



Dolcetto o Scherzetto?

Cari lettori e care lettrici,

Fall is finally in full swing, and with the arrival of cooler temperatures and autumn colors also comes news of important events in the Italian Studies Program.

Last month, we hosted the first instalment of our *Alumni Speaker Series* during which we welcomed some of our graduates in Italian Studies back to grounds to discuss how a degree from our program has helped them in their professional lives.

But that was far from the only interesting activity for Italophiles to enjoy last month. From 23-27 October Charlottesville once again hosted The Virginia Film Festival, which featured two Italian-language entries: *Coming Home* (2018) and *The Traitor* (2019).

There was also something for you foodies out there as well! Students of ITAL 1010, led by Ms. Hiromi Kaneda and Ms. Stella Mattioli, participated in a series of cooking classes and themed dinners at the Lorna Sundberg International Center. And, because it would not be fair to leave them out, ITAL 2010 students also attended a museum exhibit in Washington DC.

To learn all about these, and other exciting events, spend some time with this November edition of *La Vendemmia*.

-Enrico Cesaretti, Director of Undergraduate Program in Italian



"In Italy, November begins with two important holidays for Catholics: la festa di ognissanti (1 November) and il giorno dei morti (2 November). The first of these commemorates all the saints of the Catholic church, while the second is an occasion to remember and venerate departed friends and relatives."

-The Editors

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Welcome Back!

The Italian Studies Program has welcomed many majors and minors over the years. Some of these students have gone on to pursue graduate studies in Italian, work in Europe, or apply for prestigious Fulbright Scholarships. Wherever their paths eventually lead, they always find their way back to grounds to share stories of their post-graduate lives with us.

And so it was on 18 October, when the first annual *Alumni/ae Speaker Series* took place. The Departments of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and French, in conjunction with the Alumni Office, hosted the event at the Language Commons. It featured several guests from both the Italian and French Studies Programs who discussed what their study of foreign languages has helped them to accomplish in the professional world.

Educating New Generations

Our first speaker was Zachary Vogt. Zachary was raised in Loudoun County, Virginia. After attending Northern Virginia Community College, he transferred to the University of Virginia in fall 2013, where he immediately found a home in the Italian Studies community. He has great memories of the enriching discussions that went on in Professor Cesaretti's Italian Pop Culture course, loved playing bocce on the lawn gardens, and believes he reached the pinnacle of his brief acting career while reciting Dante's 28th canto in full costume for his classmates and professors. Through the support of the Italian faculty, he applied for and was selected to serve as a Student Ambassador at EXPO Milano 2015, a world's fair on sustainable agriculture and food technology. For three months he interacted with thousands of Italians, seeking to recast the image of the United States as a leader in the sphere of nutrition and food security. Following this transformative experience, he decided to continue his studies at New York University in Florence with a Master's degree in Italian. His thesis project was based around the demographic crisis in the Bel Paese and how Italian society is being reshaped because of it. Zachary is entering his third year as an ESL teacher with Chesterfield County and he is currently working towards a career in education administration.

Food For Thought

Zachary was joined by Jessica Botta. Jessica is the Director of Training and Culinary Development for Fabio Trabocchi Restaurants in Washington, D.C., which includes Fiola DC, Fiola Miami, Fiola Mare, Sfogolina Pasta House (three locations), and Del Mar.

Her culinary career has brought her into the kitchens of several James Beard award-winning Italian chefs: Chef Roberto Donna at his landmark Washington, D.C., restaurant, Galileo; and Chef Fabio Trabocchi, at his award-winning Maestro in the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, Virginia, and Michelin-starred Fiamma in New York City. She got her first taste of the industry working with Chef Craig Hartman at the Clifton Inn outside Charlottesville, Virginia.

