



Un Marzo da Leoni...

Cari lettori e care lettrici,

Once again, spring begins with another eventful month of March, and another edition of our newsletter, *La Vendemmia*. This semester has already been particularly exciting, and we simply cannot wait to tell you all about it in these pages.

In February, we welcomed Prof.ssa Irene Zanini-Cordi from Florida State University, who visited to give a talk on women's autobiography of the eighteenth-century. February also brought with it the debut of our Italian Studies Cineforum, when Mr. Sandro Puiatti presented and screened *Dante's Inferno* for our students.

Now that March is upon us, we already have a number of activities coming up. On the 17th, the Italian Honor Society will welcome several new members, and a short time later, students will submit their work for consideration in the annual Lola Pelliccia Essay Prize Competition. We also await the third edition of *Dolcissimo* with great anticipation.

To learn more about all of this, make yourself a coffee, grab a pastry, and get comfortable with this March edition of *La Vendemmia*.

-Enrico Cesaretti, Director of Undergraduate Program in Italian



"In English, we associate the tempestuous month of March with the expression 'In like a lion and out like a lamb.' Italian has many other sayings about the month of March, including 'Marzo: un sole e un guazzo (March: a little sun and a little rain)' Impulsive people are said to be 'nate di marzo, (born in March),' and the March sun is sometimes described as untrustworthy."

- The Editors

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Prof.ssa Irene Zanini-Cordi speaks on 9 February.

Autobiographies for All!

In early February students, faculty, and guests enjoyed a public lecture from Prof.ssa Irene Zanini-Cordi, of Florida State University. Prof.ssa Zanini-Cordi spoke about Angela Veronese (1778-1847), arguably the first Italian woman to pen an autobiography. The audience was both fascinated and surprised by the revelations about Veronese's contribution to the development of the genre in Italy.

A Trailblazer in her Time

We learned about the obstacles faced by women writers in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Italy, and about the various social and literary strategies Veronese employed to make her mark in a stratified Venetian world. Prof.ssa Zanini-Cordi also guest-lectured in *The Drama of Marriage*, (ITTR / WGS) 4655, Prof.ssa Ward's course on marriage in early modern dramatic works, where students examine classic plays about marriage and relationships. There Prof.ssa Zanini-Cordi discussed the marital travails of Giustiniana Wynne, an eighteenth-century Venetian woman who made similar strides in the literary sphere.

A Very Special Guest Indeed!

Prof.ssa Zanini-Cordi specializes in Italian culture of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century, and is particularly interested in issues of gender in the artistic-intellectual endeavors of those epochs. Her visit reminded us of the relevance of past periods to current developments. Her current book project, *Women Before Facebook*, discusses the women who animated Italian salons from just before the French Revolution to the unification of Italy. We cannot wait to read it!

-Adrienne Ward

Learn More!

If you are interested in learning more about either Italian women writers, or women's history in Italy, why not take a class on it? Fortunately for you, there is such a course coming up this fall.

In "My Body my Choice: Women's Rights in Italy," with Dott.ssa Francesca Calamita, you will explore how literature, cinema, and the arts have approached the quest for gender parity in Italy from 1960 to the present day.

The course will examine the evolution of women's rights through a close reading of films, novels, and artwork. Sign up!

