Dear Temple Rome Community:

Many years ago, I came upon this quotation by Adlai Stevenson and through the years it has stayed with me, coming back to mind during times of reflection when I was preparing to leave my own semester abroad, when I graduated from college and now, as we are all about to embark on a new journey.

"Your days are short here; this is the last of your springs. And now in the serenity and quiet of this lovely place, touch the depths of truth, feel the hem ... You will go away with old, good friends. And don’t forget when you leave, why you came."

As you travel home...and for those faculty and staff who remain here in Rome, remember these words. Reflect upon “why we came” to Rome, whether it be to study, to teach or to work. It will mean different things to all of us, but our common thread is that we all were here together, learning under one roof, as one community.

I have been truly overwhelmed by the compassion and cooperation our community has exhibited this past week.

Students, faculty and friends have dropped by to let us know how much they appreciate what we are doing, despite the sadness we all feel. Faculty and staff are working together to ensure that the online learning is exciting and effective for their students. We are comforting each other, we are caring for each other and we are exemplifying all the positive attributes that show who we are in times of crisis.

I know that this is a difficult situation and it is uncharted territory for all of us. This is also part of our journey together as a community. I can’t tell you how proud I am to travel this road with all of you.

While I think it safe to say that this is not the ending to the story that any of us would have written, it nonetheless will be the memory that keeps us all together...and in a few short months we became, and will remain, “old, good friends”.

Con sincero affetto -

Dean Fay R. Trachtenberg