great lab facilities, especially at the University of Madrid, the city which I wanted to live in. But things never turn out the way we want them to. A series of bureaucratic obstacles, deadlines, exam enrolment and the notorious issue of the new lab for specialist theses forced me to abandon this wish. So I redirected my plans over a short summer work experience in an Andalusian lab, and after graduating I left for Jaèn, a small provincial capital with brand new university facilities. [...] With a great lab situation: in the summer nearly everyone goes on holiday, so I worked in close contact with a PhD student and Professor Antonio Sánchez, a well prepared, youthful teacher who was well liked by his students. I don't know how different I would be had I gone on to do the Erasmus scheme, but I am convinced that the smaller "summer version" gave me what I was looking for.

Valeria Carossa
(*Nuovità* no. 18 – 2007)

University at last, a white-washed building surrounded by greenery with wide open porticos and a refectory outdoors. During the IUSS international seminar of architecture, we lived and worked for thirteen days in a spacious room, walled

entirely with glass, from which you could see the stretch of the coast. With the work groups assigned, making friends was easy, even if only for the large amount of time spent together discussing, talking and joking around. In four days I began to comprehend Portuguese and bit by bit I managed to formulate complete sentences; meanwhile the project continued to develop despite the different approaches to work and architectural science; and any tiredness was overcome by spontaneous parties, organised at a moment's notice. These were perhaps the best moments: a caipiriña, an attempt at forrò (a local dance), and a chat. Nor did the professors hold back, quite the contrary, they were the first to get everyone a drink or initiate a new dance. Despite the difference in age and role, the professors established a personal and friendly rapport with each of us. I found this attitude very positive, having experienced a completely different way of thinking elsewhere. Every day eight hours were set aside for group work and conferences were often organised for afterwards. Unfortunately there was not always enough time and we found ourselves working well into the night, not to mention the all-nighter before the final conference. I remember that night, fondly despite the tiredness, spent reassuring ourselves in turn about the results of our work or making fun of those who had fallen asleep at the table.

Viviana Masoero
(*Nuovità* no. 17 – 2006)

If someone were to ask me: what did you learn or do in one year in Japan? I could answer that I learned some Japanese, some kanjis, some lab techniques and so on... that I went to eat sushi in a kaitenzushi, I wore a traditional kimono, I took a picture of Mount Fuji... However, the most striking and interesting thing that I have learned here, is the concept of “wa”. It is a bit difficult to describe it. It can be translated as harmony and it is possible to embody it as the genuine peace in its simplest form. Most of the people consider the “wa” only as the Japanese way of being and acting in one's social life. The fact that the Japanese will never answer directly “no” to your questions, their team-work spirit, their common un-individualistic mentality... In my opinion instead, “wa” is much more! “Wa” means for example the contemplation of the leaves changing colour in fall, the folding of the toilet paper in triangular form, the arrangement of your food inside the “obento” (lunch-box)... ok, in this way Japan may sound very poetic... actually there is not so much “wa” in the rush hours inside the Tokyo's subway and train system, where something like ten million Japanese are trying to arrive at work on time or in the noisy way they eat noodles, but that's another story...

Letizia Diamante

Financing brief study periods for specific projects is a trend which the Collegio now intends to reinforce, so much so that during the current year (2008) there are already four grants which have been awarded for special occasions such as the meeting in Dubai or the meeting in the United States, of which more later. This year has seen something else new: the first grant to study languages in China.

Michela Pagano, the student due to leave for China in August 2008, will not be the first Collegio Nuovo student to set foot in the new 'factory of the world'. Preceding her by almost twenty years, when China had just emerged from the tragedy of Tiananmen Square, was a graduate, Laura Demartini, who attended the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing with one of the new postgraduate study grants which the Collegio set up in 1987.

In the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine the theoretical lectures alternated between discussions and the care of patients. Slowly I began to learn from the teachers, my class-mates and from the patients themselves what had been of interest to me. Early every morning the hospital wards would open for the sick; and by six o'clock the old professor was already at work. During the breaks he would gather the students and would explain an examination of the wrist and the tongue, the techniques for using needles as well as his general experience in acupuncture. He had no formal medical training at University and everything that he learned was due to his family tradition. Yet in China he is an authority of note in this field. The junior doctors tutored us in our clinical practice and, case by case, they drew up the symptoms, helping us to formulate the diagnoses and a suitable treatment, using traditional Chinese medicine. The patients, as well as knowing the name and the precise location of the puncture points normally used for their illness, knew very well what they should feel in order to recognise an effective acupuncture. In this way they were judges themselves, at times merciless, of the capability of the student.

Laura Demartini
(*Nuovità*, no. 1 – 1990)

To graduate and leave, sometimes to return

In its decade year in fact the Board decided to take another step forward towards internationalisation. Not only did it transform the special study grants by reducing tuition fees, already in place for some years, into com-

pletely free posts by bringing the number to more than twenty, but it began also to announce grants for longer stays, for postgraduate courses or, in some cases, for an extension of dissertations. These were grants that were added to the already active annual exchange post with Mainz, set up in 1985 by the first Classics graduate of the Collegio, Melania Mandarà who has never lost her love of living abroad as we can read in her following account, since she now works as the Cultural Attaché at the Italian Embassy in Minsk:

Looking back at our past, we understand that some things we do are very important in our lives. I spent more than a year in Germany thanks to the exchange program between our Collegio Nuovo and the University of Mainz. I studied there, I taught Italian and met a lot of people; actually, such an experience lasts my whole life, not only because enriched me from the cultural point of view and broadened my horizons, but also because I met the man who became my husband. I'm very grateful to Collegio Nuovo and recommend you all to seize the opportunity to go and to study abroad.

Melania Mandarà

Among the first postgraduate grant holders was Renata Bonfiglio, newly graduated in Economics, who set off in autumn 1987 for Hull (England) for a course in Management Science. She was the first of the 131 undergraduates to whom the Collegio would award grants or exchange posts, always based on merit, over the next twenty years, an average of almost seven a year.

Memory has a strange way to account for time. Certain remote experiences keep coming back, while many trivial daily facts disappear almost immediately. My postgraduate stay at Hull, now some 20 years after, falls into my memorable experiences chest.

When I went to Hull University, I was in my twenties and at that age the world around you is too small and you think there is plenty more to discover somewhere else. When you are in your twenties the search is mostly outward. Moreover, to be fully honest, I was not tempted yet by the job world. I did not have precise expectations apart from attending some interesting courses which were in the curriculum of the Management Science Department. One in particular I keep remembering because I see some of those teachings applied in the real world. That was about Company Culture and concerned the symbols of

company culture. After you have followed such a course you end up looking for evidence. And it is amazing! This also reminds me of another important thing: how down-to-earth and close-to-reality the English academic courses are compared to extremely theoretical Italian ones.

Let's now turn to social life. What I experienced was a genuine social shock! Twenty years ago you did not have a multi-cultural Italy. But you could see a multi-cultural Great Britain. Colours, food, faces, dresses, habits, smells, humours, all in different nuances and degrees. And with all this, I saw plenty of my prejudices crushed under the weight of reality.

When I came back I reckon that, among many, the most important treasure I got was a value which falls under three words: OPEN YOUR MIND.

Many years on it still has a strong power on me. But the job world and the daily routine have slightly changed this to KEEP YOUR MIND OPEN. And this, I assure, has been a very healthy suggestion.

Renata Bonfiglio

Renata Bonfiglio was closely followed by three others, two for Paris (Marina Cascella and Milena Furione, both newly graduated in Medicine) and one (Cristina Crepaldi, a graduate in Philosophy) for Ramsgate (England); from then on, every year, at least five students, including the exchange student from Mainz, had this opportunity.

The main destinations were England (40, of whom 12 went to New Hall Cambridge), Germany (34, of whom 21 went to Mainz), France (17) and the United States (nine). The most popular cities, apart from Mainz and Cambridge, were of course Paris and London, but also Oxford, Heidelberg, Brussels, Stockholm, Madrid, Granada, Prague, Trondheim, Geneva, Zurich, Beijing as has already been mentioned, New York, San Francisco and Boston (Harvard), etc.

Yesterday...

I came to Geneva on a study grant from the College which was to last six months. My life, in a way, and for various different reasons, was dependent on how my little adventure in Geneva turned out and I was welcomed by the least friendly side of the city! I was in Calvin's home-town, and it had a close resemblance to the image I had pictured at school while I was studying, about the birth of Protestantism, with its severity and coldness. I then made my way to my appointment and was given the official start date to my work placement at the Clinique de Stérilité et Endocrinologie Gynécologique at the University of

Geneva. And so I met the other side of Calvinism, the professionalism, valuing the quality of others' work, flawless organisation and at times, the "inflexibility" (in the sense that they leave no margins for meeting different needs). I discovered the enjoyment of a hard job, but free from much of the bureaucratic red-tape (but not from all of it). It was a very exciting time professionally at a difficult time in my life [...] The daily adventure was in the job, new, stimulating, full of surprises by its very nature. It was in the learning of new methods of treating infertility in humans. It was in the chewing through of issues in a continuous exchange of information, sometimes in three or four languages at the same time, and in working in an équipe to reach a technically difficult conclusion. In the meantime I was gaining a greater sense of intellectual satisfaction to see the success of my results transferred onto the face of the patients. [...] After the six months were over I was offered a contract at the University as a medical assistant. With the passing of time and seasons I slowly lifted my gaze and discovered to my surprise that Geneva is one of the most beautiful cities in the world when the summer months arrive.

Grace Bianchi
(*Nuovità* no. 2 – 1991)

... today

It's a funny feeling as it sends me back 19 years, at the beginning of what has turned out to be my new life. Of course as frequently happens I did not know this at the time. The College had just started a fellowship programme to encourage post-docs to go abroad and I had jumped at the occasion (I have always liked adventure). I left Italy for what was to be a short and exciting professional experience in the field of human infertility. I thought at the time that I was going to go back and continue along a well established pattern, maybe becoming a great Italian infertility specialist. As a bit of a masochist I chose the French speaking part of Switzerland even if perfectly fluent in English and off I went to Geneva in a cold November day.

I found myself in an environment where languages, human and professional experiences were extremely diverse in relation to the international background of this town. At the University Hospital it was a period of pioneering and adventure in human in Vitro Fertilisation. I was rapidly involved in exciting research and clinical work. Funding and backing up for research was no problem and the Alps and the Lake so beautiful..... There was no question to go back although when I made my final decision it was a difficult one. Did I ever regret it? NEVER! So this is the occasion to say once again thank you Collegio Nuovo.

Grace Bianchi

The originality of the medical Micology course at the Pasteur Institute, during my stay in Paris is the feature that makes it so memorable [...] If I compare this experience with Milena Furione's, who had taken a course in Viral Medicine the previous autumn, we can confirm that whichever course you choose, you will come away with the same impression. [...] The organisation is impeccable and it is run efficiently and has a copious amount of equipment in the labs but what is most impressive is the availability of the professors and the technicians. In terms of theory, the leading French experts are chosen to lecture and where possible, there are also foreigners to deal with individual topics. Every Friday, before leaving for the weekend, photocopies on the work and themes that will be covered in the following week and the preparatory material for finals are distributed.

Antonella Guanzioli
(*Nuovità* no. 2 – 1991)

With the financial help of the College for the last six months, I have been working in the Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery department in Karolinska in Stockholm. Founded in 1810, this hospital has become a world-renowned centre for research as well as clinical work. [...] I am working on research that has given me the opportunity to learn how to use progressive methods as well as to meet people from all over the world, that have been undertaking research for years; in Karolinska, the research is carried out mainly by foreigners while the locals focus solely on clinical work. Taking into consideration the positive outcome of this stage, I truly believe, if I were given the chance, I would prolong my stay for another few months.

Emanuela Bonfoco
(*Nuovità* no. 3 – 1992)

I spent most of 1990 in London, working on a research project about Cardiomiopathy. I had already been to this city, the first time for a month in 1981, when I took an English course made possible by a travel grant given to me by our College. For the last few years, I had been making use of the Department of Chemical Tissues of Hammersmith Hospital, London University for short intervals, where I returned to in 1990, benefiting from a study grant that year from Collegio Nuovo, in order to undertake a three-year long research project. [...] It's easier than you think to immerse yourself entirely in your studies when you are abroad, far from home and anxious to make the most of such an experience, as I found was the case the year before at Stanford (California).

Angela Pucci
(*Nuovità* no. 2 – 1991)

There were also two students of the Collegio, who, regardless of the dangers, went to Jerusalem for several months; here we read the accounts of a student in Classics, who was awarded the Momigliano Fellowship and took her PhD in Jewish studies:

The last time I was in Har ha-Tzofim, I looked subconsciously around myself for familiar faces almost to reassure myself that the people that I usually met were all there. It was a relief, for example, to catch a glimpse of the red-headed boy in the library that I had met by chance in a bookshop in the city centre: when we greeted each other the year before, he told me that he would shortly be recalled by the army to serve in Gaza.

My Jerusalem is made up, in most part, of people that I have had the chance to know and who have, in their own ways, revealed something to me about the country where they were born and where they have chosen to live. Perhaps this is the reason why, in spite of everything, I was determined to go back, in the knowledge that each visit is different from the last and in the open hope of being there next year, in Jerusalem, in that atmosphere of constructive communal living that I found there on my first visit.

Gaia Lembi
(*Nuovità* no. 14 – 2003)

Those travelling the most were students in Humanities (45), recent graduates in Medicine (26), Biology (14) and Physics (10) but also Law and Political Science (11). Some of them, who left with a grant from the Collegio, ended up staying abroad for several years with other grants which they were offered once they were there, even embarking on Masters courses, research doctorates or further specialisations. For some of them these stays abroad ended in marriage, as happened also to some of the foreign students staying at Collegio Nuovo.

Some have just returned after a long spell overseas. One of them is Rosa Bernardi, whose first experience abroad, thanks to a grant from the Collegio Nuovo, took place at the Université Laval in Quebec. She entered a laboratory committed to “research which is carried out at a fast rate, with plentiful backing and almost agonizing conscientiousness” (*Nuovità* no. 4 – 1994). After Canada came Philadelphia until 2000, when she began a collaboration with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York (where now also the Alumna Katerina Politi is Research Fellow).

Now, after winning the 'Career Development Award' of the Giovanni Armenise-Harvard Foundation, Rosa Bernardi has returned to Italy to work in the Oncology Department at the Istituto San Raffaele in Milan.

Thirty-four former students (27%) on the other hand stayed abroad permanently, mostly in Great Britain, Germany and the United States, all reaching high-ranking positions in universities, research centres or institutions, or in the case of the youngest, embarking on brilliant careers.