Jessica was the chef-coordinator of the School of Italian Studies at the International Culinary Center (formerly FCI) in New York City, from 2008 until 2012, working with dean Cesare Casella. During that time she competed on Iron Chef America, participated in the Sfogolino d'Oro, a pasta-making competition in Bologna, Italy, and coordinated editorial production, photography, food and prop styling for Chef Casella's book, *The Fundamental Techniques of Classic Italian Cuisine*, nominated for a 2013 James Beard Award.

She is on the board of Culinary Corps, a service organization designed for culinary professionals and chairs the grants committee of Les Dames d'Escoffier's Washington DC chapter. She is a 1996 graduate of the University of Virginia.

The event provided students with fascinating insights into how the study of a foreign language can benefit them for years to come. The Italian Studies Program hopes to repeat the experience again soon. To find out more, keep an eye on *La Vendemmia*.

-Deborah Parker, with Zachary Vogt and Jessica Botta



Jessica Botta ('96) speaks to Italian Students.

Coming Soon...

On 28 August, I traveled from my home in Arlington, VA to Charlottesville to participate in UVA's Consulting and Strategy Conference in Bryant Hall at Scott Stadium. As a Senior Consultant in Deloitte's Government and Public Services, I was there to engage with students from all majors and all years interested in consulting careers and represent Deloitte Consulting.

However, I had an ulterior motive; to have coffee with Prof.ssa Deborah Parker, my favorite professor from UVA. As an undergraduate Italian major, I truly valued the time I spent learning about "Dante's Italy" in 2013 and the historical context through which his cantos were written. As an undergrad, I wasn't able to visit Italy because of my summer Army ROTC commitments. Post-graduation, I can now say I've been to Italy several times and even visited the Dante statue in Verona.

Although my career is slightly different than the typical Italian major, I still find what I learned in the classroom exciting!. I look forward to speaking more about it with UVA students at the Alumni/ae speaker series.

-Christopher Banks



Prof.ssa Parker & Christopher Banks.

Buon Appetito!

Thanks to the Thrive Grant from the Center for Teaching Excellence, Hiromi Kaneda and Stella Mattioli organized a series of Italian dinners for their ITAL 1010 students. The dinners are taking place over the course of the semester, and the students who are participating are learning how to cook gnocchi, ravioli, risotto and tagliatelle from scratch, all while talking in Italian and improving their skills!

The dinners are taking place at the Lorna Sundberg International Center, where the students have a whole kitchen for cooking and a dining room and a patio for eating.

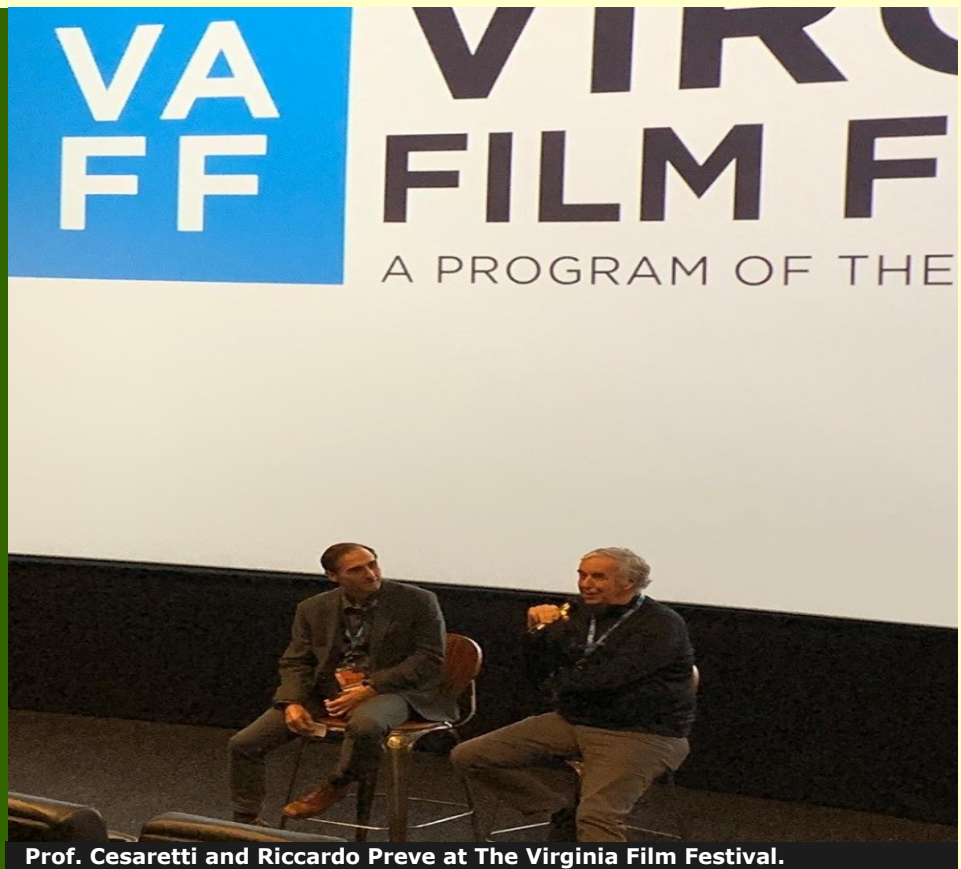
For the first dinner, which took place on 11 October, the students had the honor of cooking with a special guest: signora Franca, who was in Charlottesville for a vacation and shared her recipes for gnocchi with those who participated.