-The Editors

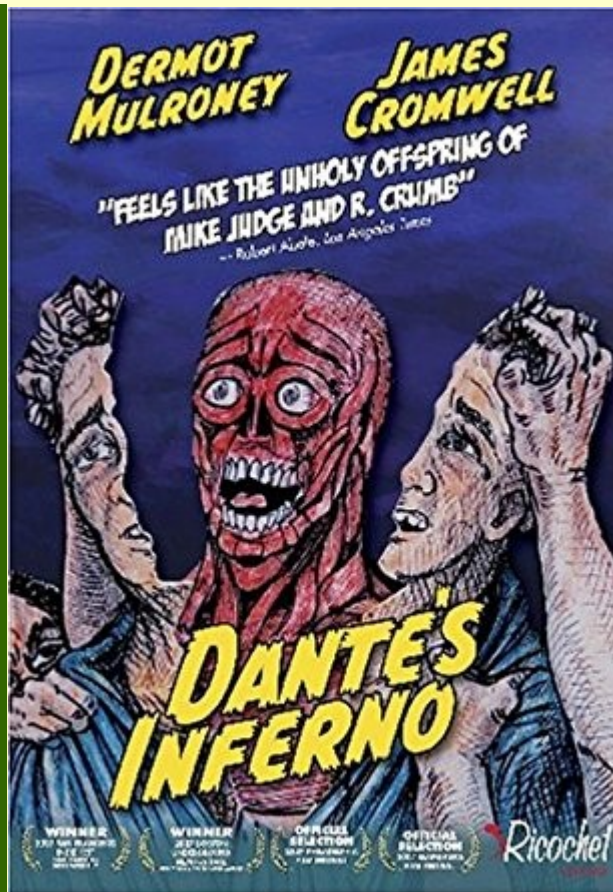
Students, faculty and guests enjoyed the talk.

Become a Person of Distinction!

Third-years, are you looking to stand out from the crowd? Consider undertaking a personal research project in your 4th year, culminating in an undergraduate thesis, as part of the Distinguished Majors Program in Italian Studies! You can still apply, the deadline is April 15th. For details, see [Italian Studies DMP](#)

To learn about the work of this year's Italian Studies DMP students, join us on Wednesday, April 12 at 5:00PM (location yet to be announced) for the annual SIP Distinguished Majors Symposium and reception. Together with DMP students in Spanish, Italian Studies major Francesca Trombetta will present her research on the ethical value of Dante's *Divina Commedia* for the modern reader. *Da non perdere!*

-Adrienne Ward



Ciak!

The Annual Italian Studies Cineforum began anew on 13 February, with a screening of *Dante's Inferno* (2007). This modern-day update of the Italian classic was adapted from Sandow Birk's graphic novel of the same title, and brought to the silver screen by director Sean Meredith. It brings Dante's journey to hell alive through animation using paper dolls. *Dante's Inferno* also offers a contemporary take on the great poem, showing us which 20th-century public figures a modern-day pilgrim might meet in the other realm.

Mr. Sandro Puiatti presented the film to a group of undergraduate students who viewed it as part of the cultural competency requirement for their Italian language courses. Mr. Puiatti explained the system of Dante's hell to the students, as well as some of the original poem's key themes. He also discussed how Birk and Meredith transposed these elements to an updated version of the story.

Dante's Inferno was the first of four films to be screened this spring in Gibson Hall 211 at 5. Other offerings include *Miracle in Milan*, (13 March), *Purple Sea* (27 March), and *The Conformist* (10 April). Everyone is welcome to enjoy a night of Italian cinema with us!

-Sarah Annunziato



Students at UVA will compete to see who is the ultimate chef!

We ♥ Tuscany

Have you ever spent time in the historical region of Tuscany, located in central Italy? Maybe not, but now you can take a virtual tour of Tuscany by reading UVA's "Lifetime Learning Blog."

This month, Prof. Enrico Cesaretti took charge of the blog to share his experiences leading a group of UVA undergraduates on a grand tour of the storied region during J-Term.

To read his thoughts, please follow this link: <http://alumni.virginia.edu/learn/2017/03/08/j-term-love-affair-tuscany/>

-The Editors

Dolcissimo III: Bake Harder!

On behalf of the Italian Studies Program, I am delighted to invite you to an appetizing spring event, "**Dolcissimo: édition gourmande**", a full-immersion experience in Italian and French languages and cultures through cooking. This year the competition is in collaboration with the French Department and sponsored by the Institute of World Languages. More than 30 ITAL 2020 students are involved in the event as chefs, video reporters and special correspondents for the *Vendemmia* while some of our majors will help us out as assistants to the linguistic judges.

