

The Rutgers

Libretto

Spring 2018

A letter from the chair...

During this past academic year we have had a very busy scholarly agenda, with two conferences in the fall (one organized by Rhiannon Welch, one the traditional biannual graduate students' conference), several lectures, one roundtable, and our department colloquia "Food for Thought" twice a semester. You can read about all of this more in detail in the pages ahead.

Following the principle of rotation, there will be some changes in the department officers starting next year. I have completed my second term as Chair and Andrea Baldi will take over on July 1. Paola Gambarota will be on leave next year and I will be Graduate Program Director for the next three years. Rhiannon Welch has been renewed and will continue to serve as Undergraduate Program Director for another three years (while being replaced in the fall by Carmela Scala as Acting UGD).

Serving as Chair for six years has had its challenges, especially at a time when humanities departments across the country are being plagued by drastic drops in enrollments, to the point of causing identity crises and shattering traditional ways of relating teaching to our research. I want to congratulate my colleagues for being very proactive and coming up with original and successful ideas from very early on, when figuring out what strategies we needed to adopt in order to attract students in different and unprecedented ways. We have completely overhauled our undergraduate curriculum, created new courses in English aimed at reaching out to students, who would otherwise never take Italian,

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The Rutgers Libretto

Marchetta Family's Association to Rutgers

A bit of family history from Natalie Marchetta-Looman...
I am a first generation Italo-American, *anzi*, Siculo-American, the last of five children of Maria Previte and Luigi Marchetta. My father emigrated from his beloved San Pier Niceto, Sicily with his mother Francesca Basile, his sister Agata (Terrizzi), and brother Giuseppe. After traveling 10 difficult days crossing the Atlantic, they arrived in New York Harbor. Here they were re-united with my paternal grandfather, Antonio Marchetta, who had previously departed Sicily to seek economic and educational opportunities for his family. He had settled, like many of his *paesani*, in New Brunswick. This reunion took place after nine long years of separation.

A strong sense of family and community was the beginning of our Italian Education and taught us what was expected of us. Primarily the following: Love and Respect of Family & Community; Strength of Character; Deep Sense of Pride of Ancestry; Persistent Work Ethic; A Balanced Life; Importance of Education. The importance of education was paramount and something that we were reminded of

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to start learning about Italian culture, film, history, and literature, so we could encourage them to also take language. Thanks to the changes we implemented, our overall number of students has not decreased much (we used to teach 1,366 in 2011 and we taught 1,280 this past year). Another big change is that we moved our Summer Study Abroad Program from Urbino to Rome, where we are launching a four-week program this July featuring language and culture courses as well as a (very successful among students) internship program, even for students who know little or no Italian.

We have also come up with ways to communicate the results of our research internally among faculty and graduate students, thanks to the series called "Food for Thought," which are colloquia taking place at lunch time twice a semester, where PhD candidates and faculty members share their work. Our Alumni Lecture Series brings back our former PhD students twice a year for a lecture and allows us to reconnect with some of those we haven't seen in a while—but also others we see from time to time. Once a year we continue the tradition of inviting all alumni back for a reunion at the beginning of May. Ever since Rutgers joined the Big Ten Alliance a couple of years ago, we have had opportunities to interact with colleagues who teach Italian at various institutions around the country and who face similar problems as our own. The interchange has been extremely helpful.

Looking ahead we have plans for more changes and improvements. We will continue to invite a guest professor to teach one graduate seminar in the spring of every year, which will expose our PhD students to new trends in the field of Italian Studies and, if granted enough funding, we also plan to run a search for a Post-Doc that will bring a young scholar into our program starting in the fall 2019.

I wish everyone a relaxing summer,

Alessandro



News from the Undergraduate Program



Students gather to celebrate at Italian Night

As Undergraduate Director, Professor Rhiannon Welch was happy to preside over our small but thriving undergraduate program. In addition to adding new courses to the curriculum, including *Italian for Business* and *Gol! Italian Sports Culture*, Professors Welch and Scala launched *RU in Rome*—a new four-week language and internship program in Rome, Italy. The program attracted much student interest, with more applicants than we could accommodate. We look forward to bringing roughly 30 Rutgers undergraduates—many of whom are entirely new to Italian language and culture—to Rome for the summer, and hope to see them in our classrooms in the fall!

