

Now You Can Drive To Europe In Less Than 10 Minutes

Welcome To
The Vintage House Trattoria at Messina Hof.

You're sitting in a small, family-owned eatery on a small family-owned Estate. A soft breeze gently caresses the sea of grapevines... swaying in natural harmony.

Authentic European food so good you'll want to go home and paint your ceiling.

The pastel sunlight streams in through tall, stained-glass windows. The green clear lake mirrors the perfect sky. The large white cranes seem to shimmer in the reflected light.

Fresh. Gourmet. Handmade. Homemade. Casual.

You sip a superb glass of wine, made close by. Your spirits soar. Your palate rejoices. You've found palate nirvana and you can drive here in less than ten minutes.

Open for lunch 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays - Sundays, no reservations required and open for dinner, 4-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday evenings by reservation.

This is how it should be. This is how it is. The Vintage House Trattoria at Messina Hof.

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Drive Your Valentine to Europe for the most romantic Valentine's Day celebration in the Brazos Valley...the Vintage House Trattoria at Messina Hof. Make your reservations early.

► Study Abroad Program

Aggies live, learn foreign cultures

By Aaron Meier
The Battalion

Some students go to class in the morning, study in the afternoon, then in the evenings walk around in the Piazza Navona in Rome and have their portraits drawn by street vendors.

The Study Abroad Program at Texas A&M allows students to gain credit for classes while experiencing life in such countries as France, Mexico, Japan and Italy.

Allison Frantz, a junior electrical engineering major, spent last summer, in the small Italian village of Castiglion Fiorentino. She said her parents helped motivate her to enroll in the program.

"My parents never got the chance to travel when they were young, and they wanted me to do it," Frantz said.

Oscar Roblesgil, a senior industrial engineering major, spent two semesters in Mexico City. He said his decision to study abroad was motivated by his heritage.

"I was born in Mexico but moved to Houston when I was very young," Roblesgil said. "I have always wanted to experience the country more, and this offered the perfect chance."

Shonnie Scheer, a senior education major, spent Spring 1996 in Castiglion Fiorentino. She said the classes she took taught her more than a similar class at A&M would have.

As a class requirement, students visited Italian public schools to compare the education to the American school sys-

tem. Scheer said the differences were remarkable.

"I graded some of the papers of the students who were going to attend the university," Scheer said. "The students were writing some of the most eloquent English I had seen. They also were reading material in high school that I did not read until college."

Frantz said some engineering students took a class that utilized the historic architecture of the country.

"Some students picked a medieval castle in the village, Montecchio, to analyze," Frantz said. "They took measurements and determined why parts of the castle had remained standing and why other parts had collapsed."

Frantz said the most educational part of her stay was time spent outside of the classroom. The students spend the evenings in Castiglion Fiorentino with each other and the locals.

"The natives were all really nice," Frantz said. "They didn't speak any English and we didn't speak any Italian. We would sit around and teach each other words. We kind of had a cultural exchange working."

Scheer said learning about the cultural differences was interesting.

"In Italy, they are very family-oriented," Scheer said. "It is not unusual for children to live with their parents until they are married. Sometimes even after they are married, the couple moves in with the family."

Frantz said the dating rituals she learned while abroad are vastly different from the Ameri-

can methods.

"Men will just walk up to you and ask you if you would like a drink," Frantz said.

Scheer said she saw a different side of the Italian courting process.

"Sometimes a couple will date for six or seven years before they are married," Scheer said. "They keep their girlfriends for a very long time. They don't understand the concept of a casual date."

Though the students primarily were there to study, they were also attracted to foreign sights.

Roblesgil said Mexico City was an experience in itself.

"Being in the largest city in the world, you realize all the things there are to do," he said. "From visiting the historic downtown district to going to night clubs, there is always something to do."

Both Frantz and Scheer traveled during their stay across the Atlantic.

Frantz visited Florence, Rome, Venice and Pisa. She said her favorite city was Venice.

"Venice was gorgeous and romantic," Frantz said. "Some boats that floated by were holding weddings and there was music everywhere. It was beautiful."

Scheer visited the ancient city of Pompeii, buried centuries ago, by a volcano.

"It was weird seeing the actual people frozen in time by the volcanic material, preserved like statues," Scheer said.

Frantz said her stay in Italy was a wonderful experience that she will always remember.

"I see people that were with me in Italy on campus," Frantz said. "All we can talk about is how much we want to go back."

Ragan said people with eating disorders may become solitary or inclusive and begin to pull away from their friends, but their friends need to be understanding.

