



ABOVE: Paola Gambarota

The RUTGERS LIBRETTO

Newsletter of the Italian Department IV n. 1

Letter from the Chair

I am delighted to report that the Italian Department at Rutgers is in excellent shape, in spite of the recent ups and downs of the Humanities in the US. We just celebrated the graduation of 21 seniors, out of 46 majors, during a joyful evening attended by 74 people. Three among our seniors completed an honors thesis.

We were very impressed when students attending Prof. Rhiannon Welch’s senior seminar organized a two-day conference on the topic of “New and Old Italian Identities,” demonstrating a strong commitment to explore timely issues of citizenship and immigration. One of these students, Nicoletta Romano, continued to study these questions with the support of the Lloyd Gardner Fellowship Program in Leadership and Social Policy, under the guidance of Professor Welch. Another Italian major, Mihaela Sanderson, was selected as the author of the “Best Poster” for the Humanities portion of the Aresty Symposium, the result of a research project developed with the support of her mentor Prof. Andrea Baldi. This is the second consecutive time that a student majoring in Italian is recognized in this way. There have been some changes in our department, and we miss our former friends and colleagues, our beloved Carol Feinberg, our kindhearted Robin Rogers, and our former language coordinator Daniele de Feo. We found however a compassionate and energetic administrator in Sheri La Macchia, who has her (wonderful) ways with students. We also attracted Dr. Carmela Scala, our new vigorous Director of the Language Program, who received a SAS Entrepreneurial Award to develop an Online Professional Development Program for Teachers of Italian, and is launching this summer special online language courses for high school students whose schools do not offer Italian. Among our guests this year we were fortunate to have inspiring lecturers such as Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg (Comparative Literature, Brown University), Jason Pine (Anthropology, CUNY), Martin Eisner (Romance Studies, Duke University), Roberta Ricci (Italian Studies, Bryn Mawr), and the award-winning Italian-Arabic writer Amara Lakhous. We also continued our lunch-time colloquia “Food for Thought” for faculty and graduate students with exciting presentations on photography and national identity (Donata Panizza), the Arabic tradition and the Italian Novella (Marino Forlino), representations of Italian male sexual initiation (Tiziano Cherubini), and post-apocalyptic fiction (Alberto Iozzia).

Our Rutgers Day activities were a true success, with visitors taking an Italian crash course, identifying the “Icons of Italy” to win a Rutgers-Italian power band, and children learning to draw Italian landscapes with Giuditta Cirnigliaro, a graduate of the “Accademia di Brera” of Milan, and practicing soccer moves with our athletic graduate students. In the course of the day, we distributed approximately 1,000 postcards and wristbands, and 50 books on Italian culture.

We concluded the academic year with our yearly Alumni Reunion, and were grateful to welcome the representatives of our family of donors (the Paragano Family, the Coccia Foundation, and the Laggini Family) who awarded their fellowships to our best graduate students.

As for myself, I am happy to say that next year I will be continuing my research on “American Naples, 1943-45” at the American Academy in Rome. I am looking forward to working on my book project.

Wishing you a pleasant and productive summer,

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DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES

7
Full-Time Faculty

9
instructors

830
students registered for Italian classes

HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Friends,

My name is Sheri La Macchia. Beginning in November of 2014, I became the Department Administrator for the Italian Department. Under the guidance of Paola Gambarota and Andrea Baldi, I've managed to create a functional and welcoming office environment. A big reason for our success is attributed to Rosanna, Nancy, and Pranav, our student staff who have provided vital office support and website skills. Personally, I've come to favor some project work in particular like: course management, graduate student support (love you guys), Urbino Summer program, graphic design, working on new initiatives, and coordination of department special events like, Rutgers Day, Senior Celebration, and Italian Night. If you visit the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers, I welcome you to stop by the Italian House to say hi. We can have a cup of coffee, you'll see what is going on in the Department of Italian, and learn about my fascination with birds. Cari saluti, con i miei migliori auguri,

Sheri La Macchia

Looking back at my first 2 semesters at Rutgers I can definitely say that so far it has been a fine and stimulating ride! When I first started my career at Rutgers I was very nervous about many things: workings with new colleagues, new students and in a new environment, I wasn't sure I would be able to fit in and find my space. Now I look back at my fears and smile because the past two semesters have been really amazing; I really enjoy working with my new colleagues who have been very supportive and have helped me feel at home and I also enjoy being the coordinator of a group of energetic and dynamic instructors. Furthermore, I have had a chance to experience the entrepreneurial energy and the great relations and connections among different institutes that make Rutgers a great place to work. However, the best part of working here so far has been the countless opportunities the department and the university have given me to freely express my ideas and work.

