



Under the Coldigioco Sun in 2014 Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco

Newsletter #3 December 2014

Coldigioco is a geological and artistic institute in the Marche Apennines devoted to interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Coldigioco 2014 -- students, scholars, educators, and artists shared the opportunity to learn and study at this unique geological and cultural center in the Italian Apennines.

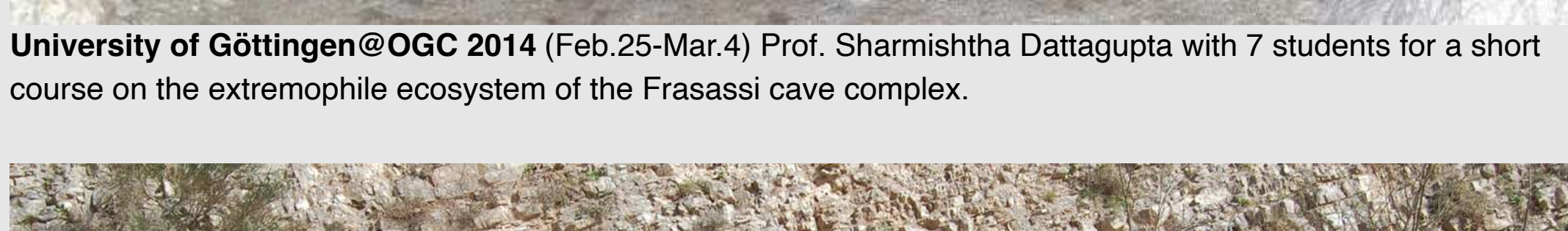
Dear Friends of Coldigioco,

Now in its 22nd year, the Geological Observatory of Coldigioco continues to collaborate with US and European universities to provide outstanding geological field courses and to promote top level research. The original Coldigioco school, established in the 1950's, was known for developing innovative teaching methods. Adding to this legacy, a group of teachers and educators from the Department of Education/Reading and Language Arts Center at Syracuse University held a course at Coldigioco to study language learning at Italian elementary and middle public schools in Apiro.

In addition to promoting scientific, educational, and artistic endeavors, the Association of the Mountains of Saint Francis, our Italian non-profit association, supports local cultural and community groups. We sponsor drama productions at the local theater, Teatro Mestica, in Apiro. We also provide opportunities for students at La Porta Aperta, a day center for adults with disabilities in Cingoli, to encourage independence by participating in activities at Coldigioco.



Geology Field Courses at Coldigioco in 2014



University of Göttingen@OGC 2014 (Feb.25-Mar.4) Prof. Sharmishta Dattagupta with 7 students for a short course on the extremophile ecosystem of the Frasassi cave complex.



Washington University@OGC 2014 (March 7-15) Prof. David Fike with 15 students for a Washington University Field Trip to the Mountains of Saint Francis.



Williams College@OGC 2014 (March 24-30) Prof Phoebe Cohen with 11 students, for cruising around the geology of the Mountains of Saint Francis.



Appalachian State University@OGC 2014 (May 17-June 1). Profs. Gabriele Casale and Jamie Levine with 15 students for geomapping the Frasassi blind thrust.



Pennsylvania State University @OGC 2014 (May 17-June 25). Prof. David Bice with 5 students for a field geology course, including excursion to the Alpi Apuane.



Associated Colleges of the Midwest @OGC 2014 (Aug.9-Nov.1). Prof. Cameron Davidson with 18 students, Consuelo Tersol (Italian teacher), Paula Metallo (Art teacher), and Paul Kopsick (Field Project supervisor). Environmental studies in the Adriatic domain.

Education at Coldigioco in 2014



Syracuse University@OGC 2014 (May 9-15). Prof. Kathleen Hinchman with 15 students from the Syracuse University School of Education studying language learning methods at Italian elementary and middle public schools in Apiro.

Art at Coldigioco in 2014



Galleria Il Gioco, opening at Coldigioco art gallery with artist Dona Jalutka's show *Full Circle and other Cycles* in September 2014. A study of time and cycles was the theme for ACM art course *The Science of Aesthetics* taught by artist Paula Metallo.

Research at Coldigioco 2014



Astrobiology research program of Jenn Macalady from Pennsylvania State University and two microbiospeleo students did research at the Frasassi caves with headquarters at Coldigioco in May and June.

