

The Rutgers

Libretto

Spring 2019

A letter from the Chair...

Dear Members and Friends of the Rutgers Italian Department,

This past academic year has been filled with exciting events. In October the Consul General of Italy, Minister Francesco Genuardi, visited our Department, along with Dr. Isabella Periotto, Deputy Consul, and Dr. Annavaleria Guazzieri, Director of the Education Office of the Italian Consulate. Consul General Genuardi praised our educational and scholarly mission and encouraged us to pursue it. The meeting was attended by more than seventy people.

Throughout the year we have hosted lectures by renowned guests, such as alumna Giovanna Miceli-Jeffries and writers Dacia Maraini and Giorgio van Straten (see details inside), and we continued to hold our "Food for Thought" meetings. Visiting Professor Laura Morreale held a successful graduate mini-seminar in Digital Humanities in the Spring. At the end of the semester her students discussed the results of their research with peers and faculty. As you will read in the following pages, our doctoral students have organized a lecture and a roundtable, and have received prestigious recognitions and awards. We also hosted a doctoral candidate from the University of Siena, Cristina Placido, who participated in our graduate seminars and gave a talk on her research. In May, we held our Alumni Reunion, which was a wonderful occasion to catch up with friends and donors. We thank them for their continued support.

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Letter from Chair (continued)

I am delighted to announce that in the next academic year Dr. Isabella Magni will join our Department as a Postdoctoral Associate in Digital Humanities. While pursuing her research and sharing her expertise with us, she will enrich our course offerings and mentor our students in a groundbreaking field. I would also like to welcome two newly admitted graduate students in our Ph.D. Program, Andrea Bocchi and Giuseppe Grispino.

Finally, I am thrilled to share some excellent news regarding our Ph.D.s' and ABDs' job placements. Arianna Fognani will start working as an Assistant Professor at Coastal Carolina University, Alberto Iozzia was hired as a Visiting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, Hiromi Kaneda's appointment as Lecturer at the University of Virginia was renewed, and Eleonora Sartoni was hired as Lecturing Fellow at Duke University. Congratulations to all!

With my best wishes of a pleasant and productive summer,

Andrea



Andrea Baldi, Department Chair

Undergraduate News from the Undergraduate Director

Professor Rhiannon Welch enjoyed another year as Undergraduate Director, overseeing our rigorous and close-knit undergraduate program. During a fall career night, we welcomed back returnees from our inaugural year of *RU in Rome*—a 4-week intensive internship and language program hosted by St. John's University, just steps from St. Peter's Square in Rome. Students highlighted how their summer internships enriched their scholarly and professional profiles. Profs. Welch and Scala look forward to directing the second class of *RU in Rome* again this summer, and continue to work hard to expand internship opportunities for students of Italian, both in Italy and the NYC Metro area.

We celebrated the Class of 2019 at Italian Night (7 Majors and 13 Minors), with several of our Majors achieving Phi Beta Kappa distinction, as well as SAS Excellence Awards (awarded to students graduating with a 4.0 GPA). We had a record number of Honors Theses completed in the Department this year (four), with Anita Hotchkiss and Pina Di Martino receiving Department of Italian Honors, and Ingrid Kuribayashi receiving Honors in both French and Italian and Joanna Zotti receiving Honors in both Art History and Italian. Students wrote on topics ranging from women artists in Renaissance Italy to *commedia dell'arte's* influence on French literature.

We are delighted to announce that both Joanna Zotti and Sofia Cuccio, two graduating Majors who are alumnae of the Ferrara semester abroad program (CIEE) and *RU in Rome* (Cuccio), will be returning to Italy this fall for internships—Zotti received the prestigious Peggy Guggenheim Collection Internship in Venice, and Cuccio will be teaching English at a technical school in Bergamo with the SITE Paid Internship Program (Dickinson College).

Congratulazioni vivissime to the Class of 2019!





Tavola Italiana was a great success, totaling 98 participants over the academic year (graduate students excluded)! Students sang, played Italian versions of popular games (such as *Jeopardy*, *Family Feud*, *Pictionary*, *Charades*, *The Price is Right*), played Italian versions of completely made up games (*Doppiaggi Maldestri* is an all-time favorite), and had a lot of fun (graduate students included)! Not one Tavola went by without everybody happily feasting on tasty pizza and sipping fancy sodas.

