

# ITALY

SPRING '23  
STUDY ABROAD

A&M CLUB

## DISCOVER PIEDMONT

*A Tapestry of Cities, Festivals, and Enchanting Experiences*

Vitello

Tonnato

*Veal with*

*Tuna Sauce*

Aggie News

*Sports, reviews and much more*

ASK AN  
ITALY AG

JULIETA  
SIEYRA  
'16

&

RAMÓN  
REYES-LUGO  
'72

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Ciao A Tuti! and Howdy Ags!	Pg. 4
Aggie Network News	Pg. 6 - 7
Spring '23 Study Abroad – From A Students Viewpoint	Pg. 8 – 11
Piedmont, Italy: A Tapestry of Cities, Festivals, and Enchanting Experiences	Pg. 14 – 16
Aggie Sport Update	Pg. 18 - 19
Recipe – Vitello Tonnato (Veal with Tuna Sauce)	Pg. 23
Ask an Italy Ag (Julieta Sieyra '16 & Ramón Reyes-Lugo '72)	Pg. 24 -27
Extra, Extra – We Need Your Help!	Pg. 28
Parole Finali – Final Word	Pg. 29

DO

NOT

Midday sun over Riparbella's pool – July 19, 2019



**S**itting by a pool in Italy is a blissful summer escape.

The sun casts its warm embrace on the charming countryside, while a gentle breeze carries the scent of blooming flowers. The crystal-clear water of the pool invites a refreshing dip, providing respite from the summer heat.

Surrounded by the rolling hills, olive groves and vineyards, it's impossible not to feel a sense of tranquility and harmony. Sipping on a glass of local wine, soaking up the stunning Italian vistas, feeling grateful for these idyllic moments of pure relaxation.

La dolce vita indeed!

# DISTURB!



# CIAO A TUTI AND HOWDY, AGS!



*J*uly is a month of vibrant energy and undeniable allure, and when it comes to experiencing the epitome of European elegance and cultural richness, Italy stands tall among its peers. Italy's long-standing reputation as a premier tourist destination is further enhanced during July, with an abundance of captivating festivals, warm summer weather, and an array of outdoor activities.

From the sun-kissed beaches of the Amalfi Coast to the ancient ruins of Rome, July offers an unforgettable journey into the heart and soul of this magnificent country. July allows travelers to delve into the mesmerizing experiences that Italy has to offer, exploring its cultural celebrations, culinary delights, and natural splendors.

July in College Station is punctuated with a slower pace, part-time jobs and internships mingled in with summer school and ways to beat the Texas heat. The College Station Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration with fireworks and grilling out is always highlight. July also presents an opportunity for prospective students to explore the university during campus tours and information sessions. Freshman and transfer orientations are among the highlights as incoming students get a taste of Texas A&M's welcoming spirit and rich traditions. They explore the iconic campus landmarks, such as the Memorial Students Center, Kyle Field and the Academic Plaza, where the Century Tree stands as a symbol of the university's legacy.

As we each know there are 20 regions in Italy and our members are spread throughout the country. We thought it would be a fun to take a deeper dive into each of the regions as we explore this wonderful countries culture and history. This month we will highlight Piedmont and club member Maria Julieta Sieyra, "**Julieta**" '16 will take us on a journey of the region she calls home. We will also find what it's like to **study aboard** from a student's viewpoint, an **Aggie sports update**, along with club members favorite **July recipe**. Read about some of our exceptional club members with 12 questions as we get to know two of our members in our **Ask an Italy Ag** column and a few other updates as well.

We hope you enjoy the information and let us know if there is anything you would like to see in future updates.

Thanks, Ciao and Gig'em!

Ryan '91



Summer and the hustle and bustle of the MSC

Independence Day ,July 4 - College Station, Texas







**If somebody  
tells you that  
you're eating  
too much  
gelato, stop  
talking to  
them. You  
don't need  
that kind of  
negativity in  
your life.**

## VISUALIZATION, GAME DESIGN EARN HIGH MARKS

*T*exas A&M has been ranked as the best animation school in the state and the second-best public school for animation in the nation by the Animation Career Review. These rankings are determined by academic reputation, admission selectivity, employment data, program faculty, tuition and graduation and retention rates. Tim McLaughlin 90, interim dean of the School of Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts, believes that the success of the visualization program is partly due to the convergence of art and science - two very different "languages" that the students must master in tandem.

"We were in a position of having put together a program where our students have to be fluent - they have to speak both languages in order to do what they do. It was good timing based upon this emergence of digitally mediated visual media," McLaughlin said.

In game design, Texas A&M ranks third in Texas, eighth among public schools in the nation and 22nd overall by the animation Career Review, without having a specific game design program. Working toward further incorporating game design into the comprehensive visualization program, McLaughlin wonders, "How do we build out what visualization does to more of an applied approach to different industries such as games or graphic design, without taking away from the fact that visualization is this comprehensive approach to thinking about computing, and art and design? We have an emerging initiative with esports. We want to build out what our academic offerings are relative to games, relative to esports; and how to do that in a way to complement the strength of visualization is the challenge."

