

La Vendemmia

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

BELLO, NO?

- The annual Garden Party honors all of our graduates.
- Two undergraduates win prizes for best essay!
- Nicole Hopper is awarded the Marie M. Giuliano Prize.
- 3 MA students share the Lola Pelliccia Prize.

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PARTYING LIKE IT'S 1999 IN PAVILLION VIII

The splendors of spring are many in Charlottesville, as anyone who lives here knows. One event that is especially beloved by all Friends of the Italian Studies Program at UVA is the annual Garden Party.

The Garden Party is held each April to honor students who have achieved excellence in the study of Italian. It also recognizes all those UVA denizens who are about to complete a major, minor, or MA in our discipline.

This year, the Italian Studies program awarded prizes to six students.

Peri Oxford, '18 and Italian Studies minor Gabriella Miano, '16, each received the Lola Pelliccia Essay Prize. Named in honor of beloved Italian Studies lecturer, Lola Pelliccia,

the award honors the best essays penned by students from the 1000-2000 and 3000-5000 language-levels. This year was especially noteworthy because Ms. Peri Oxford is one of the only 1020-level students to earn the prestigious prize.

In addition to the honors for best essay, fourth-year student Nicole Hopper received the Marie M. Giuliano award for overall excellence in the study of Italian.



Rachel Perry, MA 2015 and Prof.ssa Ward.

Finally, the Italian Studies program also recognized three graduating MA-level students with the Lola Pelliccia Graduate Student Award.

Stella Mattioli, Rachel Perry, and Jacob Shirley shared the honor in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Italian Studies program, and exceptional growth as both scholars and teachers of Italian.

The event also featured a live performance by Opera Viva, UVA's acclaimed student opera singers.

The Garden Party is made possible each year by generous donations from the Pelliccia family. *La V.* thanks them and all our wonderful students for making our party memorable.

-Sarah Annunziato

SCENES FROM PAVILLION VIII



Prof.ssa Ward awards the prizes.



A gift for Opera Viva



Cake was enjoyed by all.

THE INSIDE STORY OF: DOLCISSIMO II

On March 27, the first edition of *Dolcissimo*, an innovative experience in second language acquisition through cooking, organized by the Italian Studies Program at UVA, took place at the Lorna Sundberg International Center. Fourteen students of ITAL1020 competed at baking authentic Italian desserts while speaking only in Italian as part of their cultural research project.

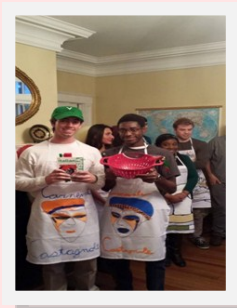
"Dolcissimo was an amazing experience which allowed me to become very deeply immersed into the Italian culture in a fun and interactive way with my peers. This event fostered by learning by allowing me to use the knowledge I had previously gained in the classroom setting but also to develop new knowledge throughout the course of the event. Additionally, Dolcissimo provided an outlet for friendly competition among the participants and ultimately we all became closer as friends and acquaintances on account of the competition." -Chantal Carty

The seven groups of contestants - who also designed their own Italian-themed aprons - had to select a recipe, research its cultural origins, and bake delicious cakes and cookies for a panel of VIP judges, while the staff of the Italian Program rated their use of the language throughout the evening. Meanwhile, ten elementary Italian students were responsible for documenting everything on film as part of their cultural video assignment.

Dr Francesca Calamita, who organised the event with the support of Associate Professor Adrienne Ward, Associate Professor Enrico Cesaretti, Dr. Sarah Annunziato, Dr. Damiano Benvegnù and TAs Stella Mattioli, Rachel Perry and Jacob Shirley, says the contest was a huge success: "It was amazing to see our students having so much fun with the language they are learning and using Italian outside the classroom in completely authentic ways."

In 2012 and 2013 Dr. Calamita co-organized *Parla Come Mangi* [Eat Like You Speak], a second language acquisition and cooking contest assessment method, with her colleagues at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, where she had the opportunity to experiment with this highly successful project before exporting the format to UVA.