- Paolo Scartoni

Events





Consul General of New York: Visit to the Italian Department

To start his visit, Consul General Francesco Genuardi had a meeting with Peter March, Executive Dean, Michelle Stephens, Dean of Humanities, our faculty, and numerous Rutgers professors of Italian origins and scholars working on Italian culture. He underscored the Italian government's commitment to the dissemination of our language and rich cultural heritage, as well as to our Department's scholarly mission and initiatives. Afterwards he mingled with graduate and undergraduate students of the Department and members of the community.

Bridging Languages and Cultures in the Modern Classroom

In February of 2019, Professor Scala, in collaboration with the Spanish Department, organized a conference that brought together university and K-12 teachers of Italian and Spanish to encourage novel exchanges about current L2 research, methodologies, and experiments that attempt to transcend traditional boundaries to develop students' translingual, intercultural, and critical competencies.

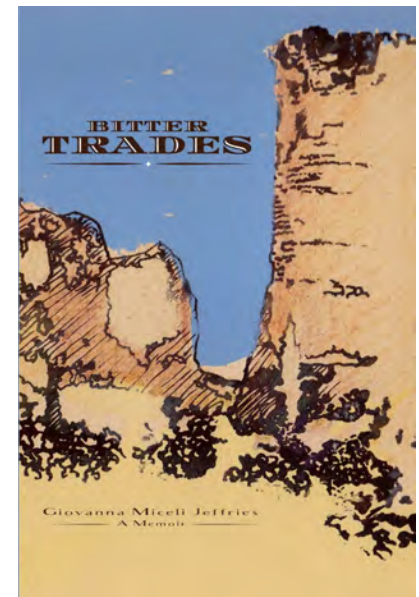


Giorgio van Straten

In March Giorgio van Straten, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in New York, manager of art organizations, award-winning author, and translator, gave a lecture titled, *Rights and Duties of a Writer*. He offered his engaging thoughts on the writing process across different cultural traditions.

Bitter Trades: A Memoir

In November of 2018, alumna Giovanna Miceli Jeffries presented her compelling book titled *Bitter Trades: A Memoir*, in which she examines the immigration experience that peaked during the 1960s. In her talk, Jeffries discussed the effects of emigrating from Sicily to the United States as a young girl. In particular, she detailed her ordeal as a student seeking to mediate the economic and intellectual thicket of foreignness in American society.



Women Writers: From Convent to Brothel

In Spring of 2019, Dacia Maraini, Italy's foremost woman writer, gave a riveting talk to a large audience, focusing on the lives and literature of Saint Clare of Assisi and courtesan Veronica Franco. She also discussed the state of prostitution in Italy today.

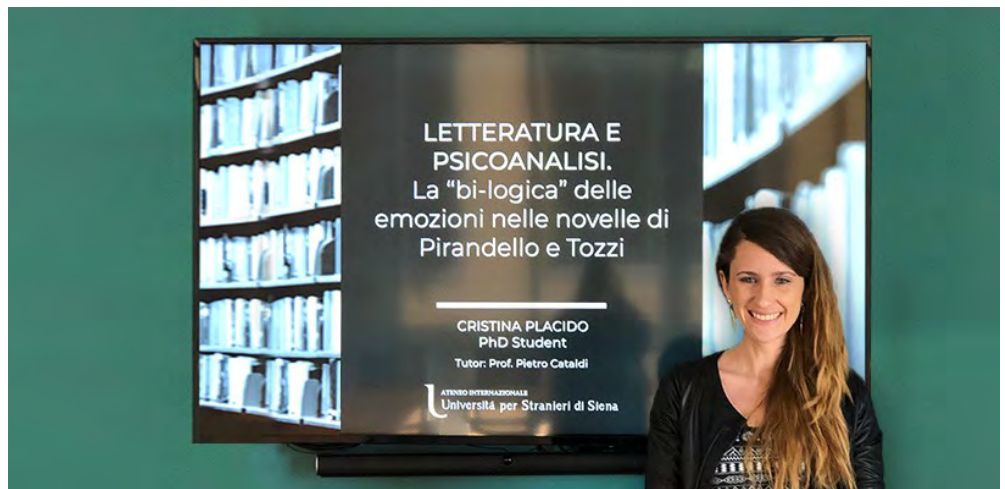
Congrats to our Alumna!

"This fall I will start graduate school at the Syracuse University Florence program for a master's degree in Renaissance art history. In August I will move to Syracuse, NY for the first semester and then in January we will all go to Florence for one year of study."