To learn more about the visualization program, visit [tx.ag/Visualization](https://tx.ag/Visualization) and read more about how to get into game.

## To contact or follow the Italy A&M Club

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Albritton Tower

## AGGIE WOMEN FACILITATE MENTORSHIP WITH NEW PROGRAM

*A*ggie Women, a Constituent Network chartered and supported by The Association of Former Students, has created a new program, **INSPIRE | Aggie Women**, designed to connect Aggie Women who share professional and career oriented interests.

"INSPIRE is a mentoring platform, with the purpose to create opportunities for Aggie Women and former students to connect with one another to discuss professional topics of interest" said Sarah Jaks '11, a member of Aggie Women's board of directors. "Mentors gain the opportunity to remain connected to the university and give back to the next generation of Aggie Women. Through INSPIRE, we help lift the voices of current and future Aggie generations, to better their lives and community."

The program will take applications at the beginning of each fall and spring semester. Participants will be required to meet with their mentor or mentee and remain active in the mentorship program. To learn more about INSPIRE and Aggie Women, visit [tx.ag/Aggie Women](http://tx.ag/Aggie Women).

## SELFLESS SERVICE

*I*f I had to tell you about Aggie values in one sentence I would simply ask the question: How can I be of service? - *Current Texas A&M student*

A&M encourages volunteerism, encourages being one of a thousand points of light, helping others ... and it comes naturally to Aggies. - *Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush*



Members of the Aggie Women's Network





STUDY abroad IN ITALY  
FROM a STUDENTS POINT OF VIEW





After a safe return to home, I reflect on the past four months that shaped me to the person I am today.

**By: Caitlyn Porras '24**

Environmental Design and Journalism Major

Photo by [Tete\\_escape](#)

*F*rom years before, when first coming into the Environmental Design major, the excitement that bubbled at the thought of traveling for what I considered to be my future career pushed me to this moment. The upperclassmen gave their tricks and recommendations to the energized lower class students of whether we should study abroad for a semester or to take up an internship for our 4th year at A&M but my mind had been set for me years in advance. Deciding to go was the least stressful part of the whole study abroad process. I was going to Italy at any chance I could get.

I shared this wanderlust passion with my mother as we bonded over the culture that surrounds the country of Italy. From the greenery of the Tuscan fields to the architecture that belonged to the

Renaissance, I remember my mother showing me *“Under the Tuscan Sun,”* a 2003 film that starred Diane Lane as an ambitious woman who fled to Italy to restart her life. I remember falling in love with the idea that I too can flee to Italy, for the semester of course, to find myself.

The day had come too soon. After months of trying to prepare amid the stress of finals that hung overcast around the Langford building, it was time for eleven other Environmental Design students and I to start the chapter of our education that would transform us. The sweat that rolled down my back as my father drove me to the Houston airport complemented the nausea that settled in my stomach as I had my last American lunch for the next four months.

I can laugh about this now that I have returned with most of my belongings, but the feeling of realization as I saw the numbers on the digital scale was unforgettable. I called my father, who luckily had the idea of staying close by until I got through security, and told him with panic that I had over packed. He drove back around as I unzipped my suitcase outside the airport terminal and started throwing things into the back of the car while passersby looked at me with amusement. It was a blur of tossed cloth and nervous words for about 5 minutes until I felt it in my gut that the suitcase was below 50 pounds .

The months that followed were indescribable, the opportunity to study architecture and its history while surrounded by the most notorious buildings that were produced by the patrons of the Renaissance is just as rewarding as it sounds. Our program had the opportunity to learn under the local university in Florence, we even had a specific building located right next to Palazzo Michelangelo where classes were held the majority of the week.

The view right outside our fourth floor class window still takes my breath away. Once it got warm enough for our Texan blood to handle, we would open the windows to hear the local children enjoying their recess time, filling the air with giggles and joyful yelling as spring began to take its beautiful control over nature.

No amount of packing will prepare you for the European wind, that was something we quickly figured out as we tried to layer our clothes and huddle in a group while touring Florence in the early months of February and March. I have to give credit to the professors that I met during this semester who truly opened my mind to another way of thinking while ensuring we felt at home even though we are miles from it. From learning about the building of the Duomo as we climbed all 463 steps to freezing our fingers off trying to sketch perspectives in San Lorenzo, these individuals shaped my view on architecture as well as my view of the world around me. I still carry a sketchbook and watercolor brush around with me just in case I need to document the world that I returned to last month.

Time flew by in the blink of an eye. We had class trips planned, Rome being the longest one and Sieci being the shortest, where we toured around the city with a sketchbook in hand and a tour guide system in our ear. The twelve of us, a fitting number for Aggies, spent every waking moment together and we became a family because of it—even argued like one as well. I wouldn’t trade the relationship I have with these people for anything else and am excited to see them again in passing as we continue our studies back in the building where it all began.

