



THE ARCHIVING INTERNS! MEET 'LA SQUADRA'

By NIAUSI Board Member Ann Hirschi
Photos by Board member Betty Torrell

NIAUSI now has its own Gang of Four! During the past spring, the Archiving Committee, Lauris Bitners, Erin Christie, Ann Hirschi and Clark Pickett, was tasked with finding the appropriate persons to begin a digital catalogue of the extensive and wondrous collection of books, drawings, artwork and other materials that abound within the walls of the Civita Institute. Being a non-profit organization with a group of buildings to maintain (after 2400 years you have to expect deferred maintenance!), we knew that salaries were out of the question. But we also knew- as do most of you- that the chance to live within the golden embrace of Civita di Bagnoregio for a month during the sunny summer is a reward that will keep on giving.

We took the plunge and wrote a job description to circulate locally, concentrating on the U.W. School of Architecture and the "i school" (aka, Library Sciences and Information) for summer interns. With a very short timeline to find the perfect team for the current summer,

we were rewarded by an impressive response of interested persons from a range of backgrounds. We interviewed those in Seattle and "Skyped" the out-of-towners, and decided on four students who possessed the range of skill sets necessary to accomplish the tasks at hand, while contributing to the life of the Institute.

These are our interns who are tackling the organization of the resources that were collected by Astra Zarina and Tony Costa Heywood over their many years of teaching and architectural practice:



Rachel Woodbrook is the team *Capo* and a current Library Science and concurrent Museology graduate student at the UW. She has volunteered with both the Municipal and National Archives in Seattle, during a class on preservation. She has studied abroad in Oxford, England and Japan, and is proving to be a highly organized leader of this group, judging from the work they have produced so far this summer. This summer she has also been included in a preliminary discussion about a future exhibit of Astra's contributions to the life of Civita, to be located in the Palazzo Alemanni, and is interested in the possibility of working on it in the future.

Jonathan Teng just graduated with a BA in Architectural Studies from the UW and was awarded the Faculty Prize. He is an alumnus of the UW Architecture in Rome Program and has been a volunteer at Seattle Tilth, thereby combining the twin goals of handling the architectural drawings and helping Tony in the summer garden. We hope he is adding a dash of Chinese cooking to the menu in Civita, having grown up in his parents' Chinese restaurant in Idaho. Jonathan's cooking skills were enjoyed by the interns and by Tony. In addition, this summer he got the wireless hookups working in all parts of the Civita Institute!



Maggie Montgomery is a European Studies major at the UW majoring in Italian and French. She has traveled in Italy having participated in an immersion program

in Viareggio, Tuscany, Maggie's language abilities were an asset for the group in navigating the Italian lifestyle.

Natalie Tapias is a trilingual undergrad at the UW who was studying in Montpellier, France before she headed to Civita. She worked in the office of International Relations at the University Paul-Valery Montpellier III, and she brings a strong interest in Mediterranean culture, language, art and architecture to the work in Civita.



The NIAUSI board members will be continuing this work during the coming winter work party, sorting through hundreds of slides, photos and student projects, so they will be available for our Fellows and online for scholars coming to continue the educational mission of Astra and Tony.

This rare and remarkable collection will be housed in the newly restored Sala Grande as the Zarina-Heywood Library. NIAUSI is also actively pursuing funding to complete the library, including additional shelving, lighting, and library furniture.

If you are an alumnus of the Rome or Italian Hilltowns Programs, and are interested in joining a work party during the winter/spring of 2011, please contact me. Ann Hirschi at annhirschi@hotmail.com