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Newsletter #13 December 2024

Coldigioco/Le Montagne di San Francesco

The Osservatorio Geologico di Coldigioco (OGC) is a geological, educational, and artistic institute at the foot of Monte San Vicino in the Marche Apennine Mountains of Italy, devoted to interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Coldigioco Geological Observatory Promotes Research, Education, and the Arts

Dear Friends of Coldigioco,

The Coldigioco Geological Observatory continues its 32-year history as a base for geological field courses from US colleges and universities. We welcomed for the first time students from Amherst College with their professor David Jones, an OGC alum. Appalachian State University held its 8th field geology program since 2014, led this year by Cole Edwards and Hannah Riegel. Since the pandemic there has been a big decrease in the number of international field courses, which has made a significant impact on the finances of OGC.

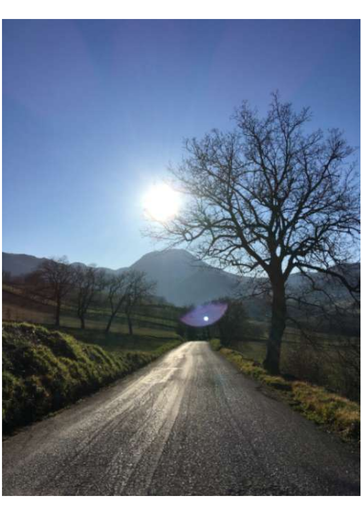
Two ongoing interdisciplinary research groups continue their association with Coldigioco while working in the Frasassi Caves. Jenn Macalady and Kate Freeman from Penn State University use Coldigioco as a base for their International Geobiology Course. Dan Jones from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology continues speleogeology research with ongoing consultation from Sandro Montanari.

*With the support of **L'Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco (LMDSF)**, the Teatro Mestica has an exciting 2024/25 season with performances by Teatro di Onisio, as well as visiting theater companies, performers, and cinemas. Our Il Gioco Gallery is displaying its first interactive art exhibition which invites visitors to reflect and enjoy.*

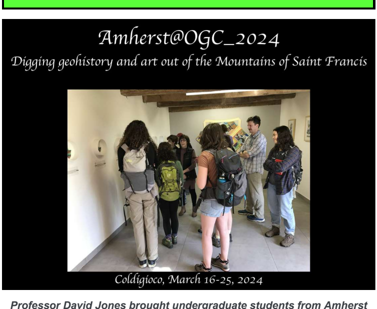
*Supporting our interest in the study of Big History, another contribution made possible by **LMDSF** will be **"Frasassi: The Little Big History of the Caves"**, a free access e-Book which has been translated into English.*

In order for Coldigioco to continue to thrive and to offer interdisciplinary studies across the sciences, art, theater, and history, we need your support. Many geology and environmental students who were inspired by their field course experience at Coldigioco are now college teachers inspiring the next generation of earth scientists. Please help us keep this unique opportunity possible by contributing to our mission of education and research.

Donate to Support Coldigioco



Amherst College Students Discover Geology and Art at Coldigioco Field Course

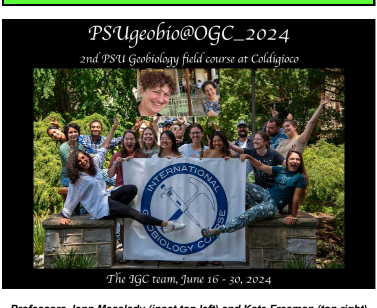


Professor David Jones brought undergraduate students from Amherst College in Massachusetts to learn about Umbria-Marche stratigraphy with Sandro Montanari. Paula Metallo introduced them to art with her exhibit at Il Gioco Gallery, and also at the Ducal Palace in Urbino to study Piero della Francesca's famous painting depicting the landscape and the geomorphology of the Montefeltro Apennines.

Appalachain State Returns to the Mountains of St. Francis

This was the eighth year since 2014 that Appalachian State University in North Carolina has conducted a field geology program at Coldigioco. The course was originally led by former Coldigioco students Gabe Casale and Hannah Riegel. This year Drs. Cole Edwards and Hannah Riegel were the faculty leaders.