Barbara Casadei is now Full Professor at the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Oxford:

I arrived in Pavia in September 1978 to sit the admissions exam at Collegio Nuovo. I remember clearly the euphoria I felt that day, the feeling of omnipotence at the thought that all doors were now at least potentially open. The first step towards forming a new identity and adulthood arrived right before the exam when, talking with the other girls, I realised I was just about average in the running for a place, and certainly not among the best. This realisation was so devastating that it has influenced all my professional choices up until this day. From then on, whenever I have felt a sense of complacency creeping up on me, I have tried to face up to it with a harder challenge.

I started at Collegio Nuovo in the year of its opening. What makes the College such a special place for me is the familiarity in the relationships between people who have different backgrounds, interests and aspirations from me. As an only child, college life had such an impact on me that it isn't so strange that I found myself comfortably settled in Oxford (a city with 36 colleges) where this sort of existence could continue until retirement and beyond! Since I graduated in Medicine, I immediately found work in a hospital, but after a short while, I felt a certain complacency creeping up on me again. I therefore decided to make the most of Collegio Nuovo's grants to study abroad and I rocked up, full of curiosity and speaking literally no English, at the department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Oxford. Thus happened the second turning point of my career. Whatever knowledge I thought I possessed, once again seemed inadequate in comparison with those around me. I therefore had to start from scratch again. I have often asked myself why I ever moved abroad. Spending time at a foreign university always appealed to me and I do not hesitate to mention that it was an indispensable experience for anyone who harbours ambitions of reaching a good professional standard. However, the reasons which made me decide to stay were different to this. I realised that for someone like me, who lacks any strong academic and political Italian ties and who finds it difficult to compromise, it would have been easier to pursue a career as a researcher in Oxford than in Italy. To put it in a nutshell, talent is much more dependable than pulling strings.

What are the disadvantages to living abroad? An Italian colleague of mine at Oxford told me some time ago that the greatest disadvantage is not belonging, or forever being on the fringes, separate to the 'system'. If this is true, we must also add that being 'different' implies a certain liberty from the conventions and the system of classifications (which are social, cultural and economic) which the indigenous population of Great Britain is guilty of! It is also true that, far from their social and family conditioning, there is perhaps a greater incentive to develop one's own potential and 'modus vivendi'.

Barbara Casadei

For the current President of the Alumnae Association, it all started with Collegio Nuovo and...

Toulouse, the 'ville rose'! Moving from Collegio Nuovo to Cité Universitaire is no mean feat: how can one survive without the comfort of our Pavian Oxford? [...] Finally, I can put my 'francophile' feelings to the test: I had always dreamed of living the life of a French, Political Science student. Reading *Le Monde* in the morning, the strong, legendary cafe, that I love for some inexplicable reason, lectures for the Diploma in European Studies and long afternoons spent in the well-stocked inter-university library.

Cristina Castagnoli
(*Nuovità* no. 5 – 1994)

Two years later...

The College travel grant, a real Godsend, led me to the local council office area in February 1995: armed with the address of friend from Bergamo in my pocket (why, yes, of course, the invasion has started here) and a photo of Jacques Delors! [...] days spent between the library and the European Parliament where I took part, as an observer in the work of the Social Affairs Commission; the conferences; interviewing the officials; lobbyists and members of Parliament. I realised that social politics, far from being a field in which the European Union takes an active and clear role, was becoming a current issue and a constructive discussion on the political scene. Social politics was, for me, a Cinderella story, which allowed me to stay on in Brussels. It was an offer that was unexpected as it was enjoyable, it gave me the chance to coincide my graduation with my first day of work in the very same week.

Cristina Castagnoli
(*Nuovità* no. 7 – 1996)

Five years later...

The beautiful 'Caprice des Dieux' and resting on top of the old Leopold Brussels station where I arrived five years ago, bursting with expectation. The new Parliament square which has the shape of the renowned French cheese, it is enormous: the new hemicycle can hold up to 650 parliamentary deputies [...] the odd thing about the European Parliament is the 'constant movement' to Strasbourg. [...] Illustrious guests have passed through Strasbourg, such as the Pope, Ex-President Chirac and Nelson Mandela (almost like in College!). I have also met Richard Gere, who came in support of Tibet (who liked the necklace that I was wearing and which I continued to wear for the next fortnight!) [...] Work in Parliament is different from the work of the European Commission. In my previous experience, I did work that was like research or a study; the texts that I wrote went onto the Commission's website [...] now work is frenetic, I need great skill in dealing with the media and in public relations. College life and those amazing suppers with the Rector's guests were an excellent training in this area!

Cristina Castagnoli
(*Nuovità*, no. 11 – 2001)

Europe, and beyond: here an account of one the many existing links between Collegio Nuovo and USA, New York...

It was a warm September morning. One of those blessed days in Pavia when the heat of the summer has lost its humidity and the fog still can't make itself known. "This way, please." The silence of the libraries and of late blooming plants welcomes me. "Philosophy, Mathematics, Literature". The Rector browses my application to the Collegio Nuovo entry exam and then looks at me: "What would you like to do?" "I'd like to travel internationally, to the United States, and write." "Then, study Political Science." And I did. Not that the tone of the Rector's voice was in any way imperative. It sounded rather as a suggestion coming from someone 'who's been there, done that', and at the same time does not make you feel the pressure of experience. Within days the Rector had scheduled an appointment for me with a Professor at the School of Political Science who would be a fundamental mentor for me. During the entry exam, the elegant personnel of Collegio Nuovo treated hopeful *nuovine* (this is the nickname of students residing at Collegio Nuovo) with the most delicious sandwiches. I still wonder if the chef hadn't used one of his secret ingredients to make applicants comfortable and make them work hard. The four years in residency at Collegio Nuovo flew by – classes, papers, written and oral exams, conferences and din-

ners, parties and bike rides through the fog, headed downtown. Never skipped a meal. My grandmother, an excellent chef herself, had to give in to Collegio Nuovo. Forgot to mention: I was raised in Pavia. My father was a student at the Collegio Borromeo and my aunt at the Collegio Ghislieri. As a kid, I never missed a date: first Sundays of May after the 5th of May, the Alumni Reunion. When the time came for me to consider my next step – actually my first step out of Collegio Nuovo – I didn't hesitate to knock at the Rector's door. An agreement was made with the J.D. Calandra Italian American Institute at CUNY (City University of New York). I became intoxicated with New York City. I am – to this day. Things skyrocketed and I moved from the European Union Studies Center at CUNY Graduate Centre to the European Commission Delegation at the United Nations. Back home in Pavia – dreaming of the Green Card – 'my' Rector suggested I interview with the Rector of the University. He was looking for a person with experience in foreign universities to set up a new Institute for Advanced Studies in Pavia, called IUSS. When the Director of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America at Columbia University learned about the IUSS Master's Programs, he asked me to move to Columbia. Even if I did not make any promise, now I am still here. I earned my Masters in International Affairs at SIPA (School of International and Public Affairs). I was granted Permanent Residency. I changed Departments. The fascination with New York City is at the basis of my current job in real estate at Columbia University.

Thank you, Collegio Nuovo! Let's keep up this chain. Who's next? The closest to me is Barnard.

Maria Francesca Nespoli

Collegio Nuovo Alumnae abroad is a truly mixed group, a sort of 'global university' which, as happens also with the foreign students, puts the Collegio onto the world stage.

Ten years after graduation, a real "Europe-trotter", now Lecturer in Political Theory at the University of Bremen... - There are three cities in which the "Nuovine" have found me a place like home. London has a place for everyone. Whichever road they choose, Londoners are lively people. Being with them is like being at the centre of the world. They are no longer just a bunch of students but they have their own ways of thinking which are interesting to gain insight into, even if you are only a passing visitor. And it is easy to refer to them when you need some professional advice or an expert opinion or even an answer to a typical tourist's question.

New Yorkers are winners. They get up early in the morning and head straight for

the gym and then to work, because this is what they have always aspired to. The only thing that they continue to dream about is Pumpkin risotto which the chefs make in winter and which they attempt to recreate for Halloween. In NY, I met almost by chance, four “Nuovine” on the same afternoon and we arranged to meet for dinner on Third Street. At the table, we had new friends, the old world we knew and this new world, our common experiences and future plans, and it all seemed to fit together perfectly.

The “Nuovine”, with their indefatigable *European feeling* are in Brussels. You can go and visit them at any time as they all know each other. They stay in touch with everyone all the time and are always there for you. As a remnant from their College years, they’ve kept that broken bicycle, regardless of the fact that they use it to go to the Commission or University, they still have the same key that can’t open the rusty lock anymore.

Meeting them again a couple of days of intense conversations each day, that are drawn out into the small hours, is completely healthy. Having gotten used to arrivals and departures, faces that continually change and different houses and offices, it is comforting to know that there are people who, in the important things, are the same as you and who always understand you.

Maria Paola Ferretti

Partnerships

Mainz

The search for direct partners began immediately, also to ensure the students were given in-house language courses. Since as far as England was concerned there were already students from Cambridgeshire College, Germany was considered. At the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz Professor Kurt Ringger, a refined scholar of Romance literature, was teaching in the early Eighties; furthermore a new President had just been elected, Manfred Harder, an equally refined scholar of Roman law; they were both focused on Italy and its culture. It was Maria Corti once again, who during a conference held at the University of Mainz, pointed out to her colleague Ringger how ideally suited Pavia’s colleges were in hosting his undergraduates or young research students who might want to come to Pavia to pursue their studies. Before then, in 1973, the first student from

Mainz, Edgar Radtke had come to Collegio Ghislieri, on the suggestion of Professor Manfred Beller, and had then embarked on an academic career at the Romanisches Seminar in Mainz. The experiment had therefore been a positive one and later a graduate of Collegio Ghislieri, Viviana Cessi, in turn left for Mainz to do a PhD in Classical Philology. So when Manfred Harder decided to give greater weight to his presidency by broadening his international contacts, Kurt Ringger and Edgar Radtke remembered the University of Pavia and its colleges. The first contact came with Collegio Ghislieri, but since the University of Mainz was anticipating a strong demand in exchanges with Pavia, there was room also for Collegio Nuovo: as far back as the academic year 1980-81 the Collegio readied itself to welcome a female student chosen by Professor Ringger, Hannelore Göbler, who also undertook to hold an in-house course in German. In March 1981 President Harder, together with Professor Ringger and his personal assistant Hans-Günter Brüske (now head of a broadcasting company) came in person to Pavia to discuss how an agreement might work in future. Talks proceeded without problems and after the approval of the Boards of Directors, the agreement was officially sealed in Mainz on 18 May 1982 by President Harder and the Rector. It envisaged an annual two-way exchange, of a qualified female student, who would also commit to giving language lessons, and furthermore, for our Collegio, a free place on the Sommerkurs, the summer course in German history and culture organised every August in Mainz, with a final trip to Berlin, which was at that time still divided. As an interim measure, since there were not yet any graduates of Collegio Nuovo ready for the annual exchange, three summer places were agreed in those very first years.

The first undergraduates of the Collegio set off for Mainz, as has been said, in the summer of 1981. They returned full of enthusiasm for everything, the smooth organisation, their interest in the course, the chance to get to know young people from all around the world. And this would be repeated every year. First to take part in the annual exchange was, as has been mentioned, the Sicilian Melania Mandarà in 1985, and she went on to stay even longer in the city of Gutenberg.

Not so steady were the personal relationships with Professors Ringger and Harder and with Dr. Cessi, all of whom passed away prematurely: over

the years, an unforgettable friendship had been formed with them, and this was borne out by the many encounters in one or other city. Like the meeting in Mainz, ten years after the agreement, attended by the President and Rector of Collegio Nuovo; there were also Maria Corti, who established the first 'trait d'union' or link between the two universities, Carla Riccardi and Silvio Beretta, who were all invited, together with Andrea Belvedere, Rector of Collegio Ghislieri and Mark Pearce, also from the same College, to hold conferences for lecturers and students in their respective fields of study. Then in 1998 came the awarding of the honours degree to Emilio Gabba, perhaps in recognition for his having suggested to various excellent students of his at the Collegio that they go and study in Mainz. A new study grant was set up by Collegio Nuovo in the name of Viviana Cessi, a real 'guardian angel' of the Collegio students in Mainz, to study free for a month at the Collegio and this was to be awarded to a female student of Mainz, in this way equalling the offer with its twin University. Nowadays it is Michael Matheus, Professor in Medieval History and current Director of the Istituto Storico Germanico in Rome, who maintains relations with the Collegio on behalf of the University of Mainz.

My field of expertise ends, as it must somewhere, in the area of literary Philology; I can say that here I have found a freedom of choice in the humanities which is larger than in Italy: for example, a Latin course can be undertaken alongside a Theology course (which is open in Germany even for the non-religious) or Musicology. Moreover, in Mainz, there is an Institution for Current Affairs which is the only one in the field of Rhineland-Palatinate that brings to life the dreams of many young Italian students: as a state school for journalism. There therefore exists a wide spectrum of possibilities to choose as a major (Hauptfach) and as a minor (Nebenfacher). So, it is possible to study Latin without furthering one's study of Ancient History or to study Greek with almost no notion of the history of Philosophy, which is a subject many Germans come across for the first time at University (which is surprising for any Italian educated at a "Liceo classico".) [...] I have noticed with great joy that Italy, which has always been a place of pilgrimage for the Germans because of its artistic treasures and natural beauty, is also a country where they avidly follow the culture, the economy and politics without immediately associating it entirely and definitively with fashion or unfortunately the mafia. With this in mind, the chosen day to celebrate the decade-long exchange between the University of Mainz, Collegio Ghislieri and our College generated a lot of interest and attention as a result of

the conferences held by the professors at the University of Pavia (particularly the conference given by Professor Maria Corti, on the “Transformation on the narrative structure in Italy in the last twenty years” not only among the Italians staying in Mainz but also among the German students.

This has confirmed the farsightedness of those who, like our Founder, have supported and made these initiatives possible when European unity and mutual cultural exchanges were but mere talk, this is not just rhetoric: the contacts which were made at University level have, over time, grown and of course, have developed beyond the academic.

Chiara Rossi
(*Nuovità* no. 3 – 1992)

The Italian way of life that I saw in Pavia, is, in my opinion, very much rooted in tradition, despite the fact that they use a lot of new technology, such as the widely-used mobile phone. For me, Italian University preserves many traditional ceremonies. I was so impressed by the official inauguration of the academic year in the Aula Magna. In this room with its dignified old architecture, there were many members of college /student groups with their different coloured coats as well as professors in togas and the Rector who was giving a speech. [...] the economic situation in Italy is very different... In Germany, we have the state salary (for those whose parents do not earn a lot and half of which you pay back when you finish studying). This money gives you a little bit of independence from your parents. However, this is all relative, as it is never enough to cover everything. So, many students study and work during the holidays and some even during term time which is not easy... whereas in Pavia, you have to study almost day and night for exams and I met few people who actually had to work.

