



# frît

Dear alumni and friends,

The Department of French and Italian had another busy year in 2017-18. In faculty news, **Oana Panaïté** was promoted to full professor and named a Ruth N. Halls Professor by the College of Arts and Sciences, and **Alison Calhoun** and **Vincent Bouchard** earned tenure and promotion to associate professor. Prof. Bouchard also was awarded a College Arts and Humanities Institute Fellowship for 2018-19 for his book project "The Film Commentator in West Africa," while **Nicolas Valazza** was awarded an Indiana Digital Arts & Humanities fellowship to digitize and analyze banned books, images, and legal documents from the Kinsey Institute. We also sponsored several successful symposia: one on the relations between media technologies and individual and cultural retention titled "Media and Tertiary Memory," another on "Exemplary Affect: Rethinking the Roots of Modern Sensibility," a third in honor of Peter Bondanella titled "Fellini Today," and the 9th annual edition of "New Trends in Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema."

We had a number of successful dissertation defenses this year: **Loïc Lerne** in French/Francophone Studies; **Francisco Montaño**, **Jamie Root** and **Sarah-Kay Hurst** in French Linguistics; **Sandro Puiatti**, **Lisa Dolasinski** and **Lucia Gemmani** in Italian Studies. **Lino Mioni** (Italian Studies) was awarded a College Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and several graduates found great placements at institutions ranging from Dartmouth College to the Medici Archive Project in Florence, Italy. Four of our graduating seniors earned university-wide recognition: **Haley Rose Meslin** and **Em Brewington** were inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society; **Jonathan Van Hecke** and **Dana Vanderburgh** received Kate Hevner Mueller Senior Recognition Awards.

A clear indication of FRIT's high standing in the University is our vigorous and increasing participation in the liberal arts mission and curricular initiatives of the College of Arts & Sciences, the Hutton Honors College and the Intensive Freshman Seminar Program, through interdisciplinary courses such as *The French Melting Pot*, *Francophone Media Studies*, *Food and Family in Italian American Culture*, and *Italian Comics and Graphic Novels*, among others. Equally revealing of the high reputation of French & Italian is the fact that many of our faculty hold important leadership positions at IUB such as director of the Institute for Advanced Study (**Eileen Julien**), the Institute for European Studies (**Brett Bowles**) and the Renaissance Studies Program (**Hall Bjørnstad**); chair of the Department of Second Language Studies (**Laurent Dekydtspotter**); and dean of the Hutton Honors College (**Andrea Ciccarelli**).

2017-18 was also a year of faculty transitions. **H. Wayne Storey** (Professor of Italian and Medieval Studies) retired in January 2018 and **Julie Auger** (Associate Professor of French and Linguistics) announced that she will leave IU in 2019 to join the University of Montreal. As we thank them for their great contributions to French & Italian and wish them all the best in their future endeavors, we are happy to welcome two new scholars to our faculty. This fall, French medievalist **Elizabeth Hebbard** will begin a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor, and Italian medievalist **Akash Kumar**, who comes to us from UC Santa Cruz, will serve as Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian.

-- Massimo Scalabrini, Chair

Jackson Square, New Orleans

Photo by Jon Sullivan via Wikimedia Commons



# Study Abroad in Provence: Life Aixperiences

KELLY SAX

*As study abroad veterans know, it is often only later, long after the program is over, that we realize the full value and impact of the experience on our lives.* Finishing my third year as the Aix-en-Provence program director, curiosity on this topic led me to reach out to my former program participants to find out where life has led them since 2011-12 and 2013-14, and ask them to reflect on the impact study abroad has had on them. Their responses, excerpted below, were articulate, moving and insightful, confirming the lasting value of the study abroad experience.

**Monica Gregory** (BA French and Anthropology '13, MPA '16)

"My time in Aix was tough but extremely rewarding. Professionally, my language skills and cultural immersion experience come up in every interview I've had since returning... Personally, I am a stronger, more confident person for having spent time in international environments." Monica is now working in climate change adaptation in Florida.

**Megan Moore** (BA International Studies '13)  
"Following graduation... I moved to Paris to complete a 6-month internship with Burson-Marsteller... After returning home, I was hired by FTI Consulting in Chicago, who were impressed with my international experience and language skills... Studying in Aix opened up professional opportunities for me, but more than that, I believe that I am a more empathetic, confident, and curious person than I was before." Megan is now a strategic communica-

tions consultant living in Sydney, Australia.

**Bailey Hacker** (BA French '13)

"The lessons, though often very difficult and challenging, that I learned [in Aix] will always stay with me and helped shaped who I am as a teacher today. I not only developed my French speaking and listening skills but I learned the most about myself and my abilities as a student and life-long learner." Bailey is currently a secondary school teacher of French and Spanish.

**Brianne Eby** (BA Psychology '13)

"The research I conducted in France as part of my honors thesis at IU helped me to get accepted into the Environmental Studies program at the University of Colorado-Boulder, where I earned a Master of Science degree... My time in Aix brought two main

long-term personal effects: I developed an appreciation for being fully present in everyday situations, and I learned how to be more independent." Brianne is working as a transportation policy analyst at a think tank in Washington DC.