In a continuing effort to improve our already successful language program in this past semester I have revised the syllabus and the structure of our elementary courses, (101 & 102), our intermediate courses (131 & 132) and the second part of our Certificate for Reading Knowledge, (106).

The idea behind the re-visitation of our elementary courses is that by limiting the amount of grammar covered in one semester, it leaves more time for communicative and cultural activities and it also speeds up the pace and allows our talented students to progress faster.

Intermediate Italian 132 has been completely changed; this course is now based on readings chosen by the instructor (and by me), taken from Italian newspapers, magazines, literary texts, websites, etc.; the grammar is taught through power points prepared by me and the instructor teaching the course. The idea is to train our students to read 'real' Italian, as opposed to 'textbook Italian', so that they will be able to perform better in their upper level classes.

For Italian 106 I have revised the structure and the readings in order to better serve the needs and the interests of the students taking this course. Now the course is heavily based on reading comprehension and translations, rather than grammar. This will ensure that, upon completion of the course and the certificate, the students will be able to read and understand different types of Italian texts.



ABOVE: *Sheri La Macchia.*
BELOW: *Carmela Scala.*



I have also had the opportunity to create two new courses, one for the MAT program, targeting language teachers (Italian Through Music) and the other is an Elementary Italian course specifically designed for high school students, in collaboration with Liz Beasley (Director, New Brunswick Summer & Special Projects) and Chris Scherer (Director, New Program Initiatives & Digital Learning); furthermore, I have spearheaded a number of new initiatives. Thanks to my department's support, I had the opportunity to propose a grant for the development of an Online Professional Development Certificate for Language Teachers, which will allow high school teachers to update their approaches and materials while gaining professional credits required by the State, and I am very happy to say that our department has been awarded this grant. Also, in collaboration with Liz Beasley, I am now working on the development of a joint program with the high schools of the Point Pleasant School District, which will allow their students to take advanced levels of Italian. In the meantime, thanks to the support of Marion Yudow at the Institute for Global Languages, our department is already able to offer a summer course in Italian for high school students.

What can I say ... it has been a busy semester but a great one and I look forward to more and more exciting semesters in the future!

Carmela Scala

A g
Easily
to

The professor
made it worth
getting up early
to come to class.

STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

Great joy of a class!
one that I look forward
throughout the week.

A + + + + + TEACHER

Carol Feinberg

After more than 30 years at Rutgers, last Fall semester Ms. Carol Feinberg, regrettably, left the Italian Department. During her stay with us, Carol was an invaluable collaborator to Chairs, Undergraduate Directors, and Graduate Directors, and a precious point of reference for faculty and students. Over the years, Carol was a wonderful model of ingenuity, work ethics, amiability, and generosity. Her tireless dedication to our common cause was coupled by her resourcefulness and good humor in facing any circumstance, no matter how unusual and complicated. She did not lose sight of any aspect of the complex machinery of the Department: an incredible feat, given the variety of our programs and activities. She embodied the ‘historical memory’ of our unit, with an astonishing ability to recall the people who came in contact with it. She always made herself available to faculty and students, above and beyond the call of duty, with incredible resilience, understanding, and grace. We all cherish the memory of her presence. Our heartfelt thanks for her guidance, support, and help. We miss her, but we are certain she will stay in touch with us and find new, creative ways to nurture her love for Italian culture.

Andrea Baldi

I loved how
our Professor spoke
to the students in Italian
straight from the get-go.

That alone helped
me learn the
language rather
quickly and
thoroughly.



LEFT: Graduate Seminar Poster: *Making Italians: Race and Biopolitics in Modern Literature*. ABOVE: Ms. Carol Feinberg at the Rutgers Day 2014.