Penn State's International Geobiology Course Based at Coldigioco

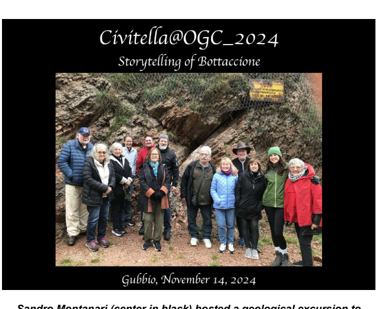


Professors Jenn Macalady (inset top left) and Kate Freeman (top right) from Penn State University again held their International Geobiology Course at Coldigioco with fieldwork in the Frasassi Caves.

New Mexico Tech Research Team Studies Speleogeology at Frasassi Caves

Prof. Dan Jones (second from right) from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and his research group study speleogeology at Frasassi Caves in consultation with Sandro Montanari.

Civitella Ranieri Scholars Experience Geotourism in Gubbio



Sandro Montanari (center in black) hosted a geological excursion to Gubbio for Civitella Ranieri, an international residency program in Umbria that brings together visual artists, writers, and composers to work independently and communally.
https://civitella.org/

Teatro Mestica 2024/5 Season Flying High with Theater, Concerts, Cinema

TEATRO MESTICA 2024/25 Season Catalogue

"Volere, Volare"

"To Want, To Fly" is dedicated to the impetus to fly that man has always had. Themes include: Chagall's flying lovers, Galileo Galilei, Leonardo da Vinci, Icarus, and Amelia Earhart.

*Teatro di Onisio directors Fiorenza Montanari and Andrea Quatrini perform in **a new production "Le Cronache di Coldigioco" about the Movement of Cooperative Education developed by Maestra Giovanna Legatti at the Coldigioco School from 1961 to 1971 that gave the "wings" of literacy to the entire community .***

Teatro Mestica's 20th anniversary will be celebrated with "VIP" of Italian theater, comedian Matthias Martelli in "Il Primo Miracolo di Gesù Bambino". This will be his only performance of this special and favorite piece on his Italian tour.

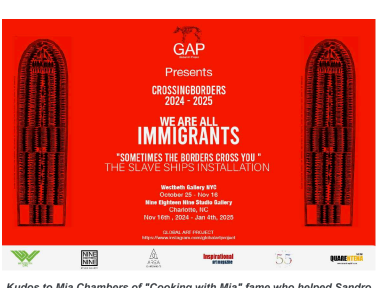
European Big Historians Convene in Amsterdam

In November Jesse Bos and Paula Metallo (2nd and 3rd from right) attended a meeting of the European Big History Network on the occasion of Esther Quaedackers' PhD defense on "The Little Big History of Tiananmen" at the University of Amsterdam. Esther's Big History students have published digital city guide maps which can be used to discover the unexpected little deep histories of Amsterdam in its 750th year. The network group also visited high school classes (including A. Roland Holst College) where Big History is taught and many students reported that it is their favorite class.

Art at Galleria "Il Gioco" and Beyond

Il Gioco Gallery is proud to present "Spotlight", its first interactive exhibit, curated by Paula Metallo. Marco Marchegiano from Apiro is a lamp artist and technician with curiosity for how things work, using every scrap and making visible parts that are usually hidden or considered irrelevant. In the show the lamps spotlight everything from philosophical questions to Greek mythology to Barbie, and invite the viewer to interact, reflect, and enjoy.

A collective handmade quilt is the latest therapeutic project created by Paula Metallo at La Porta Aperta, an adult day rehabilitation program in Cingoli. Over her 20 years at the center, Paula has introduced many ambitious artistic endeavors that encourage skill building and social interaction. Quilting is a community effort with every member of the group making a contribution, while the repetitive action of stitching is meditative and calming.



Kudos to Mia Chambers of "Cooking with Mia" fame who helped Sandro and Paula settle into Coldigioco after their move from Berkeley in 1992. Mia continues to pursue her artistic endeavors and has collaborated with artist/curator Carl Heyward as part of "The Slave Ships" installation in the 2024-25 Global Art Project: Crossing Borders WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS Exhibition.

