



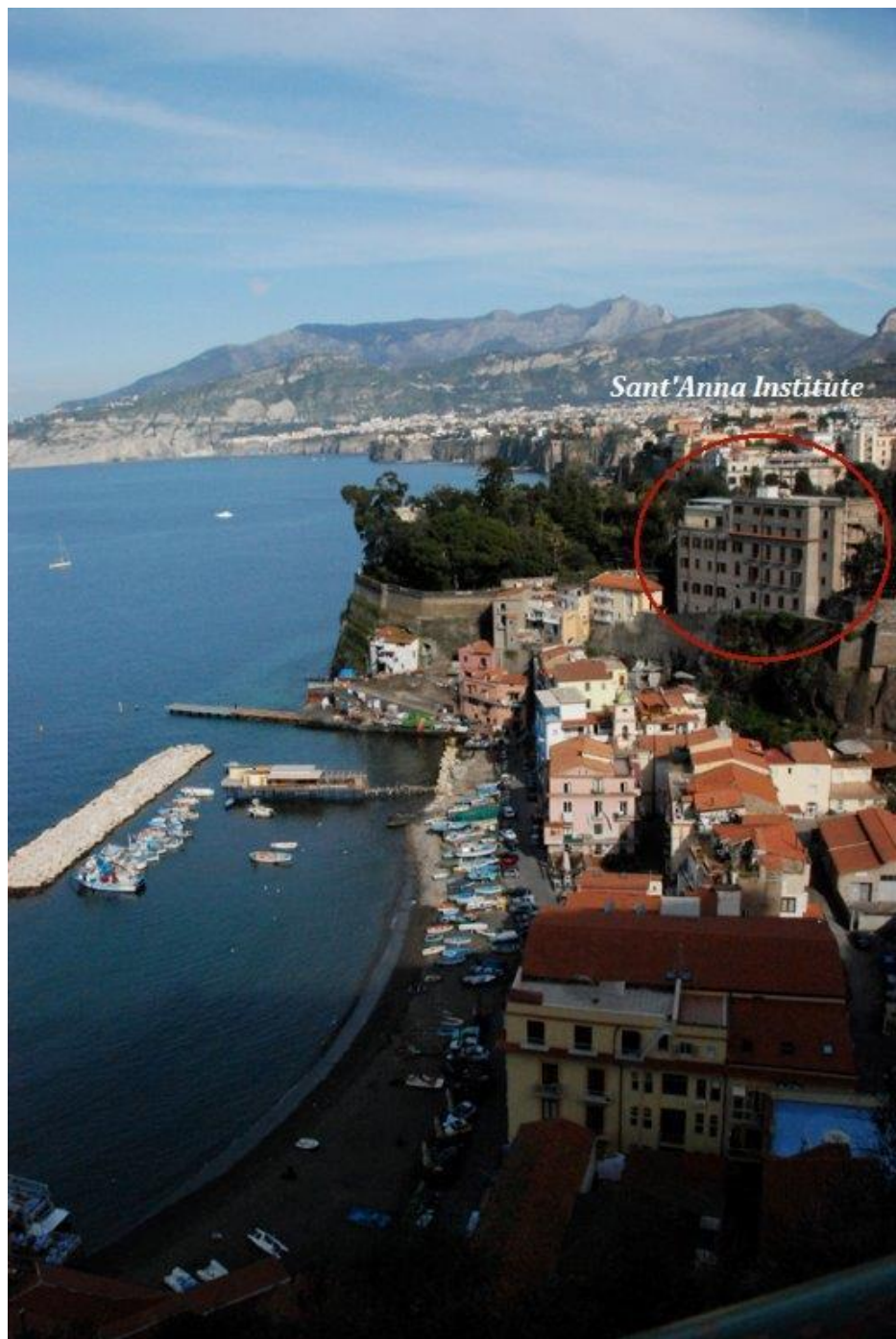
SANT'ANNA INSTITUTE
SORRENTO

Service Learning and Community Engagement

at Sant'Anna

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is:
'What are you doing for others?'"*

- Martin Luther King



Sant'Anna Institute

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

As part of our academic programs, Sant'Anna Institute also organizes Service Learning and Community Engagement projects. Community Engagement projects are voluntary and independent from the courses that students attend, while Service Learning projects are designed specifically for certain courses to allow students to apply what they've learned in the classroom, and at the same time, provide a service to the city hosting them.

Being located within the small community of Sorrento, the Sant'Anna Institute is constantly in contact with local institutions in order to discover new effective and meaningful projects to be realized. In fact, due to the reputation of these projects within the town, oftentimes the community partners reach out to Sant'Anna for a collaboration.

