Traveling is an opportunity to see the world and experience different cultures. His father's employment as a Commander in the Italian Navy has allowed Federico Minelli to travel and visit different countries. According to him, his family moved about every three years due to his father's position. He is a Northern Italian native, but has traveled to countries such as Belgium and France. He is fluent in both Italian and French.

Minelli came to the U.S.A. with his parents and has been in America for four years now. His dad is the coordinator for NATO scholarships for ODU. He is 20-years-old, and is majoring in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science and engineering management.

When asked what drew him to this field, Minelli responded by saying that the high school system from his home country had three different types of high school and the high school he attended was math and science based. He is also driven by his own curiosity and desire to figure out how things work. He chose to take the technological route because he preferred hands-on work. Minelli is just a regular ODU student, but he has seen a lot of the world already.

Minelli feels that the school was tougher in Italy. There was not as much liberty and freedom when it came to choosing classes like there is in America. He likes how the American school system is structured to help students of all learning levels and that no student gets left behind. When asked if he experienced culture shock when he came to America, he said the culture was different from Italy, but he likes change.

Minelli is a part of Model UN, which he joined in order to meet people and he ended up liking how dynamic it was. He has also attended a few sporting events at ODU. He has traveled a lot with his family across the country to explore what America has to offer. He enjoys seeing new places and meeting people and experiencing things. He believes that by being exposed to a variety of places and cultures he has become a more open minded person.

In Italy, traveling to America is a big deal for people. Minelli is truly grateful for having this opportunity. Not only did he get to visit the country, but he is able to expand his education here. When asked what advice he would like to give the ODU student body, he said to just enjoy the college experience and take advantage of all the opportunities offered by the university.

Minelli's goals include getting a master's degree either here or back in Italy and then finding a stable job. He also hopes to travel to California and go to Silicon Valley. Overall, his American Experience was tough, but good.

“It wasn’t easy to get where I am now, but it was worth it,” Minelli said.

Photo courtesy of Federico Minelli

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The Italian Wanderer: Federico Minelli