Hiromi and Stella are already thinking about the next grant and what they could do with it... maybe a trip to New York?

-Stella Mattioli



ITAL 1010 students learn to make gnocchi from scratch.



Prof. Cesaretti and Riccardo Preve at The Virginia Film Festival.

Ciak!

Every fall residents of Charlottesville look forward the annual Virginia Film Festival. This year, the festival was especially exciting for the Italian Studies Program because it featured not one, but two movies about the boot-shaped country.

The first was the documentary *Coming Home*, directed by Riccardo Preve. In October of 2014, Mr. Preve led a diving expedition to Barra Musa Kebir to recover the World War II submarine, Macalle. The Macalle sank in 1940, tragically costing the life of one crewman, Carlo Acefalo. Acefalo's remains were left on the island of Barra Musa Kebir in an unmarked grave.

Mr. Preve's crew set out to locate the sailor's final resting place and the remnants of his ship. *Coming Home* chronicles their amazing journey. The documentary appeared at The Virginia Film Festival on 24 October, followed by a discussion moderated by our director, Prof. Enrico Cesaretti.

On 27 October, lovers of Italian cinema enjoyed another entry at the festival, Marco Bellocchio's *The Traitor*. This crime drama recounts the real-life story of Tommaso Buscetta, a former Mafioso who decided to provide evidence to Italian authorities which was instrumental in prosecuting several high-ranking members of the criminal syndicate.

The Traitor's Sunday evening screening featured a brief introduction by Prof.ssa Annunziato, and was well-attended by many avid moviegoers.

For more information on the Virginia Film Festival and its many activities, please visit their website: <https://virginiafilmfestival.org/>. In the meantime, if you missed these movies, don't worry, they will be coming soon to a streaming platform near you!

-Sarah Annunziato

A Day at the Opera

Ms. Kaneda's class was not the only group of students to have an adventure this fall. Prof.ssa Parker's students from Advanced Italian I also enjoyed a trip off-grounds.

Several of them attended a performance of Puccini's *Turandot*, at the Paramount Theater in downtown Charlottesville. The Paramount showed *Turandot* as part of its *Met Live in HD* series, which has been a popular destination for Italian classes at UVA for the past decade.

After the show, the students enjoyed cappuccino and pastries at Marie Bette, because you cannot see an entire opera without having a snack afterwards.