Why Food Matters

Food is one of the staples of Italian and French cultures and, all over the world, Italian and French words are used on a daily basis for many different foodstuffs. America is no exception, with its own take on the spelling and meaning of Italian and French culinary buzz-words. Social cooking is now frequently and successfully used to promote cross-cultural encounters and exchanges, creating alternative settings and goals for second language acquisition and performance. "**Dolcissimo**" combines social cooking and second language acquisition by way of a group competition where second year students of Italian and French at UVA will communicate exclusively in the target language while baking Italian and French cakes and cookies.

Teamwork Pays Off!

Each group will first select and research an Italian dessert recipe, and then meet at the cooking venue to bake their chosen dessert in a three-hour filmed bake-off in front of their UVA faculty members, VIP judges and invited guests.

Mark your calendars, follow our students getting ready for the event on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DolcissimoItalianUVA/> and please come to taste some Italian and French pastries on Friday April 7 from 4 to 7 pm at the Lorna Sundberg International Center.

-Francesca Calamita

We look forward to seeing you there! (*Dolcissimo* is made possible in part thanks to a generous grant from The Institute for World Languages).



The Duomo of Florence is a must-see site!

Welcome!

Dear Readers,

The third initiation ceremony for the Italian Honor Society, Gamma Kappa Alpha, took place on 17 March at 4:30 pm in New Cabell Hall 349.

We welcomed seven new members of the society, who received their cords and certificates.

The new members are:

Alexa Abrams

Kate Kaufman

Ben Stievater

Juliette Hegadom

Claire Crispo

Emily Scerbo

Chandler Meyers

When you see them, please congratulate these seven students, and help us celebrate their initiation!

-Stella Mattioli



Members of the Italian Honor Society enjoyed their trip to Barboursville Vineyard, where they sampled some of the region's most famous wines.

It's Five O'clock Somewhere

One of the activities organized by the Honor Society Gamma Kappa Alpha was a visit to Barboursville Vineyard, where they enjoyed the hospitality of Luca Paschina. A native of Piemonte, who has been a winemaker here for more than 25 years, and sustains very close relations with wine industry leaders in Italy and Bordeaux. In 2014, [the Italian Republic named him to the Order of Merit](#), and among local honors he has won the Virginia Governor's Cup 4 times. In 2016, he became a citizen of the United States, in Federal District Court in Charlottesville.)

"He was very charismatic and friendly" says Avery Morrison, the President of Gamma Kappa Alpha. "He started by giving us a description of the vineyard, the grapes they grow, the history of the vineyard, and the impact the Italian culture has had on the vineyard. Then we went inside for a tasting of about 6 wines (all amazing and with Italian cultural ties—i.e. Nebbiolo and Chianti). He spoke to us and explained viticulture vocabulary in Italian. He explained the complexity of the wines and what characteristics he looks for, which I never knew each grower determined! He believes all of his wines should have an elegant flavor. We then had a chance to look around the library room, where we could purchase bottles".

The visit was made possible by [The National Italian American Foundation \(NIAF\)](#).

Favorite quote: "Either it was a bad day and you need a glass of wine or it was a good day and you have a glass of wine" Luca Paschina.

-Stella Mattioli, with Avery Morrison

Buon Viaggio to the Gori Interns!

Congratulate Italian Studies majors Kate Kaufman '18 (summer internship), and Kay Agoglia '17 and Sarah Mondejar '17 (fall internship)! All three students will soon be traveling to Pistoia, just outside of Florence, to assist at the world-famous Gori Art Museum (aka Fattoria Celle, see <http://www.goricoll.it>).

Kate Kaufman

My interest in the Gori Art Collection summer internship begins with my admiration for Italian life, culture, and experiences. I have a strong connection with Italy, which began with my family, who lives in Florence and Verona, and the influence Italian culture has had on my family in the United States. My parents have been incredible in giving me the opportunity, starting at a very young age, to travel, especially in Italy. I was able to study in Siena fall of my third year, which was the first time I got to experience travel and Italy truly for myself. I have focused my studies to revolve around my international and social justice interests, resulting in my pursuit of a double major in Italian and Foreign Affairs with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Italy is not only a place of family and experience for me, but also a possibility to further my knowledge of the importance Italy plays in being a crossroads for refugees and immigrants coming to Europe. The internship with the Gori Art Collection provides a prime time for me to broaden my knowledge in Italian culture and art, and once again experience the day-to-day happenings of living in Italy.