We celebrated the Class of 2018 (roughly 10 graduating majors and 20 minors) and all of the students in our language program at *Italian Night* in April, which was attended by approximately 60 students and friends of the Department. In addition to recognizing our two honors thesis students, Massimo Guglietta and Maria Di

Costanzo, we heard engaging talks on career paths in Italian by alumna Natalie Marchetta-Looman, who runs a successful travel agency (DiVersions Travel), and Lorenzo Donvito, a freelance translator of Italian, French, Spanish, and Latin.



Italian Majors ready to graduate

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Events

Laura S. White, Caterina Agostini, and Andrea Baldi serve pizza to the masses at Rutgers Day.



Hiromi Kaneda and Alessandro Vettori having fun at Rutgers Day



Joanne Villafane shares her translated Sicilian poem at the Poetry and Politics exhibit.



Making pasta crafts with graduate students.



Administrator Sheri La Macchia congratulates PhD graduate Guiditta Cirnigliaro



"Italians Got Talent" contestants pose with their instructor Paolo Scartoni.



Visual Culture in and out of Crisis Conference



VCC conference speakers snap a photo with Associate Professor Rhiannon Welch. From left to right: Vivian Choi (with Ollie), Janet Roitman, Andrés Zervigón, Jonathan Echeverri, Naminata Diabate, Patricia Keller, Rhiannon Welch, Ara Merijan, and Greg Pierotti (not pictured Christiana Giordano and Annie McCallahan)

In the fall of 2017, along with colleagues in the Department, and others from UC Davis (Anthropology) and Cornell (Romance Studies), Rhiannon Welch organized a two-day symposium titled *Visual Culture in and out of Crisis*. The symposium explored the ubiquity of crisis narratives; how a variety of crises are depicted, problematized, and/or elicited through visual culture (photography, film, video, public art, multimedia installation, etc.); and the numerous theoretical and ethical questions that arise from our daily encounters with the visual in times so persistently characterized by crisis.

With roughly 50 people in attendance each day, the symposium brought together scholars of Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the US from anthropology to art history whose work addresses the many intersections between visual

culture and crisis. The symposium convened on the Rutgers campus a number of distinguished international scholars working on the front lines of various global crises with the aim of engaging the Rutgers and New Brunswick communities in critical reflection on culture in times of crisis. Our keynote speaker was Janet Roitman (Anthropology, The New School, and author of *Anti-Crisis*, Duke UP 2013). The symposium was co-sponsored by units and departments across the School of Arts and Sciences.



Pier Paolo Pasolini Roundtable

In the spring, Prof. Welch organized a roundtable on writer and filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini. The event featured a discussion of three recent books on Pasolini with their authors: Gian Maria Annovi (USC), Davide Luglio (Sorbonne), and Ara Merjian (NYU), with discussants Alessandro Giammei (Princeton), Fatima Naqvi (Rutgers) and Rhiannon Welch (Rutgers). The event was co-sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences and Cinema Studies.

Jewish Ghetto in Florence

In February 2018, Medici Archive scholars Alessio Assonitis, Gabriele Mancuso, and Lorenzo Vigotti presented digitized documents pertaining to the establishment and preservation of the ghetto. They showed how they've mapped the area and reconstructed the exterior and interior of some buildings in Florence, Italy.

News from the Graduate Program



Our PhD students pose with visiting graduate student Giulia Fabbri, La Sapienza University, Rome

This year we welcomed our two new graduate students, Paolo Scartoni and Federica Soddu, who did not procrastinate and immediately excelled in their coursework. Paolo was selected to represent Rutgers at the Inter-Consortium Conference at NYU, where he presented a paper on Dante, written for Prof. Vettori's seminar, and Federica won the Bonanno Essay Award for her paper on Elena Ferrante, written for Prof. Baldi's seminar on Women Literature.