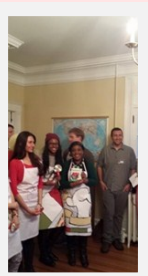
The Italian Studies program at UVA looks forward to many more years of baking and competing for the title of Iron Pastry Chef, Italian-Style.
-Francesca Calamita



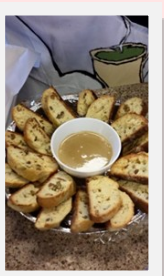
1st prize winners, Kevin O'Boiley and Aaqil Abdullah.



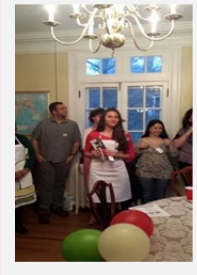
Their desert, Castagnole.



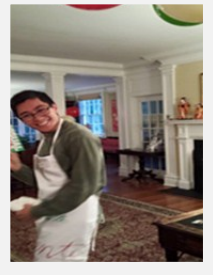
Runners up Chantal Carty & Soyin Nibbs.



Cantucci al pastaccho and white chocolate.



Andreea Sandu won for best use of Italian.



Christian Pinto also won for best use of Italian.

**The Hills of Charlottesville
are Alive with the Sounds
of Dante!**



Arielle Saiber

In March Arielle Saiber (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/faculty/a/asaiber/>), Associate Professor of Italian at Bowdoin College, gave a lively talk on Dante in Popular Culture. Prof.ssa Saiber spoke about her website, Dante Today (<http://research.bowdoin.edu/dante-today/>), which provides an archive of references to Dante and his works in popular and contemporary culture, of the twentieth century and beyond. Dante "sightings" and "citations" range from the cursory to the extensive, and vary from a place of superficial knowledge of Dante and his works, to deep familiarity with them. Un grandissimo applauso per Dante e la prof.ssa Saiber!
-Deborah Parker



CAFFÈ ITALIA TURNS 1 (SEMESTER)!

In February of 2015, Caffè Italia was born to the Italian Studies program at The University of Virginia. Caffè Italia brought great pride and joy to the program for its stated goal of providing all lovers of the Italian language with a relaxed atmosphere in which to practice their Italian over a cup of coffee and a plate of biscotti. Taking place once a month in New Cabell Hall, Caffè Italia brought together students of all levels, from beginner to graduate throughout the spring semester, in a shared language-learning experience.

The Caffè Italia project was conceived by Dr. Damiano Benvegnù, lecturer in Italian Studies and lover of fine coffee. The Caffè is definitely the place to be if you are a lover of coffee and Italy. We hope to celebrate many more of its birthdays!

-Sarah Annunziato

A BRAVE NEW WORLD OF TEACHING COMES TO UVA ITALIAN COURSES

Childhood is Calling Everyone

This spring, students who signed up for ITAL 3460, "Growing Up Italian-Style: Children's Culture," expected to read and learn about children's books from Italy. Well, the class got a little more than it bargained for.

Students of ITAL 3460 were asked to put what they learned in the classroom to use in the real world. Throughout the term, pairs of undergraduates visited local schools and daycares to learn how Italian approaches to early-childhood education have influenced American methodology. They then reported their findings to their classmates in a series of presentations.

If that were not fun enough for them, they also had the opportunity to interview author Claudio Rinaldi (*L'Arcobaleno delle favole*) via Skype after reading some of his work. Students were especially curious to understand the creative process behind the writing of fairytales.

They later provided a detailed report on the background of the two central characters in Paolo Giordano's novel *La solitudine dei numeri primi* to Dr. Rachel A. Annunziato, Fordham University Associate Professor of Psychology, and received a professional assessment of both protagonists to discuss in class.

Finally, students learned all about the power of children in shaping Italian television in the 20th-century during a presentation by Francesco Fiumara, Associate Professor of Spanish and Italian at Southeastern Louisiana University. Prof. Fiumara's talk prepared students to write subtitles for episodes of *Carosello*, a popular program from the Golden Age of Italian television.