 A red poster for a symposium titled "un simposio". It features a central text box, several small photographs of speakers, and a map of Italy. The text is in Italian and English.

un simposio

Una conferenza che affronta i temi dell'identità e del "Fare gli italiani"
Organizzata dagli studenti del corso
Senior Seminar in Italian (493)
Scott Hall 16
La Professoressa Rhiannon Noel Welch
Dipartimento di Italiano
L'università di Rutgers
New Brunswick, NJ

L'identità
1 dicembre 2014
Moderatrice: Nicoletta Romano

4:30-4:40	Kayleigh Toohar	L'identità femminile nell'Italia postcoloniale
4:45-4:55	Benjamin Lavecchia	L'identità meticcia attraverso lo stato razziale
5:00-5:10	Michelle Levine	La questione meridionale e Giovanni Verga
5:15-5:25	Nina Hilyard	La letteratura migrante in lingua italiana
5:30-5:40	Violetta Znokowski	L'identità formata attraverso il discorso, il movimento, l'immobilità in <i>Volevo diventare bianca</i>
5:45-5:55	Natale Mazzaferro	Il privilegio bianco
6:00-6:10	Michelle Ciancimino	L'identità: un manuale di istruzioni
6:15-6:25	Nicholas Russo	La globalizzazione, l'identità, e l'Italia contemporanea
6:30-6:40	Nikko Theinert	Formazione dell'identità adolescenziale
6:45-6:55	Michael Carey	Pinocchio e l'educazione nella nuova Italia

Gli italiani fatti in casa
8 dicembre 2014
Moderatrice: Margarita Alvarez

4:30-4:40	Reveka Bojic	Il razzismo usando i linguaggi diversi
4:45-4:55	Domenico Petracca	La domanda linguistica dopo l'unificazione d'Italia
5:00-5:10	Nicoletta Romano	Il diritto alla cittadinanza per gli italiani di seconda generazione
5:15-5:25	Kathryn Barbetta	Gli italiani filosofici: essere o non essere
5:30-5:40	Chahni Peeples	L'Italia Postcoloniale: L'eredità di colonialismo e l'intersezione tra "nerezza" e italianità
5:45-5:55	Silvana Craig	La questione meridionale e l'emigrazione
6:00-6:10	Lauren Rosso	La donna migrante
6:15-6:25	Lyanne Marrero	Le donne straniere nella letteratura italiana
6:30-6:40	Margarita Alvarez	L'identità postcoloniale africana: dall'adolescenza alla maturità
6:45-6:55	Giulia Cilluffo	Razzismo e il calcio italiano

Senior Seminar

This fall, students in Prof. Rhiannon Welch's senior seminar, *Making Italians: Race and Biopolitics in Modern Italian Literature*, organized a two-day symposium on their research projects for the course. Over the course of two days, titled "Identity" and "Homemade Italians" respectively, students presented research on topics such as: Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio and political theory, racism in Italian soccer, Giovanni Verga and the "southern question," gender and violence in Nasser Chohra's *Volevo diventare bianca*, and Italy's 'second generations' and the quest for citizenship. Faculty and doctoral students from the Department of Italian attended the symposium and enthusiastically participated in illuminating discussions with the undergraduate researchers.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Nicoletta Romano is a rising senior at Rutgers, double majoring in Italian and Comparative Literature, with a minor in European Studies. She is a proud member of the SAS Honors Program, Douglass Residential College, Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society, and Phi Beta Kappa Liberal Arts and Sciences Honors Society. While at Rutgers, she has been involved in the DRC's Global Village, has worked in the Political Science department, and has researched for Professor T. Corey Brennan of the Classics Department as an Aresty Research Assistant for the Archivio Digitale Boncompagni Ludovisi. This past year, she participated in the Lloyd Gardner Fellowship Program in Leadership and Social Policy, where she completed a research project under the supervision of Professor Welch, dedicated to citizenship rights for second-generations in Italy. She is a recipient of the Horatio Alger Scholarship, the 2014 Rutgers Excellence Award, Dean's List, the Frank T. Gorman, Jr. Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities, and two prizes in the Italian Department for her essays. This summer, she has been awarded the Programma Ponte Scholarship and will be studying contemporary Italy in Rome.