We are also happy to announce that Andrew Robbins was awarded the prestigious Summer Fellowship of the American Philosophical Society and Raffaella Fusco received a Scholarship to participate in the Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar in Rome, sponsored by the Calandra Institute of New York City.

Three of our sixteen students defended their dissertation in the spring: Giuditta Cirnigliaro, Tiziano Cherubini,

and Donata Panizza. Tiziano graduated in April and was appointed Lecturer at Baylor University; Giuditta, who was able to complete her dissertation in her fifth year thanks to a Mellon Fellowship, also graduated in April and is working part-time at the Bocconi University in Milan. Donata is graduating in October.

The Graduate Italian Society hosted a first-rate two-day conference *Unsituated Knowledges*, which featured as keynote speakers Karen Pinkus (Cornell) and Nicoletta Pireddu (Georgetown), and attracted young scholars from many different universities.

This year our graduate students continue to attend professional international conferences, from Italy to Ireland and Poland, ensuring that the Rutgers Italian Graduate Program remains widely visible.



Natalia Wika celebrates completion of her Master's in Teaching Italian degree



6 Raffaella Fusco poses with Tiziano Cherubini, PhD graduate May 2018

Italian Graduate Society Conference Unsituated Knowledges: Charting Shifting Boundaries



The Italian Graduate Society (IGS) experienced a fruitful two years while in office. In particular, this past November, they had the pleasure of hosting their biennial conference *Unsituated Knowledges: Charting Shifting Boundaries*, at one of Rutgers University's most historic locations, the Eagleton Institute of Politics. The conference welcomed enthusiastic participants from far and wide, for instance, Canada and Rome, to present their work on important topics, such as gender, colonialism, migration, and many more subjects. Thanks to generous donors, such as the Coccia Foundation, the School of Graduate Studies, and others, IGS had the opportunity to invite two keynote speakers, Nicoletta Pireddu (Georgetown University) and Karen Pinkus (Cornell University), making the conference an event that appealed to all the senses and included: stimulating talks, fine food, and heavenly harp music that was savored by all. This summer, IGS will publish select essays from the conference for their twenty-sixth edition of *La Fusta: Journal of Italian Literature and Culture*. Sadly, with this publication, the members of IGS will say their good-byes. Thus, they would like to thank everyone who has guided them and offered them support throughout their time in office, especially their department and its members, and joyfully welcome the new members of the Italian Graduate Society. *Sine labore nihil*.



Grazie

The Department of Italian would like to thank Professor Emeritus Umberto Mariani for his commitment of service to Rutgers and the Italian Department. Professor Mariani has been a staple in the Italian Department for many years. His editing and translation skills have been crucial for the success of *Italian Quarterly*. His tireless efforts have made this publication what it is today.

Heartfelt thanks.

We are currently in the process of producing issue #51, due out this fall.

Viva gli sposi!



Congratulations to graduate students Brian and Eleonora as they commence their journey as a married couple.

Brian and Eleonora met in 2013 during Rutgers' summer program in Urbino. At the time, Eleonora was seemingly indifferent to bright-eyed Brian's presence; she was no easy damsel to woo. As the story goes, it was books that brought them together. They attended the same classes in the Italian Department, and gradually Eleonora came to admire Brian's intellect. They began to study and challenge each other outside of the classroom. Consequently, their friendship flourished and romance blossomed. A few years later, the bond was cemented when they adopted a puppy named Leopold. The dog must take some credit in leading the couple to the altar of love this summer in Eleonora's hometown along the coast of Tuscany.

May their marriage be filled with fun and happiness!

News from Current Graduate Students



Current graduate students celebrating at the alumni reunion.

Caterina Agostini

Caterina was a Panel Moderator at the Rutgers Graduate Society Conference *Unsituated Knowledges: Charting Shifting Boundaries* (November 2017). She had a poster presentation “Art at the Time of Syphilis: A First-Person Medical Narrative in Benvenuto Cellini’s *Vita*” at the conference *Representing Infirmary: Diseased Bodies in Renaissance and Early Modern Italy* at Monash University, Prato (December 2017).