"If you think they're being a bad friend, remember that they are consumed," Ragan said. "[The eating disorder] is dis-

tracting them from all the other aspects of their life."

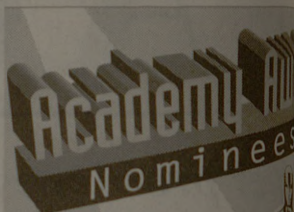
Friends should remember that many victims of eating disorders may want to talk but are inhibited by fear.

"Be a friend," Ragan said. "They don't need you to put them down, but don't be afraid to talk about the disorder."

EATING

Continued from Page 3

"It's really scary because you don't feel like you can do anything about it, but they need someone to be there for them, to be consistent," Ragan said.



Best Picture

"The English Patient"
"Fargo"
"Jerry Maguire"
"Secrets & Lies"
"Shine"

Best Actor

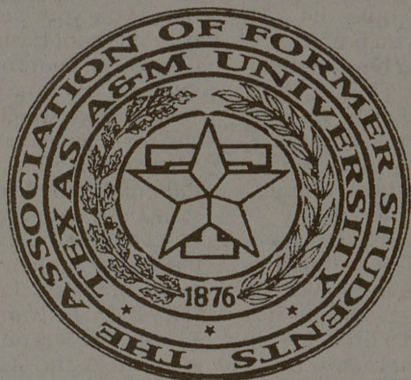
Tom Cruise
"Jerry Maguire"
Ralph Fiennes
"The English Patient"
Woody Harrelson
"The People vs. Larry Flynt"
Geoffrey Rush
"Shine"
Billy Bob Thornton
"Sling Blade"

Best Actress

Brenda Blethyn
"Secrets & Lies"
Diane Keaton
"Marvin's Room"
Frances McDormand
"Fargo"
Kristin Scott Thomas
"The English Patient"

Director

Anthony Minghella
"The English Patient"
Joel Coen
"Fargo"
Milos Forman
"The People vs. Larry Flynt"
Mike Leigh
"Secrets & Lies"
Scott Hicks
"Shine"



Class of '97

YOUR CLASS AGENTS WILL BE ELECTED MARCH 26 & 27 IN THE

1997 SPRING STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

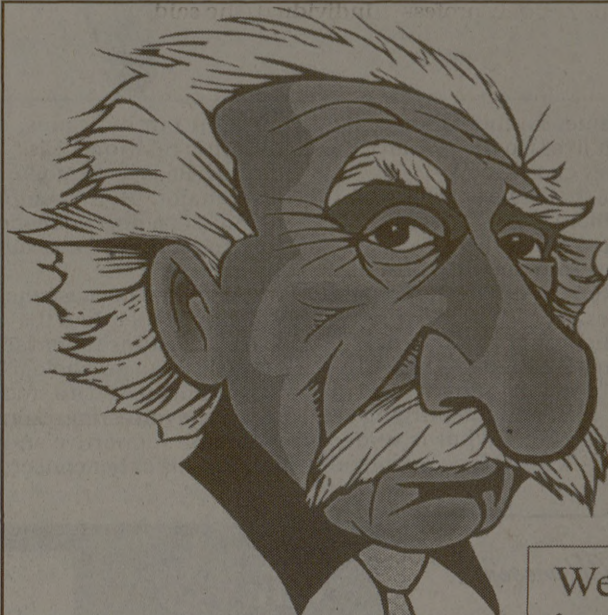
POTENTIAL CANDIDATES:

- A team of 3, enthusiastic, motivated leaders to serve the Class of '97 until 2002.
- Will act as liasons between the Class of '97, The Association of Former Students, and Texas A&M University.

REQUIREMENTS:

- At least 2 of the 3 candidates, for each team, must attend a mandatory information meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. at the Clayton Williams, Jr. Alumni Center.

One member from each team must contact Lisa West '91 at 845-7514 before 5:00 p.m. on February 18th.



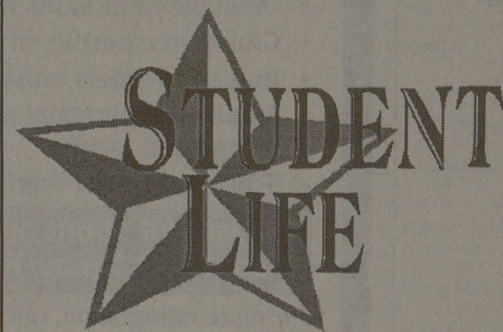
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- ✓ ¿Pura Vida? ¿Puras Mentiras! The Alcoholic Beverage Industry Targeting Latinos
- ✓ Sex on the Rocks
- ✓ Women & Alcohol
- ✓ ...and many more



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