Pia Hilgert
(*Nuovità* no. 6 - 1995)

I went to Mainz for the first time in February 1997, less than one month after I graduated. The idea came from a dear friend and lecturer of German at Collegio Nuovo, Heike Michelsen, who invited me to stay with her while attending a course of *Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (German as a foreign language) at the University. I have always loved international settings. Why not take this chance? Thanks to Viviana Cessi, a lecturer of Italian at Mainz University who was connected to Collegio Nuovo, I attended German courses and lectures on Judaism held by distinguished scholars at Johannes Gutenberg (yes, the famous Gutenberg Bible was printed there!) University. Later on, – *Anwesenheit is Göttin!* (“presence is a god”), as somebody told me –, I was offered a scholarship

at the *Institut für Europäische Geschichte* (Institute for European History), located in a wonderful building facing the cathedral square. At the Institute I worked on the history of tradition of the greatest ancient Jewish historian. I remember my room on the 5th floor of the Institute, just opposite the monumental cathedral tower, the rich library, fellows coming from all over the world and studying the most diverse topics on universal and religious history, the *Kaffeerunde* (literally: “roundcoffee”, a discussion of scholarly issues around a table, with coffee and cookies!), Professor Gabba’s honorary degree, my talk on *Rezeptionsgeschichte* of Josephus at Halle-Wittenberg University, the walks along the Rhine and on the footsteps of the Roman *Moguntiacum*, the colourful carnival on *Rosenmontag*, the German cities I visited while there... But especially I remember the dear friends I made during that time and that I still have.

Silvia Castelli

Now that I am actually preparing my last lessons in Italian in the Zentral Bibliothek, I am delighted to look out of the stained-glass window and to retrace my fruitful “Mainz adventure”. I think about how it awoke the curiosity within me as well as new energy and a sort of centrifugal force that pushes me to broaden my horizons and start living in the big wide world. Perhaps I will go back to my old Ligurian nest, to my hills, red with geraniums, with the brightness shining off the waves and the cats that run around the garden: but if I were to go back, it would be because I had chosen to and not because I don’t have the courage to move on.

I also think that Mainz changed something in me and that above all, without Pavia, I wouldn’t be who I am now. Collegio Nuovo, a rock and stimulus during my university years, has helped me mature, grow as a person and has given me the confidence to face the world.

Lorenza De Caro
(*Nuovità* no. 16 – 2005)

Heidelberg

As the exchange programme with Mainz became established, the movement of students to and from Mainz, the increase in students in Humanities amongst others, led to an increase at the Collegio at the end of the Eighties in a desire for all things German, resulting in a definite growth in interest in the German language. On the other hand the agreement with Mainz which was under way, left only one place available for the

summer course which, as it was a course about culture and history, was accessible only to students who already had a sound knowledge of the language. The problem therefore arose of finding a way of offering students the chance to attend courses suitable even for beginners or intermediates. In the meantime the first Mainz exchange student, Edgar Radtke, had had a brilliant career and had taken up the chair at the Romanisches Seminar at the University of Heidelberg, the oldest in Germany. He had by no means forgotten the University of Pavia and its colleges, where furthermore he returned frequently, and for his part he had several good students keen to spend a period of study in Italy. That is how the exchange programme between Collegio Nuovo and the University of Heidelberg began. It too was a success, proving that the best unions, as some say, take place between the old lineages and emerging ones!

The new agreement was signed by Professor Radtke and the Rector on the 3rd of June 1992. In return for welcoming at the Collegio one student for a semester, Heidelberg committed to ensuring there would be five free posts for students from the Collegio on its own Ferienkurs, organised into various levels of language knowledge, including beginners' level. Inaugurating the exchange in the summer of 1990, ahead of the agreement being signed, was a representative group consisting of four students of the Collegio: Silvia Bocelli (Physics), Barbara De Muro (Law), Silvia Scevola (Medicine) and Annalisa Vicario (Classics).

Nor was the relationship with Heidelberg limited, as far as Collegio Nuovo was concerned, to the Ferienkurs. Some recent graduates in Humanities spent longer spells there: Silvia Albesano, who earned her degree with Cesare Segre, for instance, even obtained a PhD with Edgar Radtke himself. Furthermore, even the agreement with Heidelberg brought about an intensification in relations between the two institutions, as happened with Mainz: this was borne out in 1994 by the participation of the Rector, who spoke about possible plans for a European network of colleges at the "Meeting on German-Italian Cooperation of the Coimbra Group", organised by the Universities of Heidelberg and Jena, together with representatives of the Italian universities of the Coimbra Group (Pavia, Bologna and Siena) to discuss new ways of cooperating; then there was the conference on "Man and molecular evolution" given by the biochemist Professor

Robert Zwilling at Collegio Nuovo that same year and then came another invitation, to the Rector again, to the splendid Sommerball in 1996. That was followed by the Twenty-Year Anniversary of the Collegio in 1998, attended by Edgar Radtke, and by the visit of the Rector Peter Hommelhof. In Heidelberg too, as in Mainz, there was no shortage of happy encounters for Collegio students which ended in marriage.

I arrived in Germany in early October, 1997. I had just graduated in Romance Philology with little idea as to what to do with my life never mind the next future. It wasn't my first time: during the summers of 1994 and 1995 I had taken language courses organised by the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz.

These experiences which came about through my interest in German initially drew me with the sole purpose of not collapsing beneath dictionaries and essays which were never translated but indispensable to my thesis. However, this feeling deepened and inevitably aroused my curiosity for the country and its people and consequently demanded that I stay on, not with a tourist's fleeting interest, or 'by accident'. That stay, which began in 1997, ran on for another three years, during which I worked as an Italian lectrice and undertook a PhD degree at the University of Heidelberg which ended in 2004.

Collegio Nuovo has been a definitive part of this journey, not only financially (for summer courses and two years of post-graduate research) but also for the network of friends, acquaintances and institutions, which I have benefited from and which made my settling in a lot easier, putting me in immediate contact with the appropriate people. I need only think of Viviana Cessi, an Italian lectrice and classicist at Mainz, which was my first port of call in 1997, a steady rock, full of experience and advice for all Collegio Nuovo girls who are passing through; Professor Radtke, who got me involved in the literary activities of the Romanisches Seminar at Heidelberg, and who later became the supervisor of my thesis; and especially Pia Hilgert and the other girls in Mainz and Heidelberg who spent some time studying in Pavia, living alongside us in college, organising internal language courses, and allowing us to sample some of the German cuisine as well as the chats after supper, or in the books, the photos or the CDs I spotted in their rooms.

Thanks to this close-knit network there was always someone to talk to, and it seemed as if someone had already paved the way for me or at least got rid of any obstacles. I saved so much time and precious energy to explore and discover my interests as well as my ideal working conditions, testing myself with different methods and approaches, and to build friendships, which are still important to me today.

Silvia Albesano

In 1998, I won a travel grant to study for five months as part of an exchange program between the Institute of Romance Philology at the University of Heidelberg and Collegio Nuovo, which gave me the chance to further my studies at the University of Pavia. This study visit allowed me to get my hands on the latest research and finished with success as I went on to do a PhD. My dissertation, which was supervised by Professors Klaus Heitmann and Edgar Radtke focuses on romance poetry and was published in July 2005 in the “Studia Romanica” series which is part of the prestigious University publishing house ‘Winter’ in Heidelberg [which is also where Silvia Albesano published her doctoral thesis]. I can thus vaunt a successful scientific career which Collegio Nuovo has contributed to. Thinking back over time spent in Pavia, I remember fondly the big garden with its almond trees in bloom, the exquisite College meals which were lovingly prepared and the educative and engaging conversations had with the Rector in her office; it will always be happily remembered. At the moment, I work freelance as an editor, copywriter and translator for several publishing houses, in both the state and private sectors. It is a very demanding job but I also find it extremely interesting and varied which I really enjoy.

Hannelore Tyslik Drotleff

New Hall, Cambridge

As mentioned above, the number of English students from the Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology who came to the Collegio in the early Nineties started to dwindle for various reasons. The Collegio felt above all, however, the need to reach a prestigious agreement of its own with a similar British institution, not only in order to guarantee that there would be a qualified English student every year who could hold the language course, but also to be able to offer a similar possibility to one of its own students and also to be able to recommend somewhere ‘safe’ for the many female students who had been awarded summer grants for Great Britain. It was in this regard that Collegio Nuovo was looking around, helped by the graduates who had by now settled in England, first of all Barbara Casadei: perhaps for this reason she had never forgiven the Collegio Nuovo for having twinned itself with a Cambridge college instead of with one from her beloved Oxford!

It was exactly at that time, in 1996, that the Rector of the University of Pavia, Roberto Schmid, and his delegate in international affairs, Antonio

Savini, put forward the possibility of forming an agreement with New Hall College, together with Newnham, one of the two all-female colleges at the University of Cambridge. Mrs Anne Lonsdale, scholar of Chinese literature and newly-nominated President at New Hall after having been responsible for a long time for external affairs at the University of Oxford, was in fact looking for a prestigious Italian women's college that was part of a traditional university, but at the same time was young and informal, with which to forge an exchange agreement for its many women students interested in Italian language and culture.

It was a chance not to be missed: a quick look at New Hall's website ("New Hall is committed to the highest standards of education for women of all backgrounds, enabling students to realise their full potential at Cambridge and in their future lives and careers. New Hall is a modern and friendly college for women... a vibrant and cosmopolitan group of scholars and teachers") made it instantly clear that *that* was the College. Direct contact was made right away with Mrs Lonsdale, who came to visit Pavia and Collegio Nuovo in the spring of 1997. An agreement was soon reached. It was immediately clear that, apart from the name, the two colleges shared many features, starting with their founders: two talented women, both from scientific backgrounds, namely Rosemary Murray, the first woman in the almost eight hundred years of the University of Cambridge's history to become Vice Chancellor, the equivalent of our position of Rector, the post of Chancellor being an honorary one (currently the Duke of Edinburgh). The other woman in question was Sandra Bruni Mattei, a successful industrial entrepreneur. Both, then, were fervently inspired by their own 'female spirit' and both had a vision far ahead of their time which imbued them with a drive to make the most of women's intellectual resources and to uphold the right of women to grow culturally, professionally to the best of their abilities. The two colleges had much more in common however: modern structures, both located on the edge of the historic centre of town, but in a strategic position as far as university spaces is concerned, and even permeated with a 'new' spirit and, while they may have been more informal than historic colleges, they were no less selective. The attention given to women's education is not to be overlooked either and in New Hall this is evident also in the important collection of works of art by women, the

richest collection in England and the second richest in the world. It is a collection of great symbolic value, and it would be lovely to be able to start up a similar collection at Collegio Nuovo.

With all these conditions, it was therefore easy to reach an agreement which respected the demands of the two institutions and the wishes of the respective students: it was an agreement that soon gave rise to a precious opportunity which many students of Collegio Nuovo would take primarily immediately after graduation. The agreement was signed officially by the President, Anne Lonsdale and by the Rector, Paola Bernardi, in Cambridge on 22nd June 1997, the day after the Midsummer Night Feast, the elegant ball which every year, on the magical night heralding the start of summer in remembrance of Shakespeare, brings together at New Hall authorities, lecturers and donors. As early as October of that year the first exchange students, Senay Camgoz and Saskia Avale, left both cities and colleges; the following summer the first summer grant-holders, Elisabetta Filippini, Giuliana Gorretta and Michela Sala, left. And again, it happened that some foreign students decided also to settle down in Pavia...

My year spent at Collegio Nuovo will continue to stand out in my memory. A real kaleidoscope of memories... What are the differences between Collegio Nuovo and its English sister, New Hall? New Hall for me seems white, spacious and very large (it has about 430 students). It is a lively mix of people, free-spirited and with the shortest term-times in England and a pace of life which runs impossibly quickly. At Collegio Nuovo, I felt very much at ease from the beginning. At first, the smiling faces made me feel right at home, then little by little I got into in the rhythm of things. There were classes where I attempted to interest my already competent students in the English language and culture; evenings at Teatro Fraschini (I've lost count of the number of evenings!); my beloved art course... from these happy beginnings blossomed many a rich friendship, enriched by art and music. My Italian came on leaps and bounds up until the day when whilst translating I was unable to think in my mother tongue! For once, I had time to get pleasure from my studies, to make the most of moments of reflection and to enjoy life. It was an amazing year.

Louise Sweet
(*Nuovità* no. 11 – 2000)

Why Pavia? I'd already graduated and done a Masters. I felt like doing something different such as travelling, living differently... I knew that an exchange existed between my college in Cambridge (New Hall) and Collegio Nuovo and thus, in September 2002 I arrived in Pavia with the world's heaviest suitcase, armed with nine well-used words in Italian. "Buongiorno. Mi chiamo Helen. Sono la lettrice da Cambridge." (Then, all I had to do was smile and hope for the best.) You're probably asking yourself, "What was she doing during a year's university exchange, this girl not attending university?" (as someone [Maria Corti] - asked me during a memorable evening). I had new found freedom. I could follow university courses that I had chosen myself without the pressure of exams or supervisions. I studied medieval and modern Italian theatre, 20th century poetry, European imperial history. This time I studied for the love of it and for my own interests and not for grades. I studied Italian in the most efficient but enjoyable way: I studied, I spoke, I lived, I worked and I laughed with the Italians. As a 'lettrice inglese', I taught English. In Pavia I learned that: you are always studying and you're always teaching. In terms of colleges, you are always linked to a specific one and I am very happy to take with my memories of New Hall and Collegio Nuovo.

Helen Wales

Novalis wrote "every Englishman is an island" and Cambridge is perhaps more isolated than England and every student belonging to this amazing and magical city is more isolated than any other English person. These very English people tell us Cambridge is 'another world in this country'. Milton, Marlowe, Darwin, and Wittgenstein have passed through Cambridge... Watson and Crick sat down to write on the benches of the Eagle Pub and Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath met up in "Grantchester Orchard" to talk about poetry... It's possible to cross this city going from one college to another through the grounds on a bridge over a river, passing secret paths and ancient college court doors. If you then go to Castle Hill you get to New Hall, another "place among places" that, in comparison to other unusual colleges, has youth on its side which we can see in the architecture. Everything about it is 'new'. The atmosphere belongs to that tradition which makes Cambridge one of the most prestigious universities in the world. My academic year spent at New Hall as the 'Italian lectrice' gave me open access to all the universities facilities as a member of the college and allowed me to take part in the various cultural initiatives. It was life-changing on both an educational and personal level.