**Kristie Pladson** (BA French and Comparative Literature '12)

"The biggest way Aix has impacted my life is that I met my European husband there! ... My French was not very strong when I first arrived in Aix, and while spending a year there certainly improved it immensely, almost more valuable to me is how that year taught me to keep my cool in uncomfortable situations." Kristie is pursuing a Master's degree in journalism in Tübingen, Germany.

**Ellie Berry** (BA French and International Studies '13, MPA '18)

"In Aix I gained self-confidence in navigating new situations, taking risks, and putting down roots in new places. I am also incredibly grateful that my year in Aix serves as a reminder of the value in slowing down, enjoying fresh

meals, and sipping coffee with friends." Ellie is currently a research and evaluation analyst at the Indiana Department of Child Services.

**Roz Rini Larson** (BA Folklore '13, MA Folklore '15)

"The study abroad experience taught me about myself in ways I believe to be intrinsically connected to my current ability to succeed, but more important is that it taught me something about the world outside my small, circumscribed realm of experience, having lived in Indiana my whole life." Roz is now a PhD student in Folklore at IUB.



Aix program students in front of the Abbaye de Sénèque in March. Director Kelly Sax is in the front row, far left.

**Bianca Davila** (BA French and Spanish '13)

"My time in Aix has and will forever be one of the highlights of my life... It was in Aix that I learned independence and self-reliance. Most importantly, I learned to live in the moment and take advantage of trying new things whenever possible." Bianca is currently an assistant principal at a charter elementary school in Houston.

**Robert Coatsworth** (BA French, Spanish '15)

"Very important to my experience in France were the conversations held over coffee in the morning or over ratatouille and Côte de Rhône (the classic table red from the region) in the evening... I understood more about my identity as an American, as a millennial and as an individual. I was able to piece together the wisdom and savoir-faire of the old world with my American spirit to pursue my projects today." Robert is pursuing a master's degree in political science at the university of Bordeaux – Montesquieu.

See our website for the full feedback from alumni! Visit [frit.indiana.edu](http://frit.indiana.edu).

*frit* is published by the Department of French and Italian of Indiana University-Bloomington to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. The newsletter is paid for by the Department. For information about our programs, or to donate, please call (812) 855-1952 or visit [frit](http://frit.indiana.edu). [indiana.edu](http://indiana.edu).

## Department of French and Italian

Chair ..... Massimo Scalabrini  
Editor ..... Isabel Piedmont-Smith  
Designer ..... Isabel Piedmont-Smith

## College of Arts and Sciences

Executive Dean ..... Larry D. Singell Jr.  
Executive Director of  
Advancement ..... Travis Paulin  
Director of Alumni Relations ..... Vanessa Cloe

## IU Alumni Association

Class Notes Editor ..... Bill Elliott



THE COLLEGE OF  
**ARTS + SCIENCES**  
BLOOMINGTON

# From Language Death to Language Revitalization *and what lies in between*

LAUREN ANDERSON

**A**ll varieties of French are not created equal, according to some in the French-speaking world. A number of our doctoral students in French Linguistics are collecting, compiling, and analyzing data about lesser-known varieties of the language, some of which have been stigmatized over the centuries. Fieldwork has enabled Carly Bahler, Amber Panwitz, and Laura Demsey to examine the evolution, death, and revitalization of three French varieties, all of which are linguistically and culturally significant.

Carly Bahler's research, which examines French of the St. John Valley in Northern Maine, has found that the state of the language is intrinsically tied to the history, culture, and identity of the region.

Because the French of the region has never known widespread institutional support, its primary method of transmission has been oral. The language has even been actively suppressed at times; for example, by French teachers labeling the local variety as "poor" French. Bahler describes how this sense of invalidity of the language has led speakers to decide not to pass it on to future generations. Consequently, French in the St. John Valley is in sharp decline.

Bahler investigated participants' ability to produce challenging grammatical structures such as irrealis mood. This is an opportune testing-ground for language death, she explains, because such structures are typically only produced by more advanced speakers. She describes her research as an intersection of sociolinguistic and sociological study. Her goal is to provide concrete evidence of what happens to a language that is not institutionally supported: where the breakdown occurs and how remaining speakers compensate for it.

One of her favorite aspects of fieldwork is being able to validate the language of the region and instill confidence in its speakers.

"The human element is the richest part of the research, but by far the most challenging," Bahler says, explaining this community of speakers is very sensitive about their language due to its history. She explains how she had to learn to speak in the dialect of the region, as well as frame herself as a student interested in the language, rather than an outsider coming to study it.

"I very quickly stopped saying, 'I'm studying the French,'" Bahler says. "Nobody wants to be the object of study."

Bahler hopes her research will contribute to a more complete picture of French in North America, as well as illustrate the complexity of the notions of identity, ethnicity, and fluency in a declining language community.

As Bahler studies a language in decline, her colleague Amber Panwitz looks at the process of language revitalization through the study of the Vimeu dialect of Picard in northern France.

