

# La Vendemmia

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

## BELLO, NO?

- More great food from Mona Lisa.
- Music from Italy.
- Exciting fall events in Italian Studies.
- Study Abroad has never been more accessible!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Machiavelli in the 21st-century	2
Save the Earth, We May Need it Later	2
Onward and Upward, with the MA Students	3
Fun Times at the Shea House	3
Professor News	4-5
Spring Classes	6-7
Chi Siamo	8

## LET'S EAT!

On September 16, students and professors of Italian Studies once again gathered to mark an annual rite of fall: our pizza and pasta dinner.

Local eatery Mona Lisa provided a variety of sumptuous dishes for all to sample. In addition to the usual fare of pizza and lasagna, Mona Lisa brought fresh focaccia, salad, and cannoli.

The Charlottesville-area restaurant was not the only place to contribute something great to the dinner. The Study Abroad Office at UVA also sent Ms. Stacy Hansen to discuss the many opportunities for studying in Italy that our students can



Students dine together at the Shea House.

enjoy. Ms. Hansen provided information, and took questions about UVA's programs in Florence and Siena, which provide both semester-long and summer courses for interested participants.

Not to be outclassed, the MA students in Italian also turned up bearing a stash of popular Italian songs to liven up the night.

Professor Enrico Cesaretti spoke to everyone in attendance about the exciting fall events in Italian Studies (see this issue) such as upcoming talks from visiting scholars and cultural activities at the Shea House.

As in past years, everyone went home full and focused on all things Italian at UVA for the year to come!

-Sarah Annunziato

## MA, C'È DI PIÙ...



## MACHIAVELLI IN THE 21ST-CENTURY, DUE CHACCHIERE WITH PROF. CELENZA



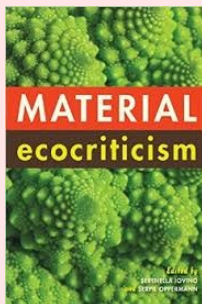
On September 24, students, faculty, and friends from the Greater Charlottesville community had the opportunity to attend a talk on Niccolò Machiavelli by Professor Christopher Celenza (right, with Prof. ssa Parker) of The Johns Hopkins University. Professor Celenza holds a joint appointment at the famed Baltimore university in The Department of Classics and the Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures. He is also currently chair of Classics at Johns Hopkins. In the spring, Professor Celenza will publish a new book (*Machiavelli: A Portrait*) on the man who inspired the study of Political Science and countless films, the great Machiavelli.

In his talk, entitled "Machiavelli Today, Why He Matters," Professor Celenza discussed the major events in Florentine history, such as the bloody "congiura dei Pazzi" in 1478, which shaped Machiavelli's life and works. The professor also took the opportunity to set the record straight on Machiavelli; while most believe him to have been all about the ends justifying the means, in truth, Machiavelli was a much more complex writer and philosopher. The talk also discussed what modern readers can and should take from Machiavelli's many works.

The lecture was especially illuminating for undergraduates who plan to study abroad in Tuscany, the region of Machiavelli's birth. As the man himself would tell us, good leaders should study the classics!

-Sarah Annunziato

SAVE THE  
EARTH!



Prof. ssa Iovino's book.



Serenella Iovino and Prof. Cesaretti.

A philosopher by training, Serenella Iovino is professor of Comparative Literature at The University of Turin, president of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and the Environment ([www.euslce.eu](http://www.euslce.eu)) from 2008-2010, and Research Associate at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Professor Iovino has also authored numerous books and essays and she serves on the editorial boards of several prestigious journals devoted to ecocriticism, such as: *ISLE*, *Green Zone*, and *Ecozon@*. Among her most recent works, one should not miss *Material Ecocriticism* (2014), co-edited with Serpil Oppermann, and *Ecozon@*'s special focus issue on *Mediterranean Ecocriticism* (August 2013). In May of 2014, she also presented the James K. Binder Lectureship in Literature at the University of California, San Diego.

