



Palazzo Vecchio, Florence

Letter from the Chair

MASSIMO SCALABRINI

This has been a year of important faculty transitions for the Department of French and Italian. **Julie Auger**, Associate Professor of French and Linguistics and for many years Director of Graduate Studies in French Linguistics, left IU in January to join the University of Montreal in her native Quebec. Two valued members of our Italian faculty, **Alicia Vitti** (Senior Lecturer of Italian) and **Antonio Vitti** (Professor of Italian Cinema) retired in June. On behalf of the Department, I wish the three of them all the best in their future endeavors and express my sincere appreciation for their substantial contributions, as educators, mentors and scholars. As we salute and thank three great colleagues, we are happy to see a new generation of scholars among our faculty. While French medievalist **Elizabeth Hebbard** and Italian medievalist **Akash Kumar** will serve their second year in 2019-20 as Assistant Professor and Visiting Assistant Professor respectively, sociolinguist **Annie Bergeron**, who received her PhD from Concordia University in Montreal, will join us as Visiting Assistant Professor of French in the fall.

French & Italian continues to be a place of exciting and innovative pedagogical and schol-

arly work, only some of which I have room to highlight here. Adding to an already rich roster of courses taught by FRIT faculty for the Hutton Honors College, in Spring 2019 **Alison Calhoun** (Associate Professor of French) taught for the first time her *Reading the City: Parisian Spaces*, a course which is part of the HHC International Experience Program and which entailed two weeks on-site in Paris; and in Summer 2019 **Karolina Serafin** (Senior Lecturer of Italian) taught an entirely online version of a reading proficiency course for graduate students, extending online education beyond the basic language courses. **Hall Bjørnstad** (Associate Professor of French) received a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities award for the completion of his book *The Crowning Example: Louis XIV and the Crisis of Royal Exemplarity*; **Albert Valdman** (Rudy Professor emeritus of French and Linguistics), **Kevin Rottet** (Associate Professor of French) and a team of collaborators comprising Thomas Klingler (PhD '92, Associate Professor at Tulane), Marvin Moody (PhD '72) and doctoral student Carly Bahler (MA '13) are making progress on the groundbreaking *Differential, Historical and Etymological Dictionary of Louisiana French*; while **Marco Arnaudo** (Professor of Italian) and **Andrea Ciccarelli** (Provost Professor of Italian and Dean of the Hutton Honors College) are launching *Simultanea*, a refereed online journal

devoted to the scholarly investigation of Italian popular culture.

We had a number of successful PhD dissertation defenses this year: **Erin Myers**, **Georgy Khabarovskiy**, **Jill Owen**, **Jessica Tindira** and **Noëlle Brown** in French/Francophone Studies; **Carlotta Paltrinieri** and **Rosa Borgonovi** in Italian Studies. Two of our doctoral students, **Sara Dallavalle** (Italian Studies) and **Amanda Vredenburg** (French/Francophone Studies), were awarded a College Dissertation Completion Fellowship and several of our graduates found good academic positions at Baylor University, Brown University, Kennesaw State University and Lycoming College.

This is my last letter as chair as I will step down from my current position in January 2020 after four and a half years. Serving the Department when language and humanities programs such as ours are under intense pressure has posed some inevitable challenges, but I have been constantly inspired by the dedication, the energy and the amazing work of our students, faculty and staff. I am happy to leave the Department in the very capable hands of Ruth N. Halls Professor of French **Oana Panaïté**. Professor Panaïté will bring to this job a substantial amount of administrative experience through her past service to the department, university, and profession.

“**W**hat does literature do for us in the contemporary world?” This is one of the questions underlying the PhD dissertation research of Amanda Vredenburg (MA '16). She and other advanced students in French/Francophone Studies are exploring questions that take them far outside the traditional study of literature. For Vredenburg, Jake Ladyga (MA '16), and Cristina Robu (MA '17), the most exciting part of their work in French/Francophone Studies is the vast connections to other fields of scholarship.

Vredenburg studies the fantastic, a literary genre prominent in 19th and early 20th century fiction that features supernatural elements or a general sense of bizarreness. Vredenburg's research explores new areas of scholarship by examining the fantastic in the works of four contemporary French authors, each of whom uses it to explore political, environmental, and social questions in unique ways.

“It's a bit surprising to think that you would use the bizarre or the supernatural to work through these questions that are very pressing, very rational in nature, and also contemporary,” Vredenburg explains. The authors her dissertation examines use the fantastic to explore topics such as totalitarianism and ecocriticism. She hopes to reveal what the genre of the fantastic can bring to our understanding of these questions that philosophical or rational thinking cannot.

