

La Vendemmia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

BELLO, NO?

- A chance to explore Tuscany.
- See exceptional works of art- whenever you want!
- Easy access to mass transportation that can take you all over Italy.
- New friends.

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KERRY IN ITALY

I spent this summer working at the Gori Collection as an intern. I was a tour guide (giving 3 hour tours in both English and Italian) and an administrative assistant. I lived in a two bedroom apartment along with the other intern, a girl from Canada. I usually worked 3-4 days a week and had the other couple days off to do as I pleased. Work days were usually about 4 or 5 hours long, so my afternoons were free to for shopping, getting dinners in town, or sightseeing in neighboring cities.

else we pleased. Because the villa and our apartment was up in the foothills of Tuscany, we had access to some spectacular views of Tuscany. Florence is only about a 45 minute train ride away

Working at the Collection was not overly challenging. Although the prospect of memorizing a 3 hour tour sounds daunting, within a week or two I felt confident when delivering the information both in Italian and English. I met many interesting people from all over Europe and from all different walks of life. Some were art enthusiasts, some were tourists, and some were professors and other intellectuals. Signor Gori was very generous and accommodating towards me and the other intern, and the director of the Collection, Miranda MacPhail, was an amazing resource when I had questions about anything, whether it was pertaining to work, our apartment, Italian culture, or anything else I could think of. Overall it was an amazing experience, and the opportunity to work and live in Italy for 3 months taught me more than I have learned in any other job. My appreciation and comprehension of Italian life and language has improved more than I could have imagined.

-Kerry Lapallo, '16



The Gori Collection in Tuscany

Located in the small town of Pistoia in the foothills of Tuscany, the entire Gori Collection is situated in the main Villa and throughout the surrounding 50 acre park. The apartment where I lived was located on the property as well, and the other intern and I were granted access to the art park at all hours. This meant that we were free to go for runs through the art park, read a book in the surrounding olive groves, or do whatever

from Pistoia, so I frequented that city most often. Other cities, such as Lucca, Pisa, Viareggio, Siena, and Prato are also easily accessible by train. Because there is an airport in Florence, I was able to fly down to Sicily for four days and also visit family in Palermo and Calabria.

ALL AROUND THE GORI COLLECTION



THE GORI INTERNSHIP IS CALLING!

"È stata un'esperienza di una vita. Usavo tutte le informazioni dalle mie lezioni ogni giorno in Italia, e potevo parlare con gli italiani su molti argomenti importanti. Ho avuto molte avventure in questi due mesi. Ho fatto la vendemmia a Celle, sono andata a Badia da Passignano, Vinci, Firenze, Bologna, Milano, e Viareggio, e ho conosciuto molte persone diverse. Ora, posso parlare in italiano ogni giorno sul Whatsapp (gli SMS internazionali), skype, e facebook con i miei amici italiani!! Spero di tornare in Italia ben presto." **Stefani Bell, Italian Studies and English, '14 (fall)**



Zoe Kemp was very busy at the Gori Collection..



Stefani Bell enjoyed her time in Italy.

"Interning at Celle transformed me from a reserved Italian speaker into a confident one. ... I learned as a tour guide of the Gori Collection how to cater my portrayal of the target information to each audience - be they kids, art aficionados, tourists, etc. By boasting that skill I was able to land my current job in a winery, where I must read audiences to gauge their wine knowledge, just as I had to gauge visitors' art knowledge at the Gori Collection." **Zoe Kemp, Italian Studies and Spanish, '13 (summer)**

"My summer at the Gori Art Collection is, to this day, one of the defining experiences of my life. As a current Master's candidate in Italian at UVA, I have the Gori internship to thank for my competency and confidence with the Italian language. When I arrived on the estate, ... my spoken Italian skills increased almost immediately. From the first week, I led Italian tourists through the site-specific art pieces, ... interacting directly with natives in their own language ... The ... location of the estate ... not only offers incredible views, but also unfettered access to the small Tuscan village of Santomato, a charming town whose residents were eager to meet and help a young American with her adjustment to a foreign country and language. Before applying to the Gori internship, I was a student of art history, and while I loved the history and symbolism of art, I had not yet felt a visceral appreciation for art (especially modern art). Being so deeply immersed in the collection, being responsible for the understanding and appreciation of guests, and being so physically in touch with the site-specific art pieces gave me an appreciation for the genre that I truly never expected." **Rachel Perry, Italian Studies and English, '13 (summer)**



Rachel Perry loves art!

ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP

Since 2009, the UVA Italian Studies program has been able to offer students the chance to spend either a summer (May-July) or early fall (Aug-Oct) working at the Gori Collection, located on the Fattoria di Celle estate, outside Pistoia in Italy's Tuscany region. <http://www.goricoll.it/> Founded by legendary entrepreneur and collector Giuliano Gori, the estate holds Italy's most expansive collection of site-specific art, commissioned from artists around the world.

Interns work under the guidance of Collection Manager and Curator, Ms. Miranda MacPhail. American-born and residing in Italy for the past 20+ years, Ms. MacPhail supervises varied intern tasks, among them giving tours of the collection, public relations, communications, and archival work.

-Adrienne Ward

THOUGHTS FROM MIRANDA MACPHAIL, COLLECTION CURATOR AND INTERN SUPERVISOR:

The benefits of living and working abroad leave an indelible print on the mind and character of a young student. Those who have had some overseas experience usually prove to be the most organized and flexible interns when they get here. Those who discover the experience through the Gori internship go home "transformed" by the feeling that there is nothing they cannot do (most empowering when they are starting a job search).

Having such intensive experience with so many different types of people (each visit lasts 4-5 hours) improves interns' ability to communicate with others (in 2 languages no less), is a boon to public speaking, not to mention an interesting psychological study of people's expectations of communication in general and of contemporary art in particular. After all these years I still always learn an enormous amount from our visitors.