The trip was made possible by a generous donation of tickets from Prof. David Gies, and a contribution from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese provided by our fearless leader, Prof. Sam Amago.

Although *Turandot* is over, the Paramount will host a few more operas later this month. Check their website for more information: <https://www.theparamount.net/about-the-paramount-theater/>

- Sarah Annunziato



Hiromi Kaneda and her ITAL 2010 class took the nation's capital by storm at the National Art Gallery.

Presenting: Italian Art!

This fall, Ms. Hiromi Kaneda was selected as a Mead Endowment Honored Faculty for 2019-2020. Thanks to this grant, she pursued an excited new project with her Intermediate-level students. Here, she describes what they accomplished together.

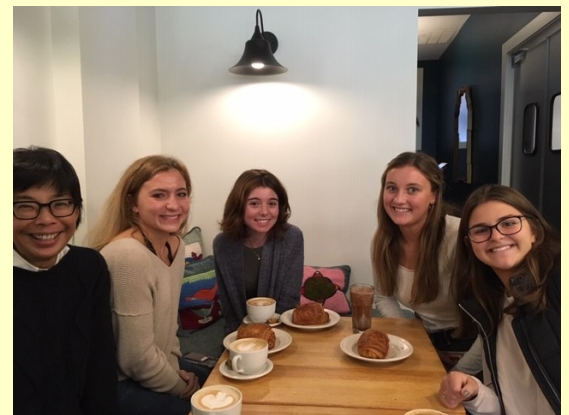
My Dream Idea for my Italian 2010 class (Intermediate Italian I), which I am currently teaching in Fall 2019, was to bring the entire class to Washington DC and to spend a day at the National Gallery of Art. But, before they could go to the museum, the class had some tasks to accomplish:

1. They needed to browse the National Art Gallery website and find out about the Italian paintings, sculptures and decorative art that make up the museum's various exhibits.
2. Next, the most difficult part: picking one piece art and preparing an oral presentation of 8-10 minutes in Italian about it.
3. At the National Art Gallery, each of them acted as the Tour Guide for the specific work of art that they picked. The students become the experts on their painting, sculpture or piece of decorative art.

I believe that this experience of presenting a work of art in front of their classmates in Italian, outside the usual classroom setting, has been very fruitful for the students for various reasons: they immersed themselves in the Italian language, culture and art in a real environment that it is not the University. It gave them the opportunity to see all the works of art in person and also share their knowledge about them in Italian. This exercise enhanced and reinforced their language skills.

Would you like to know where we will go next? Keep reading *La Vendemmia*.

- Hiromi Kaneda



Prof.ssa Parker and her students at Marie Bette.

The Honored Society

The Italian Honor Society at UVA is getting bigger!

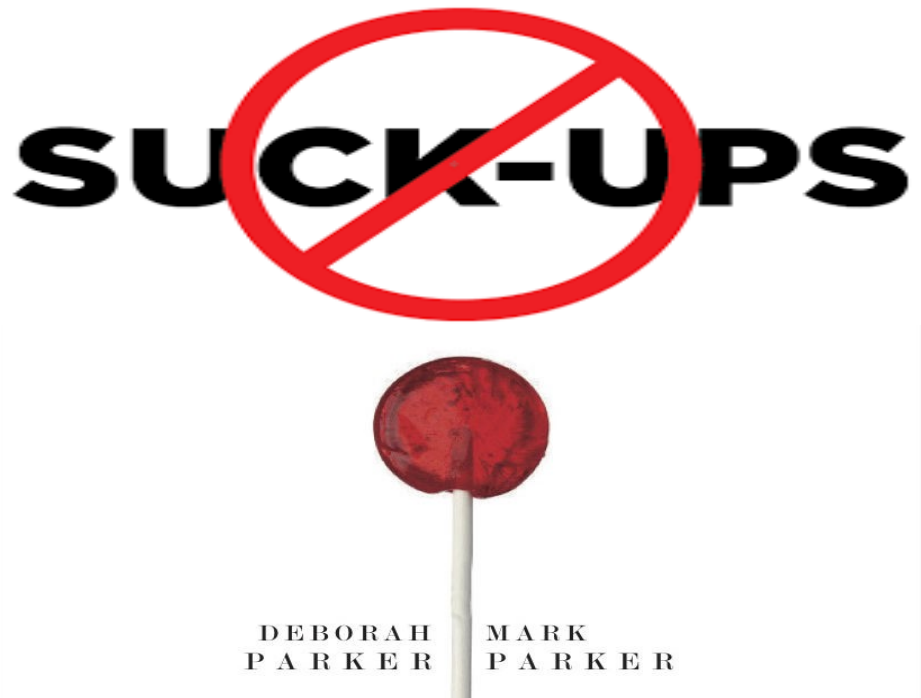
New members will be inducted this semester, on 15 November. They (along with the current members and our President, Adelaide Brooks) are already actively organizing the Caffè Italiano and the events for the spring (including the famous Gelato Festival on the Lawn).