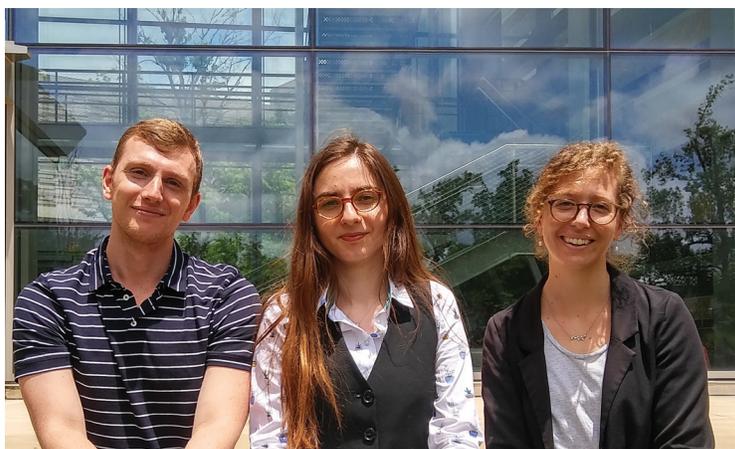
Beyond the enjoyment that Vredenburg gets out of the exploration of many different forms and ideas in her dissertation, she feels that her research has directly impacted her teaching. In answering the questions central to her research, she has found ways to highlight the relevance of French and Francophone literature and culture for students of all disciplines.

The contemporary French/Francophone

novel serves as fruitful ground for scholarship for Cristina Robu as well. Robu arrived at IU in Fall 2015, while she was still working on a PhD dissertation in literary theory at the Academy of Sciences of Modova. She completed that PhD in 2018 and is now working on a second doctoral dissertation exploring representations of the sick body from the third-person perspective in contemporary Quebecois novels and film.

“The body is the point-of-view, the point zero of our perception of the world, and this makes it interesting to look at it from the third-person,” she explains. Her research examines the ethics and aesthetics of putting sickness into words and the way third-person representations of the body transmit meaning to social and narrative discourse. An important aspect of Robu's dissertation is the exploration of the relationship between the body as embodied first-person point-of-view and the external body as an object of otherness. She hopes to better understand how the representation of someone else's physical distress is formulated, and what that does for the narrator, reader, and society.

In summer 2019, Robu received a Majorie & Francis Gravit Fellowship from the Department to participate in the Dartmouth University Summer Institute in French Cultural Studies, a biannual summer program which this year centered around the theme “Culture and the Emotions.” The topic fit in well with Robu's research. She explains that our emotions take part in the way



Doctoral students Jake Ladyga, Cristina Robu, and Amanda Vredenburg in front of the Global & International Studies Building.

we perceive others' bodies, and the way our perceptions are put into discourse in turn shapes culture. The Institute provided a context in which she could put the relationship between culture and emotions and the sick body into perspective.

Robu chose Quebecois literature because of its unique development and history. It participates in stimulating conversation with French and Francophone literary culture while maintaining its own distinct voice. In the same way that the body can be conceptualized as a nexus of social, cultural, and historical interactions, Quebecois literature can be as well.

While Robu's research explores third-person perspectives of the sick body, Jake Ladyga's dissertation concerns one author's preoccupation with the body and its relationship to spiritual experience.

“I've always been pulled towards the representation of the female body in Renaissance poetry,” Ladyga says, explaining how his research interests led him to the exploration of the literary

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Department of French and Italian

ChairMassimo Scalabrini
Editor.....Isabel Piedmont-Smith
Designer.....Isabel Piedmont-Smith

College of Arts and Sciences

Executive Dean Rick Van Kooten
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Bologna Connections

Indiana University continues its strong ties with the University of Bologna (UNIBO), the oldest university in Europe, through student and faculty exchanges. The Bologna Consortial Studies Program (BCSP) for undergraduates from IU and affiliated universities is still going strong, wrapping up its 52nd year this summer. Meanwhile, an IU graduate student participated in the first research exchange in Bologna last Fall, through the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, and two IU students participated in a week-long institute at UNIBO this summer. Faculty from the University of Bologna have visited IU over the years as well, to present their latest research and collaborate with faculty here.

The BCSP now includes 14 US universities, but Indiana University is its administrative home. Andrea Ricci (PhD '02) has served as Resident Director since 2003, helping students navigate the

ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH

Italian university, where they take classes alongside the Italian students. The program also includes a few courses taught specifically for the BCSP students, including the essential Advanced Course in Italian Language and Culture. This past spring, the course had a new theme: the industrial development of northern Italy, with a focus on businesses related to food and fashion in the Emilia-Romagna region. Class excursions included visits to the Lamborghini/Ducati museum, a production site for Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, and the Giorgio Armani museum (Silos) in Milan.

