



SET YOURSELF APART

# ITALY

## Christine Garas

*Undergraduate Student, Exceptional Education  
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### STUDENTS

My most memorable moments all lie within the schools. San Giovanni Bosco Elementary was unlike any school I've been in. On our first day the students and teachers gathered in the courtyard to give us a loud and colorful welcome. The classrooms were always filled with pure energy and excitement, the students showed how eager they are to learn! I enjoyed every moment.

### TEACHERS

The challenge of communicating instructions, content and new vocabulary to students - with my limited Italian and their limited English - only made me a stronger educator. I learned new methods and tools for interacting other than using solely language. I partnered with a Music Education major in the classrooms and learned the effectiveness of movement-based music. Music truly is a universal language that can powerfully eliminate barriers!

### TRAVELERS

IPDS is so much more than simply traveling - relationships are formed and strengthened, revelations are made, eyes are opened to the infinite possibilities in our world. You may miss out on some pretty amazing opportunities if you don't put yourself out there and trust in who you have the potential to become. Have an open mind - there will always be new foods to try, people to meet, and experiences to take part in!

### Favorite Memories

- Delicious, authentic, 4-course meals at our B&B
- Boating on the Mediterranean Sea
- Fresh mozzarella & copious amounts of olive oil!
- Singing with students in an 11th century castle
- Spending time with our sister city association
- Students swarming us for hugs and autographs!
- Exploring places I've only dreamt about

*I returned from Italy feeling incredibly thankful, inspired, humbled, emotional...simply euphoric as a person and an educator.*



Christine with students (left) and touring Rome (right). [Click to Read Christine's blog.](#)