

Department of French & Italian

Annual Awards Ceremony

4:00 pm
Friday, April 25, 2025
Federal Room
Indiana Memorial Union

Welcome from the Chair

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad

Charlotte F. Gerrard Memorial Prize

Prof. Nicolas Valazza

Claire Fouchereaux (PhD Candidate:
French/Francophone Studies)

This award honors the memory of Charlotte F. Gerrard, who was a lecturer and professor of French in the Department from 1965 to 2000. She earned her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in 1966 and was a specialist of 20th century French theatre. In addition to her research and teaching on theatre, she acted in plays as a young student and then directed several readings of French plays during her time at IU. She is remembered for her love of teaching and her lasting friendships with former students throughout the world.

*Margaret E. Gray-Eileen M. Julien Graduate Award
in French and Francophone Studies*

Prof. Oana Panaité

Elke Defever (PhD Candidate: French/Francophone Studies)

Throughout her career as Professor of French and Francophone Studies and groundbreaking Proust scholar, Margaret E. Gray lent her generous advice and support to generations of graduate students. Her tireless work, unwavering dedication, and generous mentorship were crucial in sustaining FRIT through times both auspicious and challenging.

A Carnegie, Guggenheim and National Endowment for Humanities award-winner, Eileen M. Julien made lasting contributions to the profession and worldwide community as Professor of Comparative Literature, French and Italian, and African Studies, while also serving as the 16th President of the African Literature Association and founding director of the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal.

This award recognizes a graduate student in French and Francophone Studies' demonstrated potential for innovative and world-oriented scholarship.

Grace P. Young Undergraduate Awards

Jack Albin (Senior: Linguistics, French)

Prof. Jeffrey Lamontagne

Dorothy Dimmack (Sophomore: International Studies, French) (not present)

Mason Hatfield (Senior: Molecular Life Sciences, French)

Prof. Liz Hebbard

Fiona Pol (Senior: French)

Prof. Brett Bowles

Grace P. Young, whose great-grandfather David H. Maxwell was one of the founders of Indiana University, served as an Instructor of French from 1917-1923; and as Professor from 1923 until her retirement in 1956. She collaborated with her husband Bert Young on the publication in 1947 of *Le Registre de la Grange, 1659-1685*, an account of the theatrical activities of Molière's troupe. It was through a bequest of copies of the *Registre* that the Grace P. Young Fund was established in 1970.

Grace P. Young Graduate Award

Jane Gilbert (PhD Candidate: French Linguistics) (not present)

Edoardo A. Lèbano Memorial Award

Gwenyth Lawler (Junior: Italian, Gender Studies)(not present)

Professor Edoardo Lèbano, a native of Italy who earned his PhD at the Catholic University of America, was professor of Italian in the Department from 1971 to 2000 and passed away in late November 2020. Through the years, he served in a variety of capacities: as assistant and interim chair, co-founder and director of the Center for Italian Studies, director of Italian language instruction, director of undergraduate studies, and resident director of the IU programs in Bologna and Florence. We are pleased to honor his legacy with this inaugural award.

Lander MacClintock Memorial Award

Prof. Margot Gray

Anastasia Spahr (Senior: English, French)

Lander MacClintock was a professor of both French and Italian in the Department from 1920 to his retirement in 1960. He received BA, MA, and PhD degrees from the University of Chicago, and his scholarly works and editions include *The Age of Pirandello* (1951), *Sainte-Beuve's Critical Theory and Practice*, and *The Contemporary Drama of Italy*. He was a life-long devotee of the arts and music, from his early days of touring with the San Carlos Opera Company to his organization of a special exhibit in conjunction with the Orchestre National de France performing on campus in 1948. The MacClintock award is given in alternate years to a student of French and of Italian.

