

La Vendemmia

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

BELLO, NO?

- Two UVA students will represent the USA.
- UVA is one of only 30 schools with multiple winners.
- Countries from around the world will host pavilions.

UVA Italian Students Chosen for Expo Milano 2015

Zach Vogt and Callie Jacobs knew that graduating from UVA didn't mean that their love for Italian would have to fade. Instead, they both applied to represent the U.S. at Expo Milano 2015, a Universal Exposition event held in Italy this summer and fall.

Students from 90 schools were chosen, but with 120 spots available, UVA was one of at most 30 schools with multiple students selected!

The theme is *Nutrire il pianeta, Energia per la vita (Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life)*.



The Milan Expo

From May 1st to October 31st, countries from around the world will gather in Milan to display new technologies that can provide safe and healthy food

to underserved populations around the world. Zach and Callie will host visitors to the U.S. pavilion, and assist the Expo ambassadors, a group of world celebrities in every field, to communicate the importance of sustainability and environmental consciousness for the future of the planet.

Auguri Callie and Zach, e ci vediamo a Milano!

-Adrienne Ward

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CONGRATULAZIONI!



Iron Pastry Chefs: Dolcissimo Begins!

On March 27th, 2015, the Italian Studies program at UVA will celebrate the first annual “Dolcissimo” competition. “Dolcissimo” is a bake-off in which students compete to see who can prepare the most sumptuous of Italian sweets. But, as we learned from Dr. Francesca Calamita, “Dolcissimo” is not your typical cooking contest.



These miniature apple tarts are ready for their close-ups.

DUE CHIACCHIERE CON FRANCESCA CALAMITA...

Vendemmia: Can you tell us a little bit more about “Dolcissimo?”

FC: “Dolcissimo” is an event that combines Italian food, language, and culture in an authentic setting so that students can learn native Italian cooking traditions while practicing their language skills. There will be a group of Elementary-level students cooking original dessert recipes. Faculty members will judge them on their language as they cook. We will also have VIP judges to crown the best dessert.

Vendemmia: What can the students expect to learn from participating in “Dolcissimo?”

FC: They will learn practical vocabulary for cooking, food shopping, and also the historical and cultural traditions of each dessert. They will prepare authentic Italian sweets, and not just the more typical ones.

Vendemmia: How will the students prepare to take part in the competition?

FC: I will hold a special lecture on food and Italian language before spring break. In addition to this, the students will research their desserts and present each dish’s history to the judges. The students will also decorate their own aprons with an Italian theme. We will have a Facebook page with all of the information (www.facebook.com/DolcissimoItalianUVA).

Vendemmia: What will the prizes be like?

FC: We will give prizes for best dish, runner-up, best speaker, runner-up, and best apron.

Vendemmia: What will the prizes be?

FC: It’s a surprise!

(continued on the next page).

Vendemmia: Does this relate to your current research interests?

FC: Yes. I work in the area of Food Studies, particularly on the depiction of women's relationships with food. Although, I am also interested in linking Food Studies to the teaching of Italian language.

Vendemmia: Can you tell us about your upcoming book?

FC: Yes. My book will be published by Il poligrafo, which hosts a series on women's writing and Gender Studies. The book is entitled *Linguaggi dell'espressione femminile: disturbi alimentari, donne e scrittura dall'unità al miracolo economico*.

Vendemmia: One last question: what is your favorite Italian dessert?

FC: It's hard to choose, but if I have to: cannoli siciliani.



INFORMAZIONI DOLCI:

When: March 27th, 4-7 pm.

Where: The Lorna Sundberg
International Center

Who: Competitors from ITAL 1020



Mouths are Already Watering....

"Il mio dolce preferito è il tiramisù, ma mi piacciono tutti i dolci. Parteciperò a Dolcissimo perché mi piace molto cucinare (e anche perché spero di vincere!)." -Andrea Sandu, ITAL 1020

"Il mio dolce preferito sono i cannoli. Partecipo a 'Dolcissimo' perché amo i dolci e cucinare." -Kaia Henriksen, ITAL 1020



Students from UVA dined with locals in Tuscany.

This year, like most years, UVA students had the opportunity to spend J-Term in Italy: and this time 17 of them did. The students slept in a B&B in Prato, located a few miles from Florence, where they went many times to see museums, to do shopping and to visit the city's many monuments. As in past years, many activities were programmed for them so that the students could experience the "real Tuscany" for 15 days. Thanks to a collaboration with the city hall of Poggio a Caiano (Charlottesville's sister city, situated near Prato), a "dinner with locals" was also organized. The students could meet and talk with their Italian counterparts, while dining on pizza, pasta and typical Italian desserts.

Even the local media talked about it, and an article was published in the online version of "Il Tirreno", a local Prato publication.

-Stella Mattioli



Poggio a Caiano.

Were you unable to have a Tuscan adventure this J-term? Well, don't worry, there are still lots of opportunities to study abroad in Italy, either in the summer or fall. Please note the dates below:

March 1st: Deadline to apply for SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN FLORENCE OR SIENA.

April 1st: Deadline to apply for FALL STUDY ABROAD IN FLORENCE OR SIENA.