Ours is such a tiny organization that students get a chance to do everything from the sublime to the ridiculous. I tend to give any responsible intern the more interesting tasks that make their time here more worthwhile. Sometimes these are projects more than just tasks: Rachel Perry undertook organizing the invitations for the 30th anniversary bash, Rachel Midura set up the first version of our archive scanning/cataloguing procedure. Also, through their language skills, students have direct access to Giuliano Gori, a key figure internationally in the arts. When he was still actively running his businesses, interns from 2002-2008 hardly ever saw him.

BRAND NEW MAJORS!

I am a double major in Foreign Affairs and Italian. After eight years of classroom experience in Italian, I studied abroad in Siena during the Spring 2014 semester. Beyond being the greatest semester of my life, it also helped lead me to choose Foreign Affairs over American Government as a major. I will also be studying abroad this Spring in Paris, France. I hope to learn French too!

Always interested in Italian, I did not think that I would choose to major in it. However, I am glad that I have. My love of the language and the culture only continues to grow.

Beyond the classroom, I love to play golf and follow calcio. When I'm not in Charlottesville (or Italy, or France), I call New Jersey home.

I look forward to completing my major in Italian and continuing to learn and experience the wonderful things the country and the language have to offer.

-Andrew Wells, '16



Andrew Wells in Florence



Nicole Hopper, '15

This fall, fourth-year student Nicole Hopper decided to join Andrew in the Italian Studies program. Nicole is also studying Art History at The University of Virginia. She is one of several Italian Studies majors who has decided to combine Italian with a related discipline for a double major. Welcome Nicole!

-The Editors

Connor Ellis also recently declared a major in Italian Studies. Connor is additionally working on a degree in Media Studies and he is also an alumnus of UVA's study abroad program in Siena. He is a fan of classic cinema and *The Sopranos*.

Ask him all about his time in Siena...he has some good stories.

-The Editors



Connor Ellis, '16



Author Sibilla Aleramo is analyzed in Rachel Perry's Thesis.



Stella Mattioli studies social trends on film.

On December 1, students and faculty in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese gathered for the annual MA student thesis celebration. This not-to-be-missed event allows MA students in the Italian Studies program to present their original research to friends, professors, and anyone else who might be curious about it.

This year's class of MA candidates discussed a wide range of topics, spanning different eras and media formats.

Stella Mattioli discussed how four recent Italian films represent important social issues in contemporary Italy, such as under-employment, immigration, racism, and sexuality.

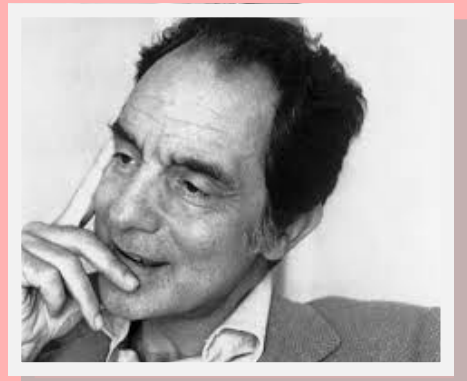
Stella's classmate Rachel Perry discussed the portrayal of suicidal women in literary works from the Middle Ages to the early 20th-century.

Finally, Jacob Shirley examined how novelist Italo Calvino's male protagonists suffer from a uniquely Italian variation on a developmental disorder known as "The Peter Pan Syndrome."

The presentations were followed by a reception organized by students in the SIP department.

Bravi ragazzi!

-Sarah Annunziato



Italo Calvino is Jacob Shirley's subject.

PROFESSOR NEWS!

Prof. Cesaretti spent his Thanksgiving break at the Department of Italian at the University of Toronto. He delivered a "Goggio lecture" on Italian futurism on Nov. 27 and, on Nov. 28, he participated as an external examiner in the dissertation defense of local PhD student Wanda Santini (*Le forme dell'irregolare. Per un profilo linguistico-testuale della narrativa di Tommaso Landolfi*).

-The Editors



Prof. Cesaretti gave a lecture on Futurism...



...at The University of Toronto.

SPRING PREVIEW

Spring is just around the corner and naturally, the Italian Studies program is already plotting and preparing for new activities. Next semester, students and friends of the program can look forward to the **Italian Coffee Hour with Dr. Benvegnù**. Dr. B. will host the coffee hour once a month to allow students an opportunity to polish their Italian in a relaxed and informal setting. Of course, there will be coffee and treats to make the experience all the better.

Speaking of treats, Dr. Calamita also plans to host **The First Annual Italian Cooking Contest**. Students of first and second-year language classes will master food and cooking terminology while competing, *Iron Chef*-style, for the title of best amateur cook in the Italian Studies program.

Keep an eye on *La Vendemmia* for more details on these new and exciting events. –The Editors.

1010 REFLECTIONS...THOUGHTS FROM THE STUDENTS OF ELEMENTARY ITALIAN I

«Amo studiare l'italiano perché la cultura italiana non è come nessun'altra»!

-Selin Uikuatam

«Io studio l'italiano perché è una bella lingua».

-Melissa Thomas

«Io studio l'italiano perché è una bella lingua».

-Claire Friedman

«Studio l'italiano perché è molto bello e la mia famiglia è italiana».

-Katherine Milazzo

«Studio l'italiano perché voglio vivere in Italia nel futuro».

-Clay Kulesza

«Studio l'italiano perché vorrei comunicare con la mia famiglia in Italia. Amo studiare le lingue».

-Larissa Converti

«Mi piace la lezione d'italiano perché è divertente ed interessante e l'italiano è una bella lingua».

-Shannon McGinnis

CIAO!



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CHI SIAMO?

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Virginia is for lovers of Italian!