Mihaela Sanderson's poster, who worked on an Aresty Project under the direction of Professor Baldi, was selected as "Best Poster" for the Humanities portion of the Aresty Symposium, with the following motivation: "Your poster earned high marks from our judges and demonstrates great creativity and clarity in presenting your findings."



TOP: Nicoletta Romano.
RIGHT: Mihaela Sanderson and Professor Andrea Baldi at the Aresty Symposium.
BOTTOM: Italian Night Celebration.





ITALIAN NIGHT Undergraduate Awards

Prize for Best Essay in 250:
Cameron Davidson (Prof. Hiromi Kaneda)

Prize for best essay in a 300-level course in English:
Daria Pugliano (Prof. Rhiannon Welch)

Prize for best essay in a 300-level course in Italian:
Lindsay Barber (Prof. Laura S. White)

Prize for the Best Senior Essay:
Michael Carey (Prof. Rhiannon Welch)



ITALIAN NIGHT Senior Celebration

Honors Students:

Margarita Alvarez Ruiz
(Prof. Rhiannon Welch)

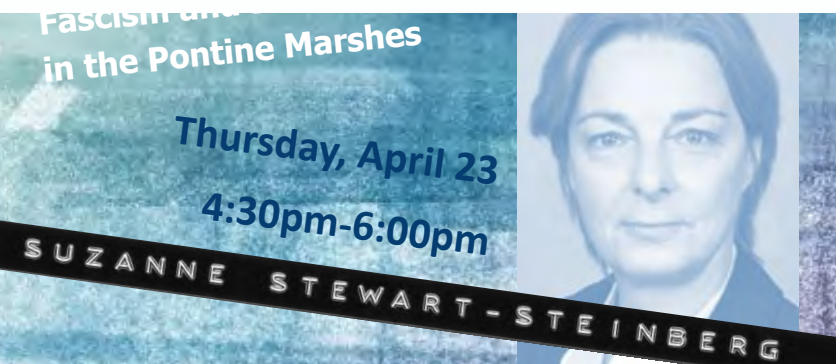
Reveka Bojic
(Prof. Paola Gambarota)

Akexandra Garey
(Prof. Laura S. White)

TOP: Reveka Bojic's Award. **ABOVE:** Italian Night Celebration. **BOTTOM:** Italian Night: Class of 2015.



LECTURES



TOP: Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg Rutgers Poster.
BELOW: Martin Eisner's Rutgers Lecture.

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg
(Brown University),
The Hermeneutics of Reclamation: Fascism and Post-Fascism in the Pontine Marshes.

Roberta Ricci
(Bryn Mawr College),
Remember the Hand: Calligraphic Intervention and Humanistic Script.

Martin Eisner
(Duke University),
The Philology of World Literature: Dante...Bruno.Vico...Joyce.

Jason Pine (SUNY, Purchase College), *The Voice of the Ventriloquist: Neomelodica Music and the Neapolitan Camorra.*



Amara Lakhous, award-winning Italian and Arabic writer, presented an inspiring talk on exile and language. Languages are open and free dwellings – he argued. Learning a language is like being reborn: it is a new beginning, an opportunity to rediscover oneself.



ABOVE: Jason Pine's Rutgers Lecture. BOTTOM: Amara Lakhous' Rutgers Lecture..



The Italian Graduate Society
at Rutgers University
proudly presents:

Graduate Student
Conference
November 6-7, 2015

Keynote Speakers:
Vincenzo Binetti
(University of Michigan)
John Zaretti
(Verdi Opera Theatre
of Michigan)

PERFORMING REVOLUTION PAROLE IN MOVIMENTO

Deadline for submission:
July 31, 2015
italian.grad.society@gmail.com

Revolutions signify a break with previous traditions and inevitably operate through signs, images, and words. In many cases, the arts precede political and military action, articulating the social and cultural changes that affect the community. Writers, film directors, musicians, and choreographers are often the catalysts of new movements and the true performers of revolution before tanks and politicians intervene.