All these activities served to teach UVA's Italian majors and minors about the practical applications of their studies to a variety of real-life situations.

Who knows: the next Maria Montessori might just emerge from the ranks of UVA's program in Italian Studies.

-Sarah Annunziato

Siena on the Rivanna

A new initiative this semester joined language classes on-grounds with those at UVA's study abroad program in Siena! The Siena Blog Project allowed students in both places to team up and post -- in Italian-- to a common blog. Photos, links, and lots of comments covered topics as varied as music and museums, from school systems to Easter to wine to TV to coffee customs. Students were encouraged to craft their posts in the form of small cross-cultural presentations or analyses of a specific aspect of daily life as lived in Charlottesville/US and in Siena/Italy. In addition to offering insights about cultural similarities and differences between Italy and the US, students from other countries, such as China, Peru, and Nicaragua made fascinating comparisons between Sienese or Italian ways and those of their home environments.

ITAL 1020 and 2020 students in Siena and in C-Ville got to know each other in an introductory whole class Skype session at the start of the semester. Another session at the end of the term let everyone discuss the completed blog, and answer questions about particular posts. The Skype meetings let students experience the teachers in both locations as well. Siena language instructors Ida and Christina queried on-grounds students about their posts, while UVA teachers Francesca and Damiano did the same for the students studying in Italy.

All in all, the Siena Blog Project was a great success. On-grounds students enjoyed working with their Siena counterparts, and hearing directly about life there. The blog allowed for plenty of creativity and personal interest, and thus generated lots of writing in Italian. Future plans may include expanding the project to more Italian language sections, urging more diversity in post formats (audio, video), and organizing shorter, more frequent Skype sessions to better meet the project's aims of collaboration, communication, and community.

-Adrienne Ward



Skyping with Siena.



Calimero, from
Carosello.



The Sienese talk with C-Ville.

FAREWELL, FANTASTIC MA STUDENTS!



Rachel Perry



Stella Mattioli



Jacob Shirley

Our three graduate students, Rachel Perry, Jacob Shirley and Stella Mattioli, successfully passed the oral and written part of the Italian comprehensive exams in March 2015 and completed their MA theses. They will happily graduate on May 16, 2015.

During the academic year 2014-15 they were active with their coursework, elementary & intermediate language teaching, and research.

In December 2014, Rachel, Stella and Jacob presented an early version of their MA theses to an audience of faculty and fellow graduate students at the annual "Italian graduate presentation" event.

Additionally, Rachel attended the 2014 PAMLA conference in Riverside, California in October. She presented in the Comparative Literature section, with a paper called "Into the Abyss: Dante's *Inferno* in *Under the Volcano*." Rachel received a graduate student scholarship from PAMLA to attend the conference. Rachel is also completing a certificate in Comparative Literature. Supervised by Prof. J. Wicke (English) and Prof. Cesaretti, she wrote an additional 20-page thesis for this purpose ("Unsolvable Realities: The Modernist Plurilingualism of Carlo Emilio Gadda and James Joyce") and she underwent an oral exam in which she answered questions on her essay.

Stella attended the November 2014 ACTFL Conference in San Antonio, TX where she presented a paper entitled: "How Can Students be Motivated in the Use of L2 for Speaking?"

Finally, Jacob participated in the "Short Fuse Conference" at the University of Pittsburgh in October 2014, and delivered a paper entitled "Tyrants, Tricksters, and Brazen Bulls: Representations of the Lion and the Fox from Dante to Machiavelli." He also did an excellent job as the Language Assistant in the Italian section of the Shea House.

Finally, given their overall positive performance, Rachel, Stella and Jacob shared the 2015 Lola Pelliccia graduate prize in Italian which was awarded to them at our annual Garden Party.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of them!