Sarah Mondejar

I first became interested in the Gori Collection internship after visiting the property this past January on Prof. Cesaretti's J-term course in Tuscany. While there, I was able to see a few of the pieces that were on display outside. Unlike most places I had been during my time in Florence, I felt that the Gori Collection allowed its art to speak for itself in a unique way; whether that be through an interactive piece or an uncommon display. Each of the pieces I saw made me want to explore the collection further, and along with the encouragement of some friends, this excitement led me to apply for the internship. I think that I am most looking forward to increasing my knowledge about art while also strengthening my Italian. I love the language and am excited to spend two months living like a local in Santomato.

Kay Agoglia

Kay Agoglia is a fourth-year student in the Commerce School, graduating in May with a minor in Italian Studies. She has been studying the Italian language since the 7th grade. She got her first chance to see Italy in person this past January, with the J-term "Love Affair with Tuscany" class taught by Professor Cesaretti. Of course, it was love at first sight. The class also briefly toured the Gori Collection, piquing her interest in the fall internship. Kay looks forward to learning an immense amount about the collection and modern art, and applying her language skills in an area with which she is less familiar.

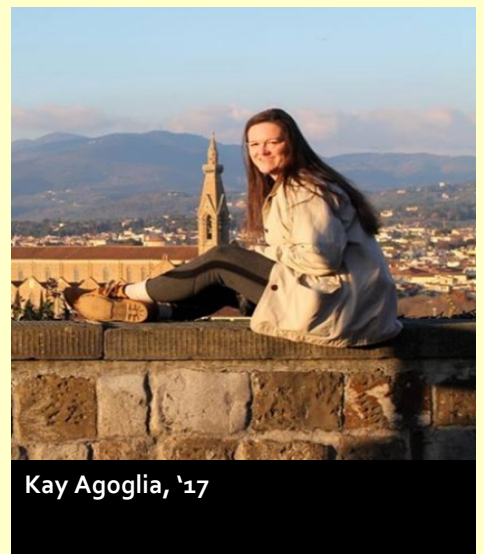
-Adrienne Ward, with the Gori Interns



Kate Kaufman, '18



Sarah Mondejar, '17



Kay Agoglia, '17

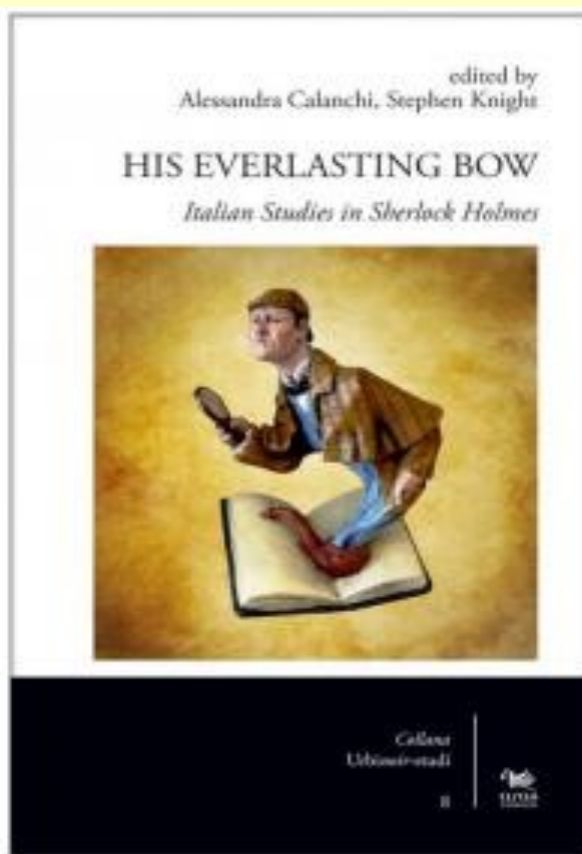
We Love You, Baltimore!