Our class schedule was packed, coming in two times a week to work in our design studio with a common goal to create something new and functional while still paying respect to the existing architectural structure. Then, it was quick history lectures in a room older than any building on campus back in College Station, and an Italian language class to help us get on our feet at our new home. We would finish our week off on Thursdays, something I eagerly miss nowadays, with our drawing class. It was a love-hate relationship that lasted throughout the semester. I understood the meaning of



my harshest critic being myself and the search for something more when viewing art. On the bright side, after all the challenges drawing class was usually followed by the best chicken and waffles I have ever consumed from a restaurant right across the street named Roosters. It was safe to say that the cashiers knew us by name from the time of our departure.

The weekends that followed the school week were where the fondest memories developed. I remember the sun shining through our apartment's thick paned windows as the city bustled around with determination to reach their Saturday plans. I remember the excitement of getting ready with my roommates to explore the night life and enjoy each other's company as we sat in authentic Italian restaurants desperate to try new foods we had never seen. There were times when "spontaneous" was our favorite word to live by, anywhere from last minute concerts and weekend trips to the beach to getting on the wrong city bus and heading 30 minutes outside of the city. It is true when they say you are only young and in Italy once.

It has been a month since returning to the heat and southern hospitality that makes Texas what it is and everyday I continue to carry a piece of Italy with me. Whether it be the ring I exchanged on the fourth date with the charming man I met in Florence or the charms I collected throughout my travels of Italy and Greece, I share these moments of reflection as a kind of photo album that is filled with the food, love and art. I have every intention of returning to make a newer, bigger album of memories. I did throw several coins into Trevi Fountain and it is only tradition to return back to Rome.





Arena di Verona, Verona Italy - July 14, 2019



## VERONA OPERA FESTIVAL – THROUGHOUT JULY

*I*mmerse yourself in Verona's romantic ambiance, a city famously known as the backdrop for Shakespeare's iconic love story *Romeo and Juliet*. Explore its charming streets, visit Juliet's balcony, and let the city's history and charm enchant you.

Nestled in the heart of Italy, the Verona Opera Festival stands as a beacon of grandeur, enchanting audiences from around the world with its mesmerizing performances. Renowned for its breathtaking venues and outstanding productions, the festival has become a cornerstone of the international opera scene.

A city steeped in history, has long been associated with the arts. The festival's roots can be traced back to 1913 when the first opera performance was staged in the ancient Roman amphitheater, the Arena di Verona. This iconic venue, dating back to the 1st century AD, has witnessed centuries of artistic expression and has become synonymous with the festival itself. The Verona Opera Festival has since grown into an annual summer celebration, attracting opera enthusiasts, artists, and tourists alike.





Siena Palio - July 2018

## SIENA PALIO - JULY 2, AND AUGUST 16, 2023

*T*he historic city of Siena comes alive as nine vibrant districts, or "contrade," battled it out for victory in this centuries-old horse race. The anticipation is palpable as the horses thundered around the narrow track built in the Piazza del Campo, with the crowd cheering on their chosen contrada with unwavering enthusiasm.

But the Siena Palio is not just about the race - it's a celebration of community, identity, and the indomitable spirit of Siena. The contrade are more than just neighborhoods; they are close-knit communities with deep-rooted pride, traditions, and rivalries that span generations. The Palio brings them together in a spirited display of camaraderie and fierce competition.

The vibrant colors of each contrada's flag, the elaborate costumes, and the ancient rituals added an enchanting layer of tradition to the proceedings. Witnessing the pageantry and hearing the resounding cheers echoing through the Piazza del Campo is truly awe-inspiring. It feels like stepping back in time and experiencing history come alive.



# PIEDMONT

A TAPESTRY OF CITIES, FESTIVALS, AND  
ENCHANTING EXPERIENCES







# PIEDMONT



Nestled in the northwest corner of Italy, Piedmont is

a captivating region renowned for its stunning landscapes, rich history, vibrant culture, and exquisite gastronomy. From the majestic peaks of the Alps to the rolling hills adorned with vineyards, Piedmont offers an abundance of natural beauty. Additionally, the region boasts charming towns, captivating cities, and a deep-rooted cultural heritage that enthralls visitors from around the world.

The heartbeat of Piedmont is Turin, the capital city of the region, is a bustling metropolis that seamlessly blends history, art, and innovation. It was the first Italian capital from 1861 to 1865, remnants of its regal past can be found in its historical landmarks. With its elegant architecture, wide boulevards, and tree-lined squares, Turin offers a unique charm. Visitors can marvel at the splendor of the Royal Palace of Turin, with its opulent interiors and impressive architecture, stands as a testament to the region's royal legacy. Explore the Egyptian Museum – the second most extensive collections of ancient Egyptian artifacts in the world after El Cairo – or ascend the Mole Antonelliana for panoramic views of the city. The Shroud of Turin, also known as the Holy Shroud, is a length of linen cloth that bears a faint image of the front and back of a man. It has been venerated for centuries, especially by members of the Catholic Church, as the actual burial shroud used to wrap the body of Jesus of Nazareth after his crucifixion, and upon which Jesus' bodily image is miraculously imprinted.