---

***"I very quickly stopped saying 'I'm studying the French.' Nobody wants to be the object of study."***

---

Like French of the St. John Valley, Picard is a language that has been in decline for quite some time. Panwitz explains how the language was stigmatized as "rotten" French, and not passed down from generation to generation. Now a group of community activists are attempting to revitalize and destigmatize the language.

Panwitz uses tools from second language acquisition in a minority language context to examine French-dominant, heritage-language learners and speakers, and whether they are able to develop and maintain the grammatical nuances of Picard, and ultimately keep the language alive.

Panwitz examined neuter-subject pronoun systems and neutral vowel insertion patterns, testing participants' ability to recognize agrammatical Picard and correct it, as well as how long it took them to process it. She points out that the revitalization effort is led by activists from across the Picard-speaking region, rather than Vimeu specifically, and there are currently no instructor-training programs for those who wish to teach Picard to new generations. She hopes her research will illustrate what people are able to learn in such circumstances, as well as emphasize that these languages are different and need to be preserved individually.

Between language death and language revitalization lies Laura Demsey's study, which examines the evolution of a French variety spoken in Manchester, New Hampshire and Lewiston, Maine, and how it is affected by its contact with English.

Demsey just completed a pilot study in New England, partially funded by an Albert Valdman Graduate Travel Grant, to look at the use of definite articles in the French spoken there. Her study takes into account social factors such as participants' level of education, age, how many generations away from their immigrant ancestors they are, as well as how they have used French throughout their lives. By looking at these structures and considering these social factors, Demsey hopes to increase understanding of how English influences the French, as well as to illuminate a correlation between social factors and the English-like or non-English-like structures participants produce. Her study will unite the literature on second language acquisition, language contact, and L1 attrition (the loss of a first language due to disuse).

Demsey explains that one of her biggest challenges will be how to determine whether a structure is the result of English influence.

"There might already exist something in the grammar that kind of walks and talks like the other language, but just happens to exist already," she says, describing how important it is to not jump to conclusions or make connections without evidence.

Like Panwitz and Bahler, Demsey describes the interactions with the people as her favorite part of fieldwork.

"To get to hear from the mouths of the people that I'm studying, their history, and also what they're doing with the language is just irreplaceable," Demsey says.

For all of our linguistics students, fieldwork has been an exciting and enriching adventure. Our graduate program values all varieties of French, which can be seen both in our professors' and graduate students' research. We look forward to the dissertations Bahler, Panwitz, and Demsey will write and wish them luck as they continue their brave forays into linguistic fieldwork!



PhD candidate Amber Panwitz (holding photo) with her husband Mark Black (seated next to her) and a group of Picard-speaking authors and activists in 2016. Black is also a PhD candidate in French Linguistics.



# Annual Awards and Honors

Our annual awards ceremony was held April 13 in the Indiana Memorial Union. In addition to the award recipients below, we inducted nine undergraduate students into the Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society. Eight students were inducted into the French honor society, Pi Delta Phi, in October. All honorees below were undergraduates unless otherwise specified. We congratulate them!

## **Lander MacClintock Memorial Award**

Jessica True (BA'18, Italian & BM'18, Voice)

## **Mary V. Lèbano Memorial Prize**

Molly Liss (BA'18, Dietetics)

## **Charlotte F. Gerrard Memorial Prize**

Dane Fetterer (BA'18, French & Int'l Studies)

## **Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prizes**

Megan Crow  
Molly McGuire  
Nicholas Petry

## **Peter Cannings Memorial Prize**

Renata Uzzell (MA'14, French Linguistics)

## **Olga Ragusa Graduate Award**

Leonardo Cabrini (MA'17, Italian)

## **Grace P. Young Undergraduate Awards**

Halley Rose Meslin (BA'18, French & Enviro St)  
Adam Smith (BA'18, French & English)  
Jonathan Van Hecke (BA'18, French & BS'18, Finance)

## **Grace P. Young Graduate Awards**

Laura Demsey (MA'15, French linguistics)

Jacob Ladyga (MA'16, French/Francophone Studies)

Cristina Robu (MA'17, French/Francophone Studies)

## **Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award**

Drew Deaton (BA'18, Finance & Accounting)

## **Eneria Ruggeri Memorial Award**

Carlotta Vacchelli (MA'17, Italian)

## **Mario & Katrina Vangeli Memorial Award**

Cari Rice (BA'18, Italian & BS'18, Biochemistry)

## **John K. Hyde Award**

Taitum Caggiano (BA'18, Linguistics)

**Carol Brush Hofstadter Memorial Scholarship**  
Sophia Sparzo

## **Italian Associate Instructor Awards**

Francesco Samarini (MA'18, Italian)  
Carlotta Vacchelli (MA'17, Italian)

## **French Associate Instructor Awards**

Laura Demsey (MA'15, French Linguistics)  
Alana Duncan (MA'18, French/Francophone)

## **Trustees Teaching Award**

Associate Professor Brett Bowles

Many thanks to our generous donors, who make these awards possible!