Stella will not be traveling alone to Baltimore for the annual NEMLA conference. Dr. Calamita will also join her there, where she will present in two different panels.

Her first presentation, entitled "Identica a loro: Food, Identity, and Religion in Igiaba Scego's *Salsicce*," will continue Dr. Calamita's already extensive work on eating and food in women's writing.

Meanwhile, Dr. Calamita will also talk about her experiences with *Dolcissimo* in "Dolcissimo: A Delicious Way to Learn Italian Language and Culture Outside the Classroom." This last presentation was made possible in part thanks to a travel grant from The Institute for World Languages at UVA.

-Stella Mattioli



Stella is currently studying both e-Portfolios and Sherlock Holmes

Super Stella!

This is a very busy semester for Stella! Like last semester, she will participate in two conferences to present the first results of her extensive research about ePortfolios in the foreign language classroom.

Her research is called "The ePortfolio in the Italian classroom: uses and possibilities" and is the first part of a more complex project that will analyze the different ways in which the ePortfolio can be used to teach culture, to practice different skills and to submit assignments.

Stella will participate in NEMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) in Baltimore from March 23 to 26, and speak at AAIS/CSIS (American Association for Italian Studies and Canadian Society for Italian Studies) in Columbus from April 20 to 22.

Stella is currently working on an article based on this research, hoping to publish it in a journal dedicated to the use of ePortfolios in foreign language classrooms.

Stella is also an avid reader of Sherlock Holmes and mystery novels. She is a member of "Uno Studio in Holmes", Italian association of fans of the famous consulting detective of Baker Street.

The association recently published a book called "His Everlasting Bow": published by Aras Edizioni, it features an article by Stella Mattioli, called "Sherlock Holmes and the US academic world".

The book can be purchased online (at www.ibs.it) and all the royalties will benefit the Onlus association Emergency.

-Francesca Calamita



World War II was a major turning point in Italian history..

Flashback: La guerra

Durante la seconda guerra mondiale, l'Italia era governata da Benito Mussolini, un dittatore fascista. Dopo la prima guerra mondiale, c'era molta instabilità in Italia e Mussolini ha potuto prendere controllo del paese. L'instabilità ha continuato fino a quando il re Vittorio Emanuele ha proclamato Mussolini primo ministro per impedire un'insurrezione fascista nel 1922.

Il patto d'acciaio

Nel 1936, l'Italia è diventata un alleato della Germania con il Patto d'acciaio e poi, fra poco ha dichiarato la guerra contro l'Inghilterra e la Francia nel 1940. Durante questo periodo, l'Italia era una delle potenze dell'asse ma Mussolini era entrato in guerre per le proprie ragioni. Mussolini voleva creare un impero e ha lanciato un attacco nell'Africa settentrionale nello stesso anno. Anche in Ottobre di quest'anno, ha invaso la Grecia. Queste invasioni erano disastrose ed hanno indebolito la posizione dell'Italia durante la guerra.

1943

Nel 1943, Mussolini ha perso il potere dopo che gli alleati erano sbarcati in Sicilia. A settembre, l'Italia ha rinunciato al patto con la Germania ed ha firmato la pace con gli alleati. Come risultato, i tedeschi hanno occupato l'Italia settentrionale. Eventualmente, gli alleati sono riusciti a sconfiggere i tedeschi con l'aiuto della resistenza italiana attraverso una serie di lotte violente che si chiamavano "la campagna italiana." La seconda guerra mondiale ha costato le vite a migliaia di soldati italiani, civili ed ebrei. Oggi in Italia, si possono vedere molti film, libri e monumenti dedicati a queste persone.