Gastronomic delights and festivals await you in Alba, this picturesque town in the heart of the Langhe region, is synonymous with culinary excellence. The town is famous for its truffles, especially the prized white truffle, which attracts food enthusiasts from around the globe. One of the highlights is the International *White Truffle Fair*, where visitors can savor the exquisite flavors of this rare delicacy. Apart from truffles, Alba is also renowned for its wines, including the Barolo and Barbaresco. Wine lovers can explore the vineyards, visit wineries, and indulge in wine tastings. Piedmont is also renowned for its cheeses, such as Castelmagno and Robiola, which are produced using traditional methods and boast exceptional quality.

Asti, a charming medieval city, invites travelers to step back in time. Its well-preserved historic center is adorned with medieval towers, palaces, and churches. The Cathedral of Asti, with its distinctive Gothic-Romanesque architecture, is a must-visit landmark. Asti is particularly famous for its Palio, a thrilling horse race held every September. The city comes alive with colorful parades, historic reenactments, and a vibrant festive atmosphere during this time.

Piedmont is also renowned for its exceptional wines, and the region is crisscrossed by several wine routes that lead through vineyard-dotted landscapes. The Langhe-Roero and Monferrato area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site should not be missed. The Langhe Wine Route takes visitors through the rolling hills, where they can visit family-run wineries, enjoy wine tastings, and learn about the winemaking traditions. The Monferrato Wine Route offers a scenic journey through charming villages and scenic vineyards, while the Canavese Wine Route invites travelers to explore the northern part of Piedmont and taste the region's lesser-known wines.





iedmont's geography is characterized by a diverse range of landscapes. The towering Alps dominate the northern part of the region, providing a picturesque backdrop and offering excellent opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, and mountaineering. The region is also home to the Po River, Italy's longest river, which meanders through fertile plains and lush valleys.

Piedmont is a captivating region that effortlessly combines natural beauty, rich history, vibrant culture, and outstanding gastronomy. From the awe-inspiring landscapes of the Italian Alps to the picturesque vineyards of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Piedmont offers an array of breathtaking sights. Its historical landmarks, charming towns, and cultural treasures showcase the region's illustrious past.



The Sacra di San Michele, sometimes known as Saint Michael's Abbey, is a religious complex on Mount Pirchiriano, situated on the south side of the Val di Susa in the territory of the municipality of Sant'Ambrogio di Torino, in the Metropolitan City of Turin, Piedmont region of northwestern Italy.





Castle of Monastero Bormida, Piedmont, Italy, an ancient structure that was once the site of an even older Monastery.



# AGGIE SPORTS UPDATE

*T*he Texas A&M Women's soccer team announced another challenging campaign with its 2023 schedule.

The 18-game regular-season slate includes 11 matches at Ellis Field and 13 tilts in Texas. Nine of Texas A&M's 18 opponents earned a spot in the 2022 NCAA Tournament. The schedule also features 12 teams that finished in the top 75 of the RPI among the 342 Division I squads, including four in the top 12 – Florida State (2), Alabama (4), Arkansas (11) and South Carolina (12).

The schedule opens with all four August games played at the friendly confines of Ellis Field. The Aggies waste no time jumping into the deep end of the pool with a season-opener scheduled against 2022 College Cup participant Florida State on Thursday, Aug. 17. The Maroon & White battle Washington State (Aug. 20), Baylor (Aug. 26) and Tulsa (Aug. 31) as part of the opening gauntlet.

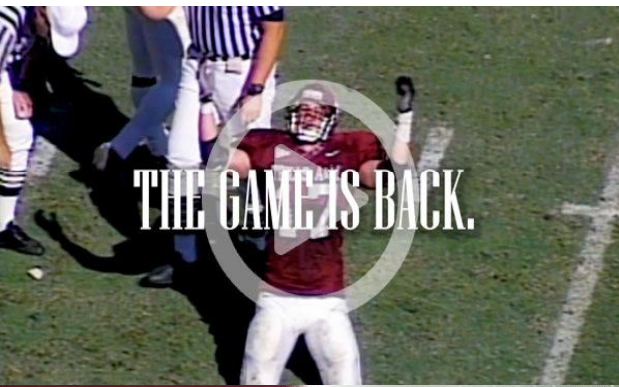
The Saturday match against Baylor is slated for the Fish Camp Game, which is annually one of the most attended collegiate soccer matches in the country.

Prior to the opening of the season, the Aggies host two exhibition matches. They welcome SMU to town on Sunday, Aug. 6 and Texas State on Friday, Aug. 11. The Aggies' 2022 campaign ended with a 9-7-5 mark as head coach G Guerrieri became the fifth NCAA Division I coach to reach the 500-win plateau.





# AGGIE SPORTS UPDATE



Everything is bigger in Texas.  
The history. The football. The rivalries.  
Texas A&M vs. Texas: over 100 years of  
passion.

[The game is back. And it's coming home.](#)



The matchups that will fill the SEC's 2024  
football slate as a newly-expanded 16-team  
league were announced last month.