Patrizia Stella
(*Nuovità* no. 10 – 1999)

The visible symbol of the female spirit which inspires New Hall's initiatives is the modern art collection which is exhibited in the common rooms and along the walls of the corridors in the college. My 'dolce vita' in Cambridge flew by among the gentle rocking of the punts... teaching the hot-lipped and passionate rhythm of the Montale's "Limoni" and finding myself lingering over the verses of Leopardi's "Canto Notturmo". The afternoon breaks for tea and cookies, the coffee, the blends... everything running like clockwork, the relaxed chats between strange accents and the "sense of humor" that isn't always "humorous"!

Roberta Milani
(*Nuovità* no. 11 – 2000)

Cambridge University. It is not simply a matter of prestige. Its history runs deeper. As does that of the storyteller. Next to the Cavendish laboratory there is a plaque dedicated to the discovery of DNA by Crick and Watson in 1953. In front of the entrance to Trinity College, on a grass patch there is the remains of a wizened little tree which descended from the very same apple tree which gave Newton the idea about the law of gravity. In my opinion, four things make today's Cambridge a famous and important academic town devoted to the Research: the international community, the possibility to... study, work, and find one's freedom of expression. Collegio Nuovo – New Hall College. Sister colleges. In many ways. It is in the north of Pavia as in the north of Cambridge. They are both behind a hill. In Pavia, work is in progress. Here, everything seems to be under construction. They are Sister Colleges that have their differences. Even down to the smallest detail. But... why? Why should a chemist like me take refuge in the cold and wet kingdom of Her Majesty confronting the constant weather changes, the culinary eccentricities...? Dealing with an intellectual reality and high level academia... living in an international community where everyone can express themselves for good or ill, where there are few rules... Respect for the individual is first and foremost? Why? Now I know: for its own sake... and for fun. Cambridge is lots of fun!

Sara Della Torre
(*Nuovità* no. 13 – 2002)

I've always considered the idea of spending a period abroad, because it seemed like an extremely attractive cultural experience. So, shortly after my graduation, I gathered my stuff and left for Cambridge, seizing the exchange opportunity offered by the College: *it was now or never!* I must admit, I didn't have high expectations: I've never been very interested in England. But I had to change my mind: kindness and friendliness are part of the English DNA, and Cambridge is

a microcosm full of cultures, traditions and activities which suit all tastes! The town's appearance is almost surreal, where impressive but not excessive Colleges provide the backdrop to everyday life; and don't forget rowing along the river Cam at 6.30 am, as training for the historic race against Oxford!

Thanks to the prestigious University, which attracts people from all over the world, the cultural vivacity of Cambridge is stunning, and becomes the starting point of conversations that stray out of the ordinary and large-scale friendships. That's why living at New Hall and teaching Italian have become a chance to broaden my horizons.

The vitality of this place has led me to extend my stay, by looking for a job in my field and joining an engineering consultancy company. A great opportunity and a new challenge for someone who spoke English with gestures before coming here!

Chiara Ravezzani

With New Hall too the relationship has been a continuous one and it has gone beyond the exchange and accommodation of students. For instance in summer 1998 there was a visit to the Collegio and a concert given by the New Hall Chorus, which was a beautiful occasion. The President for her part has been back to Pavia a number of times, for the Collegio Nuovo's twenty-year anniversary in 1998 and then again the following year to represent her University at the yearly meeting of the Coimbra Group. In 2003 she became Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and gave a speech entitled *The Role of Colleges in Higher Education in the UK* at the conference "Il ruolo dei Collegi nella formazione universitaria" [*The Role of Colleges in University education*] held by the Conferenza dei Collegi universitari Italiani [The Conference of Italian University Colleges] in Rome in February 2004 in the presence of the then-Minister Letizia Moratti. And it was Anne Lonsdale, once again, as we shall see, who singled out our College as a possible member of the international network of women's colleges. Collegio Nuovo's first exchange graduate, Saskia Avalue, however, returned to New Hall for a visit after ten years in June 2007; she now sits alongside the Rector for her involvement in the cultural and academic activities of the Collegio.

WEW Network and beyond

In 1998, at the end of its twenty-year anniversary, Collegio Nuovo had three important partnerships it could count on. The Board, in accordance with the Rector, decided not to look for any others, in a bid to allow students greater freedom of choice as to where to pursue their studies. But five years later there was something new. Anne Lonsdale, at the end of 2003, mentioned Collegio Nuovo to her colleagues at Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges, two of the original 'Seven Sisters', the oldest and most prestigious women's university colleges in the United States, based in New England outside Boston, which in those months were planning to set up an international network of women's colleges, *Women's Education Worldwide* (WEW). And the invitation to take part in the first network meeting duly reached the Rector at the Collegio on 22nd January 2004 on behalf of Joanne V. Creighton (President of Mount Holyoke College) and Carol Christ (President of Smith College):

Dear Colleague, we are writing to invite you to a meeting we are planning for next June. On June 2-4, 2004, we, on behalf of the group of colleges known as the Seven Sisters (Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley), are hosting a gathering for presidents and academic deans or provosts of a small group of women's colleges and universities worldwide. The purpose of this gathering will be twofold: 1) to become better acquainted with the situation of women's education in the context of higher education within each of our nations; and 2) to discuss our efforts to encourage women's participation in science and technology. Our sessions will be small, intimate, and productive. Although our invitation list will include very different institutions, we share a firm commitment to the education of women, and we can learn much from one another. If this meeting is successful, we hope that others may wish to host subsequent meetings every two or three years. Over time, we believe that such gatherings could give rise to many sorts of programs and collaborations.

Once again the reply was of course immediate, as the proposal seemed too good to miss; it was flattering too for the Collegio, which was the only one in Italy to have been invited. It meant entering the élite of colleges

which had made history in women's university education, and it also meant making contact with anyone who had always made it their own mission to educate women, the colleges of Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright and Nancy Pelosi, like those of Emily Dickinson and Anita Desai, Patricia Highsmith and Meryl Streep, but also with newer colleges from the Arab peninsula and Asia. And there was surely a great deal to learn and share.

Some thirty institutions from around the world attended the first historic meeting in June 2004. The two keynote speakers, the Nobel prize-winner Amartya Sen and Sheila E. Widnall, Institute Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former secretary of the U.S. Air Force during the Clinton administration, stressed the key role which an all-women's education must have in turning women into leaders in their professions and giving them an active role in bringing about social change. It was really "exciting to meet world leaders in women's university education, to discover that we speak a common language and face similar problems beyond those (very many) differences in cultural reference, religion and in political and economic models", as Grazia Bruttocao, who attended the meeting with the Rector, wrote in *Nuovità* in 2004. And the excitement was so widespread that it was decided to create an international alliance bringing together the presidents and chief academic officers of women's colleges and universities from around the world and other leaders in women's education. The mission of WEW was to share best practices, to collect and disseminate data about women's colleges, to foster exchange among the institutions, and to advocate for women's education worldwide. It was decided then to meet up every two years in different centres to take a view on reaching common goals.

Aside from the official part, however, the meeting was an occasion for opening up truly incredible horizons: the United States, Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Korea, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Kenya, Sudan.... And there was an immediate result even for students of the Collegio, with the chance, for one of them, Stella Abbamonte, newly-graduated in Law, to attend that very September in 2004 the international meeting *Insight Dubai*, a five-day conference focusing on women and empowerment in the Arab World, organised by the Dubai Women's College (DWC). The conference brought together

more than one hundred Emirati and international students in order to discuss and exchange knowledge on women's issues. Among the speakers was the late Benazir Bhutto, then exiled in Dubai. The experience was such exciting that the Collegio decided to continue to offer it to its students in following years: to date there have been six students or graduates from the Collegio Nuovo who have taken part and all have returned full of enthusiasm and enriched by a truly special experience.

Women as agents of change – We have started asking ourselves all sorts of questions: during the group work, the conferences, the breaks when we shopped together... it was strange, but there were no taboo topics and we talked about everything. We didn't always come to an agreement on what we were discussing, but on the other hand, it was almost impossible that, for example, a Danish girl used to the idea of gay marriage and a muslim, however modern, think about it in the same way.

Then I discovered that muslim girls want to work and earn their own economic independence. Now there are women working in almost every sector: business-women, programmers, lawyers, women in politics (who perhaps are more numerous than those in Italy) and soon there will be pilots! I was invited by one of the girls to visit her and this is where I saw real Italian homes; large-scaled, conceived for communal living and lots of children. I slightly envied this strong sense of family, that we westerners are losing. But how are you supposed to strike a balance between a demanding job and five or six children? It's enough to have to organise yourself and dedicate your energies to one thing at a time: these are the words of a great manager, who was interviewed at a conference which the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto attended! What charismatic women! It's people like her who make us women remember that we can do so many things to change the world and improve it, because... there's a market for it.

Stella Abbamonte
(*Nuovità* no. 16 - 2005)

The world meets Dubai – Every moment was unique, not only the actual event but moreover – the indescribable emotions that were roused. It's incredible how in only five days, strong and meaningful ties can be made between about a hundred girls coming from all over the world, each one bringing with her a part of her culture and her individuality. Important and relevant issues were debated and we shared our interests and our knowledge about the political, economic and social situation in our respective countries and throughout the world. During these event-packed days, I found myself discussing at one moment the

voters quota of women in a UN simulation, then at another moment haggling in the shops in Heritage Village; then speaking about Shari'a law and setting up a trial for a patrimony case... The *Insight Dubai Program* was organised by Dubai Women's College, a prestigious college which opened in 1998 in the heart of the city. On campus, there are well-equipped classes, labs, a small television and photograph studio, a registration room, sports facilities (not only a gym and swimming pool but also a squash court and a dance studio...) libraries, studios, recreational areas, shops... well, everything that you could want out of a college can be found! The college's aim is to create the best atmosphere for the education of women in the Emirates, allowing them to 'Practice the future' (this is their motto), with the values of professional excellence and a good work ethic to allow them to take positions in leadership.

Francesca Falco
(*Nuovità* no. 18 - 2007)

The 2004 meeting, the theme of which was the importance of women's education in order to gain true equality with men, had direct repercussions on the internal life of Collegio Nuovo and of the Collegi Universitari Italiani (CCU) [Italian university colleges], of which the Rector that very year took over the annual presidency on behalf of the Collegio Nuovo. The Collegio then organised, together with the other merit-based colleges in Pavia, two days of reflection on *Developing skills at work* aimed at undergraduates and that is how the collaboration began on the same subject with Accenture Lmt., which has always shown an interest in the role of women in its own workplace, with the setting up of training courses at work. The same theme was the one that stood out during our Collegio's year of CCU presidency: an all-women's commission was set up, consisting of almost all the women heads from the women's colleges belonging to the Conference, which has put forward and developed similar activities in all the colleges. And it has been lovely to note how even the mixed colleges which in the beginning seem the most resistant, were later convinced and have continued also in later years to work on the subject. At the end of the year of the presidency there was even a conference *The making of women leaders. The role of the Collegi*, organised by Collegio Nuovo and this was attended by university Professors, company managers and journalists and ended with speeches by four Alumnae from different colleges, all now in important positions, to show that women can achieve positions of a high level.

2005 was also the year in which the Collegio made other direct international contacts with similar institutions: in Shanghai in spring during a visit by the Rector in her role as President of the CCU at the agency opened by the CCU for Chinese students to get to know Italian colleges, there was a chance to visit the colleges of the East China University of Politics and Law, the most important and oldest Chinese school of Law, Sciences, Politics and Economics (founded in 1887), as well as the campus of Tongji University: it was a visit that would bring about new acquisitions for the Collegio Faculty. In the year 2007-2008, almost ten years after the first (of ten) university courses run by the Collegio and accredited by the University of Pavia, Collegio Nuovo actually acquired its first international fellow, Professor Lihong Zhang, from the East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai, of which he is also the founding director of the Centre for Studies on Roman Law and European Law. We trust that he is the first in a long line!

In September 2005 however there was a meeting in Seville with the Spanish Colegios Mayores at their annual conference, which the Rector attended once again on behalf of the Italian Collegi. Another meeting with the Spanish colleagues would be held the following year, attended also by Saskia Avalle, in Salamanca and that was where the WEW activities and plans for the European network of colleges would be presented. At the end of 2005, however, a cordial meeting with the management, the Faculty as well as a number of students of the Effat College in Jedda, the first very modern women's university college in Saudi Arabia, led by Dr. Haifa Jamal Al-Lail and named after Her Royal Highness Queen Effat, who was the first in 1955 to bring about girls' primary schools in her country.

The second WEW meeting was held 4-6 January 2006 in Dubai, hosted by the DWC, led by Dr. Howard E. Reed, with Associate Director Dr. Behjat Al Yousuf, who not for nothing has as her motto 'Practicing the future'. The theme *Women's Hopes and Dreams* was tackled by Lubna Olayan, managing director of the Saudi company Olayan, among the 100 most powerful women in the world according to *Forbes*, and Hafsa Al Ulama, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economics of the Emirates, two women both at the top in sectors which even in the western world are almost exclusively male-dominated. At the same time as the management meeting (the Rector and Saskia Avalle attended on behalf of the Collegio

Nuovo), the DWC also hosted a meeting among its own students as well as students from Mount Holyoke, focused once again on the topic of female leadership. The results of the workshop, announced at the closing session of the meeting, illustrated the success of the initiative and laid the groundwork for other activities, aimed this time at students. That led on to the establishment in early June 2007 of a similar workshop (the *Leadership Training Conference*) in Rome, held by Collegio Porta Nevia of the Fondazione RUI, which in the meantime had entered WEW on the recommendation of Collegio Nuovo. It was a meeting which was also attended by three undergraduates of the Collegio, Chiara Gagliardone (Medicine), Lidia Motta (History) and Clelia Zattoni (Engineering).

Pavia, Boston, Dubai, Rome – What do these four cities have in common? They share, in different ways, the fact that they have been host to an interesting formative experience in the instruction of female leadership. Last January, it was in Dubai, during a conference on female education that the Rector and Saskia Avalle met Beth Gibney Boulden, the Associate Director of Student Programs of Mount Holyoke College, where she is leading a project geared towards the development and affirmation of female leadership.

At this point, thanks to Emanuela Genovese, the Head of Collegio Porta Nevia (Rui Foundation), the ties with the next institution can be made: Pavia – Rome. Here was the chance for three girls from Nuovo to take part in the *Leadership Training Conference* which was organised by Beth with the help of four girls from Mount Holyoke College... The greatest realisation of the ‘commandments’ of the leader was undoubtedly the example set by the young American student representatives to us, their Italian counterparts, as they had organised the entire meeting with clear-sightedness and passion. As they already had a different experience under their belts – both due to age and choice of course – Ari, Judith, Priti and Carolyn knew perfectly well how to work together and showed us in practice how necessary it is to use the strong points and potential of the individual parts of a team in order to really succeed in achieving the objective.

