The Coldigioco Experience 2015
Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco

Newsletter #4 December 2015

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

Coldigioco 2015 -- *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,

Founded in 1992, the **Geological Observatory of Coldigioco** is a well-established center for geological, environmental, and interdisciplinary field courses. In 2015, there were five different university-level geology/environmental sciences sessions, as well as a group of US teachers studying language and communication, a workshop for international journalists, and Italian high school groups. At Coldigioco, in addition to lodging and excellent cuisine, the rock preparation, geobiological, computer and map laboratories make it possible for visiting scholars and students to do cutting edge research on the Apennines.

This year **Le Montagne di San Francesco**, our Italian non-profit association, offered a four-day seminar on the *"Big History of the Apennines"* to 98 middle school students. It helped support the research of five geology university students. It presented a public seminar to the Fondo Ambiente Italiano on *"The Great Landslide of Portonovo"*. As a supporter of local cultural endeavors, the Association sponsors the local Teatro Mestica in Apiro, which gives local youth the opportunity to attend and participate in theater events. The Association also supports local artists by sponsoring shows and lectures to community groups.

Geological Field Courses at Coldigioco in 2015

***Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM)**, with Laura Peterson as accompanying faculty, TAs Carly Roe and Travis Houle, and 15 environmental sciences students, August 6 - October 29.*

***Columbia University**, with Sidney Hemming and Steven Goldstein as accompanying faculty, and 19 geology students, March 15-23.*

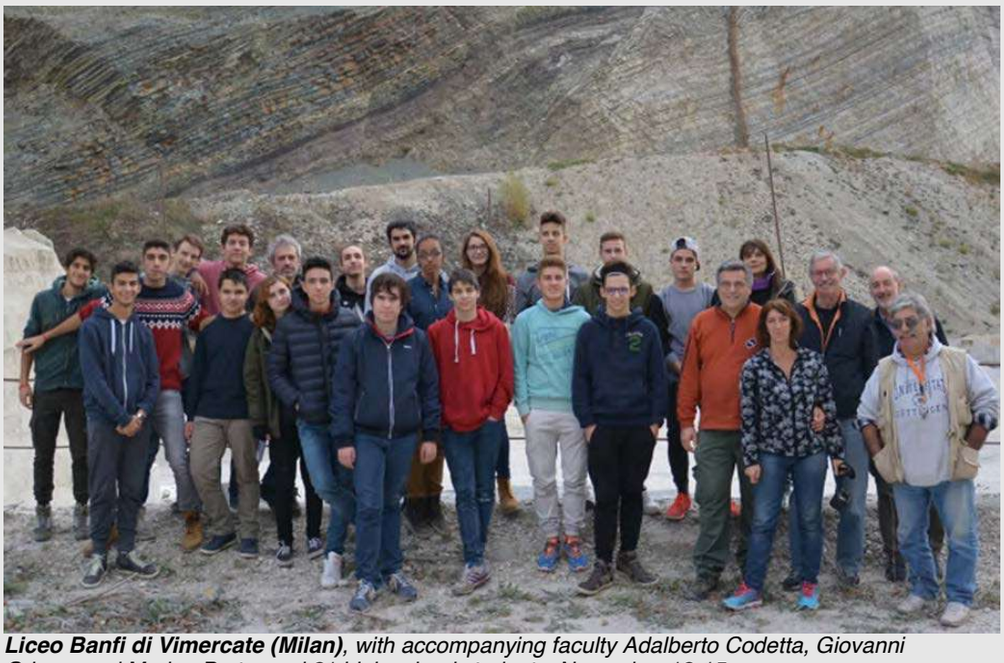
***Pennsylvania State University**, with Jenn Macalady and Michael Arthur as accompanying faculty, and 13 geobiology students, March 16-25.*

***Appalachian State University**, with Gabe Casale and Jamie Levine as accompanying faculty, and 15 geology students, May 22 - June 3.*

***Pennsylvania State University**, with David Bice as accompanying faculty, and 4 geology students, May 21 - June 27.*

Education at Coldigioco in 2015

Syracuse University, *School of Education, Institute of Communication and Inclusion, with Christy Ashby as accompanying faculty, 9 students and 2 sign language translators, May 5-17.*