On October 8, Prof. ssa Iovino presented her research at UVA in a talk entitled "Venice's Death and Life: Storied Bodies and Cognitive Justice from Thomas Mann to Porto Marghera." As we enter an age of increased debate on climate change, carbon emissions, and waste disposal, Prof. ssa Iovino's work is more relevant than ever before.

-Enrico Cesaretti

## ONWARD & UPWARD WITH THE MA STUDENTS

The MA students in Italian Studies have very exciting news to report: they will all give presentations at professional conferences this fall! Stella Mattioli tells *La Vendemmia*: "I will be at the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) in San Antonio from November 21st to 23rd." Stella will present a paper entitled "How to Motivate Students in Speaking in the Target Language" at the event, which draws teachers annually from across North America.

Stella's classmate Rachel Perry will present a paper at the PAMLA (Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association) conference in Riverside, CA. Rachel will discuss Dante Alighieri's influence on contemporary literature in a talk called "Dante's *Inferno* in *Under the Volcano*."

Finally, someone always must go first, and so it was for Jacob Shirley, who recently presented his first paper at Short Fuse at The University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations to all the MA students on their hard work and dedication!

-The Editors

### FUN TIMES AT THE SHEA HOUSE

Dear All,

Please stop in for any of our cultural events this fall.

Also, take note: the application deadline for residency in the Italian section of the Shea House for 2015-2016 is November 14, 2014.

Interested applicants (both for residency and the Language Assistant position) should apply online at <http://www.virginia.edu/housing>.

Meanwhile, follow the Italian Corner at Shea House on Facebook for all of the latest updates from Mr. Shirley.

-Enrico Cesaretti

- ⇒ 10/28/2014: Urban Legends and Italian Ghost Stories
- ⇒ 11/4/2014 Movie: *Johnny Stecchino* (1991)
- ⇒ 11/11/2014 Movie: *La Grande Bellezza* (2013)
- ⇒ 11/18/2014 Dialects! Special Presentation from Prof. Damiano Benvegnù
- ⇒ 11/25/2014 Dessert Pizza Night (RSVP Required)
- ⇒ 12/2/2014 Seasonal Event: Italian Holidays (RSVP Required)

Students taking Italian 1010 and 2010 are invited and encouraged to join us for Italian Corner and participate in our discussions! Certain events will be by reservation only, and more information will become available on our Shea House Webpage on Facebook. All events will be take place on Tuesday nights at 8:30pm unless otherwise indicated.

## PROFESSOR NEWS....

### BENVENUTO A BENVIGNÙ

The Italian Studies program at UVA is just as pleased as can be to welcome Damiano Benvegnù to our ranks as a new lecturer. He comes to UVA from The University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where he recently earned a PhD in Comparative Literature. Prof. Benvegnù specializes in 20th-century Italian literature, human-animal studies, literary criticism and psychoanalysis, dialect poetry, and ecocriticism, among other captivating topics. His most recent article, "Images of Narcissus: Figuring Identity in José Lezama Lima and Pier Paolo Pasolini," is forthcoming in *Comparative Literature Studies*. In addition, his articles have also appeared in *Modern Language Notes*, *Quaderni veneti*, and *La nuova gioventù: l'eredità intellettuale di Pier Paolo Pasolini*.



D. Benvegnù

This fall, Prof. Benvegnù is teaching ITAL 2010 and looks forward to holding a lecture on Italian linguistic diversity at the Shea House (see calendar on p. 3 of this issue). Stop by his office in New Cabell Hall 466 to say "Benvenuto!"

-Sarah Annunziato

### SPOTLIGHT ON NEW LECTURER, FRANCESCA CALAMITA...

Cari lettori e care lettrici,

I hold a PhD in Italian Literature from Victoria University of Wellington where I taught Italian Language and European Studies for three years. On completion of my Doctorate, I was awarded a Teaching Fellowship and became Coordinator of intermediate and advanced Italian language courses. I was also responsible for tailoring and delivering Italian classes at several continuing education programs in the Wellington region and in 2011 collaborated with Creative New Zealand for the NZ at Venice Biennale Project.



