

York and Italian university start exchange program

By CRISTINA DEGANO

A three-year agreement for a mutual student exchange has been reached between York University and the University of Calabria in southern Italy.

According to York Professor Franc Sturino, the program, to commence this Fall, will allow York students to attend the University of Calabria while obtaining credits from York. Likewise, Calabrese students will study at York and be credited at their home university. The agreement calls for about a half dozen students from each country, he added.

Although the students must meet

some basic academic requirements in order to participate, Sturino noted that there is no formal selection process. Eligibility will depend mainly on the initiative of the student, he explained. "Those who are keen and take the time and trouble to find out about the program will be eligible to participate," the professor concluded.

According to Sturino, one main purpose of the exchange is to promote and pass on the Calabrese culture to the children of immigrants from that region. He stressed, however, that "there is no preference for Calabrese or (students of) other Italian backgrounds."

Participants must be full-time York students having a good knowledge of the Italian language, which is necessary for studying efficiently at the Italian university.

Although there will be some funding from the regional government of Calabria, participating students will be required to independently finance the costs of their flight, room and board, and other incidental expenses. Sturino noted, however, that an academic year in Italy will be generally cheaper than a Canadian one. The two universities have both agreed to help the participants find places to live, he added.

The exchange program was organized

by the Mariano Elia chairperson (presently Professor Sturino) of Canadian Studies at York, which is dedicated to the teaching of the Italian experience in Canada. The chair was set up in 1984 when a donation to York of \$350,000 by the Mariano Elia Charitable Foundation was matched equally by the government.

According to Sturino, several common points of interest helped bring the two universities together. The University of Calabria is particularly strong in the area of Italian migration studies, as is York. In addition, he cited the research on solar energy which both universities are doing as another common interest.

Sturino feels that the opportunity for students with Calabrese roots to learn and experience their heritage first-hand is rare, as is the opportunity for students of other backgrounds to expand on their personal interests in Italian language and culture, while being credited for their foreign studies. He hopes, however, that the program will not only benefit the individuals who participate, but will promote better understanding amongst the two cultures in general.

According to Sturino, Calabresi comprise about 30 percent of the

Italian population in Metro Toronto, yet there isn't a great deal of knowledge about the group, or of other southern Italian groups on the part of Canadians and even Italian Canadians.

"There isn't an accurate picture of what the south (of Italy) is today," Sturino said. Similarly, he feels that Italians have a superficial understanding of North American people and their way of life.

"A lot of Italians still think of the 'new world' as a place where the streets are paved with gold," Sturino said. "Obviously this is not true. There isn't the great division of wealth we had before World War II." He added that in many respects our lifestyles are similar, while culturally, we remain distinct.

Professor Bucci, president of the University of Calabria, said he feels strongly that the exchange is "an important step, maybe even necessary" for fostering an understanding between the two cultures in an academic setting.

Anyone interested in participating in the program is asked to contact Professor Sturino at 608 Atkinson College, 736-5231. The deadline for applications for the 1987/88 academic year is March 10.

Three York students chosen for WUSC overseas summer seminar in Zimbabwe



STEPHEN WISE

OUT OF AFRICA: No they're not, but these three York students, Dwight Lubiniecki, Barbara Grey and Ann Bunting will be attending this summer's WUSC seminar in Zimbabwe.

By JAMES FLAGAL

Three students from York were chosen to attend the upcoming 1987 World University Seminar of Canada (WUSC) program which is taking place in Zimbabwe this summer.

University student candidates from across the country applied to WUSC by submitting a research proposal with their respective post-secondary institutions concerning a topic they wished to investigate during the seminar. The criteria for topic selection were broad, allowing students to choose a subject dealing with sociology, anthropology, economics, religion and other related areas of study focusing on some aspect of Zimbabwean society.

Selection was based on the originality and salience of the topic chosen, university grades, extracurricular activity, and past interests which the applicant has demonstrated in the area of international development. Out of over 140 student applicants, only 30 students were chosen to attend the six week seminar beginning in early July.

Barbara Grey, a third year

Anthropology and African Studies double major, will be studying the influence Western foods have had on traditional diets within Zimbabwe. According to Grey, she will be investigating the effects of advertising of western foods, and if western foods are considered "higher in status" than traditional foods. Grey added that she wanted to gain some "practical first-hand knowledge on the trip" to complement her extensive university background in African Studies.

Anne Bunting, a second year Osgoode Hall law student, will be researching refugee migration into Zimbabwe. According to Bunting, Zimbabwe has just recently become a 'refugee receiving country,' where people from Mozambique and South Africa flee in order to escape the political turmoil taking place in their homelands. Before Zimbabwe was founded, explained Bunting, Rhodesia was a 'refugee creating country' as blacks would leave to escape white oppression and political strife.

Bunting presently works with the Parkdale Community Legal Services clinic which deals with helping Can-

adian refugees during their process of immigration. Bunting said that she plans to spend three to four weeks of the seminar in refugee border camps, to see "what refugees leave behind when they migrate to Canada, and better understand the situation they must endure." According to Bunting, this is a chance to see "the other side" of the refugee process.

Dwight Lubiniecki, a first year Philosophy and Anthropology double major, will be investigating the 'ethnomusicology' of Zimbabwe. According to Lubiniecki, this entails researching "the culture of a country through its music." A way Lubiniecki will be doing this is by evaluating the music curriculum present in the Zimbabwean school system and seeing to what extent traditional music is taught over Western music.

The candidates will begin their own fund-raising campaign this week to raise the \$2,400 required for seminar fees by approaching campus clubs and organizations for donations.

Visiting professor lectures Osgoode students on perspectives on feminism

By PAUL DE ANGELIS

This past week was marked by two lectures by visiting professor Catharine Mackinnon, a feminist lawyer and activist. Last Wednesday, she spoke on "The Charter and Women's Possibilities," at Osgoode Hall, and on Saturday, "Pornography in the US and Canada," was her topic of discussion at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Professor Mackinnon, an American, pointed out that Canada has one of the best environments in which women "can realize more than just their sexual and economic worth." This is provided by "Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which, unlike the American Constitution, affords women the means with which to achieve equality on a legal basis.

For example, an ordinance could be introduced that would allow women who have been harmed by pornography to sue the pornographers (referred to by Mackinnon as "pimps") that are responsible.

"The law, like the media and education," Mackinnon said, "is neither omnipotent nor impotent." She feels it can be used by women to "define their own equality."

Yet Mackinnon noted that first, it is necessary to mobilize and be prepared "to take risks," even if the changes that result make a difference to only one person. She went on to stress the damage done by complacency on the part of women. "All women are complacent every day to

some degree, since male supremacy is everywhere," she said.

Some of the more extreme examples of this, which Mackinnon referred to as "cooperation," occur when a woman defends a pimp, or when women who have achieved economic independence claim that "they have never been discriminated against and have gotten where they are by virtue or their merit." This latter statement distanced the speaker from other women and caused "damage to herself as well as her sisters."

In response to questions from the audience, Professor Mackinnon made the following statements:

- A "surrogate mother" is neither a criminal nor a victim" but an example of "institutionalized inequality" in which "the woman was bought and sold as a womb in the same manner that a woman is bought and sold as a vagina."

- "All forms of oppression are inextricable," but "even among women, equality (is) a matter of degrees since discrimination and stereotyping was intensified against women of colour."

- "Sexual assault is prevalent among all classes, but is conspicuous among members of the lower classes" who cannot afford special and discreet medical attention.

- Women should be wary of any form of artificial reproduction since they are "not in control of their own bodies, let alone technology."

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