[>> 2024 SCHEDULE \(as of 6/14\)](#)



The women recorded their fourth  
consecutive top-five finish over the  
weekend at the NCAA Track & Field  
Championships, placing fifth in the country  
at Myers Stadium in Austin.

[>> READ MORE](#)



Men's tennis Hall of Famer Austin Krajicek  
'11 won the first Grand Slam title of his  
career over the weekend, riding a dominant  
performance to victory in the final of the  
French Open Doubles Tournament.

[>> READ MORE](#)



## HEADLINES

**FOOTBALL:** [12th Man Films' Dat Nguyen Documentary to Debut on Independence Day](#)

**FOOTBALL:** [Season Ticket Holders Renew at 93% Rate for 2023](#)

**BASEBALL:** [Jace Laviolette Earns Team USA Invite](#)

**WOMEN'S TENNIS:** [Jordan Szabo Earns Second Straight National Coach of Year Award](#)

**WOMEN'S GOLF:** [Jennie Park Named Program's Latest All-American](#)



# LUCCA SUMMER FESTIVAL 2023

*T*uscan summers really get rolling when numerous events dedicated to national and international music start cropping up. Year-after-year, tourists from all over the world indulge in a vacation centered on art, nature, and frequently, top-level concerts in the region.



Tears for Fears July , 2019

Each year the *Lucca Summer Festival* is one of these highly anticipated Italian musical events. It usually takes place in Lucca's Piazza Napoleone in late June and through July.

Since 1998, many bands and famous singers - both national and international - have performed on this stage, from Bob Dylan to James Brown, from Ray Charles to Eric Clapton, Elton John, Sting, Tears For Fears, Lenny Kravitz and even the legendary Rolling Stones have performed inside the walls of Lucca at this annual music festival.

[Click here for the 2023 line up.](#)



# UMBRIA JAZZ FESTIVAL 2023

*The Umbria Jazz Festival*, directed by Carlo Pagnetta, is one of the most important jazz festivals in the world and has been held annually since 1973. Today, the summer festival runs for 10 days in Perugia, capital of Umbria.



The success of the festival is best described in the talents that have travelled to the region, with artists such as B.B. King, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis just some of the iconic feature acts. While the festival is still focused on jazz music, its rocketing popularity has seen it expand further into popular culture, with DJ sets regularly headlining outdoor stages. Notable performers at the festival since 2010 include Lady Gaga, Elton John and Prince.

Whether you love jazz or not, the atmosphere in the region around this time of the year creates a uniquely intimate Italian experience. The streets of Perugia are full of energy, while the many charming towns also host informal events that we're sure you'll never forget!

[Click here for additional information on the festival.](#)





Recipe submitted by: Club member Julieta Sieyra '16

# VITELLO TONNATO

## VEAL WITH TUNA SAUCE

Typically, this is considered a summer dish, since it is served cold

### Ingredients:

3 lb of veal  
11 oz of tuna in oil  
3 hard-boiled eggs  
6 anchovies in oil  
1 stalk of celery - chopped  
1 tbsp White wine vinegar  
Dry white wine  
2 Bay leaves

6 Sage leaves  
3 Cloves  
1 ½ - 2 tbsp Capers  
Pickled gherkins  
1 tsp Lemon juice  
Salt  
½ cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil

### Instructions:

#### The Veal

Start by placing the veal in a bowl and cover with white wine. Then add the chopped celery, 2 bay leaves, 6 sage leaves and 3 whole cloves. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let it marinate in the refrigerator for at least 12 hours. Then transfer the veal to a saucepan with its marinade. Add enough water to cover and salt to taste. Boil for about one hour. Then drain, setting aside two ladlefuls of cooking broth. Let the veal cool and transfer to the refrigerator to cool for one hour.

#### The sauce

In the meantime, blend the drained tuna with the egg yolks, a large spoonful of capers, some lemon juice, the anchovies, ½ cup of extra-virgin olive oil half and a spoonful of vinegar. Add the cooking water (previously set aside) and stir to combine.

#### Serving

Slice the meat very thin and arrange them on serving plates. Cover with the tonnato sauce and complete with a few capers and gherkins to taste.



# CAMPO DEI FIORE, ITALY



Founded in the 15th century, this little market occupies a special place in Romans' hearts. The romance begins at dawn, when farmers wheel in nature's bounty. The flower stalls are the last to close; stick around until 1 p.m., when the vendors really get the gab and throw in an extra rose or two.