From December 2013 to July 2014 I was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing, Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London where I worked on my postdoctoral book project on the fictional depiction of eating disorders in contemporary Italian women's writing (to be published by Il Poligrafo: Padua). My research interests include modern and contemporary Italian Women's Writing, Gender Studies and Food Studies; I have organized symposia and published articles and book chapters in these areas. I am currently collaborating with *altrelettere* (University of Zurich) to publish a series of articles all developed from the study-day *New Perspectives on Italian Gender Studies* which I co-organized at Victoria University of Wellington in 2013. I am also co-editing a volume on anorexia and bulimia in French, Italian, German and Spanish women's writing with colleagues from the UK.

I am particularly interested in connecting Italian language to Food Studies and in 2013 I co-organized *Parla Come Mangi* [Eat Like You Speak], an innovative project developed by the Italian Program at Victoria University of Wellington which promotes language learning through cooking. I am also very interested in technology-based instruction and in 2013 I co-ordinated the project *Second Life* for intermediate students of Italian at VUW. I am committed to achieving excellence in teaching and passing on my passion for Italian Language and Culture to my students; in my courses I often discuss cultural and gender stereotypes traditionally associated with Italian Culture and how they have influenced Italian Grammar.

-Francesca Calamita

**FOR MORE ON OUR NEW LECTURERS,  
SEE....**

- "Parla come mangi:" <https://www.facebook.com/parlacomemangivuw>
- Altrelettere: [http://www.altrelettere.uzh.ch/index\\_en.html](http://www.altrelettere.uzh.ch/index_en.html)
- The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing: <https://www.facebook.com/CentreStudyContemporaryWomensWriting>
- Damiano Benvegnù: <https://virginia.academia.edu/DamianoBenvegnu>

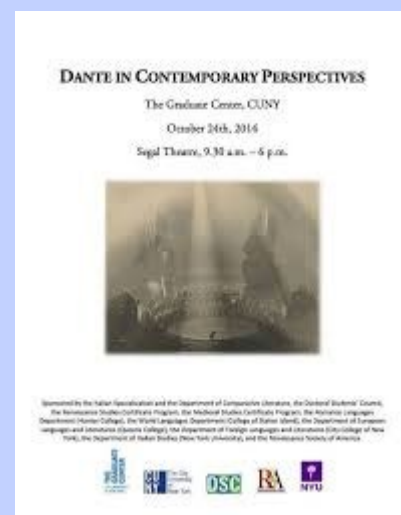


**PROF.SSA PARKER IS IN  
AN EMPIRE STATE OF  
MIND...**



We recently spotted Prof.ssa Parker in New York City, where she attended "Dante in Contemporary Perspectives" at the prestigious CUNY (City University of New York) Graduate Center. For the past year, Prof.ssa Parker has devoted considerable time to studying artistic re-purposings of the poet's work in other art forms, such as novels and films. Her participation in this month's conference in New York builds on some of this research, and in particular, on the topics discussed in her most recent book, *Dante's Inferno Revealed* (co-authored with Prof. Mark Parker). To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/villaitatti>.

-The Editors



## ATTENZIONE ITALIAPHILES, SPRING CLASSES IN ITALIAN STUDIES ARE COMING SOON...



**ADVANCED ITALIAN II (ITAL 3020):** Advanced Italian II is the second of two conversation and composition courses that are required for both the Italian Studies minor and major....but, it is so much more! In this class, you will read excerpts from a variety of texts, and improve your speaking and writing skills by discussing and analyzing them. Students also have the opportunity to review advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary. **MWF, 11-11:50. Prof. Cesaretti**

**GROWING UP ITALIAN-STYLE (ITAL 3460):** Childhood is calling and it's speaking Italian! This course will explore how major works of literature for children, from Carlo Collodi's *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, to the poetry of Gianni Rodari, reflect changing views of childhood and parenting in the boot-shaped nation. Students will learn how children's literature of the nineteenth-century helped to create an Italian national identity. We will also examine how Italian children's literature evolved in accordance with the country's school system by looking at how innovations in early childhood education, such as the theories of Maria Montessori, influenced and were influenced by writers of children's books. In addition, we will look at how new technologies, such as film and television in the twentieth century, changed the nature of story-telling for younger audiences. **TTH, 9:30-10:45. Prof.ssa Annunziato.**