IU students continue to recognize both the challenges and great rewards of studying abroad in Bologna. Katie Hudgins (BA '19), BCSP participant in Spring 2018, noted that “it is extremely challenging to adjust to a new way of life in a foreign environment,” but she was grateful for the life-changing experience. Preston Gilts, who studied in Bologna this past spring, agrees with

faculty notebook

In April, **Alison Calhoun** co-organized and participated in a Newberry Library symposium called “Medieval and Early Modern Dance in the Book,” where she ran into **Isabella Magni** (PhD ’17), who was at the Newberry completing her Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship. In May, Calhoun took twenty students to Paris for a Hutton International Experience Program course titled *Reading the City: Parisian Spaces*. Students spent two weeks studying in Paris after 8 weeks of course work on campus.

Andrea Ciccarelli once again served as director of the overseas study program in Florence this summer, but due to a sports injury and subsequent surgery, he was not actually able to be in Florence with the 35 enrolled students. However, thanks to his vast experience with the program and the study sites in Florence, the help of Associate Instructors Francesco Samarini and Carlotta Vacchelli, and the convenience of technology, Ciccarelli was still able to direct the program and teach the core course on Renaissance Florence online. Site visits are integral to this course, so he is extremely grateful to the AIs for taking on the extra work of leading the visits after each online session he taught. They were also invaluable in coordinating the program on the ground.

Margot Gray completed her book manuscript, *Stolen Limelight: Gender, Display and Displacement in Modern Fiction in French*. She also greatly enjoyed organizing a symposium honoring the centennial anniversary of the publication of Proust’s *In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower*, second volume of *In Search of Lost Time*; William C. Carter (PhD ’71), University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, was the keynote speaker. The celebration included a recital of songs of Proust’s era performed by musicians trained by the IU Jacobs School of Music.

A culmination of research begun in the



Professor Calhoun with the students at the entrance to the Esplanade de la Défense métro station.

1980s, the book *Life in God’s Country*, by Professor Emeritus **Edoardo Lèbano** was published by The Daily Clintonian in 2018. The work consists of interviews with Italian immigrants who settled in Clinton, Indiana, in Vermillion County, from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century, as well as immigration records of these families. Around the turn of that century, Clinton had a population of approximately 15,000 people, about one-third of whom were Italian.

Eric MacPhail had a short term fellowship in July 2018 at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where he worked on his book *No Word for God*. Along with history professor Daniella Kostroun, he will organize a seminar on *Religious Persecution and Religious Pluralism in the Early Modern World* for 2019-20, funded by a grant from the Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics and Society.

The book-length study *Comparative Stylistics of Welsh and English* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press), by **Kevin Rottet** and Steve Morris, was published in Fall 2018. Rottet, who is on the executive committee of the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers, is a specialist of both Welsh and Breton. In their study, Rottet and Morris (Swansea University,

Wales) compare and contrast the linguistic structure of Welsh and English through the window of a parallel corpus of over 30 novels and autobiographies from the late 19th century to the present.

This summer, Kelly Sax and IU professor of geology Michael Hamburger spent a month in southern France conducting site visits in preparation for their 3-week summer 2020 IU Bicentennial course entitled “Provence From the Ground Up: Geology, Culture, History, and Traditions.” Lesson number one: what holds Provence, which extends from the Mediterranean to the Alps, together? Sheep! The tradi-



Kelly Sax and Michael Hamburger in Provence.

“Faculty Notebook” continued on page 7

Hudgins’ assessment. “Studying in Bologna was simultaneously the hardest and most rewarding experience of my life. It is exhausting to think and speak in a language that you began in college, but it’s so exciting to notice yourself rise from being nervous about ordering a coffee to successfully talking about politics and life experiences.”

Kathleen Sideli, managing director of BCSP and associate Vice President for Overseas Study at Indiana University points out that “BCSP is one of the few remaining language and culture immersion programs in Italy today since most providers and institutions offer programming in English to U.S. students. BCSP students are able to successfully integrate themselves into Italian life given the program resources that support the full immersion experience.”

During the Fall 2018 semester, PhD student Marzia Bagnasco (MA ’17) spent a semester at the University of Bologna as part of IU’s new

graduate scholar exchange program. Bologna was an ideal place for her to pursue her study of how migration is treated as a theme in recent Italian cinema, and using such films in Italian language pedagogy. “Bologna is internationally recognized as one of the best places to study films in Italy and in Europe,” says Marzia, citing the Biblioteca Renzo Renzi (Cineteca di Bologna) as a specific research hub. “Bologna is a unique place,” she says, “with ancient origins and astonishing medieval architecture.” She especially enjoyed the feast of San Petronio celebrations at Piazza del Nettuno. Petronio is the patron saint of the city, and each October 4 Bologna hosts a religious procession, a variety of cultural activities, and fireworks. The next graduate exchange scholar going to Bologna will be Zane Elward, a PhD student studying 20th-century Italian history.

