

## **Bologna Center Students Met Italian President Giorgio Napolitano on April 29**

Thirty Bologna Center students met with Giorgio Napolitano, president of Italy, Wednesday, April 29, at the Quirinale Palace in Rome. The palace serves as the official residence and offices of the president.

During the conversation, President Napolitano remarked upon the nearly six decades of a close relationship and collaboration between the Italian government and the Bologna Center, which he said enhanced the academic, economic and political communities worldwide.

“Scholarships from the Italian government have enabled qualified young men and women to attend the Bologna Center since its inception in 1955,” said Kenneth H. Keller, the center’s director, who also attended the meeting. Italian alumni include several ambassadors as well as other officials in the highest levels of government and the diplomatic corps, as well as in economic, university and private sectors.

Napolitano, the country’s 11<sup>th</sup> president, told the students that he had visited the Bologna Center throughout the years, including the celebration of the center’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 2007 dedication of the building renovation.

After their meeting, the students had the opportunity to visit many of the rooms of the Quirinale, which is not normally open to the public.

The students represented 14 countries, including Azerbaijan, China, Vietnam and Brazil, as well as Italy and the United States. Their visit was commemorated the next day with a photo and story on the Quirinale’s home page ([quirinale.it](http://quirinale.it))