Benché la seconda guerra mondiale non sia stata una bella parte della storia italiana, è una buona lezione sull'affetto negativo della voglia per il potere.

-Rachel Tischler

L'esercito all'italiana

L'esercito italiano è molto interessante, particolarmente rispetto a quello degli USA.

L'esercito italiano è diviso in nove brigate che hanno squadre specifiche. Ogni brigata è trasferita in una zona diversa del paese. Per esempio, la brigata dei paracadutisti, Folgore, si trova a Livorno. L'esercito italiano è un membro di NATO come quello degli USA, ma l'esercito Americano è più grande. Negli Stati Uniti, l'esercito è diviso in quattordici rami che hanno ciascuno uno scopo specifico.

Come negli USA, l'Italia ha cadetti anche. I cadetti frequentano un'accademia militare italiana la quale si assomiglia alla nostra Accademia di West Point e Accademia Navale. In entrambi i paesi le accademie insegnano ai cadetti come fare parte dell'esercito, ma negli USA abbiamo un programma che si chiama ROTC. ROTC prepara le persone per l'esercito, ma alle università tradizionali.

Il militare italiano è molto interessante e forte. L'Italia è un alleato importante e mi piace che lavoriamo con loro in qualche operazione.

-Antonio Zeto



Italian Military Helicopter

TuttoCalcio

In Italia il calcio è lo sport più popolare, ma negli USA, il football è lo sport più popolare.

La Nazionale di calcio in Italia è molto buona. Giocano contro le altre squadre da tutto il mondo. In Italia, la Serie A è la miglior lega di calcio. Un sacco di gente va a vedere queste squadre quando giocano. È molto divertente andare. Juventus, Milan ed Inter sono le squadre migliori. Esse sono molto popolari.

Negli USA, il calcio non è popolare e nessuno va a vederlo. Nel nostro paese, il football è lo sport più popolare. Infatti, c'è un giorno della settimana dedicato al football

In entrambi i paesi lo sport è molto popolare, ma noi guardiamo gli sport diversi.

-Ryan Dailey



The Italian National Soccer Team, when it last won the World Cup in 2006.

Un giorno allo stadio olimpico

Il calcio è uno sport molto popolare in Italia. La serie A è la lega più popolare con le squadre famose. Roma, la capitale dell'Italia, ha due squadre nella Serie A: La Roma, e Lazio. Le due squadre giocano nello Stadio Olimpico, uno grande stadio. Quattro anni fa, sono andato allo Stadio Olimpico con mio padre per guardare una partita fra Roma e Catania. Molte persone nella città parlavano della partita perché era un evento importante. Siamo arrivati allo stadio due ore prima della partita. Nel parcheggio, ho comprato una sciarpa arancione e rossa, i colori della squadra. Fuori lo stadio, c'era molto rumore e dentro le canzoni dei tifosi erano forti.

Prima della partita, i tifosi gridavano i nomi dei giocatori. Dopo che hanno gridato i nomi dei giocatori, hanno cantato una canzone che si chiamava "Roma, Roma." È una canzone molto forte. Durante la partita i tifosi hanno cantato e gridato molto forte. Questo era molto emozionante.

Il giocatore più famoso di Roma è Francesco Totti. Totti ha quarant'anni e gioca con la squadra da venticinque anni. Totti è il capitano della Roma ed il suo soprannome è "il capitano eterno." Durante questa partita, Totti ha segnato due gol. I tifosi hanno cantato dopo ogni gol ed hanno gridato "C'è solo un capitano."

La Roma ha vinto la partita quattro a zero e dopo, i tifosi hanno cantato "Grazie Roma." I giocatori li hanno salutati. La partita era incredibile ed ho potuto sentire la passione nello stadio.

-Nick Molodov

The Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese offers two kinds of specialization in Italian Studies: a major in Italian Studies leading to the B.A. or B.A. with distinction and a minor in Italian Studies.

For information on becoming a major or a minor in Italian Studies, please contact Professor Enrico Cesaretti (efc4p@virginia.edu).



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