In this conference, we seek to explore the theme of revolution through different perspectives. Topics and approaches may include, but are not restricted to:

- Political and social revolution in literature and visual arts;
- Performance as revolution (Avant-garde, 1960s Happenings);
- Cinema and its innovative language;
- Dance and Theater: revolution on stage;
- Music and Librettos: from Risorgimento to Italian *cantautori*.

The 2014-15 academic year has been busy and exciting for the IGS.

We organized three guest lectures by disparate professors whose professionalism and kindness were greatly appreciated.

Prof. Dana Renga's (Ohio State University) talk on "Mafia, Masculinity, and (Male) Melodrama", was a great opportunity not just for the graduate students, but for the undergraduates in the Mafia film class as well. Prof. Enrico Cesaretti (University of Virginia) presented "Under the Landscape: Environmental Concerns in Alessandra Sarchi's *Violazione*," which is an enlightening take on contemporary Italian literature through an ecocritical approach. The last guest was Professor Robert T. Tally Jr. (Texas State University), whose lecture "Adventures in Literary Spatiality: Explorations, Representations, Projections", and background in English gave fascinating insights into perspectives of space in literature.

The IGS is currently accepting articles for the 23rd volume of our departmental journal *La Fusta*. This year's title will be "Liminal Existence." If you wish to publish an article in *La Fusta* please write to italian.grad.society@gmail.com.

We are also planning our biannual conference, which will take place on November 6th and 7th, 2015, and will be titled "Performing Revolution - Parole in Movimento".

We would finally like to thank the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Italian for their continuous support, without which we would not have been able to have such a successful year.



ABOVE: IGS Poster. BOTTOM:
Enrico Cesaretti's Rutgers Lecture.





RUTGERS DAY

Experience New Jersey's State University

Join the Department of Italian on Saturday, April 25th

Visit our website: italian.rutgers.edu

Like us on Facebook: Rutgers Department of Italian

Saturday April 25, 2015
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

RUTGERS rutgersday.rutgers.edu

take a crash course in Italian

eat PIZZA and CANNOLIS

learn about the Icons of Italy

Soccer Demo: Games and Skills
11am and 1pm

Drawing with Giuditta
12noon and 2pm

3:00pm
Pick-A-Book: Free Gently Used Italian Language Books



1-2. Italian Crash Course: Locate the 20 regions of Italy. 3. Post-Italy: Drawing with Giuditta. 4-5. Italian Crash Course: COME TI CHIAMI? 6. Pizza and Cannoli's Italian Department team. 7. ANIMALItaly: Drawing with Giuditta. 8. Soccer Demo. 9-10-11. Italian Crash course: COME TI CHIAMI? 12. Rutgers Day Italian Department Poster.

GRADUATE NEWS

Tiziano Cherubini: I co-authored the book (with D. Stillman and R. Gordon): *Italian Vocabulary Drills* McGraw-Hill, 2015. And I presented on “The History and Culture of Coffee in Italy” at Ramapo College in March 2015.

Giuditta Cirigliaro: I was granted the *Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium* from the University of Konstanz in Germany, was invited to give a paper on Leonardo’s fables and allegories for the Conference Lectio “The Autonomy of the Images” at the KU Leuven University, Belgium, and I presented a paper at the AAIS conference in Boulder, CO, entitled “Primo Levi and Leonardo’s Productivity of Beasts in Sequential Narratives: Models, Forms, and Evolution of *Inventing an Animal*.”

Tim Curcio: This year I won the 2014 UNICO National Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship for my short story “Un viaggio di conoscenza ... A Trip of Knowledge” which was published in UNICO National’s magazine *ComUNICO*. I presented a paper at The Italian Conference & Symposium at Johns Hopkins University, entitled, “The Many Forms of the *Decameron*: Interpretations, Translations, and Adaptations”. I also presented at Graduate Student Conferences at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Buffalo.

Rossella di Rosa: This year my article, “Divenire animale-Divenire Elisa. La centralità del gatto Alvaro in *Menzogna e Sortilegio* di Elsa Morante” was accepted by *Carte Italiane* (Forthcoming 2015). I presented a paper at the NeMLA in Toronto, entitled “Anna Maria Ortese e *Alonso e i visionari*: l’ecologia letteraria come strategia di sopravvivenza” (May 2015), and also for the NeMLA, I was co-chair and organizer, with Lucia Vedovi, of the panel “Il Modernismo italiano al femminile”.