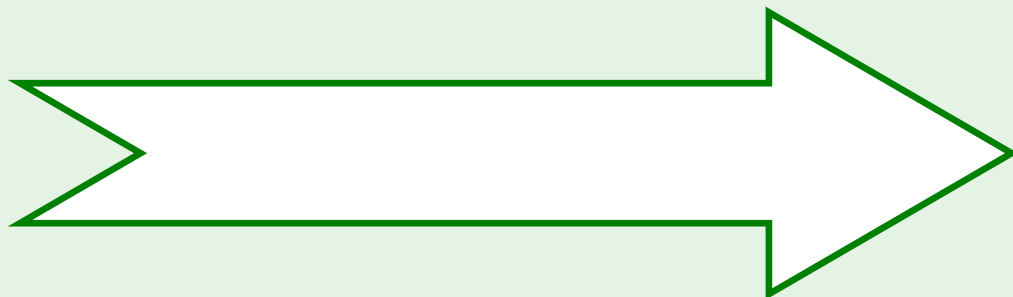
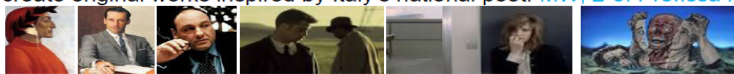
**ITALIAN MYSTERY NOVELS (ITAL 4460):** In the United States, Italy is best known for its awe-inspiring art, its elegant fashion, and above all, its sumptuous food. Less well-known however, is Italy's penchant for a good mystery. In this course, we will explore the various subgenres that are most often associated with mysteries: the police procedural, the detective novel, the political thriller, and true crime. Together, we will study the defining features of each genre through close readings of short stories, novels, films, comics, mini-series, and documentaries. Students will have the opportunity to write and perform an original mystery for the syndicated radio show *Caffè Italia*. **TTH, 12-30-1:45. Prof.ssa Annunziato.**



**ACTING ITALIAN (ITTR 3775) :** From the Commedia dell'Arte of the sixteenth-century to the politically-charged performances of Dario Fo in the twentieth, Italy has always enjoyed a rich theatrical tradition. In this course (which has been called awesome by past participants), students will learn all about this through a close-reading of famed plays, screenplays, and films from the land of Goldoni. You will also hone your public-speaking abilities through short performances of renowned theatrical works. **TTH, 11-12:15. Prof.ssa Ward.**



**REINVENTING DANTE (ITTR 3559):** "But..." you ask, "wasn't Dante fine just the way he was?" On the contrary, both Dante and his collected works were just aching to be the inspiration for numerous novels (*The Dante Club*), television dramas (*Futurama*, *Mad Men*, *The Sopranos*), and movies (*Se7en*). In this course, students will examine all the different ways in which artists have repurposed Dante's writings to create original works inspired by Italy's national poet. **MW, 2-3. Prof.ssa Parker**





**ITALIAN POLITICAL THINKERS (ITTR 3610/PLPT 3610):** The Italian Political Thinkers are back by popular demand, and this time, they want to get to know not only students of Italian Studies, but also those of you majoring in Politics! This course will focus on the political writings of Dante Alighieri (The political letters, *Monarchy*, *The Divine Comedy*), Machiavelli (*The Prince*), Cesare Beccaria (*On Crimes and Punishment*), and Antonio Gramsci (*The Prison Notebooks*). Dante's views on the appropriate roles for Church and Empire were revolutionary for his time, but remind modern readers of the principal of a separation of church and state. Machiavelli has been defined as the father of political science, while Beccaria changed the way that Europeans, and later Americans, viewed crime, punishment, and society. Antonio Gramsci inspired generations of Italian writers and filmmakers. Learn how in this course. [TTH, 3-3:15. Prof.ssa Annunziato](#)