Giuditta Cirnigliaro

Giuditta attended a course in Digital Humanities and Public History at the Catholic University of Milan, where she completed her dissertation as a Rutgers Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Fellow. After defending her dissertation and launching her digital project “LILeo,” she is currently collaborating at the digital reconstruction of Leonardo’s library at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. In October, she presented her research at the UMass Arthur F. Kennedy Renaissance Conference, and in May, at the Rome Art History Network *Digital Humanities for Academic and Curatorial Practice* conference at the American Academy in Rome, and at the *Intersections VI* conference in Florence.

Chiara Degli Esposti

In 2017-18, Chiara taught two Italian courses, and worked as a grader in the course “Fairy Tales Then and Now.” She participated in the Italian Graduate Society conference with

a paper on Curzio Malaparte’s representation of gender, and presented her ongoing research on feminine flânerie at a “Food for Thought” session in February. Next June, she will attend the conference *Intersections/Intersezioni* in Florence, where she is going to deliver a paper on Paolo Virzì’s *Tutta la vita davanti*. In 2018, Chiara was also the recipient of the Graduate Cinema Essay Award.

Raffaella Fusco

This academic year was extremely enriching for Raffaella. She began the year indulging in the art of teaching and realizing how much she enjoys it. By frequenting the graduate writing courses offered through the Rutgers Writing Program, she explored new avenues leading to further academic development. As a member of the Italian Graduate Society, she helped organize the Graduate Student Conference, *Unsituated Knowledges: Charting Shifting Boundaries*. Raffaella will end the year in Rome learning about the Italian Diaspora from a variety of perspectives while continuing to develop her dissertation research project.

Alberto Iozzia

Alberto was a panelist at the international conference *The Future of the End: Narrations and Representation of the Apocalypse*, organized by the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland (December 2017). He is currently in the process of co-editing a special issue of the

peer-reviewed journal *Italian Quarterly* on the theme of Italian apocalyptic narrative.

Hiromi Kaneda

Hiromi participated to the *Intersezioni/Intersections* Conference in Florence (May 30 – June 1) where she presented a paper titled “The figure of the *inetto* in the cinematic representation of *Un amore*.” Rutgers is launching a Study Abroad Program this summer in Rome, where Hiromi will be teaching Italian 101. She is very excited to start a new chapter of her life in a Lecturer position at the University of Virginia for the academic year 2018-2019. She would like to thank her colleagues, friends, and faculty of the Italian Department. In particular, she would like to express her gratitude to Administrator Sheri La Macchia for the unwavering support over the years.

Eilis Kierans

Eilis successfully completed the Comprehensive Exam this year. Thereafter she had the opportunity to explore various corners of the world with an array of titillating books in tow, which she intends to weave into her dissertation. In April she presented a paper titled “A Weapon of Their Own: Women in the Resistance” at the themed conference *Resistance in Italian Culture*, which took place at the University of Sussex. In July she will present a paper titled “I Pomodori Puri: Fruits of Empowerment in Deledda’s *The Church of Solitude*” at the *Symposium of Food and Cookery* in Oxford. During the summer, she will teach at Rutgers’ new study abroad program in Rome, where she is excited to break bread with students. In August she will travel to Ecuador with the Youth Ambassadors Program where she will serve as a mentor to American high school students as they complete service projects in their host community. Eilis is very grateful to have received an Excellence Fellowship this past year. However, she is elated to return to Rutgers campus in September to teach and take root for some time.

Andrew Robbins

Andrew has had a busy year. Aside from speaking at a history of science conference at Rutgers and at a conference on crowds at Princeton, he has two forthcoming translations to be published in 2018. The first is a short story by Italo Svevo to appear in *The Journal of Italian Translation*. The second is a collection of writings by sociologist Scipio Sighele, co-translated with Nicoletta Pireddu (Georgetown), to be published in the Lorenzo da Ponte Library Series. This summer Andrew has a fellowship to research Italian-language editions of Darwin’s works at the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia.