- Christine Staton
(Class of 2018)



News from the Graduate Program



Last September we welcomed two new graduate students, Natascia Cappa and Maria Teresa De Luca, who have brought new scholarly perspectives to our courses and to our graduate program. Natascia is planning to continue her project on Juan Rodolfo Wilcock, an Argentinian author who chose Italy for his self-imposed exile and wrote in Italian; Maria Teresa has a strong background in linguistics and history of language, which will be extremely useful in her future textual analyses. They have already excelled inside as well as outside the department, and were praised for their participation in Prof. Ben Sifuentes-Jáuregui's theory class in the Comparative Literature Program. We also welcomed Cristina Placido, a doctoral student from the Università per Stranieri di Siena, as an exchange fellow for six months. It was great to have Cristina with us. She brought fresh scholarly ideas, great energy, and contagious enthusiasm. Congratulations to Georgia Savarese, who has completed the MAT Program and is graduating this May. A list of awards can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter, so I'll just mention a couple of highlights. Caterina Agostini's project was selected for analysis at the workshop "Word Vectors for the Thoughtful Humanist" at Northeastern University. Chiara Degli Esposti was awarded the Mellon Summer Grant for 2019. Paolo Scartoni will be spending part of the summer in Chicago studying techniques to approach manuscripts after he was awarded a fellowship at the 2019 Mellon Summer Institute in Italian Paleography. Congratulations to all! The recruiting season for the graduate program has brought us two more students for the PhD Program and this coming September we are looking forward to welcoming Andrea Bocchi and Giuseppe Crispino! We also have two new students in the MA Program: Deborah Hess and Anita Hotchkiss! They are both bringing their professional experience to the program; Deborah is an Emerita Professor of French from Drew University, Anita is an attorney. She decided to return to college to major in Italian and Art History. Welcome everyone!

Italian Graduate Society



The Academic Year 2018-2019 has been very stimulating for the Italian Graduate Society. We have been busy organizing a guest lecture and a roundtable, working on an issue of *La Fusta*, as well as planning the next biannual graduate conference, provisionally entitled "Voices," which will take place on November 15-16, 2019. More information posted on: <https://italian.rutgers.edu/academics/graduate/italian-graduate-society>.

Last November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Jacqueline Reich, Chair of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Fordham University, who delivered a talk entitled "Masculinity Studies and #MeToo Movement: Thoughts on Representation and Responsibility."

In addition to her thought-provoking lecture, Professor Reich shared with us her engagement in Public Humanities projects at the U.S.-Mexico border. At the end of March, we hosted our second event, a round-table on the novelist Elena Ferrante. The speakers invited to this talk were Karen Bojar (Community College Philadelphia), Rebecca Falkoff (New York University), David Kurnick (Rutgers University), and Stiliana Milkova (Oberlin College). Our passionate guests enlightened us with new critical insights on the works of Ferrante, and shed light on the multiple interpretations of her novels.

The Italian Graduate Society is currently working on the 27th volume of our journal *La Fusta*. This year's issue will focus on "New Generations of Italian Writers," to enrich the discussion on multiculturalism in contemporary Italy. If you wish to publish an article in *La Fusta*, please write to italian.grad.society@gmail.com.

This year has been a truly fulfilling year, and we would like to thank the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Italian for their invaluable support.

Pictured above: Italian Graduate Society Officers (left to right) Paolo Scartoni, Treasurer; Federica Soddu, Secretary, pictured with guest speaker; Jacqueline Reich, Fordham University (center); Chiara Degli-Esposti, President; Caterina Agostini, Vice President.

Italian Quarterly

Sandra Waters, RU '09—This past fall I became the managing editor of the department's journal *Italian Quarterly*; volume LIII was published in March 2019, and two guest-edited volumes will be published this summer and fall: the first on Cold War studies in Italy; the second on Italian apocalyptic narrative, co-edited by department alumnus Alberto Iozzia. We will resume our regular publication schedule in Winter 2019 with volume LVI. My article titled "Anxiety (of Influence) and (Absent) Fathers in Sorrentino's English-language Narratives" will be published in the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* in August 2019. Later this year Vernon Press will publish *The Spaces and Places of Horror*, which I co-edited with fellow alumnus Francesco Pascuzzi.