Marino Forlino: In Fall 2014 I gave a talk on “Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language” at the Institute for Global Languages at Rutgers University. In May 2015 I also presented a paper entitled “L’Appetito Vien Mangiando: il Lusso della Tavola ‘Cuntamina’ la Lussuria del Talamo” in the panel “Buono da Mangiare, Buono da Pensare” at NeMLA 2015. I was recently appointed Multiarea Lecturer at California State University at Fullerton for the coming academic year 2015-2016.

Alberto Iozzia: At the AAIS conference in Boulder, CO, I presented a paper entitled “«*Un corpo d’armata è pur sempre un corpo*» Prosemeica e testimonianza ne Il sergente di Marco Paolini”. I presented another paper at The Italian Conference & Symposium at Johns Hopkins University, entitled “*Un orrido cominciamento*: The Decameron as literary archetype of post-apocalyptic fiction.”



LEFT: Eagleton Institute:
Alumni Reunion.



Eleonora Sartoni: Over the past year, I presented a paper at the SCMLA in Austin, TX (October 18-21, 2014) entitled “Unveiling Racialization as a Fictional Construction: the Neapolitan Episode in *Paisà*”. I also attended the international symposium “The Legacy of Pier Paolo Pasolini” organized by Yale University (March 6-7, 2015) where I delivered the paper “(Mamma) Roma between Archaic and Modern Italy.”

Jamison Standridge: At the NeMLA conference in Toronto in May 2015, I presented a paper titled: “Reclaiming Their Own - Female Body and Identity in the Works of Nasserah Chohra and Igiaba Scego”. I worked in the Spring semester for Montclair State University’s Italian department. Lastly, I received an adjunct position in the Italian department at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

Brian Tholl: Last summer I worked as a translator and interpreter for New Jersey 4-H. At the Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures, April 9-11, 2015, I presented a paper entitled, “(Mis)reading Machiavelli in *A Bronx Tale*”.

Lucia Vedovi: My article “La Parola interdetta: dialogo tra Alessandro Manzoni e Mario Pomilio” was accepted for publication (Atti del convegno dell’Università di Toronto 2013). I was invited to talk on: “A Renaissance of Her Own: Women’s Roles in Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century Italy” at Tarleton State University, Stephenville-Texas, March 25, 2015. I also organized the panel “Il Modernismo italiano al femminile” at the NeMLA.



TOP LEFT: Tim Curcio’s talk at Johns Hopkins University. **TOP RIGHT:** Alberto Iozzia’s talk at the University of Boulder. **BELOW:** Lucia Vedovi’s talk at Tarleton State University. **BOTTOM:** Eagleton Institute: Alumni Reunion. Gregory Pell’s Rutgers Lecture.

ALUMNI REUNION

Paragano Family Scholarship:
Anna Maria di Gesù

*The Joseph and Marie Laggini
Scholarship:* Alberto Iozzia

*Joseph, Sr. & Clementina Coccia
and the Angelo & Maria Soriano
Memorial Scholarships:*
Giuditta Cirnigliaro,
Hiromi Kaneda

*Angelo and Maria Soriano
Memorial Scholarship:* Brian Tholl

*Angelo & Anna Soriano
Memorial Scholarship:*
Lindsay Barber

Prize for Best Graduate Essay:
The recipient this year is Brian Tholl, for his essay entitled “Una sua nazione: Petrarca e la sua visione dell’Italia.” ‘His Own Nation: Petrarch’s Vision of Italy’ – His mentor, Prof. Laura Sanguineti White presented him with the prize.



TOP: Prize for Best Graduate Essay: Prof. Laura Sanguineti White and Brian Tholl. LEFT: Joseph, Sr. & Clementina Coccia and Angelo & Maria Soriano Memorial Scholarship: Giuditta Cirnigliaro. ABOVE: The Joseph and Marie Laggini Scholarship: Alberto Iozzia.



The Paragano Family, here represented by Dominick Paragano, grandson of our loyal donor Larry Paragano, this year added the amount of \$10,000 to their pledge. We are happy and grateful -

G R A Z I E !