Chiara Gagliardone, Lidia Motta, Clelia Zattoni
(*Nuovità* no. 18- 2007)

And so a first truly international conference was organised by Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges for representatives of all the WEW colleges. Entitled the *Women’s Education Worldwide Student Leadership Conference* and to be held from 10 to 13 June 2008, it will ask students to explore,

challenge and re-design their views of women as leaders and their potential to contribute to a global society. For this first meeting Collegio Nuovo has chosen the students Livia De Rosa (Law) and Elisabetta Di Bernardini (Biotechnology), both of them, it is hoped, fore-runners of an initiative which could take place in future years, and who knows, eventually even at Collegio Nuovo.

The Dubai conference, apart from leading to these important developments, also illustrated that the network had now become a reality and that, for this very reason, it became necessary to establish some basic rules within which it could exist beyond the personal relations between the institutions. On the initiative of Carol Christ the Rockefeller Foundation was therefore asked to sponsor a meeting at its Bellagio Centre of a small number of people (15) representing the colleges. The response was a positive one and the meeting was held in beautiful Bellagio between 20th and 24th August 2007, attended by Paola Bernardi and Saskia Avalle on behalf of Collegio Nuovo. The meeting mapped out a strategy for ongoing collaboration to increase access to high quality educational opportunities for women. Among the areas of collaboration committed to by WEW representatives during the four-day summit were faculty, student and staff exchanges, data sharing, and the development of an internationalized curriculum touching on subjects of cross-cultural importance, including women in politics and environmental issues.

This is the summary document of what took place over those days:

Membership. Women's Education Worldwide is open to accredited colleges and universities and organizations across the globe that have as a primary mission the education and advancement of women. There are no dues.

Member organizations are:

- invited to the biennial WEW conferences, of which they commit to attend, at a minimum, one out of every two
- represented on the WEW website
- encouraged to participate in WEW initiatives

Governance. An Executive Committee will have its membership drawn from seven member institutions: 1) Mount Holyoke College; 2) Smith College; 3) Immediate past conference host; 4) Second past conference host; 5) Upcoming

conference host; 6) & 7) At-large members. At-large members will be nominated by the membership and selected by the Executive Committee with attention paid to geographic distribution. At-large members serve a three-year term.

Current roster:

- 1) Joanne V. Creighton, President, Mount Holyoke College, USA
- 2) Carol T. Christ, President, Smith College, USA
- 3) Howard Reed, Director, Dubai Women's College, UAE
- 4) *vacant*
- 5) Paola Bernardi, Rector, Collegio Nuovo, Pavia, Italy
- 6) Meenakshi Gopinath, Principal, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi, India
- 7) Caroline Ndarua, Vice Chancellor, Kiriri Women's University of Science and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya

Meetings: Conferences will be held every other year, hosted by one of the member institutions who will cover some of the conference expenses. Travel and other expenses will be the responsibility of each institution. WEW will continue to seek the help of foundations on travel costs.

Administration and Website: Mount Holyoke College will continue to offer administrative services and to host the site from 2007-2010. Thereafter, this matter will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Affiliations: WEW will seek to connect and cooperate with other organizations that bring together women's colleges and/or are committed to the education and advancement of women.

The Bellagio conference set the dates also for successive meetings: 5-7 June 2008 management meeting at Collegio Nuovo, theme *Women and Politics*, 10-13 June 2008 *Women's Education Worldwide Student Leadership Conference* at Smith and Mount Holyoke College with a visit also to Wellesley College reserved solely for student representatives.

The Bellagio meeting however gave rise to the possibility of contact with another network of women's colleges, the *Women's College Coalition*, which unites many of the women's colleges in the United States and Canada, chaired in 2007 by the same Joanne V. Creighton, with Susan Lennon as secretary. Founded in 1972, the Women's College Coalition is an association of women's colleges and universities – public and private,

independent and church-related, two- and four-year – in the United States and Canada whose primary mission is the education and advancement of women. Following that, our Collegio received yet another invitation to the annual conference of the WCC in Washington at the beginning of October 2007. Once again the invitation was taken up by Paola Bernardi and Saskia Avale, joined by Carla Riccardi, Head of the Department of Science of Art and Literature of the University of Pavia, and once again there was the chance to learn and network.

Direct contact was made on this occasion in particular with Trinity Washington University and with Barnard College in New York. Barnard occupies a unique niche in American higher education. Added to its status as a highly selective liberal arts college for women, it is affiliated with Columbia, the Ivy League university known for contributions in fields from journalism to medicine. Barnard is located just across Broadway from Columbia's main campus. The meeting with the heads of Barnard to sound out their mutual interest in exchanges or in hosting students and graduates seems to have been fruitful and the matter is now before the management of the two institutions. For Collegio Nuovo it would mean gaining a new partnership with the women's college linked to one of the most prestigious universities in the world, namely Columbia. Furthermore it is a University where the Alumna Maria Francesca Nespoli already works, who as we have already seen was also formerly Deputy Director of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies at Columbia University: it was on her suggestion that contact was made amongst others with Professor Nelson Moe, Head of the Italian Department at Barnard College, who this year came to present his latest book at Collegio Nuovo together with the famous Italian writer Vincenzo Consolo and Professor Carla Riccardi. In Washington another new contact was made, this time with an Indian women's college, close to Jaipur, the Banasthali University for Women, a fully residential women's university soon to celebrate 75 years of existence, which offers an integrated system extending from the primary to the doctoral level. The heads of the college demonstrated an immediate interest in Collegio Nuovo, so much so that they invited it to the forthcoming *Jubilee Conference on Women's Education: Vision and Mission of Women's Universities in Global Society*, scheduled for

November 2008. And that is not all: the Rector of Collegio Nuovo was invited to serve on the Advisory/Programme Committee of the conference.

Thirty years on from the start of its own existence, Collegio Nuovo seems now to have taken on a solidly 'international' character. Hosting the conference in June 2008, which for our Collegio is a truly important and also a proud moment, will help it to evaluate its capacity to continue further along the road towards internationalisation on which it embarked in 1978, the year in which it opened, when it hosted its first foreign woman student and organised its first courses in foreign languages for its students.

LIST OF FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS^A

In the following pages: Universities and international Research Centres where Collegio Nuovo Alumnae have undertaken internships and conducted scientific activities, mainly post-doc, thanks to Collegio Nuovo grants or exchange programs. Some of these institutions hosted many Alumnae, particularly in the cases of Cambridge, Heidelberg and Mainz, with whom the Collegio Nuovo has well-established exchange programs.

Berkeley - University of California
 Centre de Génétique Moléculaire
 CRNS – Gif-sur-Yvette
 Centre Hospitalier Universitaire
 Grenoble
 Centre Hospitalier Universitaire
 Kremlin-Bicetre – Paris XI
 CERN – Genève
 China Academy of Traditional
 Chinese Medicine – Beijing
 City University of New York
 College of Europe's – Natolin
 (Warsaw)
 Cornell University – New York
 Dubai Women's College
 École de Chirurgie – Paris
 École du Louvre – Paris
 EDHEC – Nice
 EMBL – Heidelberg
 ESO La Silla Observatory – Chile
 ETH Zürich
 European Union – Bruxelles
 Freie Universität Berlin
 Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-
 Planck-Gesellschaft – Berlin
 Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
 George Washington University
 Hospital – Washington
 Groupe Hospitalier Lariboisiere -
 Fernand Widal - Université
 Paris VII
 Hangzhou College
 Harvard Medical School
 Harvard-Smithsonian Center for
 Astrophysics
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem
 Helsingin Yliopiston
 Hôpital Cochin-Saint Vincent de
 Paul - Université Paris V
 Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière - Université
 Paris VI
 Hôpital Saint-Antoine - Université
 Paris VI
 IBM Zürich Research Laboratory
 Imperial College London
 Institut Catholique de Paris
 Institut Pasteur – Paris
 Johannes Gutenberg-Universität –
 Mainz
 José Carreras Stammzellbank,
 Heinrich-Heine - Universität –
 Düsseldorf
 Karolinska Institute – Stockholm
 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
 King's College London
 Kingston University London
 Laboratoire de Police scientifique –
 Toulouse
 London School of Economics and
 Political Science
 London School of Hygiene &
 Tropical Medicine
 Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität –
 München
 MammaZentrum – München
 Mills College – San Francisco
 Mount Holyoke College –
 Massachusetts
 Mount Vernon Hospital –
 Northwood London

National University of Ireland – Maynooth	Université de Lausanne
New Hall College – University of Cambridge	Université de Nancy Henry Poincaré
New York University	Université de Paris V
Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Trondheim	Université de Paris VIII
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	Université de Paris-Sorbonne
Roskilde Universitet	Université de Sherbrooke – Québec
Royal College of Arts – London	Université de Toulouse
Royal Postgraduate Medical School – London	Université Laval – Quebec
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität – Heidelberg	Université Libre de Bruxelles
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	Université Marc Bloch – Strasbourg
Smith College – Massachusetts	Universiteit Twente
St. Thomas Hospital – London	University of Cambridge
State University of New York – Syracuse	University of Miami
Swansea University	University of East Anglia – Norwich
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	University of Essex
Universidad de Granada	University of London
Universidad de Jaën	University of Manchester
Universidade Federal da Bahia	University of Oxford
Universität Duisburg-Essen	University of Pittsburgh
Universität Passau	University of Reading
Universität Tübingen	University of Strathclyde – Glasgow
Université Bordeaux 1	University of Wisconsin – Madison
Université de Geneve	University of Hull
	Univerzity Karlovy v Praze
	Victoria and Albert Museum – London
	West Middlesex University Hospital – London

OUR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

Our Treasured Link with the Collegio Nuovo

Anne Lonsdale, President, New Hall, University of Cambridge

When The Rettrice, Paola Bernardi, approached me to write about our links with the Collegio Nuovo I was delighted, because the contacts we have built up and the shared experiences of our students have been one of the most rewarding projects in my time at New Hall. The fact that both Colleges are committed to a strong international outlook undoubtedly helps, as does the freedom which comes from being young institutions in ancient universities, able to make radical choices. But before I tell you about the creation of this important and very successful Anglo-Italian relationship I would like to tell you something of the history and character of New Hall.

New Hall is one of the thirty-two colleges of the University of Cambridge. It was established in 1954 as the Third Foundation for Women, at a time when there were only two other colleges admitting women, Newnham (still for women only) and Girton (now mixed). All the others were for men only. However, since the 1970s all the former mens' colleges have admitted women, leaving two, Newnham and New Hall,

admitting women only. While our students, both undergraduate and graduate, are all women, our academic staff (known as 'Fellows' in Cambridge) is mixed. We have no intention at present of admitting men as students, as there are many young women from all over the world who prefer to have a more private "home-base" in this thoroughly co-educational university. There is good evidence to show that many women thrive best where they can dictate their own social setting and so the College's 450 students have all the advantages of the co-educational riches of Cambridge without the pressures of co-residence.

The College lived in borrowed buildings for its first ten years, with never more than a hundred students. In 1964 the College moved from temporary, but very charming accommodation by the river in Silver Street (where Darwin College stands today) to its own permanent site on Castle Hill in west Cambridge, in new buildings (now listed Grade II* by English Heritage) designed by Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, the architects of the Barbican in London. The name Castle Hill suggests an ancient site and archaeologists have uncovered quite a range of 'finds' including an Iron Age British fort and a Roman Army tent factory, perhaps to supply those poor Roman soldiers who had to spend cold winters on Hadrian's Wall on the far northern boundaries of the Roman Empire. So you could say that our links with Italy go back nearly two thousand years.

Our new buildings "on the hill" were completed in 1965 to provide the College's permanent home and enhanced in 1994-95 by a new accommodation wing, lecture and seminar rooms and a smart new entrance funded by an agreement with the Kaetsu Educational Foundation in Tokyo, another valuable international link. In 1997 these additional buildings, too, won awards, and we have gone on to win a new award in 2003 for the refurbishment of the key buildings on the site, our domed dining-hall and library. Our physical setting has always been important to us and during the 1990's the College developed a notable collection of contemporary works by women sculptors and painters, which continues to grow. The Privy Council granted the College's Charter in 1972. The College has no plans to increase greatly in size and will remain for the foreseeable future a college for women students only, while enjoying the benefits of a mixed Fellowship. New Hall also enjoys the best of both worlds as a mod-

ern college in the setting of an ancient university. We can enjoy traditions when we wish but are not tied by out-of-date constraints. At present, the college consists of 360 undergraduates, 90 graduate students and 55 Fellows (both men and women) covering a wide range of disciplines from Architecture to Zoology, while we have over 4,500 alumnae in the UK and abroad. We have come a long way in the last 50 years, from two Tutors to fifty Fellows, from sixteen students to the four hundred and fifty here today, while our alumnae have distinguished themselves in every profession, from professors, to poets, to writers and teachers, engineers and painters, surgeons and musicians, succeeding in the law, government, the media, business and industry, in Britain and around the world.

When I arrived in New Hall as President in 1996 I was surprised to find only one international link, a long-standing connection with the *École Normale Supérieure* then based in Fontenay near Paris, and now in Lyons. This reflected the structure of the Cambridge course in Modern (European) Languages which required almost all students to take French, at least in their first year. However, to me it seemed just as important that all students, whatever subject they were studying for a degree, should have access to the major European languages. We are Europeans too, and the generation of students now graduating from New Hall will live and work in a global jobmarket as Europeans first, and English, Scots, Germans, or Italians second.

I am a Sinologist by training and I have felt myself strongly “European” since my first visit to China some 40 years ago. It became very clear to me then that, confronted with an ancient culture, new language and vast population with which I had relatively little in common, I knew that my own roots, historically, culturally and linguistically, were European. It has been important to me since then to make sure that students had access to the wealth of the European traditions to which all our citizens are heirs as much as to the individual traditions from which they spring.

It was therefore an enormous pleasure to me when I had a message from Rector Roberto Schmid to ask if New Hall would consider a link with the *Collegio Nuovo*. Cambridge colleges are very democratic, self-governing bodies and the answer to that question was not up to me but to the Fellows of the College. However, it was not a long discussion – the College was

delighted to be linked with another women's college in a prestigious Italian university and encouraged me to go to Pavia to take the negotiations forward.

Like all the New Hall students who have followed me to Pavia I felt totally at home from the moment when Paola Bernardi welcomed me into the Collegio. New Hall is also a modern college set in gardens on the edge of the old city of Cambridge and this brings many practical advantages. The students were immediately charming and welcoming and I greatly enjoyed walking in to breakfast and wondering who I would meet that morning. It was clear that any New Hall student visiting Pavia would come away with a wonderful network of contemporaries from all parts of Italy, a huge privilege for a young European. Negotiations were easily concluded with a great deal of mutual understanding and give-and-take, and I was honoured that the Rettrice and her husband joined us at the New Hall College Feast that summer, to celebrate our new International connections. The close and warm working relationship with the Rettrice and her husband has been one of the many joys of the links with Pavia.