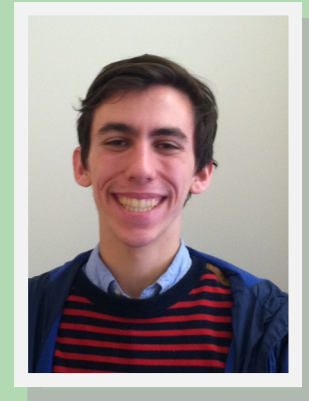
-Enrico Cesaretti

AND NOW, SOME NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS...

New Majors!
By Adrienne
Ward

NATHAN MAIZELS

Nathan declared the Italian Studies major out of a pure love for Italy. Maybe his love of coffee is also at the heart of it, along w/ his love of music. Nathan plays the bass and DJs for WTJX. He is from Richmond, and plans to pair the Italian major with Biology. Motivation for continuing his study of the language and culture? A possible future in Italy, working a job, married to someone who speaks Italian, and as he puts it: "pretty much a normal life, but in Italian." *Ma certo!*



Nathan Maizels



Francesca Trombetta

FRANCESCA TROMBETTA

Francesca is from Pleasantville, NY, where she was lucky enough to have Italian taught in the schools. She began studying the language in the sixth grade! "When I was younger, my grandmother used to sing Italian songs to me and teach me little words in broken Italian. When I learned that the language was being offered at my middle and high schools, I knew I wanted to study it and one day become fluent." Like Nathan Maizels, she is double majoring in Italian and Biology, and is also a pre-med student. She's partaken in Alternative Spring Break, performing service work in needy communities, and has also led a group doing environmental conservation work. Lacrosse, landscape painting and reading fill in the spaces when she's not practicing Italian

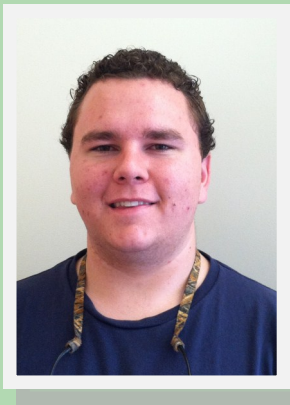
8, (as in new
majors and
minors), is
great!

ELLEN THOMAS

Ellen hails from Guildford, in the United Kingdom. She's been to Italy quite often for family vacations, owing to her mother's love for the country (and her decision years back to specialize in Italian for the British A-level exams!). In high school Ellen studied French and German, but now she's focused on Italian, which she's combining with a Media Studies major. She's on the UVA varsity swimming and diving teams, and loves sports -- participating and spectating! Wonder if she's ever attended an Italian *partita di calcio*?



Ellen Thomas



TYLER TERENZI

Tyler declared the Italian minor in view of his ties to his dad's family and their Italian origins. A goal is to one day be able to go to Italy and really understand the language and culture. "My perfect Italian scenario would probably be socializing in a restaurant or pub in Italy and being able to share stories from back home in the United States with the locals. I would be able to tell them all about how great my college experience in America has been, and I would be able to listen to and comprehend anything they would share with me." Tyler's from Tampa, where he first developed a love for favorite sports like golf, frisbee, basketball and football. He plans to declare an Economics major in the fall.

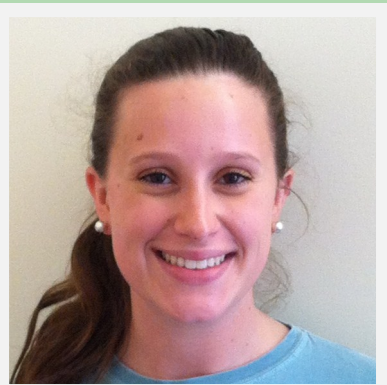
Tyler Terenzi

ALI ZWICKER

Ali will combine her Italian Studies major w/ French, doubling up on two beautiful languages! She first fell in love with Italy on a family trip when she was in high school, where she says "I love the culture, the food, and the sound of the language." She's learned a bit of the language w/ her father, who studied in Rome and spent time together w/ Ali listening to Italian language CDs. Thankfully she's in our classes now, because those study sessions with her dad usually ended in "giggle fits because we sounded so ridiculous." She comes to UVA from Canada, Victoria, BC to be precise, and is currently on UVA's rowing team. *Viva il canottaggio!*



Ali Zwicker



CHRISTINA IOVINO

Christina will pair her Italian Studies major with Foreign Affairs. Her interest in Italian stems from being half-Italian (on her father's side), and a desire to know more about her own culture and language. Like Francesca, Christina knew some words and phrases from listening to her grandmother and father. She sees herself one day in Italy, "speaking with other Italians while enjoying the Italian scenery." She's from McLean, VA, loves traveling, and is a seasoned golfer as well as a passionate ice hockey fan.