Undergraduate award recipients: FRONT ROW – Caitlin Mulholland, Taitum Caggiano, Cari Rice, Sophia Sparza, Jessica True, Adam Smith. BACK ROW – Rose Kaforski, Halley Rose Meslin, Victoria Myhand, Pablo Arenas Gallo, Dane Fetterer, Drew Deaton, Megan Crow, and Jonathan Van Hecke. Kaforski, Myhand, Mulholland, and Arenas Gallo were inducted into Gamma Kappa Alpha.

## Top new books in Italian

- **Helena Janeczek's** historical novel ***La ragazza della Leica*** is devoted to the love story between the Hungarian photographer Robert Capa and the German photographer Gerda Taro during the Spanish civil war (1936-39). The novel opens with the 1937 Parisian funeral of Gerda, where antifascists, her friends and many photographers, including a distraught Capa, mourn the death of the first female photojournalist killed during a war. The novel draws together historical events, real characters, and more intimate fictional stories in the context of the tragic prologue to WWII.
- Another historical novel is **Marco Balzano's** ***Resto qui***, set in South Tyrol and embracing the period from fascism to the 1960s. It sheds a different light on the beautiful valleys and mountains of South Tyrol, which become the silent witnesses of the brutality of war, as well as the cruelty of personal impulses, including kidnapping, in the false name of family ties. The elegant description of the picturesque landscape diverges dramatically

from the unkind human actions that shape the story throughout the years.

- ***Questa sera è già domani***, by **Lia Levi**, is also a historical novel that touches upon the tragedy of the holocaust and WWII. The author, born in 1931 in the Piedmont region, was herself a victim of the racial laws of 1938, and had to live in hiding with her family in Rome during the war. The book is a reflection of the inner conflict caused by the need to leave what, despite the tragic circumstances, is still considered home. It is the story of the turmoil caused by the urgency to stay and fight for one's own freedom and home, versus the urge to abandon everything and start over again, elsewhere.
- Providing a completely different tone and theme is **Carlo D'Amicis's** ***Il gioco***, an erotic novel that analyzes three different characters: an alpha male who goes from one relationship to another; a woman who undergoes the typical erotic male-centric view; and a man who seems destined to be

the "loser," the betrayed character. In reality, these three types are all borderline tragic, although there are light and comic moments in the narration, as they all assume a life-role as if it were an obligatory destiny.

- Finally, ***Macerie Prime*** and the second installment ***Macerie Prime, Sei mesi dopo*** are graphic novels by **Zerocalcare**, nom de plum of Michele Rech, one of the most important artists in the field. The books grapple with universal issues facing the generation born in Italy in the 1980s. After the long financial crisis that has affected morale and the ongoing ethical and political dilemmas, Cinghiale and his friends are somewhat at an impasse. In the second part, life goes on, after all, as Cinghiale's son is born, friends make and break relationships, and some see an opening towards the future. The ambiguity of the ending fits, as these young people's lives are still a work in progress.

-- Andrea Ciccarelli

# The Language of Law: An Alumna's journey

LAUREN ANDERSON

*The study of languages can take us down unexpected paths.* From tour guide in Paris to medical student in Ohio, graduates of IU-Bloomington's French and Italian programs have pursued a variety of careers. For Amelia Lahn (BA Italian, '06), a legal career was always a part of her path, but pursuing a degree in Italian gave her an unexpected advantage.

After earning her Juris Doctor in 2010, Lahn began her legal career as a hearing officer in IU's Student Ethics Office. Lahn's job was to determine the appropriate consequences for students who had violated university policy. While working a particular case, Lahn realized that these students often needed additional legal support. She was handling a case in which a group of students had been playing in the Showalter Fountain, and had set off the security alarm on the fish, which have a long history of being stolen. When the police arrived, they found a group of students walking away from the fountain soaking wet.

"You're supposed to make the state prove it, even if it looks really bad," Lahn says. However, one of the students pleaded guilty, without having any legal representation or contesting the charges. Lahn felt that these students needed an advocate, someone who could help them through the process and ensure they understood their rights.

"I want to be that person who is championing those rights," she says.

Not long after this experience, Lahn estab-

lished her private practice, Lahn Law LLC, in downtown Bloomington. She helps IU students and faculty navigate the code of conduct and legal system unique to IU. She has handled a variety of cases, from sexual assault to residency proceedings.

Lahn, whose mother is an attorney and whose father is a paralegal, knew she wanted to pursue a law degree after her undergraduate studies. She sought an undergraduate major that she was passionate about and could perform well in. Her mother advised her that a language major would

*"I want to be that person who is championing those rights."*

help her prepare for a career in law by training her to be analytical and pay attention to detail. Since she had already begun her Italian studies while in high school, Italian seemed like a good choice. According to Lahn, practicing law can be like learning a new language, and the experience of language learning helps her to acclimate to new modes of thinking, as well as adapt to the different way of speaking in the legal profession.

"It's almost like learning a new set of laws with every university you work with because every university has its own code of conduct," Lahn explains.

In addition to the skills she fine-tuned during her Italian studies, Lahn also appreciates the



multi-cultural nature of the discipline, describing how many of her professors were from Italy and modeled adaptation.