Indeed, the links with Pavia have been a great joy not only to the Italianists who spent their third year "Year Abroad" (a requirement of their course) as Lettrice in the Collegio Nuovo, but to at least two literary specialists who were able to add Italian to their range of languages and literatures thanks to the courses they were allowed to take in the University. One went on to study comparative literature, another, linguistics. Most were still completing their first degrees, coming to Pavia after two years at Cambridge, while the exchange students who have come to us from Pavia have been more mature, graduates who already had a chosen field of study and were spending their time in Cambridge (when not teaching Italian) advancing their research.

Just as everyone I met at breakfast in the Collegio was charming and welcoming (and spoke good English) all our visitors to Cambridge have been a delight and a great addition to our collegiate life. We also have a number of graduate students from Italian universities, including a recent graduate in Astrophysics, Lucia Magliocchetti, who so much enjoyed her time at Cambridge and New Hall that she and a couple of Italian colleagues wrote an article in *Corriere della Sera*, proposing the extension of a

collegiate structure throughout Italian universities. The enthusiasm with which this idea was greeted by the then Minister for Higher Education and other no less famous figures than Umberto Eco was a great help to us in Cambridge where we were battling with our own government's desire to downgrade the position of the colleges.

It is certainly very important to us to see our links with the Collegio Nuovo grow and flourish. As universities across Europe accept the implications of the Bologna Process it will become easier for us to harmonise the practicalities of working together and to enable students to have a taste of living in a different language, culture and academic system. While Cambridge has not played a major part in EU programmes such as Erasmus and Socrates, we believe that it is important that the college should do what it can to open the way to a common European future for its 21st century graduates. To that end, the college has added links with Salamanca and Köln to its existing links with France and Italy, so that every year there are lecturers from all four countries who work with students who are specialising in those languages but are also available to help students of any degree course who want to improve their spoken knowledge of these languages. So our *lettrice* from Pavia has an important role in the college and has also taken part from time to time in the teaching of Italian in one of a network of Village Colleges (Specialist secondary schools) which surround Cambridge. More recently, the *lettrice* has been involved in the creation of an on-line language course in Italian available to all Cambridge students which is part of the "Languages at your Fingertips" project run by the University's Language Centre. This enables students of any discipline to study a modern language (so far French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese) on-line in addition to their degree programme. So, together with our colleagues in Pavia, we are preparing the European citizens of the future, able to work successfully in any part of the world, but strengthened and supported by their affection for their rich European inheritance and their shared European home – and what a privilege for our Cambridge students to spend time in a city which contains such treasures as the ancient university buildings, the castle of the Sforzas, and the Certosa, surely one of the most magical buildings in Europe.

Greetings

*Message of Ján FIGEL, European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
in occasion of the 30th year celebration of Collegio Nuovo of Pavia*

Dear Director,

I am glad to have the opportunity to address you in occasion of the 30th year celebration of Collegio Nuovo of Pavia.

Education and training are crucial for the future of the European Union. Better knowledge and skills are fundamental for personal and social development, employability, social cohesion, cultural awareness and civic maturity. High quality and accessible education is essential for all citizens - entrepreneurs, workers, researchers, briefly, all those who would be able to contribute to the European knowledge society.

Universities and higher education have never been a higher priority for the EU. In our Agenda for the Modernisation of Universities we urge Member states to foster innovation.

An Institute such as yours gives a huge contribution to educational excellence in the EU and is a concrete sign of how privileged merit is, taking also into account students' economic resources.

Collegio Nuovo is also an example of how the European integration can be experienced on a day by day basis in the education field: your exchange pro-

*grams with other colleges in Europe are a clear evidence of it.
I wish you a happy 30th year celebration and I hope your students will carry
on in their future professional lives values and culture which are the very basis
of the European integration.*

Ján Figel

Greetings from the President of the Johannes-Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Dear President Bruna Bruni

Dear Rector Paola Bernardi

Distinguished Colleagues

Professor Angiolino Stella, Rector of the University of Pavia

Professor Roberto Schmid, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of Pavia

Professor Emilio Gabba, recipient of an honorary degree from the University of Mainz,

Authorities,

Dear students of the Collegio Nuovo,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1978, thanks to the work of Sandra Bruni Mattei, Collegio Nuovo was established in Pavia. The Collegio enables motivated and deserving young women to conduct their high level university studies within a community of students.

On behalf of the Johannes-Gutenberg University of Mainz, I congratulate you for this thirtieth anniversary. I would like to personally extend my congratulations to Bruna Bruni and Paola Bernardi who have presided and run the Collegio for the past 30 years, from the year of its founding. We therefore have two reasons to celebrate. Their personal involvement and hard work in establishing the partnership between the Collegio Nuovo and the Johannes-Gutenberg University of Mainz, active since 1982, thanks also to the forward thinking of then President Manfred Harder and Professor Kurt Ringger, have enabled up to five students per year for the past 25 years to take advantage of this exchange program for a semester or for a summer language course.

In memory of Dr. Viviana Cessi, a student of the Collegio Ghislieri – whom the University of Mainz has also had an active important partnership with since 1982 – and a collaborator of the University of Mainz who unfortunately passed away prematurely, the Collegio established the “Dr. Viviana Cessi Stipendium” in 2001. This scholarship allows graduates of the University of Mainz who intend to continue their studies the possibility of spending a month doing research or taking a language course in Pavia and living in the Collegio.

Through this scholarship the exchange program was further enriched.

As President of the University Johannes-Gutenberg, I would like to warmly thank everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to the full success of this relationship between the two institutions. A special thanks goes to the President and the Rector, but also to all of the people, the professors and students who worked hard on many aspects of this partnership. The Johannes-Gutenberg University hopes to deepen and strengthen this relationship with the Collegio Nuovo to which it extends the best wishes for the next thirty years.

Prof. Dr. Georg Krausch

*Distinguished President,
Distinguished Rector,*

On behalf of the Romanisches Seminar and the Italienzentrum of the University of Heidelberg, I wish to extend my best wishes for the celebrations of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Collegio Nuovo.

I regret that I cannot be present on this occasion, but I hope to see the Collegio's new garden in the near future. I also wish to express my gratitude for the excellent collaboration we have had in the context of our agreement and I hope that our friendship will further consolidate itself in the future. Our partnership has always functioned in the best way possible and with continuous hard work on your part. Congratulations on the activity you have undertaken so far and may you have a wonderful celebration.

Prof. Dr. Edgar Radtke

Dr. Paola Bernardi, Students, Faculty, and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and admiration that we, on behalf of our colleagues throughout Women's Education Worldwide, send you warm congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Collegio Nuovo.

We have been delighted to find such a wonderful partner in advancing the great unfinished agenda of the 21st century: the education of women and girls around the world. Our institutions were founded on the same ideals, and we look forward to fruitful collaboration well into the future.

May you continue forward in your noble endeavour for many years to come. We send you our best wishes.

*Carol T. Christ
President
Smith College*

*Joanne V. Creighton
President
Mount Holyoke College*

Congratulations on celebrating your first thirty years. I am sure your graduates are proving that the world needs them. Certainly Dubai Women's College are honored to have some of your students attend the Insights Dubai International Student Leadership Conference. All of us at DWC sincerely hope that Collegio Nuovo has another thirty years of success.

*Howard Reed
Dubai Women's College Director*

OUR ALUMNAE TELL

Talking about peace in Mall of Emirates, Dubai. Interview to Naseem Mohammed Rafee

While I drink my exotic fruit cocktail I look at people skiing behind the window on my left: the thermometer says -4 degrees. This could be just an ordinary description except that I am in a shopping mall in Dubai, temperature outside is 32 degrees and humidity 54%. Indoor skiing facilities are part of the offer of the mall. My local friends left me for a while, just the time for them to rush to the nearest Mosque and pray as they do five times a day, leaving whatever they were doing before. In this case they were bargaining for a stylish bag. A bag that I could never afford. A bag that nicely matches the decoration of their Sheila, the silky black foulard that covers their hair and part of their face.

I can't help, Sheila still scares me: but there is to reason for this. Women from Dubai are proud of their Sheila as much as women from Cannes are proud of their bikini. Women from Dubai feel bad about other women being in bikini as much as "we" feel bad about "their" face being covered.

But something interesting is happening and it is worth mentioning. The thing is that in Dubai women, no matter where they are from, go

shopping together and while shopping they talk about Sheila and bikini, arranged marriage and freak collection of boyfriend, irrational faith and faithless rationalism. The thing is that in Dubai women, no matter where they are from, go shopping together and while choosing a perfume and a bag, while buying a miniskirt and a black foulard, talk about each others feelings and opinions and end up accepting them. Peace is about dialogue and understanding and can be built despite opposite feelings. For women in Dubai, Peace, can also be built going shopping together.

While I drink my exotic fruit cocktail, people ski, my friends pray and others shop around me, I try to summarize the dialogue I had yesterday with Naseem, a successful young woman from Dubai. After her degree in Dubai Women's College (Dubai Partner of Collegio Nuovo) she is now in charge of the new Cosmetic Inspection Group at Dubai Municipality as well as mother of three children. She nicely accepted to share her views on very important topics, including terrorism and perfumes.

Have you ever been to Europe?

I went twice. The first time just after high school, I was most of all interested in shopping. And anyway I do not go to the beach so, you see, shopping looked the main attraction. The second time was after graduation. I went to Prague and Germany. I appreciated the city architectures, the difference among people... I think I was more mature. I am looking forward to coming again soon.

What is your favorite color?

Ehm... I keep on changing. Currently I am in "yellow" mood.

What is your favorite perfume?

I like light perfumes, flower based essences.

What is the rate of local women teaching in Dubai Universities?

In the administration, I would say above 90%, as teachers 5%. I am just guessing rates, but this is roughly the dimension. Women study a lot in Dubai. If you take the local Arabic population, 75% of graduating students are female. Males find a job quite soon. The thing is that the number of local people who study up to the PhD is still low. We find a job earlier.

What you think it is the rate of women teaching in European Universities?

No idea guess 40% ...

How has Dubai changed since you were a child?

Development has been dramatic. I mean, very fast. Faster than we could cope with. It is not just a matter of architecture and landscape. Modernization and internationalization are enormously challenging local people. Arabic population accounts now for less than 20%. This has a number of implications. We have to face every day issues of identity and integration. We are forced to develop very fast, not only in terms of skills. Our culture, our tradition are challenged: we try to find our ways; we try to develop ourselves as the city does. But we are looking for a harmonic development; we do not want to lose our identity. It is not easy to do all that so fast.

As a working woman, which are the main problems that you face?

I have to say that my male bosses, local or foreigner, have always been nice with me. But when you start having managing responsibilities it can be different. You might have a boss who tries to obstruct your career. Sometimes men are jealous. Sometime we are just better: we can look after three children and a husband while cooking dinner, indeed we are more performing even at work. Men are scared about that. But anyway, if you are a good professional and you do your best for being a good professional, at some point gender differences stop being relevant and people trust you as a professional. What I try to teach also to the new generations is: do your best, if your boss is not fair with you, someone else, maybe his boss, will see it and help you.

Which do you think are the main problem that working women in Europe face?

Well, honestly I do not think there is a big difference. I think we relate with man in the same way. The problem is coping with the tight daily schedule. Besides being professionals, we are mothers and we have the responsibility to raise the new generations. The value of our children will be the ones that we are giving them. This is a big responsibility, a hard job equally in Europe and here.

Which are the aspects of your culture that you think we do not understand?

Honestly, I think you really do not understand Islam. You judge us based on the actions of what other Muslims so called terrorists are doing. This is not Islam. These are actions of human beings. Wrong action, but still you can't evaluate a Religion based on that. Human beings are weak

and subject to failure. Islam is a religion of peace. I wish you could get information from the right sources. Reading Holy Qur'an is a good way to understand that Islam is a religion of peace.

What were you looking for in the man you then married?

I have always been attracted by man older than I was. I had no interest in boys my age. Now my husband is in his forties and has his first grey hair, I do not want him to hide them, he looks more... elegant.

What do you think European women are looking for in a man?

I would say stability. They, well, you, look for the perfect one. And you keep on changing as you do not find it. And probably you get frustrated. Actually, perfection is not human, is not something you can get from a man. God is perfect but this is another story. You can't ask your man to be 100% perfect. A 70% fit is reasonable to have a stable relationship. The rest depends on how much you want to give to the relationship: you can't only take.

Can you finally explain to European women what Sheila is for you?

Sheila and Abbaya are the traditional Emirati dress for women. Mens' dress is white, womens' dress is black and both have this foulard covering the head. The reason why women dress is black is lost in the past. Probably this was the most available material. Consider that chemical coloring is only very recent, world in the past all was more black and white. Anyway. Holy Qur'an prescribes that women cover their hair, which is actually about dressing in a modest way without attracting other people attention. Black color is not mentioned. Other Islamic population use other colors. For us Sheila is the traditional way to respect religion. But, as you see, it is also part of our way to dress. Even the ladies who are not strict on religion and show their hair, still wear this black Sheila as an accessory. This is something that we want to wear. This has to be made clear. We feel naked without, we feel somehow harassed. Sheila is a protection.

What would you suggest to a young woman who has to take important decision for her life?

First, choose with you heart. Close your eyes and try to think about something that always made you and makes you still happy. Then, imagine see yourself in ten years time. Where you will be? Where you wish to

be? What are you then doing? Then analyze your skills: do you have the talent for doing what you want to do? If not, try to develop the skills to get you to there. Future is what you do today for getting what you want tomorrow.

(Anna Lanzani, *Nuovità*, no. 18 – 2007)

Management and Research. Interview to Michela Bertero

An “eccentric” scientific career that of Michela Bertero.

In an era in which the debate is on specialisation, recycling and flexibility, our meeting with a well-prepared scientific personality is particularly precious. Michela Bertero with her scientific background and research experience then moved on to the role of Scientific Manager who coordinates European projects: monitor of scientific activities, workshops organisation and budget administration. Alumna of Collegio Nuovo, after her graduation with Professor Alessandro Galizzi in Biology at the University of Pavia and a doctoral degree in Genetics, she travelled around Europe, USA and Canada. At the moment she is working as Scientific Project Manager at the Centre de Regulació Genòmica of Barcelona.

After the conference at Collegio Nuovo we interviewed her.

From Genoa, land of travellers and explorers, where you were born and studied till high school, to Pavia, Paris, USA, Canada, and then again Europe with Munich and now Barcelona. Brain on a continuous run?