Christina Iovino

NATE SILVESTRI

Nate has an immediate mission behind his Italian Studies major declaration: his father's family is from Mercogliano, outside of Naples, and there is a plan in the works to honor Nate's dad by giving him the key to that Italian city. Since his dad doesn't speak Italian (his own father never taught him), he's entrusted Nate with the communications and translation part of the upcoming arrangements. Nate says he'd "love to travel with him for the ceremony and to be his personal translator." In the meantime, this student from Charleston, South Carolina will double major in Biology. Nate speaks some Spanish, and enjoys fishing and swimming -- in fact he's a team member of the Water Polo club. He's also involved with UVA's Camp Kesem, a summer camp for kids who have had a family member with cancer.



Nate Silvestri



SYDNEY MORALES

Sydney is minoring in Italian Studies, with a major in Psychology. The beauty of the spoken Italian language, along with its rich culture, drew her to the minor. She has studied Latin, as early as elementary school, so that should give her a clear boost with her Italian. She also has taken French and Chinese. Sydney is on UVA's competitive Indian fusion dance team, and leads Alethia, a college Christian ministry founded recently by her church. She is from Ellicott City, Maryland.

Sydney Morales

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

ZOE KEMP, '14

I'm finishing up my first year as a PhD student in Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture at the University of Southern California. The program is divided into various tracks, and I am on the Comparative Media and Culture track, within which I specialize in Spanish and Italian studies. This year, I have explored my interest in translation via the English poems (and their Italian translations) of Italian poet Amelia Rosselli, and next year I will be taking a guided research course focusing on translation and Italian poetry. I have been hired to spend this summer reading and cataloging a collection of letters in Italian recently acquired by the Special Collections Library at USC.



Zoe Kemp



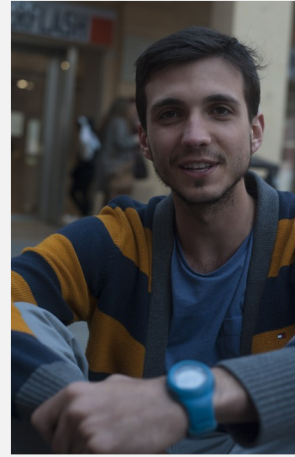
Rachel Midura

RACHEL MIDURA, '13

After interning at Greene County Historical Society and the Gori Art Collection last year, I am enjoying my first year as a History PhD student at Stanford University. My work deals with the Early Modern Mediterranean, looking at the interaction between Italian mercantile, diplomatic, and publishing news networks. I am conducting my own digital humanities project on the Venetian Interdict (1606-1607) as well as contributing to the creation of a database of Galileo's correspondence. I am looking forward to spending this summer studying intensive Turkish at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul!

My name is Eric Johnson and I was a member of the class of 2014, graduating in both Italian Studies and Economics. After I finished my time at UVa, I knew that I wanted to go abroad somewhere for a period of time before trying to find work at home, and I was deciding between several different places around the world. Ultimately, my love of all things Italian drew me back and I've been here since July. I did a TEFL Certification program in Florence and after some frantic job searching I found a job as an English teacher at a language school in Bologna. I started back at the beginning of September and it's been great ever since. During the daytime, we teachers go into different companies around Bologna to give lessons to their employees, and then during the evenings we teach classes at the school for any adults who want to come and learn. It's fun teaching adults because they are all people who are very motivated to learn. They're very eager to improve, either because they want to or have to for work, and so they hang on every word you say, which makes me feel much more appreciated! Beyond my work, I live right in the city center with three wonderful Italians, all students at the University of Bologna. The university has a major presence here and so it's really fun place for young people to live.