Eleonora Sartoni

Thanks to the University and Louis Bevier Fellowship, Eleonora has been working intensively on her dissertation. Her 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” is going to be published in *The Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* (November 2018). In April, she attended NeMLA in Pittsburgh where she presented two papers: “*Il vero fascismo*: Consumerism as National Identity in Fellini’s *Le Tentazioni del Dottor Antonio*” and “The Capitalist Infection and the Resistance of Ancient Buildings in D’Annunzio’s Rome.” On a lighter note: Eleonora and Brian got married on June 8!

Paolo Scartoni

Paolo was the Rutgers representative at the *Inter-University Doctoral (IUDC) Medieval Conference* held at New York University. He presented a paper entitled “Songs of Earthly Sweetness: Remembrance in Dante’s Purgatory,” delving into the role of music in Dante’s *Comedy* and the tension between sacred and secular music in medieval discourse. For the same paper, written for the graduate seminar on Dante, he received the Stephanie Laggini Fiore Essay Award. He was also the recipient of the William E. Roney Award for Innovative Teaching. He taught piano at the Mason Gross Extension Division and performed on the harpsichord with the Rutgers Baroque Players. Last but not least, he was awarded some tasty homemade tomato sauce by one of his Italian 102 students.



Graduate Director Paola Gambarota presents Excellence in Teaching award to Jamison Standridge

Alumni News

Diane Biunno, RU'09

*Digitization Archivist
University of Pennsylvania*

As part of a wonderful team at Penn, I help make rare and archival materials digitally (and freely) available to scholars and to the general public. I've worked on several initiatives including "Bibliotheca Philadelphensis," a project which has scanned over 400 medieval manuscripts housed in over a dozen Philadelphia-area libraries and repositories. Currently, I am working on creating a data model for the "Tikal Archive." The archive contains the records of a Penn Museum archeological dig that excavated the ruins of an ancient Mayan city.

Silvia Tiboni-Craft, RU'15

*Assistant Teaching Professor
Wake Forest University*

Silvia Tiboni-Craft is the 2018 recipient of The Kulynych Family Omicron Delta Kappa Award that recognizes an outstanding faculty member at Wake Forest who bridges the gap between classroom and student life. Tiboni-Craft has been celebrated for her dedication to her students' growth and development both in and out of the classroom. Within the past five years, she has mentored students to receive a Richter Research Scholarship, an ACC-IAC Research Fellowship, and two awards from the National Italian-American Foundation. She provides opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom, including Italian cooking nights, programs at local elementary schools, and off-campus service opportunities.

Special Recognition



Raffaella Fusco

Raffaella Fusco was awarded a scholarship to attend the Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar in Rome at the University of Roma Tre with doctoral students and professors from colleges and universities worldwide—a collaborative program between the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute / Queens College of The City University of New York and the Roma Tre University.

Andrew Robbins

Andrew Robbins was awarded a Library Resident Research Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society Library to conduct research on the history of Darwin's theory of evolution and its cultural and scientific afterlives in the early 20th century.



Awards Given Out at the Alumni Reunion

- **Nico Blasucci** – Coccia Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship in Italy (RU in Rome – Summer 2018)
- **Joanna Zotti** - Coccia Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship in Italy (Spring 2018 currently in Ferrara)
- **Anthony Mollica** – 2018 Joseph Coccia Jr. Fifth Anniversary Memorial Scholarship (RU in Rome – Summer 2018)
- **Maria Candela** – Paragano Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship for Italian Studies (MAT in Italian)
- **Brian Tholl** – Joseph E. & Marie E. Laggini Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship
- **Paolo Scartoni** – Stephanie Laggini Fiore Essay Award (essay for Professor Vettori's Dante seminar)
- **Federica Soddu** – Antonio Bonanno Award for Best Essay in a Graduate Seminar (essay for Professor Baldi's Italian Women Writers seminar)
- **Jamison Standridge** – Department of Italian Award for Excellence in Teaching
- **Paolo Scartoni** – William E. Roney award for Innovative Teaching
- **Andrew Robbins** – William E. Roney award for Dedication to Service
- **Donata Panizza** – William E. Roney award for Excellence in Scholarship



Deena Levy, RU 2010

Alumni Reunion Keynote

Deena Levy is an Assistant Research Professor and Instructional Consultant-Technology Pedagogy Specialist at the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence at Penn State. Currently, she facilitates faculty development workshops and short courses, and consults on college teaching, course design, and related topics.