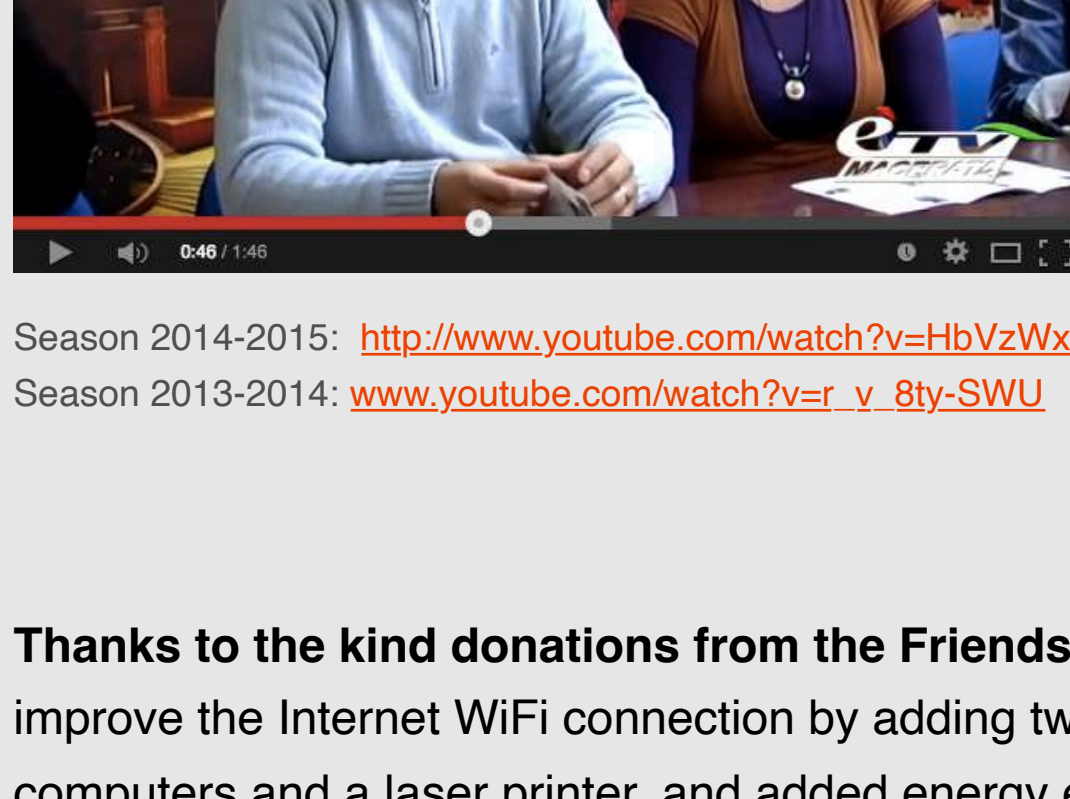


Research facilities at Coldigioco make it possible for students and researchers to prepare and analyze rock samples collected in the field. Here is a list of [current research projects](#).

The Association of the Mountains of Saint Francis provides support for students to do research for [student thesis projects](#).

Supporting Local Cultural Programs in 2014

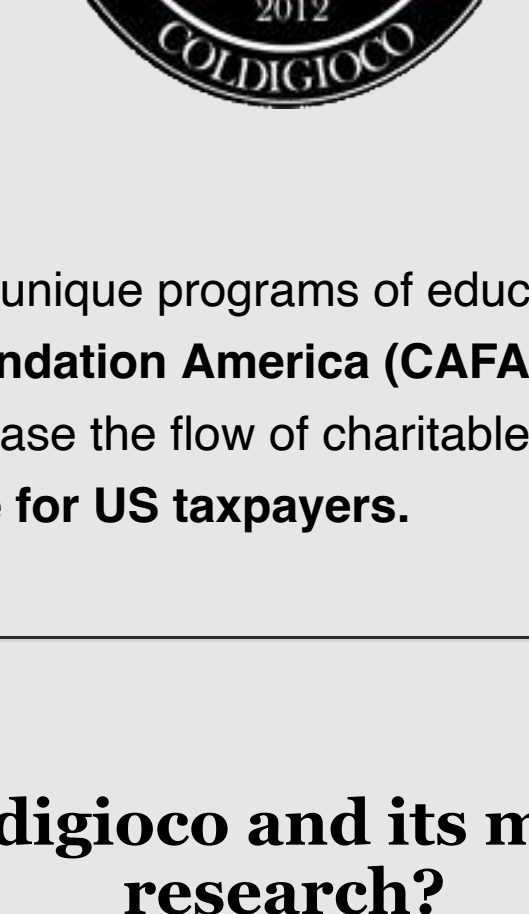
The Association LMDSF supports the historical Teatro Mestica in Apiro (directed by Fiorenza Montanari and Andrea Quatrini). Here are links to press conferences with the Cultural Assessor of the Province of Macerata about the season performances at Teatro Mestica:



Season 2014-2015: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvVzWys3aNY>

Season 2013-2014: www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_8ty-SWU

Thanks to the kind donations from the Friends of Coldigioco, this year it was possible to improve the internet WiFi connection by adding two new antennas. We also acquired three new computers and a laser printer, and added energy efficient windows in Villa KT. The Association helps support the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Future needs include replacing some of the aging field vehicle vans and cars.



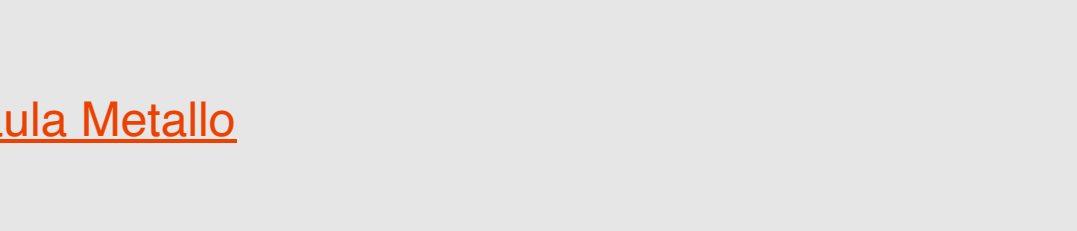
Please help us continue to provide the unique projects of education and research at Coldigioco. We are associated with **Charities Aid Foundation America (CAF America)**, an independent US 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to increase the flow of charitable funds outside the US. **Donations of 500 USD and over are tax deductible for US taxpayers.**

How can I support Coldigioco and its mission of education and research?

Make a Donation

1. PayPal

(Paypal ID = sandro.ogc@fastnet.it)



2. US Tax Deductible

[Online donation through CAF America \(\\$500 USD minimum\)](#). Alternatively, you can mail a check with this [Gift Form \(pdf\)](#).

3. Bank transfer

[Bank Transfer Form \(pdf\)](#). When you send a transfer, please notify [Sandro](#) of the amount you are sending, for his records.

Many thanks for helping to insure the future of Coldigioco!

With warm wishes,

[Walter and Milly Alvarez](#)

[Sandro Montanari](#) and [Paula Metallo](#)

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