As great as it is here, I do constantly miss home and UVA, and I hope to stop by Charlottesville once I'm back in the United States and say a quick hello to the Italian department!



Eric Johnson

BRITTANY SMITH, '14

Brittany Smith writes to tell us that she was just accepted into the Creative Writing MA program at The University of New Hampshire! Congratulazioni Brittany, and we look forward to reading your first novel (maybe it could, you know, take place in Italy?)!

UVA ITALIAN PROFESSORS TRAVEL THE WORLD!



Prof. Cesaretti

Prof. Enrico Cesaretti was one of two keynote speakers at the University of Toronto's Graduate Student Conference, *Unhuman Relations/Relazioni Disumane*, held from May 5-7. Che interessante! -The Editors



Toronto



Berlin



Prof.ssa Parker

Prof.ssa Parker also did some globetrotting this spring when she travelled to Berlin to participate at the Renaissance Society of America's Annual Meeting. Prof.ssa Parker presented a paper entitled, "Dan Brown's *Dante*," which was related to the subject of her recent book, *Inferno Revealed: From Dante to Dan Brown*, co-authored with Prof. Mark Parker of James Madison University.

-The Editors

UN ANNO INDIMENTICABILE



CONGRATULAZIONI AI
NOSTRI STUDENTI DEL

MA:

Rachel Perry

Stella Mattioli

Jacob Shirley



CONGRATULAZIONI AI
MAJOR DI ITALIANO:

Jon Babineau

Carolina De Olazarra

Sarah DeVita

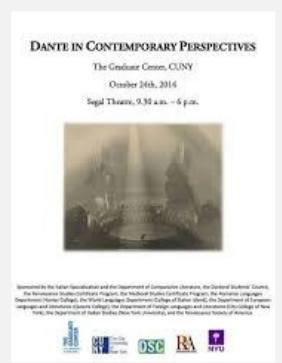
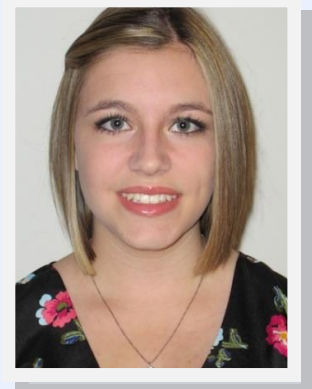
Nicole Hopper

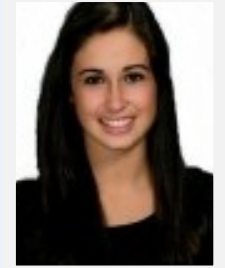
Ryan Iaquinto

Ronald Middleton

Casey O'Reilly

Zachary Vogt





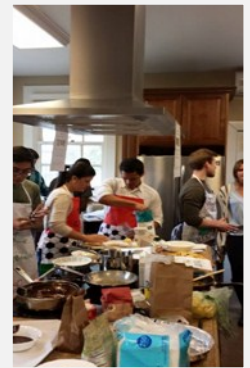
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Alyssa D'Angelo

Callie Jacobs

Cesar Rivera

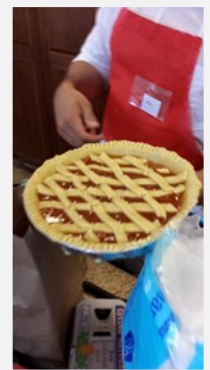


**CONGRATULAZIONI AI NOSTRI NUOVI
LETTORI NEL LORO PRIMO ANNO A
UVA:**

Dott. Damiano Benvegnù

&

Dott.ssa Francesca Calamita



CIAO!



THE NEWSLETTER OF
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CHI SIAMO?

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The Lorna Sundberg Center

The Pelliccia Family

Arielle Saiber



Virginia is for lovers of Italian!