Thank You Donors!

Donata Panizza receives the award for Scholarship from William E. Roney with Rhiannon Welch.



Anthony Mollica accepts the 2018 Joseph Coccia Jr. Fifth Anniversary Memorial Scholarship for study abroad from Elisa and Elda Coccia.



Paragano Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship is presented to Maria Candela, MAT Italian Student, by Paola Gambarota.



Brian Tholl accepts the Joseph E. & Marie E. Laggini Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship from Stephanie Laggini Fiore



Summer Fellowship awards for grad students



Dr. Vito and Mrs. Carolyn De Simone at Alumni Reunion dinner.

News from the Faculty



Andrea Baldi

Andrea Baldi published two articles: "Gli esordi romani di Matilde Serao," in *Avventure, itinerari e viaggi letterari. Studi per Roberto Fedi*, a cura di Giovanni Capecchi *et al.* Florence: Società Editrice Fiorentina, 2018, 271-279; and, "Anna

Maria Ortese: Breaking the Spell of Naples?," in *Delirious Naples. A Cultural History of the City of the Sun*, Pellegrino D'Acerno and Stanislao G. Pugliese, eds. New York: Fordham University Press, 2018, 281-298. He gave presentations on: "The Metamorphoses of *The Jar*," International Conference *Global Legacies: Pirandello across Centuries and Media*, Pirandello Society of America, Hunter College, New York, September 2017; "Walking in the City: Gender Conflicts and Women's Marginality," MLA Convention, New York, January 2018; and "Modernity and Its Discontent. Anna Maria Ortese's Neapolitan Memories," AAIS Conference, Sorrento, June 14-17, 2018. He also gave an invited talk "Turbamenti dello sguardo ed empatia" at the International Conference *La grande Iguana. Scenari e visioni a vent'anni dalla morte di Anna Maria Ortese*, Rome, June 4-6, 2018. 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

As Interim Graduate Program Director, Paola Gambarota worked on curricular innovations in order to align the program with the changes in the profession and to shorten time to graduation. She also organized various

workshops aimed at preparing students for the job market.

She gave a talk at the annual MLA convention in New York on "Transmedia and Populism in Post-War Italy" and completed an essay on "*L'Uomo Qualunque*. The Transnational Making of Italian Post-War Populism."



David Marsh

In the past year David Marsh published the book *Giannozzo Manetti, Against the Jews and the Gentiles* (ed. S. U. Baldassarri. Trans. David Marsh. Cambridge MA: Harvard, 2017) and the following articles: "Erasmus' *Adagia*: A

Cultural Encyclopedia" in *Renaissance Encyclopedism: Studies in Curiosity and Ambition*. Ed. W. Scott Blanchard and Andrea Severi. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018, 415-431; "Francesco Filelfo as a Writer of Invective" in *Filelfo: Man of Letters*. Ed. Jeroen De Keyser. Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2017, 104-120; and "Cicero's Caesarian Orations in Early Modern Europe" in *The Afterlife of Cicero*. Ed. Gesine Manuwald. London: Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, 2017, 104-120. He also gave a lecture at the University of Pisa entitled "Luciano di Samosata nell'Europa del Quattrocento e del Cinquecento" in October 2017.



Carmela Scala

Over the past year as Director of the Italian Language Program, Carmela has received four mini grants to revamp two existent online language courses and to create two new ones: Italian for Business and A Journey through Italian: Italian

Review. She started a new online journal: *Language Teaching and Technology* (LTT), the first issue will be published in December 2018.

She presented two papers at the NEMLA 2018 convention: "Re-thinking Technology" and "How you eat is how you live."

She also presented at the Rutgers Online Learning Conference *RUOnlineCon 2018-Collaborate*, "Enhancing students' learning experience in the online classes," and is currently working on a manuscript in best practices to teach online.



