

## The 10<sup>th</sup> International School on Foraminifera

The 10<sup>th</sup> ISF was a wholly enjoyable and informative three-week course which saw us learning about all things foraminifera-related in the beautiful Italian town of Urbino. The course overall was found to be accessible to all levels of foraminifera study, from undergraduate through to those working in industry. This was helped not only by the copious amounts of literature provided, including books and journals, but also by the friendly and approachable nature of the lecturers, allowing for all questions to be answered and further enhance our understanding.

The 8<sup>th</sup> day saw the much anticipated “foraminiferal party”, held at the Parco della Resistenza. The evening involved eating plenty of pizza and drinking beer. During the party, ISF participants had the chance to present their own research in an informal setting. This event provided the perfect opportunity to get to know one another better and created a professional network.

After the last day of learning about larger benthic foraminifera, we went on a field trip to the region of the Umbria-Marche Apennines. First, we saw the Lower Jurassic “Rosso Ammonitico” sediments, after visiting the Contessa Road section where we were able to look at various sequences containing the PETM, the Eocene hyperthermals and the Bonarelli event. We also visited the K/Pg boundary in the Bottaccione Gorge section. The boundary is marked by a thin clay layer sandwiched between the last Cretaceous limestone and the first Paleogene limestone. After a long day, out we had a delicious dinner accompanied by tasty Italian wine – consumption of which resulted in Macarena dancing!



**Group picture from the K/Pg boundary**

The ISF was a great opportunity to meet future colleagues and network with experts from this highly active area of research. The social evenings enabled everybody to socialise in a relaxed atmosphere and lead to a setting where everyone knew everyone – an environment which translated to the classroom where people actively helped and worked with one another. Overall, the experience at the ISF was one with a positive learning environment, enabled by the presence of enthusiastic lecturers ready to impart their knowledge for the future generations of foraminiferal research. This course can be easily recommended to anyone interested in moving into foraminifera study, or those already working with foraminifera who would like to hone their knowledge.

Our utmost gratitude goes to both Fabrizio Frontalini and Mike Kaminski for organising such a fantastic course, and, of course, the EGU for providing us with the opportunity to study at the ISF.

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