# ASK AN ITALY AGGIE - 12 QUESTIONS

## JULIETA SIEYRA '16

### 1. Tell us a little about yourself. Where you grew up, what your interests were, family, pets?

*A: I was born in Argentina, daughter of a national bank employee, we have moved continuously throughout the country. I can say that I have the joy of knowing all my country, every corner, the most impressive places, the people of the different regions, with their culture, their customs and their food.*

*That said, being a nomad became my lifestyle. I love to travel, to know, to learn and above all, to be in nature.*

### 2. Why did you choose to attend Texas A&M, and what did you study and why?

*A: I graduated as a chemical engineer and developed my career from its beginnings linked to the oil and gas industry. I moved to Houston, Texas, in 2012. When I decided to pursue my MBA in 2014, I was working for BP and was attracted to the mystique of the Aggies. I am class of '16' of the Professional MBA.*

### 3. What was your favorite memory from your time at Texas A&M and why?

*A: After the first boot camps, we had a week of immersion at College Station. We got to know the campus, we did team building activities, it was very intense, we had a great time! After that, classes went on as usual at the City Centre site in Houston. I do miss the after hour conversations with my colleagues...*

### 4. What is something that most people don't know about you, but you wish they did?

*A: I'm an introvert... which has gotten me into difficulty in the US! I am a non-conformist, I want to make the world a fairer place.*

### 5. What do you do for a living and where do you live now to do it?

*A: I have left the oil business behind and decided to come and make my life experience in Italy. I am working in Quality Assurance in Italdesign, a company linked to the automotive industry, with a great trajectory in Italy and recognized in the world.*

### 6. What is your favorite tradition at A&M and how did you learn about it?

*A: That's a tough one! There were so many, starting with the typical "HOWDY!", the aggie ring, and the one I loved from campus was the "Century Tree", imagining all the stories it witnessed.*

### 7. What core value (listed below) from Texas A&M do you most live up to and can you share an example of how you do that?

**Excellence:** An unwavering desire and commitment to greatness

**Integrity:** Doing the right things regardless of the circumstances or personal consequences

**Leadership:** Inspiring others to follow through the strength of one's character

**Loyalty:** Dedication to our nation, our state, our university, our families and those institutions and values which we individually hold dearest

**Respect:** Earned through the consistency of character

**Selfless Service:** Giving of one's self for the greater good, without regard to personal gain or recognition

*A: I served as a mentor for diverse initiatives, from young people looking for their first job opportunity to young female engineers. We are not aware of how inspirational our life path can be to others! Here in Italy, I am part of **AIDIA** (the Italian Association of Women Engineers and Architects). To me that connects to Leadership and Selfless Service. Excellence, Integrity and Respect are the "business as usual" to me.*



**8. If you could host a dinner party with three celebrities, who would you invite and why?**

A. *Patty Smith, Frida Kahlo and Milan Kundera... their revolutionary way of conceiving art has made me see life in a unique way.*

**9. If you could have a superpower for one day only, what would you choose and what would you do with it?**

A. *I would give equal rights to everyone. I think that would make us better humans!*

**10. What is your favorite movie/TV show/musical group and why (answer all three)?**

A. *Persepolis, which is cartoon movie about the life of an Iranian girl, showing all the struggles she went through in her life, told in a beautiful way, black and white.*

*Propaganda Live (an Italian current affairs TV Show, which has its own band and a cartoonist) they have an original approach, with a touch of humor.*

*For a musical group, it's hard to say, since it depends on the mood, because I have a wide and diverse musical taste, so I could not decide.*

**11. If you had a personal theme song that played whenever you walked into a room what would it be?**

A. *Enjoy the silence, by Depeche Mode.*

**12. Take Sides – choose your preference between the following dichotomies. *The Bold and maroon colored are Ramón's selections:***

- **Rock** or Hip-hop
- Action movie or **Historical movie**
- **Hiking** or Swimming
- Take cruise or **Take a road trip**
- **Pasta or Pizza (aren't they the same?)**
- Texas A&M Football or **European Football (soccer)**
- **Morning walk** or Evening stroll
- **Photography** or Painting
- Twitter or **Instagram**
- Concert or **Music Festival**
- Sunflower or **Rose**
- **Sweet** or Savory
- Salsa or **guacamole**
- Coffee or **Limoncello** after dinner
- **American breakfast** or European breakfast
- Singing in the shower or **dancing in the kitchen**
- Dress up as a superhero or a **villain for Halloween**
- **Texting** or talk on the phone
- Spiderman or **Wolverine**
- **iPhone** or Android



Julieta Sieyra '16

Julieta Sieyra '16 with Deb Mann and Mike Alexander



**What is your favorite tradition at A&M and how did you learn about it?**

*Julieta Sieyra '16 – "That's a tough one! There were so many, starting with the typical "HOWDY!", the aggie ring, and the one I loved from campus was the "Century Tree", imagining all the stories it witnessed."*



Century Tree Texas A&M Main Campus

# ASK AN ITALY AGGIE - 12 QUESTIONS

## RAMÓN REYES-LUGO '72

### 1. Tell us a little about yourself. Where you grew up, what your interests were, family, pets?

*A: ) I was born in the city of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, to a carpenter father and a textile manufacturing operator mother. At an early age (22 years old) I was a teacher of Physical Sciences and Mathematics at the High School of my hometown. In 1969, I received the Bachelors degree in Economics from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. I am married to Mrs. Miranda Sala, an Italian professor. I have two sons and two daughters: Milciades, Omar, Wendy, Tammy and ten grandchildren. I have a pet: he is a dog named Hermes who is very friendly.*