Eneria Ruggeri Undergraduate Award

Prof. Filippo Petricca

Julia Blad (Junior: Italian, Psychology)

Eneria Ruggeri (Rome, 1922-1989) was a passionate and refined connoisseur of Italian literature, art and cinema, with a specific interest in drama and. She volunteered as a nurse during WWII and, together with her family, she helped hide Italian citizens of Jewish origin from the Nazis. During the liberation of Rome, she worked with the pro-Allies Resistance movement. This award is for students who have demonstrated a superior ability in their Italian classes as well as a clear passion for the study of Italian language and culture.

Peter Cannings Memorial Prize

Prof. Kevin Rottet

Corentin Mazet (PhD Candidate: French Linguistics)

A British citizen, Peter Cannings studied French and linguistics at the School of Economics and Political Science of the University of London and then received a Maîtrise and Doctorat de troisième cycle at the Université de Provence in Aix-en-Provence. He joined the faculty of the Department in 1974 where he distinguished himself as an enthusiastic and creative teacher and a highly talented scholar in theoretical linguistics. He helped found the journal *Studies in French Linguistics* but did not live to see its first issue published in 1978. His life was cut short at the age of 27 by a car accident after less than four years at IU, in October 1977. His family helped establish this award in his memory.

John K. Hyde Award

Prof. Guillaume Ansart

Trevor Foster (Senior: Epidemiology, French & Francophone Cert.) **Keegan Nichols** (Senior: Germanic Studies, French)
Sriya Sannidhi (Sophomore: Marketing, Business and French)
(not present)

John Kenneth Hyde received his PhD in French from Indiana University in 1965. He taught at Oberlin College 1962-67 until returning to IU as professor of French from 1967 until his death in 1983. He was particularly interested in teaching French and Québécois civilization and culture, and also spent time developing the Department's business French class during the later years of his career. He served as faculty advisor for the French House and as Director of Graduate Studies. The John K. Hyde award was first given in 1985.

Eneria Ruggeri Graduate Award

Taive Muenzberg (MA: Italian)

Prof. Andrea Ciccarelli

Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prize

Prof. Oana Panaïté

Joseph Arieta (Sophomore: History, French)

Maya Ferkowicz (Sophomore: Molecular Life Sciences, French) (not present)

This award was established in 1980 by IU alumnae Ruth Kuersteiner Fink and Elsa Kuersteiner Martin in memory of their parents, Agnes Duncan Kuersteiner (IU class of 1907) and Dr. Albert Kuersteiner, who was Professor of French here from 1898 until his death in 1917. The award consists of French books selected by the Department and the student.

Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award

Aiden Kern-Kensler (Senior: Political Science, French)

Prof. Brett Bowles

Leyla Fern King (Senior: Psychology, French) (not present)

Nanaka Onishi (Senior: Intern. Studies, French)

Prof. Liz Hebbard

Quentin M. Hope was professor of French in the Department of French and Italian from 1956 to 1988, serving as chair from 1965 to 1977. His life-long passion was 17th-century French literature, in particular the writing of Charles de Saint-Evremond, and his PhD thesis at Columbia University explored the work of this French soldier and essayist. He went on to publish two monographs on Evremond as well as many articles on the free-thinking *libertins*.

Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society

Ms. Natalia Pineda

Julia Blad (Junior: Italian, Psychology)

William Cesaretti (Junior: Informatics, Italian)

Morgan Davies (Junior: Music)

Cordelia Ellis (Senior: Italian, Linguistics)

Isabel Link (Sophomore: Computational Linguistics)

Askar Mazitov (Senior: Biology)

Aaron McCann (Senior: Informatics)

Leah Palkon (Senior: Political Science)

Isabella Vesperini (Senior: Journalism)

Ivy Walker (First Year: Italian, Spanish)

Note: The Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society induction took place in Fall 2024

Phi Beta Kappa

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad

John Paul Albin (Senior: French, Linguistics)

Leyla Fern King (Senior, Psychology, French) (*not present*)

Jake Ryan Stevenson (Junior: French, Philosophy,
Political Science) (*not present*)