Actually it is not an escape mechanism: it was the experience in Pavia that gave me the initial stimuli to go abroad. I arrived in Pavia advised by Martino Bolognesi, who was at the time professor of Biophysics at the Universities of Pavia and Genoa: when I was still in Genoa he talked to me about the fascinating world of molecular biology, described the college life and its system and the University, convincing me to leave my beloved city and come to Pavia. Here I found the Collegio Nuovo, an

experience that I look to especially as a flashback, and confronting myself also with my friends from Genoa, definitely offered me more stimuli, one of which is the understanding that it is necessary to change and travel. For a scientific career it is counterproductive to remain in the same laboratory, never mind how comfortable you feel. Pavia stimulated the research of diversity.

And the College?

Even the College, however well you found yourself and strong your friendships are, there comes a moment to leave it. The need for a house that is completely “yours”, little rules that become tight: it’s a normal process. At Pavia, the comfortable access to the cultural activities of the city, University and colleges, the possibility to reach places with relative easiness, the information, the presence of foreigners... are all aspects that have been fundamental also for my future choices.

Tell us about these choices.

No, let’s go back in time: even before my graduation with Professor Alessandro Galizzi, with whom I have always maintained a great relationship (for me he is the “mitico Gal”!), I was determined to leave and travel abroad. Therefore, in 1996 I prepared my thesis at the Pasteur Institut in Paris thanks to the Erasmus exchange program: I lived for six months in a students’ residence, nothing comparable to the college system. The Collegio Nuovo in a way collaborated with my experience, since it also supported me in going a month ahead to learn the language. The experience in Paris was hard work, with in addition a bit of luck due to the fact that I had the opportunity to participate in a big international research project that brought about a publication in the magazine *Nature*: aim, to sequence the entire genome of the bacterium called *Bacillus subtilis*. Unexpectedly (I had not even graduated!), I think this article has been the most cited among the ones I collaborated with as author.

And then, after this first editorial success and your graduation, you moved back to Italy...

...Yes, and then again “Il Gal” together with my father (who teaches Physics at the University in Genoa) have been fundamental. I wanted to take a PhD abroad, but both recommended me to stay in Italy a little bit

longer. Galizzi in addition to offering me an intense microbiology laboratory activity in Pavia – a small, but efficient lab and with him always available – sent me off for three months to Ithaca, to a colleague, to learn useful techniques for my PhD thesis. I was dealing with my usual *Bacillus subtilis*: this time I had to study the functional characterisation of a protein that controls its motility. Motility is an important process in bacteria sometimes connected to pathogenesis.

From Ithaca, which other “mad flight”?

Just a moment, first came the achievement of the PhD in Italy! However, I had already decided that I wanted to move forward and learn something new, something called crystallography: it is a technique which allows you to determine the three dimensional structure of proteins. And here my mentor from my high school days came back into the scene. I talked and confronted myself with Bolognesi and a whole world opened in front of my eyes: for my postdoc choice he presented me a list of several emerging crystallographers around the world, even as far as in New Zealand. He told me to consider not only the field they dealt with but also the size of the lab. As a matter of fact, since I had to learn and not export an already consolidated experience, a big lab could not be the right choice. The final decision was for Natalie Strynadka in Vancouver – not quite as far as New Zealand, but nearly!

Some advice, only to clear out the fact that it was not a blind run: before deciding I went to visit the city ahead of my stay, to talk with Natalie and all the people working for her. The group leader can be extremely successful, but you need to see the lab, know the colleagues with whom you will work every day, see if they are satisfied and team workers.

Finally in Canada... for four years. The long stay speaks for itself...

Of course! The strong points of the University Campus where the lab was located were the dynamic, multidisciplinary and international environment and the frequent seminars held by important speakers. Last but not least: the economic resources! I had a postdoc contract with the University and on the last year I won a fellowship based on merits due to the fact that I had published new articles in the meanwhile. When I arrived in Vancouver I only had a publication on my thesis work (in addition to *Nature!*), I was the first candidate from Europe, but I was very motivated.

Further results soon followed: I succeeded in determining and publishing the 3D structure of a membrane protein from a bacterium called *Escherichia coli*. Many proteins exist in the cells, some soluble, some embedded in the membranes: the latter is a very challenging case to study. “My protein” was the first membrane protein whose structure was resolved by a Canadian lab.

A great satisfaction, so why did you end up in Munich then?

A longing for Europe. In two weeks time I gathered six interviews in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Frankfurt and Munich, always to continue my research in cristallography of proteins. Final choice: Munich. I was fascinated by the fact that the group leader, Patrick Cramer, was not only interested in what I wanted to do in his lab, but also at my future perspective. Did I really want to become myself a group leader? The project that he would assign me would also depend on my choices. Furthermore, in the lab the workers were enthusiastic and the feeling was that of a real team. Also the city slowly captured me: even if English was the language used in the scientific field, I wanted to learn German and ended up loving it even more. Not being willing to learn the actual language of the country in my opinion is a very ignorant attitude.

Your career has not been totally “straight forward” and expected...

After two years in Munich, I felt again the desire of changing and why not, trying something completely different. I received two offers: one from Italy (but not Pavia!) and one from Spain. The most appealing was the one of Professor Luis Serrano, Vice Director of the Centre de Regulació Genòmica of Barcelona: a research leader at European level. It has been little more than a year that I work there as Scientific Project Manager.

Manager, that's the word that disturbs your understatement... tell us exactly what you do.

It is a unique opportunity that allows meto stay in the scientific field in which I grew up: I still feel as part of the research world even if no longer tied to the bench in the lab. I keep myself updated on the new discoveries and get acquainted with diverse research fields, I had to learn what the economic management of research is, I write scientific and financial reports to present to the European Commission, I help in the preparation of new research projects... Manager, yes, and I smile because for some at the

beginning I was that “European Secretary”, what I did was not quite clear, but this is always the risk of the new! Today I am proud to have combined administrative and scientific abilities.

Any special reward during this first year?

The project that I am particularly fond of and that we are coordinating is 3D Repertoire: thirty laboratories with a budget of 16 million Euros with the common goal to determine the 3D structures of all protein complexes in yeast (a model organism in biology) When I arrived 3D Repertoire was in a disastrous state: excellent scientists were involved, but collaborations and team spirit were completely lacking. In the last “mid term review” the project achieved positive judgment by the European Commission on both the scientific profile and the managerial one. The group leaders, like professor Serrano, often get carried away with the scientific aspect of these projects and therefore a role like mine, supported by strong scientific knowledge, is an extremely useful support.

The inauguration of the new academic year took place on the 4th of February in Pavia. It has been an opportunity to underline certain figures, one of which I would like to remind you of: according to the first selection of the European Research Council (ERC), the first European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research, it has come about that from 9,167 applications, 1,600 came from Italy (therefore more than 15%), with a percentage of accepted applications that places Italy in the fourth place; furthermore in the inaugural speech Rector Angiolino Stella added that if we consider the Italian scientists now abroad, we would be at the second place.

Another data that I would like to underline: from 300 applications of researchers, that have already received a priority based on a criteria of excellence, a report from ERC informs that the average age of the researchers that had applied was 35 years and the 26% were women. You fit in this range of age and gender and you studied in a female college, in which the Rector Paola Bernardi has always worked hard in favour of the promotion of women progress. In your field, what is being done?

Let's say that for the big projects, such as the one that I have just mentioned, there is a policy known as “Gender action plan”. Its first duty is to evaluate gender statistics: how many women are involved in PhD or post-doc positions, how many as group leaders, how many in the management,

in the administration... in 3D Repertoire we are well represented, with more than 30% of women group leaders.

The percentage starts to become significant!

Of course. In the recruitment of new people you are asked not to discriminate on the basis of gender. In the case of 3D Repertoire 10,000 euros had been kept aside for this purpose: it is not so much, but nonetheless it is a first step. With the advice of Elena Conti, Director of Max Planck Institute of Munich, and other women who carry out successful careers in science we had the idea to establish three prizes of 2,500 euros each to assign in case of maternity leave and based on scientific excellence. The money can be used in total freedom: to pay baby-sitting services or for a “top up” in favour of a qualified person who can temporarily carry over the project; this often turns out to be an incentive for youngsters. Just to overcome any doubt of gender discrimination, the prize is also extended to “paternity leave”!

(Saskia Avalle, *Socrate al caffè*, no. 32, April 2008)

ABOUT COLLEGIO NUOVO

Collegio Nuovo is a women's college in Pavia committed to the highest standards of education for women. It was established in 1978 thanks to the generosity of Sandra Bruni Mattei, an industrial entrepreneur (1896-1981) who wished to promote the social and cultural development of talented and motivated women enrolled at the University of Pavia (one of the oldest universities in Europe having been established in 1361), the vast majority of whom are also students at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IUSS) of Pavia, the third Italian Higher Education and Research School of which the College is an institutional partner since its foundation.

Collegio Nuovo is a member of the permanent Conference of Italian University Colleges (CCU), a group of fourteen colleges that have been granted a special status by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research as "Centres of Educational Excellence". Collegio Nuovo is also a member, and now also part of the Executive Committee, of *Women's Education Worldwide* (WEW), the international network of the most prestigious women's colleges across the globe whose primary mission is the education and advancement of women.

Aware of the increasing prominence of women in the community, the Founder laid the basis for the creation of a rich and stimulating international environment, in which dedication, diversity, creativity, and cross-

disciplinary expertise allow the students to develop multiple skills and to aim for excellence. Collegio Nuovo focuses on the whole person, bringing out each student's talent and offering interdisciplinary cultural activities, study guidance and tutoring services. Students further develop into independent-minded responsible citizens ready to take their place in the community. Special attention is paid to women's education, fostering students and Alumnae to become leaders in their professions and agents of social change.

Merit is the criteria of selection of incoming and continuing students at Collegio Nuovo. Admission is through a national competition that entails one written and two oral exams. The exam commission is composed of the University of Pavia and IUSS Professors. A student's position at Collegio Nuovo is re-confirmed provided that the student maintains a 27/30 grade point average and completes all the exams for each academic year.

In addition to promoting talent, Collegio Nuovo supports the most deserving students by either waiving their fees entirely or by applying subsidised rates.

Investing in merit, Collegio Nuovo's distinctive feature, is achieving excellent results. Clear evidence of this comes from a recent survey of Alumnae: 44% of them find a job or start a paid research activity within 3 months of graduation with this percentage rising to 80% in 6 months.

Collegio Nuovo stems from the Sandra and Enea Mattei Foundation, which is led by a Board of Directors that includes a diversified group of accomplished men and women, mainly Pavia University Professors, including a Collegio Nuovo Alumna. The Board President is Bruna Bruni, niece of the Founder. Collegio Nuovo, since its inception, has been run by the Rector Paola Bernardi. Closely involved with college life, the Alumnae Association promotes grants and educational opportunities that connect notable alumnae (Collegio Nuovo has close to 700 graduates) with current students. At present the President of the Alumnae Association is Cristina Castagnoli, an officer of the European Commission.

Cultural and academic activities

The cultural program complements the teaching activities carried out at the University of Pavia and also attracts outside students. Starting in the 2000-01 academic year Collegio Nuovo, thanks to a clause in the didactic regulation of the University of Pavia later approved by an agreement between the CRUI (permanent Conference of Italian University Rectors) and CCU (permanent Conference of Italian University Colleges), organizes many courses accredited by the University of Pavia and addressed to University students of all Faculties. Among these: Digital and Multimedia Communications, Scientific Journalism, Journalistic Methods and Techniques, Semiotics of the Arts, Semiotics and Music Workshops, Chinese Law and short specialized Courses in Medicine. The Collegio is also the seat of the Masters in Media and Science Technology (a parallel program also exists at the University of Tunis) taught in collaboration with the IUSS Advanced Programs.

The College also provides study guidance and tutoring services, internal courses in computer studies and foreign languages, training experiences, internships, conferences and meetings with leading figures from the worlds of culture, research, politics, business and industry.

These cultural events are also open to the public and mainly give prominence to influential women. In recent years Collegio Nuovo has hosted speakers such as the former President of Italy, Francesco Cossiga, and that of the European Union, Romano Prodi; Roberto Formigoni, Lombardy President, Fernanda Conti, Judge of the Italian Constitutional Court, Simonetta Agnello Hornby, President of the Tribunal for Special Education Needs in London, Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Prize for Chemistry and the IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal, Robert E. Kahn, the architects Gae Aulenti and Mario Botta, the historians Emilio Gabba and Denis Mack Smith, the philosophers Salvatore Veca and Giulio Giorello, the art historians Federico Zeri and Philippe Daverio, the poets Attilio Bertolucci and Mario Luzi, the literature critics Cesare Segre and Maria Corti, the journalists Beppe Severgnini and Carlo Rossella, the writers Antonio Tabucchi, Claudio Magris, David Grossman, Niccolò Ammaniti, Antonia Arslan and Valerio M. Manfredi, the

directors Pupi Avati, Gabriele Salvatores, Krzysztof Zanussi and Cristina Comencini, the geneticists Luca L. Cavalli Sforza and Edoardo Boncinelli.

Collegio Nuovo regularly publishes volumes about its most important cultural activities, among them, *Incontri al Collegio Nuovo 1987-1997* (edited by Grazia Bruttocao) and *Incontri e Corsi al Collegio Nuovo 1997-2007* (edited by Emmanuela Carbè and Saskia Avalle), as well as the annual review *Nuovità*. Collegio Nuovo has also promoted publications on special occasions, such as the volume *Lezioni al Collegio Nuovo di Emilio Gabba* (edited by Lucia Pick), an anthology of the lessons held by the Emeritus Professor of Roman History, member of the prestigious Accademia dei Lincei. To Emilio Gabba the Collegio dedicated an anthology of writings by the Alumnae: *Ritratti di Emilio Gabba* (2007). In 2005 the Collegio edited a collection of the recipes by its Cook, underscoring the attention that is paid to fostering an enjoyable environment.

Partnership

Collegio Nuovo provides its students with merit-based grants to facilitate further studies all over the world. Since 1978, the College has enabled close to 300 students to spend time abroad during the summer and about 130 students to pursue post-graduate studies in prestigious institutions across the globe. Over the same period Collegio Nuovo has hosted nearly 300 visiting foreign students, mainly from Europe but also from other continents: quite an international community.

Exchange schemes have been established with the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (1981), the Ruprecht Karls University of Heidelberg (1992), New Hall College of the University of Cambridge (1997) and the Colleges of the *Women's Education Worldwide* network.

Many Collegio Nuovo Alumnae currently live and work in Universities, Research Centres, International Organizations and firms abroad. Similarly, as many foreign Alumnae from twin institutions live and work in Italy now. In this way, Collegio Nuovo has contributed and continues to create a real worldwide network of talented women.

Student life

Collegio Nuovo hosts 115 Italian and foreign women who excel in the selection procedure, demonstrating ability, dedication and social skills. A separate residential block for graduates was opened next to the Collegio in 2000. This independent unit houses 50 male and female graduate students enrolled in Doctoral, Masters or other Advanced Degree Programs at the University of Pavia. Visiting Professors are also housed in this unit.