-The Editors

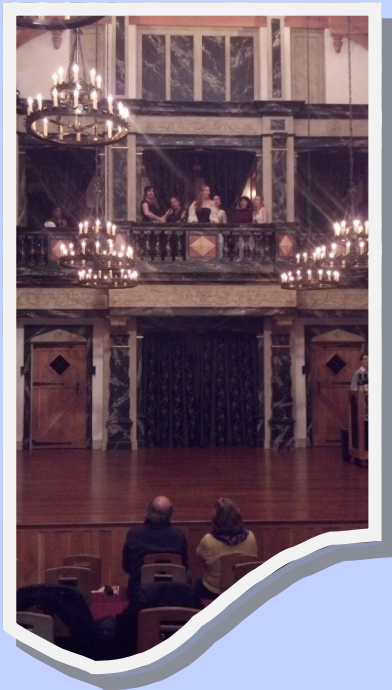
The Drama of Marriage on Stage!

On Thursday February 12 students in Prof.ssa Ward's graduate seminar (ITTR 7350 Early Modern Theater: Drama of Marriage) trekked "over the mountain" to the beautiful Blackfriars Theater in Staunton, to see an English play centered on the very topic of the seminar. Aphra Behn's 17th-century play *The Rover* combined nearly all the interests and predilections of the course and the students: an English play, set in Italy, starring Spanish nobility, and treating the ups and downs of matrimony! We got there in time for a pre-play lecture, then enjoyed a quick bite at Shenandoah Pizza around the corner, to be back for the play and the talk-back session. Thanks to the generosity of the Mead Foundation, play tickets were covered for the students. It's easy to say "I do" to outings as perfectly aligned to our academic aims as this one!

-Adrienne Ward



Students of "Early Modern Theater" saw their course's themes brought to life.



The play was *The Rover*.



Of course, they also had to eat.

Caffè Italia's Grand Opening...



Caffè Italia is a new opportunity for students of Italian and lovers of Italy to get together and practice Italian, while indulging in coffee and biscotti. *Caffè Italia* is a monthly meeting for students and faculty which takes place in the central stairs lounge, at the 4th floor of New Cabell Hall. Come and join us for a few minutes or the whole hour: ti aspettiamo!

-Damiano Benvegnù

The Italian Studies program has a new Facebook page where you can share, post, or simply enjoy Italian-related news and links! You are all encouraged to be part of the Italian Studies at UVA Facebook Page and share it with all your friends! -Damiano Benvegnù

Brand New Majors!



Nick Mattia

Nick Mattia is from Philadelphia, and is combining his Italian Studies major with a minor in Economics. In high school he would have liked to take Italian, to better connect with his Italian family background, but it wasn't offered. So he gutted it out with German (bravo!), then was especially glad to find out Italian was offered at UVA!

His Italian language got a boost when he spent last summer in Rome, doing a study abroad internship with a small Italian digital marketing company, BIZUP. Nick was one in a group of 40 students doing Italian internships through IES/Rome (check out the ISO website for more details), but the only student to make the digital connection. His four semesters of Italian came in handy, to communicate with the Italian university student who roomed w/ him and other American students in a Roman apartment. Nick's fondest memory of the experience: being sole translator and interpreter when his family visited and they made a trip to see relatives in Sicily. *Che fatica, e che meraviglia!*

More Majors!

Let's hear directly from Rebecca Ramdass: "I currently live in Winchester, Virginia but I am originally from Trinidad, an island in the West Indies. I plan to major in Psychology as well as Italian Studies. I really love Italian culture and think that Italian is a beautiful language. I took Spanish for four years and Latin for two years in high school. I really wanted to learn a new language when I came to UVA and I thought that it was the perfect opportunity to learn Italian. I love to play and watch all sports. I'm very passionate about running. I love to do volunteer work and plan events. I would like other Italian Studies majors to know that I'm very excited to work with other students who share a similar strong interest in the Italian language and culture." Viva l'italiano, Rebecca!



Rebecca Ramdass

Gabi Miano is from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Her family origins are Italian, and Italian culture played a big role in her life growing up. Language was not part of the picture, however, so when she had the option of choosing a language to study -- as early as 6th grade -- she happily chose Italian! She's been studying *la bella lingua* from then on, all through high school and now here at UVA. As far as sports, hobbies, passions, Gabi loves to run and write in her spare time. She is also very passionate about promoting healthy behavior and wellness, and is a member of ADAPT (the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team here at UVA). She is double majoring in Italian and Psychology, as she plans to pursue a career in clinical psychology. Benvenuta, Gabi!



Gabi Miano

On March 12th, Dr. Francesca Calamita will deliver a lecture entitled "Challenging Societal Expectations on Womanhood: Disorderly Eaters in Wanda Bontà's *Signorinette* (1938)" at New York University. Dr. Calamita will speak to NYU's Women in Italian group. In bocca al lupo! -The Editors

Dr. Sarah Annunziato and Prof. Francesco Fiumara, of Southeastern Louisiana University, have recently co-authored an article about the classic Italian television series *Carosello* for the March issue of *The Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies*. The issue commemorates the 90th anniversary of RAI, or Radiotelevisione Italiana, and includes a variety of articles on the evolution of television in Italy over the past century. Tanti auguri di buon compleanno, RAI! -The Editors

Professor News

CIAO!



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THE ITALIAN
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CHI SIAMO?

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Ringraziamo:

Francesca Calamita



Virginia is for lovers of Italian!