ABOVE: *Paragano Family Scholarship: Dominick Paragano and Anna Maria di Gesù.*

ALUMNI NEWS

RUTGERS IS WHERE WE BEGAN...

HERE IS WHERE WE ARE:

- Brown
- Montclair
- Wheaton
- Princeton
- Bryn Mawr
- Penn State
- Binghamton
- Tulane
- Temple
- Baylor
- Drew
- Georgetown
- Hamilton
- CUNY-York
- Kenyon
- Lasalle
- Hofstra
- U-Mass-Amherst
- CUNY-Bronx CC.
- University of Vermont
- The College of New Jersey



Eagleton Institute: Alumni Reunion.

Letizia Bellocchio (Wesleyan University): I received a three-year appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor at Wesleyan University and I am currently working with Francesca Cadel on the new issue of the Italian Quarterly on “Italian Business.” I published two articles “Dreams, Nightmares, and Hallucinations in Francesca Comencini’s Cinema” (Dreamscapes In Italian Cinema. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press) and “Difficult Years for Anni difficili by Luigi Zampa (1948)”. Nemla Italian Studies, vol XXXVI.” I presented at the MLA conference in Vancouver and the AAIS in Boulder.

Samuel Ghelli (Kean University): I was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Italian at Kean University, NJ, effective August 2015.

Flora Ghezzeo: This year, Anna Maria Ortese: Celestial Geographies, the book I edited together with Prof. Gian Maria Annovi, came out for Toronto University Press.

Louise Hipwell (Georgetown University): I am an Associate Teaching Professor of Italian at Georgetown.

Stephanie Laggini (TempleUniversity): As Director of the Intensive English Language Program serving students from all over the world, I’ve created some new short programs for this summer: an intensive 4-week program for graduate students or students accepted to graduate school in the United States, a cultural program that exposes students to history and the arts while teaching English, and a pre-college program for students interested in the arts. I had the great experience of traveling to Vietnam to recruit students for Temple University and for the Intensive English Language Program at Temple.



Michele Monserrati (Bryn Mawr): This year I was awarded a Faculty Research Grant by the Committee on Faculty Awards and Grants of Bryn Mawr College to do research for my book on Italian and Japanese culture during the Summer of 2015.

Emanuele Occhipinti (Drew University): This has been my third and last year as chair of the Department of French and Italian at Drew University, where I enjoy teaching new College Seminars and a course on Contemporary Italian films. I organized and chaired two sessions at the last NeMLA Conference in Toronto and I published the article “Novecento and the Contemporary Period” as a contributor to the bibliographical journal *The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies*. I am looking forward to directing our new summer program in Italy on philosophy, anthropology and the Mediterranean Diet.

Gregory Pell (Hofstra University): My recent research deals with the non-human animals in Montale and appeared as a chapter of the recent book *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature* (Palgrave, 2014). I am preparing an English-language translation of Angelo Cannavacciuolo’s latest, forthcoming novel, *SacrAmerica*. My latest monograph, on the (non-ekphrastic) relationship between art and poetry in the works of Davide Rondoni, Mario Luzi, John Ashbery, Charles Wright, Patrizia Fazzi, and Jorie Graham, is forthcoming (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press).

Lara Santoro (UMass – Amherst): I am teaching at UMass Amherst and enjoying every minute of it!

Johanna Wagner (PennState): I have been working at Penn State teaching Italian language, literature and film. This year I was awarded both a Summer Teaching Enrichment Program Grant to create an archive of Italian-American oral histories in Pennsylvania, and the Teaching Innovation Project Grant to create a digital palimpsest program for the language classroom. In addition, I’ve been working and presenting on Somali Literature of the Diaspora written in Italian and English at various conferences.

Simona Wright (College of NJ): I recently published “Lampedusa’s Gaze: Messages from the Outpost of Europe” (*Italica* 2015). My most recent article, “The Politics of the Body as a Body Politics,” will be included in the volume *Fortress Europe, Border Lampedusa Migrations across the Mediterranean Sea in Cultural Perspective* (Gabriele Proglgio and Laura Odasso eds. 2015). I am organizing with Fulvio Orsitto and Francesco Ciabattoni the international conference *Intersections/Intersezioni* (Florence, June 5-7, 2015). I am also working on a volume on Giacomo Leopardi (co-edited with Emanuela Cervato).