Associate Instructor Awards

French

Ms. Erin Candeias

Jordan Howard (PhD Student: French)

Nicolas Noé (PhD Student: French)

Italian:

Miriam Burrascano (PhD Candidate: Italian) (*not present*)

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

Graduate Student Service Awards

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad

Audrey Halley (PhD Candidate:
French/Francophone Studies)

Geoffrey Tacinelli (PhD Student:
French Linguistics) (*not present*)

The award was created in 2020 to recognize graduate students in our department who go the extra mile in assisting with our programs, representing their fellow students at the departmental and university levels, organizing events, and/or serving as mentors to other graduate students. The award was renamed to honor Isabel Piedmont-Smith in 2023 who joined the Department of French and Italian at Indiana University-Bloomington in 1996, serving as Department Administrator from 1998 to 2022. Isabel was particularly dedicated to our graduate students whom she enthusiastically and thoughtfully welcomed to FRIT, helping to guide them through the challenges of academia and making them feel at home in our department, at IU, and in Bloomington.

Olga Ragusa Graduate Award

Sonia Cani (PhD Student: Italian) (*not present*)

Dr. Olgawas Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, and she was one of the most important scholars of modern Italian culture and literature of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The author of many books and articles whose topics range from the 1700s to the present, she published on Goldoni, Alfieri, Manzoni, Verga, Pirandello, Gadda, Prezzolini, and Pasolini, among others. In 2004, Professor Ragusa gave a generous donation to the Italian program at IUB, which she values for its quality and productivity. This award is for graduate students in Italian who have demonstrated a remarkable scholarly ability in their courses as well as in their degree examinations.

**Carol Ann Brush Hofstadter Memorial
Scholarship**

Prof. Marco Arnaudo **Maddie Thoennes** (Senior:

Italian, Media)

Carol Brush studied Italian and art history at Indiana University and in 1977 spent a summer in Bologna, Italy, through an IU exchange program. She adored Italy -- its people, its culture, and its language -- and in 1993, she and her husband Doug chose to spend Doug's sabbatical year in Trento with their two young children, Danny and Monica. After just three months there, Carol died very unexpectedly. Despite the tragedy, Doug and the children remained in Trento for the rest of the sabbatical year, and as a consequence Danny and Monica became fluent in Italian -- a gift from their mother. In the wake of Carol's death, her family and friends created a scholarship in her memory, so that more students could discover Bologna and learn to love it as she did.

Recascino Family Study Abroad

Scholarship in Italian

Cristina D'Errico

Marinna Bogatov (Senior: International Studies)

Dr.

This award honoring the memory of members of the Recascino family was established by Recascino Wise (PhD, Political Science, Indiana University), Professor Emeritus in Indiana University's Paul H. O'Neill School. The Recascino (Re Cascino) family emigrated to the United States around the start of the 20th Century. Their descendants established themselves in different communities and cultural fields in a remarkable version of the Italian immigrant story. Professor Wise served as Director of West European Studies and the European Union Center during her tenure at IU and received the Fulbright Scholar Award for Sweden. Professor Wise has long believed in the transformative power of international education. As an undergraduate, her own study abroad experience left a lasting impact — one that inspired her lifelong commitment to expanding such opportunities for students. In a tribute to her Italian heritage, this scholarship supports students who are studying abroad in the Republic of Italy, including the regions of Sicily and Sardinia. Through this award, Professor Wise continues to shape the lives of students, encouraging global curiosity, cross-cultural understanding, and academic growth.

Trustees Teaching Award

Prof. Massimo Scalabrini (*not present*)

The TTA is funded by the Board of Trustees and is awarded to the 6% of tenured and tenure-track faculty members at IU-Bloomington who are deemed the best teachers in a given year.

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Margot

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Attention graduating students!

You are cordially invited to our commencement reception on Friday, May 9, 12:00-2:00 pm in the Georgian Room at the Indiana Memorial Union. Please RSVP to fritdept@iu.edu.