**DANTE'S PURGATORY IN TRANSLATION (ITTR 5250):** You've probably read *The Inferno* and always been curious about what comes next. You've probably always meant to read the other two volumes of *The Divine Comedy* and just never had the time. Well, now is your chance! In this class, Prof.ssa Parker will take you on a guided tour of purgatory according to Dante. You will learn about purgatory's topography, the work's relationship to Dante's other texts, Virgil's changing role in the trilogy, and what Dante's *Purgatory* can tell us about the Florence and the Italy in which the poet lived and wrote. [W, 3:30-6. Prof.ssa Parker.](#)



**EARLY MODERN THEATER: THE DRAMA OF MARRIAGE (ITTR 7350):** Love and Marriage go together like a horse and carriage...whose driver might sometimes be a melodramatic troublemaker. The institution of marriage has fascinated poets, novelists, artists, filmmakers, and playwrights ever since they started practicing their respective crafts. This course will focus on theatrical works from throughout Europe that explore various facets of marriage such as: the differing roles traditionally played by husbands and wives, relationships between married couples and their in-laws, the effect of social class on marriage, marriage and the law, sexual politics, marriage and the economy, and the changing view of marriage throughout history. [TTH, 3:30-6. Prof.ssa Ward.](#)

**ARIOSTO (ITAL 8300):** Climb aboard the hippogriff for a trip through the magical, mystical, chivalrous, romantic, suspenseful, and at times just plain crazy world of Ariosto. In this course, you will learn about the historical and literary currents that shaped the famed poet, Ludovico Ariosto, before diving into a close-reading of his most esteemed work, *Orlando Furioso*. [M, 3:30-6. Prof. Cesaretti.](#)



The hippogriff is ready for boarding.

© Most Italian Studies courses are open to Community Scholars, with permission from the instructor. 5000-level courses are available to both graduate and undergraduate-level students. Courses above this level may also be open to interested undergraduates, with permission from the instructor. Please contact instructors for details.

DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN UP  
FOR AN ADVISING APPOINT-  
MENT BETWEEN 10/27 & 11/7  
WITH EITHER PROF. CESARETTI  
OR PROF.SSA ANNUNZIATO!

CIAO!



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE ITALIAN  
STUDIES PROGRAM

Department of Spanish, Italian  
and Portuguese

444 New Cabell Hall

Phone: 434-924-7159

Fax: 434-924-7160

[Spanitalport.virginia.edu](http://Spanitalport.virginia.edu)

THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH,  
ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE OFFERS  
THREE KINDS OF SPECIALIZATION  
IN ITALIAN STUDIES: A MAJOR IN  
ITALIAN STUDIES LEADING TO THE  
B.A. OR B.A. WITH DISTINCTION; A  
MINOR IN ITALIAN STUDIES; AND A  
GRADUATE COURSE OF STUDIES  
LEADING TO THE M.A. IN ITALIAN  
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

FOR INFORMATION ON BECOMING A  
MAJOR OR A MINOR IN ITALIAN  
STUDIES, PLEASE CONTACT PRO-  
FESSOR ADRIENNE WARD  
(AW7H@VIRGINIA.EDU).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFOR-  
MATION ON THE M.A. PROGRAM IN  
ITALIAN, PLEASE CONTACT PROFES-  
SOR ENRICO CESARETTI  
(EFC4P@VIRGINIA.EDU).

CHI SIAMO?

**Editor:** Sarah Annunziato.

**Editorial Board:**

Damiano Benvegnù

Francesca Calamita

Enrico Cesaretti

Deborah Parker

Emily Scida

Adrienne Ward

**Copy Editor:**

Rachel Perry, MA '15

**Contributors:**

Sarah Annunziato

Francesca Calamita

Enrico Cesaretti

**Photography:**

Damiano Benvegnù

Francesca Calamita

Stella Mattioli, MA '15

Rachel Perry, MA '15

Jacob Shirley, MA '15

**Ringraziamo:**

Christopher Celenza

Stacy Hansen

Serenella Iovino



Virginia is for lovers of Italian!