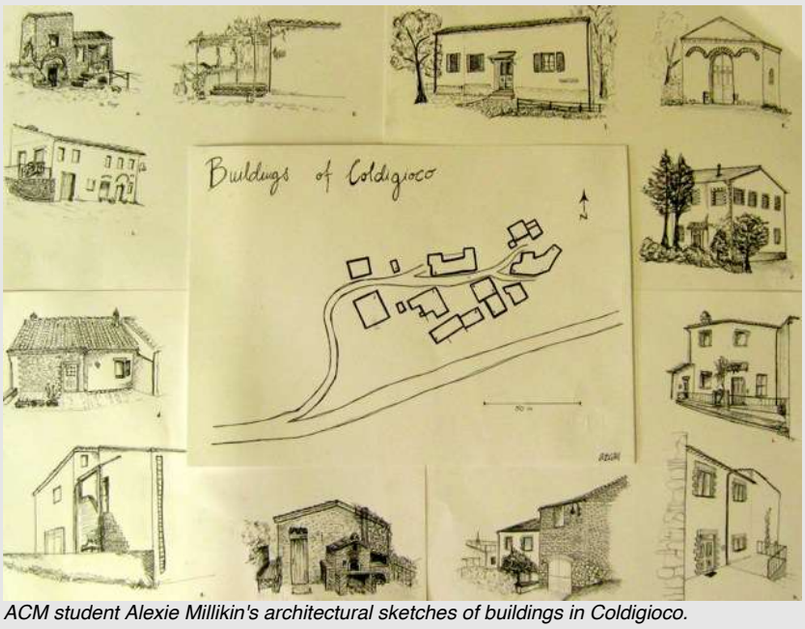
Liceo Banfi di Vimercate (Milan)*, with accompanying faculty Adalberto Codetta, Giovanni Grieco, and Marina Porta, and 21 high school students, November 13-15.*

LMDSF seminars given to public schools and organizations.

Art at Coldigioco in 2015

*Galleria Il Gioco features **artist Paula Metallo's exhibit "Mogli e Buoi"**, with her creative depiction of a typical biroccio or wooden decorated cart used in the Marche region.*

***Artist Dona Jalufka's** "Wedding Tray" , acrylic on wood depicting side panel of Coldigioco biroccio cart, was displayed in "Mogli e Buoi" exhibitions together with Paula Metallo in Sarnano and Bologna.*



ACM student Alexie Millikin's architectural sketches of buildings in Coldigioco.

ACM students from "The Science of Aesthetics" class taught by artist Paula Metallo, at the first-day Visiting Artists Show in Galleria Il Gioco.

Research at Coldigioco 2015

ACM students present their research projects.

Le Montagne di San Francesco helped support the research for scientific papers published in 2015 and for scientific papers submitted or in progress. **LMDSF** also provided support for student thesis projects.

Supporting Cultural Programs in 2015

The Association LMDSF supports the historical Teatro Mestica in Apiro (directed by Fiorenza Montanari and Andrea Quatrini).

Fiorenza Montanari as Frida Kahlo in the play "La Casa Azzurra", which she wrote and directed at Teatro Mestica. To learn more about Teatro Mestica click here.

Fall Harvest at Coldigioco 2015

At Coldigioco students are able to participate in local horticultural practices, including grape and olive harvests.

As part of teaching ancient culinary traditions, Sommelier and Chef Gualberto Compagnucci presented a seminar to the ACM students on Italian viticulture and cuisine. He prepared a dinner of Stoccafisso all'Anconetana, or Ancona stockfish, which was first introduced to Italy in the 15th century.

ACM Students at Roman Feast, Coldigioco style.

Thanks to the kind donations to Le Montagne di San Francesco from the many Friends of Coldigioco, this past year it was possible to make a number of much-needed improvements, including a new 9 passenger van, new washing machines, enclosed drying room for clothes, new down

comforters and sheets for the dorms, and new dishes for Margolis Hall. In addition, the Association helped support the maintenance and upkeep of the Observatory buildings and grounds. It also supported research and cultural activities, including costs for laboratory analyses, field work, geological core drillings, art shows, and theater management.

Please help us continue to provide the unique programs of education and research at Coldigioco! We are associated with **Charities Aid Foundation America (CAFAmerica),** an independent US 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to increase the flow of charitable funds outside the US. **Donations of US $500 and over are tax deductible for US taxpayers.** Contributions of less than $500 and those from non-US friends are also very welcome.

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

Make a Donation

1. US Tax Deductible
Online donation through CAFAmerica *(US $500 minimum).* Alternatively, you can mail a check with this Gift Form (pdf).

2. 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 your contribution to the success of Coldigioco, a unique opportunity in a unique place.

With warm wishes,
Walter and Milly Alvarez
Sandro Montanari and Paula Metallo

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NOTA BENE:
*The annual **General Assembly of the Associazione "Le Montagne di San Francesco"** will be held on **Wednesday, January 6, 2016**, at Margolis Hall, Coldigioco, 13. A minimum of three associate participants is required for the validity of the assembly.*

Requiescat In Pace
***Itala Bonci in Villani** (March 30, 1934 - December 12, 2015)*

Itala and Paolo making polenta for the students at the very first OGC student program, Carleton College in 1993.

Itala was the Mother to all Coldigiocans. We treasure our visits with her in Coldigioco in the very early years of OGC, when we sat with the other old people of town, keeping a watchful eye on everyone who came into view. We all loved her and her family so much, Utilia, Nannì, Checco, and Zia Maria when they were still living all together in Palazzo Villani, with their chickens, turkeys, and rabbits roaming around what would soon become Piazza Itala. And what about when she was waiting for our students coming back from the field, and cooked for them her fabulous polenta, or tagliatelle, or crostata. We will remember and miss her forever. *(Memories of Itala by Paul Kopsick and Sandro Montanari.)*

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