Monica Pesoli is the Founder and owner of “Like an Italian” (https://likeanitalian.wordpress.com/), and the daughter of Austin Montessori School Founder Donna Bryant Goertz. She has the earliest AMS pedigree of any alum profiled here, having been a student in the AMS pilot program – “the first little test classroom that was held in our home Fall 1965-Spring 1966, two years before the school opened.”

Monica later attended St. Ignatius School and Austin High before earning a BA in Psychology at St. Edward’s, a BA in Italian Studies and in Spanish at the University of Houston, Masters in Education from Loyola University Maryland, and AMI Elementary Teacher Training, from MIM-MINW. At AMS she founded the Casita program at the Sunset Valley Campus (then called After-School Program); worked as a classroom assistant in both Children’s House and Elementary; taught Italian culture and foreign language to members of the Adolescent Community, and accompanied them to Rome; led Club Mundi; taught gymnastics and directed theater arts productions; and was a designated sub.

Monica has worked as a teacher for 37 years, teaching Italian foreign language at Bellaire High School in Houston, TX, taking small groups on boutique trips to Italy, teaching Italian cooking classes, directing children’s and adolescent s’ productions of Shakespeare’s plays, and coaching summer swim team programs. She remembers the very earliest beginnings of AMS: “I remember riding along with my dad (Pete Pesoli, Sr.) to Freeport, TX, to pick up scraps of Formica countertops that we took home and made into the first children’s tables for the newly founded Austin Montessori School.” Monica’s siblings Pete Pesoli, Michael Pesoli, and Christina Pesoli attended AMS as well.

*Last revised: March, 2019*