"They came with this knowledge of having grown up in a different country, and how people think about things there," she says, explaining that learning about other people and varying world views can develop a sense of empathy.

Lahn, like many graduates in the humanities, values her degree as a foundation in analytical thinking, multicultural understanding, and communication skills. To Lahn, the most important thing is majoring in something you're passionate about. Her degree helped her integrate into the Bloomington community, build lifelong friendships, and prepare for a career she loves. "You can major in anything you want," she says. "As long as it's something you're interested in, that's what you should do."

## Top new books in French

- **Philippe Besson's, *Arrête avec tes mensonges*** is a delicate, sincere and searing narrative that declares itself a novel, but promises to tell the truth about a "matrix" of the author's oeuvre. As he is interviewed in a hotel lobby, the author sees, impossibly, the clandestine love of his youth walk by: a boy who had since haunted the author's novels, imbuing them with absence, loss, abandonment, and self-questioning. Jumping up to pursue the young man, the author discovers this stranger is "almost" that lost love: his son.
- The first installment of four, the Swiss-Gabonese author **Bessora's** new book ***Zoonomia*** is written in a sharp and incisive style and tells the 19<sup>th</sup>-century story of Johan, the mixed-race illegitimate son of an elusive adventurer. In search of his European father's recognition and worldwide fame, the character inspired by real-life explorer Paul Belloni de Chailly embarks on an unlikely journey that takes him from La Réunion to Paris and, later, to the tropical forests of Gabon where he becomes the first "white" man to observe

the life of the gorillas and to discover the existence of African Pigmies.

- As the world and its leaders seem unable to find a political and ethical solution to the migrant crisis, **Patrick Chamoiseau** in ***Frères migrants*** launches an appeal both impassioned and reasoned to the people of the world to overcome the artificial divisions imposed by ideologies, greed, and ignorance. In this work, the acclaimed Martinican writer and intellectual proclaims the interconnectedness or true "relation" between all members of the human community. In the tradition of Édouard Glissant, Chamoiseau combines poetic thinking, philosophical reasoning, and political commitment in this slim yet powerful book.
- In prose both chiseled and lyrical, **Julia Kerninon** reflects on the passion for reading transmitted by parents indifferent to material possessions in the short memoir ***Une activité respectable***. Taken as a five-year-old to the renowned left-bank bookstore *Shakespeare*

*and Co.*, she is charmed to be shown thin mattresses on high shelves where young expatriate Americans might find refuge. To sleep among books, with no division between pages and life, seemed perfection, in this epiphany that shapes the author's future.

- In ***Marx et la poupée*** by **Maryam Madjidi**, a young immigrant, daughter of communist militants who oblige her to give her toys to the poor as they secretly bury their revolutionary tracts in the garden, revisits her Iranian childhood and efforts to adapt to a new life and identity in Paris. In a series of interlinked, gossamer, mini-scenarios, we read of her fear at having to share the WC at the end of the hallway with tenants on either side of the family's one-room apartment; her shame over her parents' mistakes in French; her café exchanges, as an adult, with strangers who refuse to consider her French. The prose is limpid, poignant, wrenching.

-- Margaret Gray and Oana Panaïté

frit summer 2018 ~ 5



In 2017-18, **Julie Auger** was visiting professor at two different French universities: two weeks at the Université de Valenciennes et du Hainaut-Cambrésis in September, and, in May, three weeks at the Université de Paris Diderot, where she collaborated with Heather Burnett (of the CNRS) on their joint research on Picard negation. In both cases, she delivered guest lectures in classes, as well as public lectures on her work on Picard to academic and non-academic audiences.

**Vincent Bouchard** received a 2018-19 College Arts and Humanities Institute fellowship for his project *The Film Commentator in West Africa: The Cook, the Interpreter, His Assistant, and Their Audience*. This work examines the conditions and reception of propaganda film screenings imposed by colonial institutions and compares them to current video projections by local NGOs in West Africa: particularly focusing on the role of the live commentator (*bonimenteur*). Drawing upon archival research in Belgian, British, and French colonial archives, as well as interviews with Burkinabés who have personal experience with such screening activities, Bouchard establishes links between colonial and contemporary practices of audio-visual consumption in West Africa. Bouchard was promoted to associate professor with tenure on July 1, 2018.

**Alison Calhoun's** most important accomplishment of the past academic year was also earning promotion to associate professor with tenure. She presented her research on her new book project about the mechanics of the passions on the French baroque stage at conferences in New Orleans (Renaissance Society of America), New York (MLA), and in Utrecht, the Netherlands (American Comparative Literature Association).

**Andrea Ciccarelli** will start his fourth year as dean of the Hutton Honors College on July 1. The HHC is a inter-school college for exceptionally gifted students that accepts over 1,000 freshmen every year (about 13-14% of the IU freshman class). One of his initiatives as dean has been the "Many Worlds, One Globe" program focused on multiculturalism and globalization. In 2018, he also directed once again IU's undergraduate overseas study program in Florence (his 22nd year). His current research project is titled *Exile, Migration, Borders in Contemporary Italian Culture* and deals with the perception and the effects of migration literature and culture in contemporary Italy and Europe.