News from Current Graduate Students

Caterina Agostini

Caterina Agostini attended the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Toronto, where she gave a talk, "Art in the Time of Syphilis: A Medical Narrative in Benvenuto Cellini's Works" and moderated the panel "Matters of Life and Death in Renaissance Health Care." She gave two talks at the NeMLA Convention in Washington, DC ("Using Scalar for Italian Research Projects" and "At the Table of the Scientist: An Unusual Galileo"), where she also curated and chaired the panel "Digital Humanities and Narratives of Science, Technology, and Medicine." Caterina served as a Graduate Mentor Fellow at the Rutgers Honors College, helping with a field trip to the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City, supporting writing workshops, and serving as a moderator and Capstone Committee for the Honors College Capstone Showcase. This summer, Caterina will present a poster and a digital demonstration of her current Digital Humanities projects at the Digital Humanities Conference and Colloquium at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, where she will attend the Digital Humanities Summer Institute. She will work as a digital humanist at the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab at the University of Victoria and at Northeastern University Advanced Institutes on Text Analysis, sponsored by the Northeastern University and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Caterina is the recipient of the 2019 Renaissance Society of America DHSI Scholarship and of Ms. Elena Petronio Scholarship.



Maria Teresa De Luca

In addition to settling in to her first year of graduate studies at Rutgers and the bella vita of Highland Park, Maria Teresa has continued to write entries for *TLIO (Tesoro della Lingua Italiana delle Origini)*, and to participate in video-seminars on Textuality and Lexicography in the Italian Middle Ages through the Notre Dame Italian Studies Department and Istituto Opera del Vocabolario Italiano. Maria Teresa's ITL 102 students were hands down winners of *Italians Got Talent* this spring, and she is looking forward to presenting an essay on the use of colors in Petrarch's *Canzoniere* at the Canadian Association for Italian Studies meeting in Orvieto this June.

Chiara Degli Esposti

The Academic Year 2018-19 was very challenging and rewarding for Chiara. In the Fall term, she devoted herself to prepare for the new Comprehensive Examination. During the Spring, she taught the class "Women's Lives and Literature" and worked as a grader for the course "Fairy Tales Then and Now." Chiara also co-organized the CCA year-long seminar on "Urban Humanities" and was the President of the IGS. As for her research, she presented a paper at the NeMLA on Martone's *L'amore molesto* in March and will participate in the conference "Elena Ferrante in a Global Context" in Durham, U.K., next June. During the summer, she will also be the recipient of an Andrew W. Mellon Summer Grant, thanks to which she will study the manuscripts of the writer Lalla Romano in the Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense in Milan. Finally, Chiara was admitted to the Summer School in Digital Humanities at the University of Leipzig, where she will attend a course on mapping environments.

Paolo Scartoni

Paolo had a very exciting year. He has served as Treasurer for the Italian Graduate Society, taught his first online course, and taken classes at UPenn, Columbia, and NYU. In February, he presented a paper entitled "Impossible Signs: Writing and Sound in Dante's *Comedy*" at the graduate workshop organized by the Delaware Valley Medieval Association. In March, he presented a paper entitled "Le Parole Si Fecero e 'l Suono: Secrecy and Concealment in Boccaccio's Novellas and Songs" at a conference organized by the French and Italian Graduate Society at UPenn. In June, he will present a paper on Dante's *De Vulgari Eloquentia* and Boethius' *De Institutione Musica* at the annual conference organized by the Canadian Association of Italian Studies in Orvieto. He won a scholarship sponsored by the Mellon Foundation to attend a summer institute of Italian paleography at the Newberry Library in Chicago. Most importantly, he became the uncle of little red-haired Greta!

Federica Soddu

This year I had the opportunity to be a teacher for the first time and it has been a great experience, full of challenges but very fun and rewarding. Also, in September I started my two-year journey as a member of the Italian Graduate Society, with which we organized two very interesting events. During the Fall we invited Jacqueline Reich to talk about Masculinity and the #MeToo Movement, and in the Spring we had a very stimulating roundtable on Elena Ferrante with four great guests: Karen Bojar, Rebecca Falkoff, David Kurnick, and Stilian Milkova. In March I was also a panel moderator at the *Global Africa, Migration, Literature and the Arts* symposium, where I had the chance to listen to interesting presentations and meet old and new faces from other departments and universities. In June I am going to present a paper on

Elena Ferrante at the CAIS Conference of 2019 in Orvieto, and in July I am going to spend a month in Rome teaching in the RU Rome program. It has been a very intense and rich year and I can't wait the summer to begin, even though I will miss the brand-new foosball table that the Italian department recently bought us!!