The Collegio provides comfortable living and study conditions: it is a modern environment with a warm and friendly atmosphere in which social and cultural aspects of life thrive alongside academic endeavours. Students actively participate in the cultural and academic life of the Collegio and are represented by two Deans (elected each year from within the student body) who become spokeswomen for student needs and coordinate organizational aspects of life at the Collegio.

Sports also are very important at Collegio Nuovo, which has excellent facilities. Thanks to the indoor gymnasium and to the outdoor football and tennis courts, students can participate in intra-collegiate activities (group fitness classes, tennis etc...) and take private lessons. Collegio Nuovo also participates in intercollegiate basketball, volleyball and football championships.

The main buildings of Collegio Nuovo evoke the traditional architecture of lombard farmsteads. The Collegio is set in spacious parkland renowned for its simple and restful beauty in the heart of a new area housing the University's scientific and technological departments. The historical centre of town, where the humanities departments are located is easily reached either by bus or bicycle.

Services

Students live in single rooms with en-suite bathrooms. Each room is equipped with a telephone and free Internet access. Students at Collegio Nuovo are also provided with a complete seven-day dining service, kitch-

enettes on each floor, weekly room cleaning, laundry facilities and emergency medical assistance. The apartments in the graduate residence have self-catering facilities.

Resources and facilities for study and leisure activities: recently renovated and fully-equipped lecture facilities including an auditorium and four lecture rooms, a library (the library contains 8,500 books, nearly 300 theses written by Alumnae and 40 periodicals), three computer rooms, free Internet access, four study rooms, a newspaper reading room, living-rooms, TV lounges, a video library (900 films), a large indoor gym, an outdoor tennis court, playing fields and a spacious garden with wireless connection to the Internet.

Governance and Staff

Board of Directors – Fondazione Sandra e Enea Mattei

Bruna Bruni – *President*

Silvio Beretta, Paola Bernardi, Barbara De Muro, Emilio Gabba, Remigio Moratti, Mario Pampanin, Roberto Schmid, Aris Zonta

Collegio Nuovo

Paola Bernardi – *Rector*

Saskia Avalle – *Cultural and Academic Activities and External Relations*

Ricciarda Stringhetti – *Secretariat*, Massimo Frattini – *Bursar's Office*

Collegio Nuovo – Alumnae Association Board

Cristina Castagnoli – *President*

Saskia Avalle, Milena Boltri, Lucia Botticchio, Grazia Bruttocao, Raffaella Butera, Paola Lanati, Elisa Pagliaroli

THE PAVIA SYSTEM

University of Pavia

The University of Pavia is one of the oldest universities in Europe, originally founded in 825 by Emperor Lotharius, grandson of Charlemagne, as a prestigious school of Rhetoric and Law. In 1361 the *Studium generale*, was established by Galeazzo II Visconti under the decree of Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor. At the end of 18th century the University was completely renewed by Maria Theresia, Empress of Austria.

A number of renowned scholars have taught at the *Alma Ticinensis Universitas*, including the inventor of the electric cell, Alessandro Volta, the poet Ugo Foscolo and Nobel Prize winners Camillo Golgi, Giulio Natta and Carlo Rubbia. Today the University of Pavia is multidisciplinary, with nine faculties, three campuses (Pavia, Cremona and Mantova) and 4 colleges and 11 residence halls some of which (Collegio Borromeo and Collegio Ghislieri) date back to the 16th century. Each year, thousands of young people have the opportunity to live, study, carry out research, participate in sports and join the international community in Pavia.

The University of Pavia is considered a *Research University* that participates in international projects, takes part in international university networks and promotes interdisciplinary research and dialogue with the business world. The campus environment facilitates the exchange of knowledge

and talent, encourages the interaction between professors and students and fosters the skills and creativity of students in order to prepare them for the future. The current Rector is Professor Angiolino Stella.

Some notable professors of the University of Pavia

Lorenzo Valla, Giason del Maino, Andrea Alciato, Gerolamo Cardano, Lazzaro Spallanzani, Alessandro Volta, Antonio Scarpa, Lorenzo Mascheroni, Vincenzo Monti, Ugo Foscolo, Gian Domenico Romagnosi, Felice Casorati, Eugenio Beltrami, Pasquale Del Giudice, Camillo Golgi, Plinio Fraccaro, Benvenuto Griziotti, Maria Corti.

Pavia – Research University

The University of Pavia invests in young researchers and places high value on talent, skills, creativity and passion for knowledge. Pavia is a stronghold for science that works in close collaboration with the international scientific community in basic and applied research, focusing on topics such as staminal cells, nanotechnology, material physics, microelectronics and applied biology. The University promotes interdisciplinary scientific projects, interacts with the business world, organises internships and establishes contacts with the professional world.

Pavia – International University

Pavia participates in 337 international exchange schemes together with universities all over the world, cooperation projects with developing countries, research projects with the most advanced international laboratories and organises Masters and PhD research programs, Erasmus study abroad program and internships abroad, ensuring a constant flux of ideas and resources. The University of Pavia has for centuries been active in the international academic community and is a member of the Coimbra Group, a network of historic European universities including the Universities of Cambridge, Barcelona, Dublin, Granada, Edinburgh, Heidelberg, Oxford, Prague and others.

Pavia – Sports University

The University of Pavia has a true sports department. The world champions of canoeing and rowing have studied and trained in Pavia, important boat races such as Pavia-Pisa and Pavia-Oxford, are held on the Ticino River and the University hosts intercollegiate teams sports tournaments. The University Sports Centre (CUS) and the Motor Sciences Department offer modern training facilities for sports such as: track and field, canoeing, rowing, volleyball, rugby, fencing, archery, sports for the physically challenged, aerobics, basketball, swimming and sailing.

Info: <http://www.unipv.eu/on-line/en/Home.html>

IUSS - Institute for Advanced Study of Pavia

IUSS-Pavia, the Institute for Advanced Study of Pavia, directed by Professor Roberto Schmid, fulfills, since 1997, an advanced teaching and research model successfully implemented by other prestigious institutions in Italy, like the Scuola Normale Superiore and the Scuola Sant'Anna in Pisa. In July 2005 it was recognised as an independent and autonomous "Scuola Superiore ad ordinamento speciale", in respect of the excellent qualities of activities carried out. Due to the completeness of its education and training fields, which allows a strong interdisciplinary approach, the mission of IUSS is that of contributing to the growth of a small number of selected students by offering them, at any step of their higher education, qualified programs enhancing their capabilities and knowledge. The Institute is also committed to scientific progress by preparing young researchers and developing scientific research programs. Together with the University of Pavia, the institutional part of IUSS School are the Colleges: Almo Collegio Borromeo, Collegio Ghislieri, Collegio Nuovo, Collegio Santa Caterina da Siena, EDISU Colleges.

IUSS offers advanced international undergraduate and graduate programs in the following fields:

- *Undergraduate Internal courses* open, on a merit base, to the most promising College students enrolled at the University of Pavia. Students belong to four different Classes, depending on the faculty they are attending. The internal courses are conceived as additional classes of higher learning and inter-discipline advanced study in addition to regular university courses attended to achieve the chosen degree.

Humanities Class

Students attending Literature and Philosophy faculties

Social Sciences Class

Students attending Economics, Law and Political Science faculties

Sciences and Technologies Class

Students attending Engineering and Sciences faculties

Biomedical Sciences Class

Students attending Pharmacy, Medicine and Surgery faculties

- *II Level University Master* degrees fully taught in English providing a strong International approach.

Masters foresee a classroom chapter, held in English, and an in-company internship which generally lasts 3/6 months. They are fulltime programs and cover a 12 month period at the end of which successful students receive a II level University Master Degree according to the Bologna process (60 ECTS). The faculty is composed of top professors and companies guest speakers.

Master in Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology

Master in Media Science and Technology

Master in Nuclear and Ionizing Radiation Technologies

Master in Integrated Environmental Management

Master in Methods for Management of Complex Systems

Master in Materials for micro and nano-Technologies

Master in Cooperation and Development

Master in Cooperation and International Economic Integration

- *PhD Degrees* provide an interdisciplinary point of view and exposure to cutting edge research.

IUSS hosts three PhD programmes, in cooperation with the University of Pavia and many other international Universities:

Earthquake Engineering
Biomolecular Sciences and Biotechnology
Political Economy and Legal Order

Furthermore, the Institute finances some fellowships for the PhD programme in *Microelectronics*, organized by the University of Pavia.

The research within the IUSS alongside, in a parallel path, the dense network of relations and alliances with other Italian and foreign universities, research centres with public and private and with the industrial system. The research is performed through the following Centres:

Earthquake Engineering
International Research Centre on Roman Law (Cedant)
Texts and Textual Traditions Research Centre
Languages of Europe: type, history and Sociolinguistics (LETiSS)
International Centre of Security Study
Human Development, Capability and Poverty International Research Centre (HDCCP)
Advanced Numerical Simulation Centre (CeSNA)

Within the Catania Project: “Euro-Mediterranean Space for Higher Education and Research”, IUSS has strongly promoted and is now partner of several *Centres for Higher Education and Research*.

At present four Centres are active: Tunisia, “Media Science and Technology”; Palestine, “International Cooperation and Development”; Jordan, “Human Rights and Human Development”; Turkey, “Earthquake engineering, seismology, seismotectonics and disaster management”.

Among the courses of higher education offered by IUSS we should mention the International Design Seminar which is a School of Excellence, in which quality of design becomes expression of the awareness to combine global issues with local identity and with history.

Info: <http://www.iusspavia.it/eng/>

Pavia, the city

The city of Pavia was founded on the left bank of the River Ticino more than two thousand years ago. Nowadays, almost 75,000 people live in this city only 35 km from Milan.

Pavia was founded in the 5th century B.C as a Gaul-Ligurian village; it became a Roman colony in 89 B.C. and was called *Ticinum*. The city was organised in accordance with the typical structure of a Roman *castrum* with streets meeting at 90 degree angles – still to be appreciated in the structure of the modern city. Thanks to its favorable strategic position, controlling the area crossed by the Rivers Ticino and Po, Pavia played a major political and economic role during the late Roman Empire and the early Middle Ages. It came to be known as *Papia* and retained its strength and prestige as a capital city under the Ostrogoths and, subsequently, under the Lombards and Franks.

Having become an independent municipality thanks to its economic prosperity, Pavia was able to lay the foundations for a lively urban development and the flourishing of Romanesque art. Among its churches, one of the most important is San Michele, considered the Romanesque masterpiece in Lombardy. The church is also known for being the site of Frederick Barbarossa's crowning in 1155, a few years after it had been rebuilt.

Under the Seigniorship of the Visconti family, Pavia became the focus of one of the most elegant courts of the Italian Renaissance. The Castello Visconteo was built as an armed stronghold and a lordly residence. Gian Galeazzo Visconti (1351-1402) founded the Certosa of Pavia in 1396 – one of the most renowned monuments of Renaissance art in Italy. Work on the building, which stands isolated on the flatlands surrounding Pavia, continued from the end of the 14th century until the mid-16th century and marked – together with the contemporary Cathedral of Milan – the artistic evolution in Lombardy from Gothic to Renaissance style.

During the Sforza seigniorship in Pavia, as well as the major public buildings such as the first core of the University, construction began on the Cathedral. The building of the latter monument covered one of the longest time spans ever in the history of Italian architecture and was

especially complex; great masters such as Bramante and Leonardo contributed to it.

When, after the renowned Battle of Pavia (1525), the city fell under Spanish political influence, it was strengthened by ramparts and bulwarks that made it impregnable. In the early 18th century Pavia became part of the Hapsburg domains; construction activities became widespread and the city was embellished by late-Baroque and Neoclassical palaces.

Nowadays tourists and visitors are impressed by Pavia's historical and artistic heritage: the Castello Visconteo with its park, the Romanesque church of San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro, dating back to the 12th century, preserves the bodies of the two philosophers St. Augustine and Boethius and of the Lombard King Liutprand. The main theatre, Teatro Frascini (1771-1773) and the buildings of the central part of the University, are both built along Strada Nuova (the ancient Roman road running north to south). The Crypt of Sant'Eusebio (11th c.), still connected with a 7th c. Arian cathedral and three Medieval Towers, is in Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, behind the main University entrance. The City Hall, Palazzo Mezzabarba, was built in the 18th c. on Corso Mazzini (the Roman road running east to west), by G.A Veneroni. The Broletto building (built in the 12th and 13th c.) was the residence of the Municipality until 1875. It is situated in Piazza della Vittoria, the heart of Pavia. Many churches make Pavia artistically beautiful: the Gothic church of Santa Maria del Carmine, the late-Romanesque San Teodoro and, not far from the river, the above mentioned 12th c. San Michele. The Ponte Coperto (covered bridge) is a reconstruction of the fourteenth-century bridge that was destroyed during the 2nd World War. On the opposite side of the river lies Borgo Ticino. The Romanesque churches of San Lanfranco and San Lazzaro top off this worthy visiting list.

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References

“The University of Pavia” is adapted from the brochure: *The University of Pavia. The Italian Campus* (courtesy: University of Pavia)

“Pavia, the city” is adapted from the booklet: *Universitas studiorum since 1361* (courtesy: University of Pavia)

“IUSS: Institute for Advanced Study” is adapted from the IUSS website (courtesy: IUSS: Institute for Advanced Study, Pavia).

SUMMARY

Introduction	5
<i>Collegio Nuovo goes international</i>	9
The cosmopolitan spirit of the Founder	9
Foreign students	11
1978 - 1987. Becoming international before the Erasmus programme	12
1988 - 1997. Expansion of the exchange programme	19
1998 - 2007. From exchange to a network	23
Grants for study abroad	28
The first five exchange posts and grants abroad: Germany and England	29
1988 – 1997. Numbers of Collegio students abroad more than doubled	30
1998 – 2007. Learning a foreign language, and more	31
To graduate and leave, sometimes to return	34
Partnerships	44
Mainz	44
Heidelberg	48
New Hall, Cambridge	51
WEW Network and beyond	57
List of foreign institutions	69

<i>Our International Institutional Partners and Friends</i>	71
Anne Lonsdale, President of New Hall, University of Cambridge	71
Greetings	76
<i>Our Alumnae tell</i>	81
Talking about peace in Mall of Emirates, Dubai.	81
Interview to Naseem Mohammed Rafee Management and Research.	85
Interview to Michela Bertero	
<i>About Collegio Nuovo</i>	91
Cultural and academic activities	93
Partnership	94
Student life	95
Services	95
Governance and staff	96
<i>The Pavia System</i>	97
University of Pavia	97
IUSS – Institute for Advanced Study	99
Pavia, the city	102
Acknowledgements	105

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