The new members for this semester are:

- ◆ Halley Ray
- ◆ Benjamin Trombetta
- ◆ Camryn Fischer
- ◆ Mila Ho
- ◆ Christina Kapralos
- ◆ Felicia Pezza
- ◆ Ciara Tisdale-Vakos

If you would like to join in the future, please contact Ms. Stella Mattioli (sm6dn@virginia.edu) for more information.

- Stella Mattioli



Sycophancy is taking on new dimensions in our current political climate.

Prof.ssa Parker, CNN Correspondent?

If you happened to be visiting cnn.com on Wednesday, 23 October, you may have noticed a familiar byline there. That is because Prof.ssa Parker, along with her collaborator, Prof. Mark Parker, published an opinion piece about sycophancy in the age of Donald Trump.

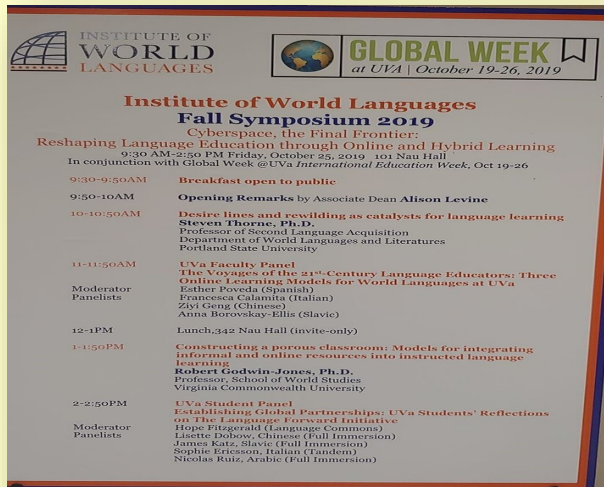
The article stems from research that they conducted for their recent book, *Sucking Up: A Brief Consideration of Sycophancy*.

In their CNN article, the authors consider the many ways in which sycophancy—from simple flattery to outright lying as a way of ingratiating oneself into Donald Trump's inner circle, have become hallmarks of our present political era. They also imagine how this type of behavior may have been viewed in an earlier time, through an analysis of Dante Alighieri's treatment of flatterers in his famous poem, *The Divine Comedy*.

The article points out that while, ultimately, in our digital age, the nature of flattery might be changing (after all, there are so many new technologies available for sucking up purposes), in the end, Dante might still be right: it is harmful to both the intended target and the broader society.

To read the whole essay click here: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/23/opinions/in-trump-world-flattery-will-get-you-everywhere-and-nowhere-parker/index.html>

-Sarah Annunziato



UVA foreign language students will continue to boldly go where no other people have gone before, thanks to the Institute of World Languages.