Eleonora Sartoni

Eleonora published the article "At the Margins of Rome, at the Margins of the World: The Hawks and the Sparrows and Sacro GRA as Peripatetic Analyses of Capitalist Society" in the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* in January. In March, she co-chaired the panel "Traces of Otherness in Post-Unification Italian Cities" at the NeMLA convention where she presented the paper "E sognò a occhi aperti una nuova grande Roma: Giovanni Faldella's Dream of a Sanitized Capital."

Natascia Cappa



Natascia participated in the conference "L'eternità immutabile: giornata di studi per il centenario della nascita di Juan Rodolfo Wilcock". This event took place in Lubriano, Italy. She presented a paper entitled "Juan Rodolfo Wilcock: riflessioni critiche di un poeta." This work will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

Eilis Kierans

What a fruitful year it has been for Eilis! She commenced the fall semester leading sessions for TA Orientation. Thereafter, she successfully completed her qualifying exam and defended her dissertation proposal. She feels ready to scrupulously edit the first pages of her dissertation after working as a TA for the class "Italian Americans in Film" at Montclair University and a Grader for the class "Fairy Tales Then and Now" in the German Department. This year she learned the ropes of online teaching and she had the invaluable opportunity to teach a content course, "Italian Culture and Fascism." In the fall, she contributed to a Rutgers sponsored podcast, TAPcast, in which she reflects on her experience teaching languages. In February, she published an article titled "From East to West: Female Mobility in Petzold's *Yella*." She has two forthcoming publications to be issued in 2019. The first is a chapter titled "Fruits of Empowerment in Grazia Deledda's *The Church of Solitude*." The second is a chapter titled "Hungry for Honey: Desire in Dacia Maraini's *Il treno per Helsinki*." Eilis also presented a talk titled "Nourishment in Nature: The Return of Women to the Wild" for the Italian Department's Food for Thought series. A summer spirit, Eilis will attend three conferences in June. At the first conference, organized by AATI, she will present her

paper "Empathy on the Other Side: Community and Care in the Online Classroom." At the second conference, organized by the Canadian Association for Italian Studies, she will present her paper "Rejecting the Animus, Reclaiming the Animal: Veganism in Women's Literature"; she will also chair a panel discussion that focuses on food. At the third conference, *Bridges Across Cultures*, she will present her paper "Starving for Fulfillment in Italian Film." At the close of the spring semester, Eilis had the stimulating experience of moderating a roundtable discussion on Elena Ferrante. She is grateful to be this year's recipient of the Laggini Memorial Endowed Scholarship. This academic year, the icing on her cake was sharing dessert with Dacia Maraini, the diva of her dissertation, as well as adopting a charming tabby cat named Seamus, her dissertation guru.

Andrew Robbins

Much of what Andrew has been working in casually for the past several years finally came to completion. He worked together with Nicoletta Pireddu (Georgetown University) on a translation of Scipio Sighele's work since 2013 that was published in Fall 2018, *The Criminal Crowd and Other Writings on Mass Society* (U. of Toronto Press). The story that formed a part of his MA thesis—"Lo Specifico del Dottor Menghi" by Italo Svevo—was published in *The Journal of Italian Translation* (v.13, n.2, Fall 2018). Having been awarded the Elena Petronio Scholarship, this summer Andrew will write the final (introductory) chapter of his thesis, which is about the history of evolution in turn of the century Italy.



Alumni News

Rossella Di Rosa, Rutgers '16

Rossella Di Rosa published two articles: "From Nature to Matter: Leopardi's anti-anthropocentrism and inchoate proto-ecological thinking," *Mapping Leopardi, Poetical and Philosophical Investigations*, eds. Emanuela Cervato et al. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019, 409-432; and "Portrait of Antigone as Idiot Savant: Elsa Morante's *La Serata a Colono*," *The Italianist* 38.1 (2018): 27-47. She delivered two talks at the annual AAIS Conference: "Multilingual classroom? How to facilitate Italian Acquisition for Spanish Speakers," and "La sperimentazione linguistica di Rossana Ombres in *Baiadera*: essere "poliglotti" nella propria lingua madre." In June, she will attend an international conference on *Elena Ferrante in a Global Context*, in Durham (UK), presenting her most recent research: "'Sono uno scarabocchio... una cancellatura.' L'identità di Lila tra smarginatura e transcorporeità."

Arianna Fognani, Rutgers '16

She will be starting a new position as Assistant Professor at Coastal Carolina University, SC in August. She also wrote an article titled "(R)esistenza in conflitto nella narrativa di Anna Messina e Fausta Cialente ambientata in Egitto", which will be published in the thematic issue "Italia senza frontiere/Borderless Italy" of *California Italian Studies* on December 2019.