Over the past year, **Margaret Gray** published articles on phantom voices in Proust (a Proust collection with Honoré Champion); on Darricsecq's *Truismes* as feminist odyssey (in the journal *Fixxion*); and on Echenoz's *Je m'en vais* as parody of travel writing (in *Loxias*). Meanwhile, she also enjoyed teaching "Creative and Critical Writing in French" for the first time. The collective goal being to harness campus resources in the development of writing skills, the class

enjoyed writing autobiographies of objects at the Mathers Museum; critical reviews of a "frothy" French "opéra bouffe" performed by the Jacobs School; nature descriptions at the arboretum pond; and dialogues at the Prebys amphitheatre.

**Elizabeth Hebbard** traveled to St. Gall, Switzerland for an international conference on medieval manuscript fragments, where she presented her research and visited the amazing abbey library of St. Gall. Hebbard served as visiting assistant professor in French medieval studies in 2017-18 and will start a tenure-track position in our department this August.

In 2018, **Oana Panaïté** published a monograph entitled *The Colonial Fortune in Contemporary Fiction* in French (Liverpool University Press) and an undergraduate textbook anthology entitled *Entre-Textes: Dialogues littéraires et culturels* (co-edited with Vera Klekovkina; Routledge - SEE BELOW). As Vice-President of the *Conseil International d'Études Francophones* (CIÉF) in 2017, she participated in the preparation of the annual congress held in La Rochelle (France) in June 2018 on the theme "Passage – médiation et transition." She was also elected to a three-year term as Modern Language Association assembly delegate for the 20th- and 21st-Century French forum. In the past academic year, Prof. Panaïté was invited to give talks at Paris IV-Sorbonne, Johns Hopkins and Rice University. She has been promoted to full professor and appointed Ruth N. Hall Professor of French/Francophone Studies starting July 1, 2018.

Professor Emeritus **Samuel Rosenberg** remains active in research and translation. He participated in a colloquium on the poetry of Paul Verlaine at Vanderbilt University and, with Nicolas Valazza, has submitted for publication a volume to be called *Verlaine: A Bilingual Selection of His Verse* (translated by Rosenberg, edited by Valazza). In 2017, he published a critical edition of the Motets from the *Chansonnier de Noailles* (Saint-Cricq, Doss-Quinby, Rosenberg, Eds.; A-R Editions), and this year he published a verse translation of the anonymous 13th-century romance *Robert the Devil* (Penn State University Press).

**Kevin Rottet** attended the conference Les français d'ici in Montreal May 23-26, where he gave a paper entitled "L'emprunt et l'alternance



Professor Oana Panaïté (center) with two PhD students in French/Francophone studies, Jill Owen (left) and Cristina Robu (MA'17, right) at the Conseil d'Études Internationales Francophones conference in La Rochelle, France, this June.

codique en français louisianais : perspectives lexicographiques." He was in good company with current doctoral student in French Linguistics Laura Demsey (MA'15), as well as FRIT alumni Anne-José Villeneuve (PhD'11), Dan Golembeski (PhD'99) and Cynthia Fox (PhD'89).

Retiring from teaching in January 2018, **H. Wayne Storey** now devotes full time to his writing and research, especially to his eleven-part commentary on each of the 366 poems of Petrarch's *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta* for the *Petrarch Project* (<http://petrarchproject.org>). In February his essay "The Formation of Knowledge and Petrarch's Books" was published by Gruyter in Berlin in the volume *Knowledge, Petrarch and Boccaccio between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*; in May his "Appunti sulla filologia materiale e sui testi italiani del Medioevo" appeared in vol. 14 of *Medioevo letterario d'Italia*; and his essay with Isabella Magni (PhD'17) on material philology and teaching Dante's *Commedia* is in page proofs for the Modern Language Association.

**Nicolas Valazza** received a research fellowship in Spring 2018 from the College Arts & Humanities Institute and the Kinsey Institute for his project, "La Poésie délivrée: Le livre en question du Parnasse au Symbolisme," about clandestine modernist poetry characterized by transgressive love, pornography, and political dissidence. He has published three articles this past year: "Len-vers de la cellule" in the *Revue Verlaine*, "Maldoror, corps et sang" in the volume *Une littérature comme incantatoire*, and "L'Éditeur et le Graveur en société avec le Poète: Poulet-Malassis, Rops et Baudelaire en Belgique" in *L'Esprit créateur*. He was awarded an Institute for Digital Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowship for 2018-19 to work on his project Beyond Obscenity Law: Digitization and Content Analysis of Banned Books, Images, and Legal Documents from the Kinsey Institute Library and Archive.



We are pleased to announce the publication of *Entre-Textes: Dialogues littéraires et culturels* edited by our own Professor Oana Panaïté and Vera Klekovkina (Routledge, 2017). The work is an anthology of francophone literature for advanced students of French which pairs classical texts with more modern or contemporary texts to reveal how the approach to certain themes or issues, as well as literary styles, have changed or remained the same. Several FRIT alumni and faculty members contributed to the textbook, including Florin Beschea (PhD '13), Olga Amarie (PhD '11), Eric MacPhail, Eileen Julien, Hall Bjørnstad, Audrey Dobrenn (PhD '13), and Margaret Gray.