*I have held the following functions: Vice President - Administration and Productivity of Bratex Dominicana (textile sector), Controller of Central Romana Corp., (agro-industrial sector), Director of Internal Audit of Gulf & Western Americas Corporation, Division for the Dominican Republic of the multinational Gulf and Western Industries; Member of the Consulting Staff of the KPMG (accounting and consulting organization), and technician of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic; I have taught at various universities in the Dominican Republic. Author of the works "Holism: The Secret Code of Resilient Competitiveness" (2018) and "Productivity: Mindsight Focus (2023)." I have given dozens of conferences related to the disciplines of specialization.*

### 2. Why did you choose to attend Texas A&M, and what did you study and why?

*A: ) In 1970 I moved to the USA to do a Master's in Business Economics, just at the time that Texas A & M University was developing an important collaboration program with my country. Thanks to it dozens of young Dominicans could take part in courses of studies on agriculture at Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. levels. At Texas A & M University I was accepted into the School of Accounting, receiving a Master of Science – Accounting degree (1972). Having acquired a high level of knowledge in this discipline has allowed me to develop a long professional career, contributing to the progress of my country.*

### 3. What was your favorite memory from your time at Texas A&M and why?

*A: There are many memorable memories of my time at Texas A&M. During this period my daughter Wendy was born, a wonderful gift for my degree. But my greatest astonishment occurred the day the Head Master of the accounting school summoned me to his office to tell me that the university had assigned me an Assistantship, which made me a collaborator in the school teaching processes. An unforgettable honor for me!!!*

### 4. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

*A: A pending wish to realize is to visit Machu Picchu, the city of the Incas: An incredible feat of human competence.*

### 5. Tell us something unique about yourself.

*A: The tendency to develop a holistic approach to problems.*

### 6. What is a quote that you live your life by?

*A: From an early age I have tried to embody a particular aphorism of the American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, who enunciates a visionary rule of life: "Hitch your car to a star."*

### 7. What is your favorite movie/TV show/music group why (answer all three)?

*A: My favorite movie is: Star Wars  
My favorite TV show used to be The "Tonight Show"  
My favorite music group: The Beatles. "Yesterday", "Let it be", etc. are musical interpretations that transcend their time.*



## 8. What's your favorite hobby or pastime?

A: My favorite Hobby is: Latin dance.

## 9. Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: Richard H. Thaler, Nobel Prize in Economics, for his excellent approach in applying Behavioral Economics in order to improve peoples lives.

## 10. What do you do or did you do for a living and if you could have any other career, what would it be?

A: I am a private Management Consultant. My purpose is to deepen skills in the application of Behavioral Economics to promote peoples productivity, particularly in fragile socioeconomic contexts, using Behavioral Economics (Neuroeconomics) as a tool.

## 11. What do you miss most about AggieLand?

A: I appreciate the friendship and respect that I have always received from the people with whom I came into contact at AggieLand.

## 12. Take Sides – choose your preference between the following dichotomies. The Bold and maroon colored are Ramón's selections:

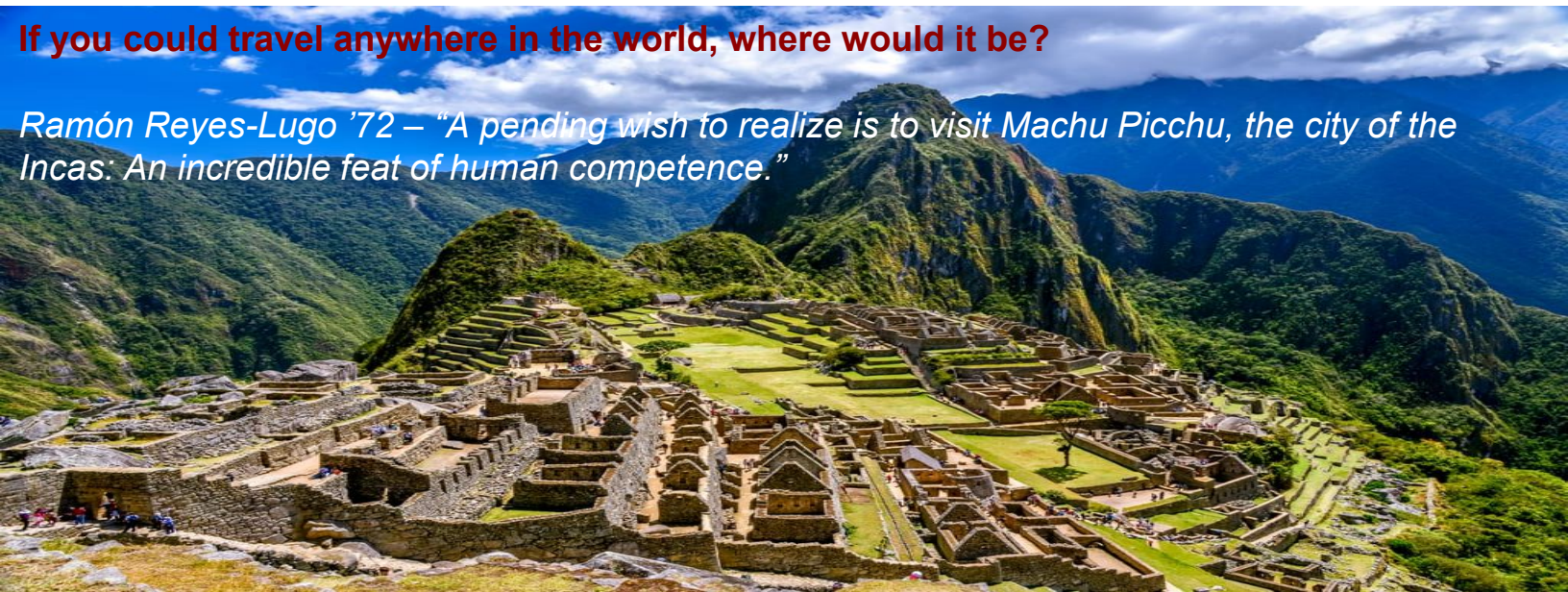
- **Chocolate** or Strawberry
- **Hangout with a few close friends** or Get together with a large group of people
- **Listen** or Speak
- **Country** or Classic Rock
- 007 or **Batman**
- **Comedy** or Action
- **Jeans** or Khakis
- Be a bat or a **Baseball**
- **Italian food** or Tex-Mex
- Texas or **Italy**
- **Plan your vacation** or Decide what to do when you get there
- **Morning** or Night
- **European Soccer** or Aggie Football
- **Coke** or Dr. Pepper
- White wine or **Red wine**
- Tiramisu or **Gelato**
- Sunrise or **Sunset**
- **Book** or Movie
- **Spring** or fall
- Hard tacos or **Soft tacos**