Cyberspace: The Final Frontier

One of the many autumn traditions that excites everyone in the Italian Studies Program is the annual Institute of World Languages Fall Symposium. This year, the event took place on 25 October in Nau Hall.

The one day conference explored the use of digital media and web-based technologies in foreign language instruction. It featured talks on ways to expand the learning process beyond the four walls of the classroom, as well as panels with both faculty and students.

Our own Prof.ssa Calamita presented on The Language Forward Initiative during the faculty panel. The Language Forward Initiative is a project sponsored by the Institute of World Languages and the Jefferson Scholars Foundation that creates virtual exchanges between UVA students of various foreign languages and either students of English, or tutors from institutions around the world.

Later in the day, Sophie Ericsson, a student who participated in the LFI during her time in the Italian Studies Program, reflected on her own experience chatting with an English learner in Milan.

The main lesson that participants in the symposium learned is that the future of language learning is bold and exciting at UVA!

- Sarah Annunziato

Songs of Activism

This summer as Prof.ssa Parker began to prepare for her Advanced Italian I (ITAL 3010) course, she launched a quest to learn more about Italian songs. One of the ones she discovered is *Bella Ciao*, an anthem of the Italian Resistance during the waning days of World War II.

While *Bella Ciao* became a popular refrain for anti-Fascist activists in Italy in the 1940s, today it has been appearing in some new places.

It serves as the theme song for the acclaimed Netflix series *Money Heist (Casa de Papel)* and has also been popular in Turkey for the past decade.

Since 2009 many Kurdish artists have been re-purposing the song to support their own resistance movement against a repressive government.

Prof.ssa Parker shared her findings on this fascinating subject with a recent article in *La Voce di New York*.

To learn more, read all about it here: <https://www.lavocedinewyork.com/en/arts/2019/11/03/bella-ciao-a-kurdish-anthem-made-in-italy-and-become-a-global-sensation/>

- Sarah Annunziato



Bella Ciao has been a popular song of resistance in Italy .

Reading Rainbow

The Italian Learning Library is getting bigger!

Thanks to a new donation we have increased the number of books, which can also be easily read by elementary-level students as well as more advanced ones.

If you would like to borrow or donate books, you can contact Ms. Stella Mattioli (sm6dn@virginia.edu).

The Italian Learning Library is hosted in her office, in New Cabell Hall 468: you can also stop in during office hours, from 11 to 12 on Monday and Wednesday.

In the meantime, happy reading to you all!

-Stella Mattioli



The library is getting larger!



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

Fall Newsletter 2019

Women, Gender & Sexuality

WGS Offers International Study Opportunities in Siena



Piazza del Campo, Siena

Would you like to study in Italy next summer? WGS students have always had options to study abroad. Starting in the summer of 2020, however, WGS students will have an attractive new opportunity. Thanks to Dr. Francesca Calamita, of the UVA Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, who is the Director of UVA in Siena, and to Dr. Bonnie Hagerman, Director of Undergraduate Programs at WGS, students will be able to enroll in WGS courses in Siena this coming summer.

At the UVA in Siena campus, students live in the historic city center, and take UVA courses, such as Italian language classes or the one on Global Perspectives on Gender and Sport, to be offered by Dr. Bonnie Hagerman. Because these are UVA courses, they apply toward the WGS Major or Minor, as well as toward other graduation requirements in the College of Arts & Sciences. Located in the heart of Tuscany, Siena will afford students a wonderful home base from which they can explore and experience life in one of the most beautiful regions of Italy. This first-ever opportunity for WGS students will run from May 28 to July 25, 2020; WGS courses will also be offered in Siena during the fall and spring semesters, and scholarships are available. To explore this idea, students have only to contact Dr. Bonnie Hagerman, the WGS Director of Undergraduate Programs, or pick up brochures for UVA in Siena in the WGS Library.



Coming in Spring 2020...