FACULTY NEWS

Andrea Baldi: This year I published the articles: “Anna Maria Ortese e il disagio della modernità,” in *La mela proibita. Saggi e pensieri di scrittrici del Novecento*, a cura di Maria Belén Hernández González. Ariccia: Aracne editrice, 2015, 249-267; and, “Cities ‘Paved with Casualties’: Ortese’s Journeys through Urban Modernity,” in *Anna Maria Ortese: Celestial Geographies*, edited by Gian Maria Annovi and Flora Ghezzi. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015, 78-111. I also gave presentations on: “Anna Maria Ortese, between Journalism and Literature”, Italian Cultural Institute, New York; “From Naples to Milan: Ortese’s Negotiations with Modernity,” University of Oxford, 2014; “Resisting Modernity: Anna Maria Ortese’s Negotiations with the South,” USC and UCLA, Los Angeles, 2015; and “Anna Maria Ortese’s Bewitched Naples,” NeMLA Convention, Toronto, 2015.

Paola Gambarota: This year I participated in an inspiring conference in Bristol, UK, which focused on the years of the Allied liberation/occupation in Europe (1943-45). I am also the fortunate recipient of the ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, which will allow me to continue to work on my book project entitled “American Naples: Cross-Cultural Memories of an Occupation”.

David Marsh: In the past year I published the articles: “Palmieri, Matteo,” *Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy*, Springer online resource; “Short Prose Fiction,” in *Cambridge Companion to Neo-Latin Literature*, forthcoming; “Così volse Licurgo: Leon Battista Alberti and Spartan Ideals,” in *Albertiana* 2015; “Petrarch’s Adversaries: The Invectives,” in *Cambridge Companion to Petrarch*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015; and the entry “Italy.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Neo-Latin*. Ed. Sarah Knight and Stefan Tilg. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, 395-410. I also presented a talk on “Cicero’s Caesarian Orations in Early Modern Europe,” at the “Afterlife of Cicero” Conference, Warburg Institute, and “Continuity and Renewal in Renaissance Humanism: A Semantic Survey,” *Renaissance Society of America*, Berlin, March 2015.

Alessandro Vettori: I was granted the Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professorship at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Bristol, United Kingdom (<http://bristol.ac.uk/ias/fellowships/meakers/vettori.html>), was appointed to the Comité de Sélection for a position in Medieval Italian Literature at Paris Sorbonne, was invited to give a paper for the *Lecturae Dantis* series at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and read a paper on Boccaccio at the Renaissance Society of America

Rhiannon Noel Welch: In addition to the publication of two articles, “Here and Then, There and Now: Nation Time and Colonial Space in Pasolini, Oriani and Marinetti,” *Italica* 93:4 (2014) 626-654, and “Contact, Contagion, Immunization. Gianni Amelio’s *Lamerica* (1994).” *Italian Mobilities* (Routledge UP, forthcoming 2015), I was invited to give a talk at Casa Italiana at NYU on ‘Haunting and the Postcolonial Ethics of the Gaze’, and to present at the Rutgers University Center for Race and Ethnicity for the ‘Symposium on The Universal Races Congress of 1911’. At the ACLA, I co-organized the panel on ‘Visualizing Spectrality’, and was a panelist for ‘Postcolonial Spectrality and Italian Film’.

Laura S. White: As a member of the Board of Academic Advisors, I helped organize the 2014 NJIAHC Congress at Mercer Community College, Nov. 2014. I continued to serve as Commissioner of the Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, as Vice-President of IACE (Italian American Committee on Education) and as Member of the Advisory Council for the Department of French and Italian of Princeton University. Also, my manuscript on Boccaccio, “Seduzione e privazione: il cibo nel Decameron,” has been accepted for publication in the collection *Morgana*, Scuola Normale di Pisa (directed by Lina Bolzoni).



ABOVE: Prof. Rhiannon Noel Welch.
RIGHT: Joseph, Sr. & Clementina Coccia and Angelo & Maria Soriano Memorial Scholarship: Hiromi Kaneda.



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