Alessandro Vettori

Alessandro Vettori has been working on a number of projects: an invited entry on "Religion" to the *The Oxford Handbook of Dante*; an article entitled "The Last Medici Grand-Duchess: Marguerite-Louise d'Orléans, the *femmes*

d'esprit, and the End of the Medici Dynasty" submitted to *Seventeenth Century*; and a book chapter entitled "Dante, Franciscan Poverty, and *The Donation of Constantine*" for an upcoming *Festschrift*. Alessandro was a Member of the Jury for the Modern Language Association Aldo Scaglione Prize for 2018 and continues to work on the Advanced Placement Exam for Educational Testing Service. Having served as Chair of Italian for two consecutive terms, Alessandro will now serve as Graduate Program Director for the next three.



Rhiannon Welch

This past year, Rhiannon Welch organized two departmental events *Visual Culture in and out of and Crisis*, fall 2017, and *Pier Paolo Pasolini Roundtable*, spring 2018. She taught two new courses: an Interdisciplinary

Honors Seminar titled "Visual Culture and Crisis" and the Senior Seminar in Cinema Studies, "Global Neorealism." She delivered four talks at international conferences: in October, she was invited to Concordia University to present

her research at a workshop titled "The Geopolitics of Italian Cinema: Expanding Postcolonial Approaches." In April, she was invited to give talks on visual culture and migration at The College of New Jersey for the faculty and undergraduate seminar "Migration, Identity and Memory"; The Ohio State University's "Medical Humanities: From Campus to Communities" conference; and at Rutgers University's "Heritage and the Visual Archive" symposium, sponsored by the Department of Art History. In addition, her article "Anachronism, Displacement, Trace: 'Scarred Images' and the Postcolonial Time Lag" appeared in *California Italian Studies*. Volume 7: *Moving Images: Cinema, Pre-cinema, Around Cinema, New Media*.



Laura Sanguineti White

Laura Sanguineti White published a new book: *La poesia del silenzio* (Editore Serra, 2018) and an article "Prospettive trecentesche su Venezia," in *Dialogo, Festschrift in Honor of Angela Caracciolo Aricò* (2017).

She gave an invited talk "Navi e navigazione nei *Diari di Marin Sanudo*" at the International Conference *Vele d'Autore* in Trieste (October, 2017) and a lecture on "The Art of Printing in Renaissance Venice" in Professor Jhumpa Lahiri's Creative Writing Seminar at Princeton University. She continued to serve as NJ Commissioner of the Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, as Vice-President of the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE) at the Italian Consulate in New York and as Member of the Advisory Council for the Department of French and Italian of Princeton University.



Notes from Graduating Seniors

My name is **Maria Di Costanzo**, and I am a senior graduating with majors in Italian and Spanish. However, the journey to discover what I wanted to study in college wasn't as straightforward as many may think. My inspiration for choosing my majors actually came from my family and my experience with the professors of the Italian department. Adjusting to college my freshman year was quite intimidating due to the increased amount of coursework, but the Italian department made me feel at home right from the start. The professors were all so passionate about their courses and willing to help their students. I enjoyed my time in the classes, while learning about Italian literature, history, and cinema.

The summer of my freshman year, I went to visit my family in Ischia, Italy. I was sitting at the kitchen table with my Zia, and we had a riveting discussion about Luigi Pirandello's works when the deciding moment came to me: I wanted to dedicate myself to the study of languages so that I could share my passion with other people.

Now, almost four years later, I can't imagine having made a different choice. The Italian Department was always there to support me and had the unyielding belief that I could do anything I set my mind to. As my time as an undergraduate comes to a close, my last major undertaking was writing my thesis with Professor Baldi. I am extremely proud to have been able to combine months of research with the memoirs of my grandmother while she grew up in postwar Italy. Along with my family, the faculty and staff of the Italian Department made studying Italian an unforgettable experience, and I know without a doubt they will continue to shape the college experience of all future students.



Massimo Guglietta (pictured on left) graduated with a double major in Italian and Political Science and won a Fulbright Fellowship to go to Slovakia for the next academic year.