Neorealism Around the World: Italy and Global Film

MWF, 12:00-12:50

Following World War II, Italian filmmakers developed a new style of story-telling that focused on marginalized people, drew attention to social ills, and emphasized stark realism. Later film critics would refer to this as *Neorealism*. The movement's roots stretched back into 19th-century Italian literature, and would eventually spread into cinematic traditions around the world.

Students of this course will begin by studying *L'Italiano*, the literary movement that gave rise to Neorealism, and then learn how their artistic development eventually inspired a new style of filmmaking in the mid-twentieth century. You will also examine the characteristics of Neorealism, and then explore the way neorealism is wielded, and continues to wield, over successive generations of filmmakers from around the world.

Films to include: *E. piacerella*, *Quattro passi*, *Roma, Città Aperta*, *Sciacchi*, *L'ordine di battaglia*, *Wino*, *Amore, Miracolo a Milano*, *Le quattro vole cinque*, *Ragazzo Tufo*, *3 From*, *La notte di San Lorenzo*, and *Roma*.



ITAL 2030 Intermediate Italian II – Italian for Professionals

Italian food industry and culture

Stella Mattioli – Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2-2.50pm

"Italian 2030 For Professionals" is a 2020 Italian course focused on the Italian food, wine and oil culture. Through readings, special projects and other activities, students will learn the vocabulary, the grammar and the laws regarding this particular industry. The idea for this course stems from the fact that different Italian students at UVA, over the years, have started working for Italian culinary and wine companies, or for American food companies with strong ties to Italy.

Students in this course will follow the program of Italian 2020, but with a special focus on food and culinary culture. In order to enroll, you need to have passed Italian 1010. This class completes the language requirement.



ITAL3020 ADVANCED ITALIAN II*

Achieve fluency through experiential learning



(Photo by Stella Mattioli, Argentina, Italy)

Prof. Francesca Calamita

Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:15pm

ITAL3020 is a 3-credit class aimed at advancing students' language skills. Emphasis is placed on conversation, as well as composition and vocabulary. Students attending this class will deepen their knowledge of Italian culture and society, with a special focus on socio-cultural factors concerning politics, migration and global issues.

This course is designed with a series of activities focused on experiential learning to achieve fluency in Italian through real-life situations. The activities include, but are not limited to, visits to UVA facilities, attending a class for the community and for the lower class students of other languages, primary citizenship as an Italian citizen in Charlottesville (one quarter), the Internship (1/2 year), and a 3-credit internship in Italy. The course includes a series of activities, such as: Italian cinema's history, L'Espresso magazine and globally acclaimed TV series, such as *My Brilliant Friend* (that HBO is still to be reworked) over the course of the semester.

*3020 is NOT a prerequisite for this class. If you took 2020 or 2030, you can enroll. More info? Email Prof. Calamita (fc3@virginia.edu)

Fresh New Courses for Spring

Spring semester is just around the corner. As you begin to choose your new courses, consider all the exciting offerings from the Italian Studies Program.

If your ultimate goal is to one day work in Italy, you might want to consider *Intermediate Italian II for Professionals* (ITAL 2030), where you will learn about the intricacies of Italy's food and wine industries.

Meanwhile, if you are looking to improve your fluency as an Italian speaker, look no further than *Advanced Italian II* (ITAL 3020), which will use real-life experiences such as cooking classes, tours of Central Grounds, tutoring, and more, to help you become a more proficient Italian communicator.

Finally, those of you who cannot let any weekend go by without a trip to the movies, might want to try *Neorealism Around the World* (ITAL 3559), which will explore how Italy's golden age of cinema influenced filmmakers from North America to Africa, and points in between.

And why stop at planning your courses only for the spring? Those of you who are thinking about going abroad this summer can now take courses in Gender Studies in Siena thanks to a new collaboration between the Italian Studies Program and the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality.

With so many choices, both new and old, is there really any reason not to take Italian this year?

- The Editors

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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The Virginia Film Festival

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The Virginia Film Festival

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