Alberto Iozzia, Rutgers '18

During the 2018-19 academic year, I had the privilege to work as a Visiting Lecturer in the French and Italian Department at Indiana University. Meanwhile, I have co-edited with Roberto Riso a special issue of *Italian Quarterly* on Italian apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction (forthcoming). Next June, I will present a paper on the influence of foreign models on Italian apocalyptic narrative at the 2019 SIS Conference in Edinburgh, UK. In the next academic year, I will be Visiting Assistant Professor in the French and Italian Department at the University of Pittsburgh.

Stephanie Fiore, Rutgers '96

Stephanie Laggini Fiore has been focusing her scholarly activity on teaching and learning issues. She and her colleagues have an article forthcoming in the journal *Pedagogy* (Duke University Press), titled, "It Doesn't Have to Be Sink or Swim: Preparing PhDs to Teach." She has also spoken recently at the POD Network conference on building a culture of accessibility on campus. Her primary current research interest stems from her work with high-failure courses, helping instructors to redesign these courses and change teaching practices to improve student outcomes. The results from this study are promising as the course redesign program she and her staff have created has improved the rates of Ds, Fs, and withdrawals from these courses by as much as 22%. Stephanie is currently expanding the study to examine the effect of these changes on teachers' beliefs about teaching.

Julia Kisacky, Rutgers '95

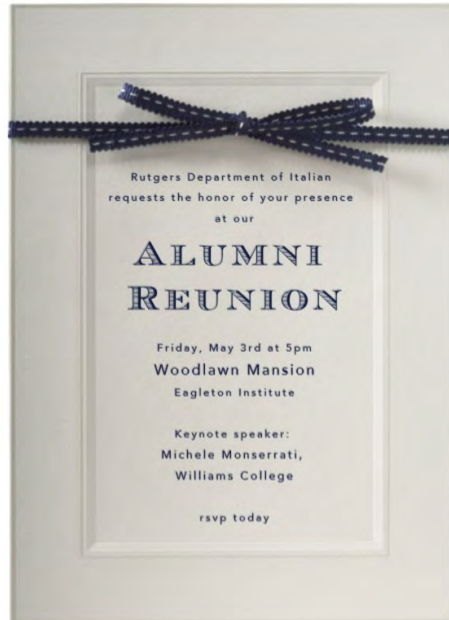
Andreini, Isabella. *Mirtilla, A Pastoral: A Bilingual Edition*. Ed. Valeria Finucci. Trans. Julia Kisacky. Toronto, Ontario: Iter Press & Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2018: xvi + 291; "Teaching Moderata Fonte's *Floridoro*." in *Teaching the Italian Renaissance Romance Epic*. Ed. Jo Ann Cavallo. MLA, 2018, 210-15.

Annachiara Mariani, Rutgers '10

Annachiara Mariani is Assistant Professor of Italian at the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her research interests are in Italian Cinema, National and Trans National Media Studies and Italian Theatre. She has authored a book on the Grottesque Theatre and Pirandello (2013). She has also published extensively on Italian Theatre, Cinema, and the interrelation between cinema and literature. She has a forthcoming article in the special issue of the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* on Sorrentino. Presently, she is working on a book-length project on the representation of trauma and power in contemporary Italian and American TV series.



Once again, the Department of Italian's annual *Alumni Reunion* proved to be a great success. On Friday, May 3, 45 guests, including donors, alumni, faculty, staff, and current graduate students, met at the Egleton Institute's Woodlawn Mansion for a lovely evening. To start the event, Simona Wright and Paolo Pucci discussed possible strategies to increase enrollments by developing interdisciplinary syllabi and course content. Next, Keynote Speaker Michele Monserrati, Rutgers '12, shared his current research: *Are the Japanese White? Italy's Racial Politics at the Time of the Axis Alliance*. Then, awards were presented to undergraduate and graduate students. The department gratefully wishes to acknowledge the generous donors who made this possible. The event ended with a delicious sit-down dinner and engaging conversation.



Photos clockwise from upper left.