From an academic point of view, these projects are a form of experiential learning, allowing students to learn in partnership with the community and to develop competencies that promote the advancement of a socially responsible citizenry. Time spent working with a community-based organization becomes part of the students' homework. In the case of Service Learning projects, the community serves as a "living text" for the class - another powerful source of information to complement course readings, lectures, and discussions. The Service Learning and Community Engagement Programs engage students and the broader community in reciprocal partnerships to create educational projects, to promote leadership through service, to foster and support inclusive environments, and to advance social justice and civic engagement.

Depending on their field of study and interests, students may be involved in a variety of different projects. Here are just a few examples of possible projects:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & SOCIAL WORK

Cooperation with “The Next and the Future” non-profit association for disabled people, at the Sorrento Cathedral Parish

Students assist with the daily recreational activities organized to build confidence and community relationships among a local group of adults with developmental disabilities. Activities include: arts and crafts, grocery shopping, cooking, emotional exercises, games, music, dancing, and more.

Departments involved: Business, Social Sciences, Culinary



EDUCATION

“Free English Conversations” with Sant’Anna Institute

Free courses for low-income locals are set up in order to open the opportunity to practice English conversations. Conversation topics and activities are prepared and presented by student volunteers.

“English Teaching” with local public schools K-12

Accompanied by ESL teachers, students assist in lessons to teach local students about the English language. Lessons will be prompted by the ESL teacher in accordance to the curriculum, and student volunteers may propose, prepare, and present activities to support the lessons while sharing their culture with these local kids.

Departments involved: Social Sciences



SOCCER

“Kick for a Cause” with various Sorrento soccer organizations

A soccer tournament is organized throughout a period or a one-day marathon event with volunteer teams from the community and students with the objective of raising awareness of a designated cause. Students are in charge of creating an international playing field, bringing together and sharing diverse cultures through sport. All the while, they choose a local charity to donate any proceeds from the event to.

Departments involved: Sports Management



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & MARINE BIOLOGY

“Heritage Interpretation” and “Beach Clean-up” with the Protected Marine Area of Punta Campanella

It’s about digging into the history and culture of the local environment and informing the public of its hidden values. This project focuses on zones that are a part of the Protected Marine Area of Punta Campanella and is done in tandem with professionals that research and monitor the area.

Departments involved: Marine Biology, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences



BUSINESS

“Museum in Piazza” with the Friends of the Correale Museum, a women’s non-profit association who raises funds for the museum

In close partnership with the women’s group, students collect and sort second-hand clothing to be sold in order to raise funds to restore a historical painting from the local Correale Museum. Students also advertise and work the sale for set up, take down, and assisting customers.

Departments involved: Business, Event Planning, Museum Studies



EVENT PLANNING/MUSIC

“Battle of the Bands” with various Sorrento locations

This competition among local high school musicians is organized and promoted by students with the goal of raising money for a study abroad scholarship to be awarded to local high school student programs. Students seek local business sponsors, design the advertising and other event details to put on an enjoyable night for everyone. The organization is coordinated with representatives of the local high schools. The winning band wins a prize from the sponsors, and those who donated toward the cause by voting are eligible for donated raffle prizes as well.

Departments involved: Music, Business



CULINARY ARTS & HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

“Cooking for the Community” together with San Paolo Institute, the local high school specialized in the tourism industry

Fundraising dinner events are proposed, organized, and carried out by students in collaboration with the high school’s professional kitchen facilities in order to raise awareness and funds for local charitable causes. Students may also collaborate with the high school students or local business professionals on planning, sponsoring, and realizing the final event.

Departments involved: Business, Hospitality & Tourism, Culinary



JOURNALISM

“A Students Secrets of Sorrento” with the Surrentum, a local magazine

The study abroad experience in Sorrento offers a deeper perspective of the town for students that have the opportunity to discover the treasures this community and area have to offer beyond the usual tourist experiences. The Surrentum offers column space to Sant’Anna students to share these insights with the Surrentum audience: both local community members, visiting tourists, and other students.

Departments involved: English, Communications



ARCHITECTURE

Each term the students work on a project to redevelop one of the areas surrounding Sorrento: seafronts, squares, etc. The most recent project from Spring 2016 is:

“Meta Wayfinding” Project

Meta is a small town close to Sorrento, the students wanted to do something to improve the tourist experience. In order to that, there was a need for a clear graphic description or “wayfinding” path that would lead visitors to all of the interesting sites in town and culminate at the waterfront. The project includes more than just a signage system but also elements such as sculptures, murals, benches for stopping and historical markers along the way.

Departments involved: Architecture, Social Sciences







CONTACTS

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