**Daniel M. Brumberg**, BA'78 (French and Political Science), is co-editor of *Power and Change in Iran: Politics of Contention and Conciliation*, published in March 2016 by Indiana University Press. The book provides a timely look at political, social, economic, and ideological dynamics in contemporary Iran. Brumberg is associate professor of government and co-director of democracy and governance studies at Georgetown University and a special advisor to the United States Institute of Peace. His books include *Reinventing Khomeini: The Struggle for Reform in Iran* and, as co-editor, *Islam and Democracy in the Middle East*. Brumberg lives in Chevy Chase, Md.

In February, North American Polymer Company announced that **Dani L. Nichols**, BA'90 (French and Chemistry) and BA'92 (Theatre) of Chicago, has been promoted to the role of president of the company, which provides equipment, supplies, and training to professional kitchen and bathroom refinishers. She has been with NAPCO since 1996, and has served as vice president since 2004. Nichols originally moved to Chicago to pursue a career in acting and within a short time of taking a job as customer service representative for NAPCO, she was a department head. During her 22-year career with the company, she has served in a number of key leadership roles.

**Bryan Donaldson**, MA'04 and PhD'08 (French Linguistics), is an associate professor

in the Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he lives with his family. His research focuses on word order in second-language French and in Old French and Old Occitan. He currently serves as department chair and is also the linguistics book review editor for the *French Review*.

"In August 2017, I published my first monograph titled *Une troisième vague féministe et littéraire. Les femmes de lettres de la nouvelle génération* (Leiden; Boston: Brill-Rodopi)," writes **Michèle A. Schaal** (MA'05 and PhD'12, French Literature) of Ames, Iowa. She adds, "In 2018, I was promoted to associate professor of French and women's and gender studies at Iowa State University." Schaal has published articles on contemporary French feminisms and francophone women writers.

**Ryan Calabretta-Sajder**, MA'07 (Italian), will be starting a position as assistant professor of Italian at the University of Arkansas this August. His authored book *Divergenze in celluloid: colore, migrazione e identità sessuale nei film gay di Ferzan Özpetek* was published in December 2016 with Mimesis editore. In January 2018 his edited volume *Pasolini's Lasting Impressions: Death, Eros, and Literary Enterprise in the Opus of Pier Paolo Pasolini* came out with Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. In the spring of 2017, he was a Fulbright Foundation of the South Scholar and taught two graduate level courses

at the Università della Calabria while conducting research on literature of the Italian diaspora.

The book *Fashioned Texts and Painted Books: Nineteenth-Century French Fan Poetry* by **Erin Edgington**, MA'10 and PhD'13 (French Literature), was published in the North Carolina Studies in the Romance Languages and Literatures series in 2017. The work examines the folding fan's multiple roles in fin-de-siècle and early twentieth-century French literature, focusing on the fan's identity as a symbol of feminine sexuality, as a collectible art object, and, especially, as an alternative book form well suited to the reception of poetic texts. Edgington is assistant director of the Honors Program at the University of Nevada, Reno.



Bryan Donaldson at the Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages in Toronto, April 2018.

## Medievalist H. Wayne Storey Retires

Professor of Italian and Medieval Studies H. Wayne Storey retired in January 2018 after 17 years in the Department of French and Italian. Storey received his Ph.D. in Italian from Columbia University in 1982 and came to IU in 2000 after 14 years at Fordham University. A leading scholar of medieval and early modern Italian literature with a distinguished record of publications and accomplishments, Storey's most notable publications are *Transcription and Visual Poetics in the Early Italian Lyric* (New York: Garland Press, 1993) and the facsimile edition of Petrarch's *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta* (Padua and Rome: Antenore, 2003-2004). His innovative work in the fields of material philology, textual studies and digital editing has been recognized internationally among scholars of early Italian and Occitan poetry, Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio.

Storey's current research project, begun in 2013, is "The Petrarch Project 2.0: A Digital 'Rich Text' Commentary and eBook of Petrarch's *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta*" (see <http://petrarchproject.org>). The web archive, supported by an NEH grant, brings together historical and philological expertise and information technology, allowing for a dynamic approach to Petrarch's *Fragmenta*. For the first time, readers will have access not to a fixed snapshot of Petrarch's text, as has been the case with all modern editions, but to the material and textual formation of the work in its various phases. The project is a collaborative effort with John Walsh, associate professor of Information and Library Science, and Isabella Magni (PhD'17), a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library.

Storey also has a distinguished record of service, most notably as director of the Medieval Studies Institute 2003-2009 and again as acting director in the fall of 2012. In teaching, Storey's contributions included both the standard courses of the Italian major and minor programs and courses in English such as *Dante's Divine Comedy*, *Boccaccio's Social Decameron* and *Manuscripts and Early Printing*. At the graduate level, his teaching and mentoring have trained specialists in material philology, textual studies and digital editing who now hold important positions in academia. His retirement leaves a gap in the Department and at IU-Bloomington that will be hard to fill.