Ramón Reyes-Lugo '72

## If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Ramón Reyes-Lugo '72 – “A pending wish to realize is to visit Machu Picchu, the city of the Incas. An incredible feat of human competence.”







# THE ITALY A&M CLUB NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE



## The Italy A&M Club Needs Your Help!

### • Website Needed

If anyone can assist in building a **club website** and a separate *Facebook* page so we can post news articles, periodic/monthly newsletters, *Instagram* postings and other social media it would be extremely helpful. Please reach out to me directly.

### • Italy A&M Club Scholarship

The club is exploring the possibility of establishing a scholarship program. The scholarship would be available to club members who live in Italy but are attending Texas A&M, their family members who are attending Texas A&M or possibly students who are studying abroad from Texas A&M in Italy (semester abroad program).

We are considering hosting a silent auction to help raise funds for the scholarship. If you are interested in donating to the auction or in the establishment of the scholarship please reach out to me directly.



### • News – Extra, Extra Read All About it!

Please feel free to share any photos, news articles, announcements, births, graduations, Silver Taps, career changes or any other news you would like to share with the club. We will find ways to include them in the regular updates.

### • Logo

We are looking to create our clubs logo and will be asking for assistance from The Association of Former Students Marketing Department. We need to generate a few ideas for our logo. If you have any ideas or thoughts please let me know.

### • Recipes

Feel free to submit your favorite recipe(s) to be include with the monthly/periodic updates. We would love to share them with the group.

### • Feedback

Please provide feedback on this format, the content and any ideas you may have on ways we can generate additional engagement. Please encourage other people to join the club and to follow us on *Instagram*.

### Contact Information:

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Instagram: [italy\\_am\\_club](https://www.instagram.com/italy_am_club)



# PAROLE FINALI

*A*s the sun sets on the month of June and we welcome July in Italy, we bid farewell to chilly nights and cool days to a truly enchanting time filled with warmth, beauty, and a touch of Mediterranean magic. This cherished month always offers us a glimpse into the soul of this remarkable country, leaving us with unforgettable memories and a longing for more.

One cannot speak of July in Italy without mentioning the glorious weather that graces the entire nation. The sun-drenched skies and gentle breezes create the perfect atmosphere for outdoor exploration, where every corner seems to come alive. From the vibrant streets of Rome to the breathtaking coastal towns of the Amalfi Coast, July gifts us with picture-perfect moments that will forever be etched in your hearts. From festivals, to summer flavors July in Italy is all about fun and relaxation in the sun.

July is a time of routine in Aggieland, as students, faculty and alumni look towards summer graduations, the fall semester and the return to campus on August 21. The fall semester begins in just 52 days and that means there are only 64 days from the beginning of July to the start of Aggie Football. Whoop!

Just as quickly as we welcome in July we will bid her farewell. This month always seems to race by but she leaves behind wonderful moments and memories to cherish, new friendships forged, and the echoes of laughter and celebration in our hearts.

Thanks Ciao and Gig'em!

Ryan '91

P.S. Be sure to follow us on **Instagram** at: [\*\*italy\\_am\\_club\*\*](https://www.instagram.com/italy_am_club)

THE ROAD GOES ON FOREVER