OGC Research Publications 2024

Sponsored by LMDSF

Read about latest geo-archaeological research in Frasassi caves, volcanism in Italy and India, and mass extinctions.

Research Publications 2024

Alessandro Montanari, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

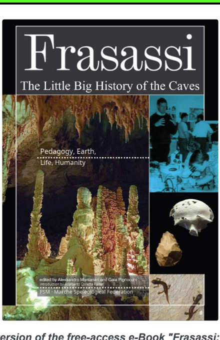
Montanari CV

Paula Metallo

Website

Metallo Website

Frasassi Little Big History Now Available in English



The English version of the free-access e-Book "Frasassi: The Little Big History of the Caves" will soon be available at www.speleomarche.it. LMDSF supported the publication of the e-Book, making it available for all at no cost.

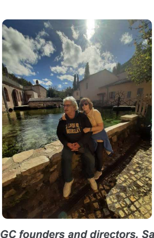
Santa Barbara at Berkeley

Walter Alvarez** at the **University of California Berkeley, Department of Earth and Planetary Science's Santa Barbara Day celebration in December 2024.

While Sandro Montanari and Paula Metallo were at Berkeley from 1980-92, Sandro introduced the idea for the Geology Department to celebrate the feast day of Santa Barbara, the patron saint of miners and geologists. In addition to cooking memorable Italian dinners for Santa Barbara's Day for some 10 years, Sandro commissioned Walter to write and direct the opera, "The Barbara of Seville", in 1990. Since the tradition of Santa Barbara's Day was lost during Covid, at this year's party Walter told the history and showed the old video of the opera, featuring Paula as Santa Barbara, Sandro as Don Pedro, and Fiorenza as the messenger in her first onstage performance.

The Barbara of Seville

Celebrating Significant OGC Milestones



This year our OGC founders and directors, Sandro Montanari (Ancona1954) and Paula Metallo (SyracuseNY1954), celebrated 70 trips around the sun. It is remarkable that 32 years (46%) of this time has been spent establishing and maintaining the dream that is Coldigioco.

In October Paul and Debbie Kopsick celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at an unforgettable dinner prepared by Chef Max Montanari at Colleverde Restaurant in Apiro. Paul and Debbie were among the first residents and have documented the history of OGC for the past 32 years.

How to Support LMDSF

L'Associazione Le Montagne di San Francesco (LMDSF) is the non-profit Association established in 2012 which makes it possible to support geological research, education, art, theatrical productions, and cultural events. Donations to the Association allow us to maintain the Geological Observatory of Coldigioco and to provide researchers and students the opportunity to study and experience this unique setting with 250 million years of Earth history available for study in the Apennines.

Please support Coldigioco's unique mission of education, research, and art.

Make a Donation to LMDSF

How to Donate

1. Bank Transfer
When you send a bank transfer, please notify Sandro of the amount you are sending, for his records.

2. US Tax Deductible
Make online donation through CAFAmerica (US $500 minimum) or you can mail a check to CAFAmerica with Gift Form. Please notify Sandro of your donation.

We greatly appreciate the many Friends of Coldigioco whose support makes it possible to continue to do geological research in the Mountains of Saint Francis, to teach geology and environmental studies, and to bring art and theater to the Marche Region.

Tante grazie!
Milly and Walter Alvarez
Paula Metallo and **Sandro Montanari**

Cda. Coldigioco,13, 62021 Apiro (MC) Italy
Tel. 011-39-0733-618291

For past issues of the Coldigioco Newsletter visit coldigioco.org

Novita!

The Truffle Hunters

Coldigioco now has its very own official licensed truffle hunter. Jesse Bos (2nd from left) completed the training with her dog Boef and received her diploma from FISC, the Italian Truffle Association.

Novita!

Coldigioco Vintage 202?

Official permission has been granted to establish a small vineyard in Coldigioco. It will be located on the property of Christian Koeberl and Dona Jalufka overlooking the hills of Cingoli.

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