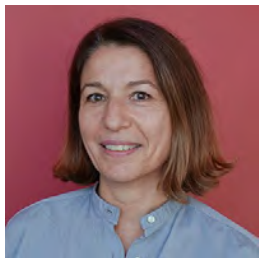
Theresa (daughter) and Annika Sankner (granddaughter) of donors, present Elis Kierans with the Joseph E. & Marie E. Laggini Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship. Jamison Standridge, Caterina Agostini, and Andrew Robbins receive Summer Research Dissertation Fellowships courtesy of Elena Petronio. Dr. Vito DeSimone Endowed Graduate Scholarships went to Hiromi Kaneda and Eleonora Sartoni (participating via FaceTime, if you look closely). Donors Elda and Elisa Coccia present two scholarships for students to be used for the Italian Department's new study abroad program: RU in Rome – Summer 2019. First photo shows Eliana Stravrakis – Coccia Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship in Italy. Next photo shows Amanda Middleton – Cavaliere Joseph Coccia Jr. Memorial Scholarship in Italy. Italian Dept. Chair, Andrea Baldi presents recipients of William E. Roney awards. First Raffaella Fusco and Angela Mininni both are recognized for Innovative Teaching; Paolo Scartoni, for Dedication to Service; Brian Tholl (not pictured) for Excellence in Scholarship. Federica Soddu is acknowledged with the Antonio Bonanno Award for Best Paper in a Graduate Seminar. Lastly, granddaughter of donor Larry Paragano, Marissa Paragano gives the Paragano Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship for Italian Studies to MAT student, Angela Mininni.

News from the Faculty



Andrea Baldi
Professor, Department Chair

Andrea Baldi has two forthcoming articles: "Esperienza del dolore ed empatia," in *La grande Iguana. Scenari e visioni a vent'anni dalla morte di Anna Maria Ortese*, a cura di Angela Bubba, Aracne Editrice; and "'Componimento mio anch'essa': Annibale Guasco's *Discourse to Lady Lavinia His Daughter*," in *Tradition and the Individual Talent. Essays in Memory of Pier Massimo Forni*, Special Issue of *MLN*, n. 134 (2019). He gave papers at three conferences: "Esperienza del dolore ed empatia in Anna Maria Ortese," International Conference "Scrivere è tornare a casa." *Anna Maria Ortese a vent'anni dalla morte*, Warsaw, Poland, December 2018; "Under the Moon's Spell: The Tavianis' *The Jar*," NeMLA Convention, March 2019; "Matilde Serao, Flânerie, and the City," International Conference *The Nineteenth Century in 2019: Mapping Women's Writing*, California State University, Long Beach, April 2019. He continued to serve as a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the NJIHC and as a member of the *Blue Ribbon Panel*, which selected the recipient of the Coccia-Inserra Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian.



Paola Gambarota
Associate Professor

This past year I completed an essay titled "Uomo Qualunque: The Trans-National Making of Italian Post-War Populism," published in the British journal *The Italianist*, 39.1 (April 2019), and continued to work on my book on "American Naples. Cross-Cultural Memories of Occupation, 1943-1945." I was invited to teach a graduate seminar on the topic of war and experience at UPenn, where I was also asked to give a talk about challenges and ideas for small programs in the Humanities.



David Marsh
Professor

Giannozzo Manetti: The Life of a Florentine Humanist. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019. "Alberti and Lapo on Human Behavior." *Leon Battista Alberti* conference, University of Vienna, May 2019. "Horace in the Italian Renaissance." Lecture at Fordham University, April 2019. "Seria et iocosa in Alberti's *De commodis* and *Intercenales*," Paris, Sorbonne, *Serio ludere* conference, April 2019 "Ludens cum leone: Echoes of Martial in Alberti's Works." *In Alberti Ludens: A Conference in Memory of Cecil Grayson*. Ed. Francesco Furlan and Martin McLaughlin. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming. "Cosimo de' Medici: The Exile as Hero." In *Exil und Heimatferne in der Literatur des Humanismus von Petrarca bis zum Anfang des 16. Jahrhunderts. L'esilio e la lontananza dalla patria nella letteratura umanistica dal Petrarca all'inizio del Cinquecento*. Ed. Francesco Furlan, Gabriel Siemoneit, Hartmut Wulfram. Tübingen: Narr Francke Attempto 2019, 79-96.



Carmela Scala
Director of the Italian Language Program

I am currently working on a manuscript of best practices for online teaching, creating several new syllabi, and developing new online language courses. I co-organized the Rutgers 2019 "Language as Communication and Literacy: Bridging Languages and Cultures in the Modern Classroom" conference, on February 1. I founded the online *Language Teaching and Technology (LTT)* journal for which I am also an editor. I presented at several conferences on language acquisition, distance learning, and teaching. I also earned a certificate in Instructional Technology from Rutgers University in December 2018 and created several 1-credit modules for the Language Engagement Project.