I'm **Brandon Latteri**. In my junior year at Rutgers University I was able to study abroad. I traveled to Florence, Italy for my spring semester and studied at ISI Florence. As I arrived in Florence, I was nervous, as I didn't know anyone else participating in the program and was uncertain of the semester to come. This quickly subsided as I met people from around the world, and made amazing friends. Studying abroad allowed me to connect with my Italian heritage and explore a side of my family I didn't have the opportunity to in the past. Studying abroad was a once in a lifetime experience that I would highly recommend to anyone considering it.



New Summer Study Abroad Program: RU in Rome

Marchetta Family's Association to Rutgers (Continued from p.2)

uncompromisingly. In the eyes of our parents the completion of a formal education was a luxury that history and circumstances had not afforded them. It was a given that the Marchetta/Terrizzi children were expected to minimally earn a college degree so that they could have a voice and positive societal impact in this new land. Countless and constant sacrifices were made in order to achieve this.

And so.... we, the Marchetta/Terrizzi family children, first generation Italian-Americans, children of immigrants, would ALL earn college degrees, as well as Masters, Doctorates, Medical, and Law degrees. And later, following in this tradition, all of the 27 grandchildren of Luigi, Agata, and Giuseppe would also go to college and earn degrees. Many would continue on to Postgraduate, Medical, Law, and Professional Degrees.

Our family has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Rutgers University, the first degree being earned in Italian in 1961. Rutgers would graduate a significant number of Marchetta/Terrizzi family members, as well as their spouses and other close relatives, many in Honors Programs. At present count Rutgers has bestowed at least 30 Bachelors, five Masters, Law, and Doctorate degrees, Fulbright Scholarships, etc. upon Marchetta/Terrizzi family members and relatives—and counting. There are presently three others completing their degrees at Rutgers. One Marchetta cousin was one of the first women ever accepted into Rutgers College and one of the first women to receive a Rutgers degree in Engineering. Other curricula have included Italian, Biology, Psychology, Medicine, Public Health, Speech Pathology, History, Law, Geography, Urban Planning, Bioenvironmental Engineering, Political Science, Sociology, German, Art History, Marketing, Communications, etc. Seven of us have enjoyed the incomparable and life-changing experience of Rutgers Study Abroad, six of which were full year programs, and two of us have continued on professionally in directly related careers.

In adherence to one of our family's precepts—Love and Respect of Community—we continue to offer our time, energy, and financial support to Rutgers University. We have initiated and developed a Memorial Scholarship for Study Abroad in Italy, served as University Senators and in Student Government, Founding Members of Alumni Associations and Federations. We are members of a Dean's Advisory Committee, an Alumnus of the Scholars Program and Founding Member/Chairwoman of the Institute for Women's Leadership. One of us was named Alumnus of the Year of

the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and a current student was at the forefront of creating a new Student Club, S.E.E.D.: Students for Environmental and Energy Development. We have been Professionals at Rutgers serving as Program Directors at the Graduate School of Management, UMDNJ Mental Health Clinicians, and currently as the Executive Director of Health Systems and Health Integration for Rutgers Biomedical & Health Sciences. In addition we have served as Guest Lecturers for classes and professional programs, are consistent donors to the University's Foundation, and have spearheaded letter-writing campaigns and crowd-funding initiatives in support of various university programs.

Our family is genuinely grateful to Rutgers University and all that it has provided us. It has been foundational in our preparation to serve in myriad professions and to contribute to our communities as Physicians, Attorneys, University Professors, Entrepreneurs, Scientists, Corporate Executives, and in Public Office. In fact, in recognition of our Family's continual commitment to Education and Service to Community we were nominated by the late Rutgers University Dean of Italian Studies, Professor Remigio Pane, and awarded the *NJ Italian American Heritage Commission "La Famiglia" Award* during the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Celebration in 1992. During that time, The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey also honored our family with an *Assembly Resolution* in recognition of our immigrant family's achievements. I don't believe any of us will ever forget how deeply proud and grateful my parents, aunts, and uncle were that evening while being presented with such an honor, surrounded by their family. Only they could fully understand the sacrifices made and fortitude required to achieve such a tribute—truly a great moment in our Marchetta Family history.

For more information about the Marchetta Family or traveling to Italy contact Natalie Marchetta-Looman at DiVersionsTravel@gmail.com



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