--Massimo Scalabrini



## New Bologna Scholarship

A \$2,000 scholarship has been created by the Indiana University Office of Overseas Study as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of its partnership with the University of Bologna which dates back to 1965. The Bologna Consortial Studies Program (BCSP) added a reciprocal exchange component in 1995 for students from the University of Bologna to attend a BCSP institution. None of these unique study opportunities would have been possible without the leadership of the late Professor **Mark Musa** who conceived of the idea of the program with the University of Bologna in 1965 and who served as its resident director twice—in 1965 and 1989. We are delighted that these funds are available to help students take advantage of this valuable exchange!



## Top New Films

### French

- ***Le Secret de la chambre noire*** by acclaimed Japanese director Kiyoshi Kurosawa is a French-language horror/suspense film about Stéphane, a daguerreotype photographer who lives alone with his daughter Marie and photographs her daily in long, grueling sessions. When his new assistant Jean decides to save Marie from her father's apparent sadism, he puts her life and his own on the line. Like most of Kurosawa's work, the film is an exercise in light and darkness, both visually and morally, where the dividing line is never exactly what it seems at first sight.
- ***Félicité***, by Alain Gomis, was shot entirely on location in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) using non-professional actors. The film's title character is a single mother who earns a living as a cabaret singer. When her teenage son has a serious motorcycle accident and needs an operation, Félicité must raise the money quickly through friends and family. Her efforts reveal the multiple stigmas attached to being a single, independent mother in contemporary Central Africa and will ultimately force her to reaffirm or to condemn the life choices she has made.
- Robin Campillo's new film, ***120 Battements par minute***, is an intimate portrait of the ACT UP movement in France during the early 1990s. It recreates public protests against the French government's and pharmaceutical industry's hesitancy to battle the AIDS/HIV epidemic, as well as political divisions among activists, many of whom are battling the disease themselves. Inspired by his own participation in ACT UP, Campillo offers a basis for evaluating how public discourse on AIDS/HIV and advocacy have changed (or not) in the past 30 years.
- ***Mektoub, My Love***, by Abdellatif Kechiche, focuses on Amin, a young Tunisian-French man living in Paris, who contemplates his sexuality, bicultural / bilingual heritage, and plans for adulthood after returning to his hometown of Sète on the Mediterranean to spend time with his parents, cousin Tony, and best friend Ophélie. Like many of Kechiche's films, this one offers a subtle, existential reflection on the inherently fluid, contradictory nature of individual and collective identity.
- A collaborative effort by 89-year-old Agnes Varda, one of the leading figures of the French New Wave, and acclaimed 33-year-old French photographer and muralist JR, ***Visages Villages*** is an enchanting documentary/road movie. Kindred spirits, Varda and JR share a lifelong passion for images and how they are created, displayed, and shared. Together they travel around the villages of France in JR's photo truck meeting locals, learning their stories, and producing epic-size portraits that reveal the humanity in their subjects and themselves.

-- Brett Bowles and Vincent Bouchard

### Italian

- ***Tutto quello che vuoi***, by Francesco Bruni, tells the tale of an idle and ignorant boy and an octogenarian, arteriosclerotic, kind-hearted poet (interpreted by a fabulous Giuliano Montaldo). They share a memorable, touching, humorous experience based on personal memories and history. A very intelligent and well-acted comedy.
- ***La tenerezza***, by Gianni Amelio, is a study of loneliness and the inability to love or connect with family members. The film covers many themes, sometimes not so convincingly. The film has many good plot twists and some deep insights, although it is not Amelio's best. *La tenerezza* fits into Amelio's search for new inspiration and offers an interpretation of psychological distress that can be found throughout his filmography.
- The new film by Roberta Torre, ***Riccardo va all'inferno***, is a psychedelic, dark and bizarre musical reinterpretation of Shakespeare's *Richard III*. Both victim and executioner, the crippled Richard destroys those around him and self-destructs. The film blurs the lines between reality and illusion through lighting, mood, and a play on ages (star Massimo Ranieri is actually 15 years older than co-star Sonia Bergamasco, who portrays his mother). Torre was our artist in residence for the annual Italian Film Symposium in 2013.
- ***A Ciambra***, by Jonas Carpignano, is set on the outskirts of the city of Gioia Tauro in Calabria. This is a work of fiction with a vibrant and gritty documentary edge, showing the world of the outcast Romani and Sinti people in Italy as it attempts to change our perception of them. They play themselves in the film, which was entirely shot from a non-anthological approach without professional actors.
- ***Nico, 1988***, by Susanna Nicchiarelli, won the Horizons Prize at the 2017 Venice Film Festival and the David di Donatello Award for best screenplay. The film is based on the last two years in the life of Christa Päffgen, known as Nico, the ex-muse of Andy Warhol and singer of the Velvet Underground. The last years of the German artist's life are captured through her music and her new life experiences, outside of the image created in the 1960s by her youth and beauty.



-- Antonio Vitti