Alessandro Vettori
Professor

The most important news is that my book entitled *Dante's Prayerful Pilgrimage; Typologies of Prayer in the Comedy* is coming out this summer (Brill 2019). The first idea

for this book was conceived when I was still in graduate school almost 30 years ago, so yes, it was time to get it done. I have now started a new research on the Donation of Constantine as related to Franciscan Poverty and Politics in Dante, and I have given a few talks on this topic (Columbia University, NYU, Rutgers Comp Lit). I'm on sabbatical in the fall and hoping to move this research forward. I also gave two talks on Boccaccio's idea of love at the University of Florida-Gainesville last October. I'm working on a Bibliography of Jacopone da Todi for the *Oxford Bibliographies in Medieval Studies* and the entry "Religion" for the *Oxford Handbook on Dante*, due out in 2021.

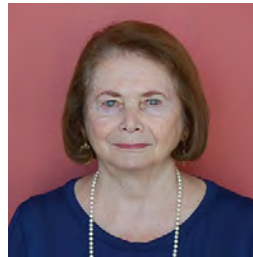


Rhannon Welch
Associate Professor

After welcoming another baby girl in the fall, Prof. Welch was honored to return to her graduate alma mater UC Berkeley to give a talk on

her ongoing book research on the visual cultures of the Mediterranean migration scenario. Prof. Welch published the article "Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen's Counter-Archive of Migration" in the artist's forthcoming book on his 'End

of Dreams' -- a sculpture and multi-media installation about mass death in the Mediterranean which premiered in Turkey, and has travelled in various forms to Denmark, Brussels, the US and the UK. She looks forward to resuming her book research, and to completing her article on Italian neorealism and the figure of the non-professional actor in the coming months.



Laura White
Professor

In the last academic year, I published the article "Navi e navigazione nei *Diari* di Marin Sanudo" in the book *Vele d'Autore*.

Pisa-Roma: Serra Editore, 2018. I gave a talk on "Memories of Food in Italian Literature" at the Italian Cultural Club of Bridgestone (November 2018). I continued to serve as NJ Commissioner of the Italian Heritage Commission appointed by the governor of NJ and as member of its Advisory Board, as Vice-President of IACE (Italian American Committee on Education) at the Italian Consulate in New York, and as Member of the Advisory Council for the Department of French and Italian of Princeton University, for the Review of the 2018-2019 Academic Year.



The Rutgers Libretto





RU ROME

Last summer, we launched *RU in Rome*—a 4-week language, culture, and optional internship program in the Eternal City. Our inaugural year exceeded our expectations, with nearly 30 students joining two faculty members and two graduate student instructors for a month of full-immersion language and culture at St. John's University campus, just steps from the Vatican. Most of our students began their studies of Italian language while in Rome. Our internship students worked on projects ranging from how to apply AI (artificial intelligence) to the arts, to marketing for tourism start-ups, film production, and K-12 curriculum development. Students and faculty alike made memories: we toured Cinecittà the day

after a fire destroyed the set of HBO's *Rome*; we ate an unforgettable lunch and tasted wine at a generations-old vineyard and wine cave in Frascati that served as a hideout during WWII; we toured Pompeii, ate at one of the world's first pizzerias, and took a stroll along the bay of Naples.

Anthony Mollica (Class of 2018, Journalism and Italian) had this to say about his time with *RU in Rome*: "I don't like to brag, but I'd say I had a pretty cool college career. I did a lot of amazing things, and met many great people along the way. But the number one thing I did didn't happen until after I walked at graduation. And that was studying abroad. I catch myself thinking about all the good times and wishing to go back. Nothing will beat the people I met, the laughs we shared and the things I learned. I would do ANYTHING to go back."

Our faculty and graduate instructor look forward to welcoming the *RU in Rome* class of 2019 this summer!

RU in Rome is actively seeking partners for our summer internship program in Rome. Please contact the Department of Italian with any possibilities for collaboration.



RUTGERS

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We'd like to stay in touch...

As part of the Rutgers community we invite you to join us for innovative intellectual and celebratory events. We are grateful for the generous support of alumni, individuals, and our partner Italian foundations and organizations, who have helped to positively shape our students' experience through academics, programming, and financial means. Feel free to stop by the Italian Department for a visit or visit us online on Facebook and our website. We welcome opportunities to collaborate.

Italian.Rutgers.edu