In June 2019, two of our Italian PhD students attended the UNIBO summer program *Mediat-*

ing Italy in Global Culture.

Carlotta Vacchelli and Sara Dallavalle found out about the program from UNIBO professor Luca Barra, who visited IU in March to give a talk about trends in contemporary Italian television fiction. Barra is one of the main organizers of the summer program, which focuses on how film, television, digital media, and other modes transmit Italian culture, and how foreign countries interpret the “Made in Italy” brand. Both Vacchelli and Dallavalle happen to be pursuing PhD dissertation research on Italian comics, so the seminars and excursions of the summer institute put the pop culture production they study into the greater context of contemporary Italian cultural exports to the world.



An Alumna's Journey Through the Tangible Past

LAUREN ANDERSON

When Isabella Magni (PhD Italian, 2017) arrived at IU-Bloomington in Fall 2011, she didn't know she would specialize in Medieval Studies.

"It all started thanks to Wayne," Magni says, describing the classes she took with Professor Emeritus H. Wayne Storey, which included trips to the Lilly Library to examine rare books and manuscripts. Magni describes the experience of holding a primary source in her hands, not just reading a text but feeling it, as the moment she knew she wanted to work with medieval manuscripts.

For the past two years, Magni has served as a postdoctoral scholar at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where she has worked to build a website to support and train individuals interested in paleography—the study of historical handwritten sources and the art of transcribing them.

The website is the first to focus specifically on Italian paleography, featuring 100 handwritten documents dating from roughly 1100 to 1700. The documents are divided into three levels of difficulty: elementary, intermediate, and advanced, and represent six different historical Italian scripts. The site also includes contextual information about the documents, a handbook on the history of script, and software to help users practice transcribing. The site is designed to help anyone learn about

paleography, from researchers and scholars to high school students with an interest in Italian.

"It's not just about learning how to read, but how through learning to read hand-written primary sources you also learn about the cultural and historical contexts in which these objects were produced and written," Magni says. She hopes the website will enable the experience of a historical text to be shared with a wider audience.

Magni will complete her work at the Newberry Library this July, but her work with medieval manuscripts is far from over. Her next project will be the creation of a digital edition of a manuscript by Pepo degli Albizzi, a member of the powerful Florentine Albizzi family. The manuscript is a record of his personal and familial life, as well as his business dealings as a merchant and political figure. It also details the important historical moment when the Black Death swept across Europe. The manuscript is one of the few first-hand accounts of the Black Death, and it confirms what historians believe about the plague's effects on the Florentine population and its economic impact. About half of Pepo's family died from the disease.

"All that we know about history is what was left written," Magni says of the importance of sources like the Albizzi manuscript.

Magni will begin a position as Postdoctoral



Associate in Italian and Digital Humanities at Rutgers University in the fall, but her experience at the Newberry Library won't be soon forgotten. "We have to make an effort to make what we do available to everyone, and I think we can do that with even the most narrow and complicated and research-related field like paleography," she says. Magni credits her experience at the Newberry for showing her the value of the study of written work as a part of human history, rather than just a part of more contained research conducted at the university level. "In every society, not just medieval society, writing is about power, how we tell history, how we know about the past now."

You can find out more about Magni's work on her website, <http://isamagni.com>.

New Faculty Member Specializes in Troubadour Lyric

ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH

Elizabeth K. Hebbard has joined the tenure-track faculty of the Department of French and Italian as Assistant Professor of French starting in August 2018. As announced previously on these pages, she served as Visiting Assistant Professor here in 2017-18 and came to IU after two years at the University of New Hampshire and a successful PhD completion at Yale University.

Thus far, Professor Hebbard has taught our F300 course *Introduction to French/Francophone Studies*, F361 *La France médiévale (jusqu'à 1500)*, and a graduate course on *Lyric in the Medieval Mediterranean*. We were also pleased to be able to offer F410 *Literature of the French Middle Ages* for the first time in many years to our undergraduates, now that we have a French medievalist back on our faculty roster. "Students here bring a lot of intellectual curiosity to class," Hebbard says, and she finds the diversity of student backgrounds and majors really adds to class discussions. She was particularly gratified to teach her first graduate seminar recently, where she could really dig into her scholarly passions.

Hebbard is a specialist in French medi-

eval studies, and she is especially interested in manuscript studies. She and three colleagues have recently submitted a grant proposal to make medieval manuscripts more accessible to researchers by cataloguing and digitizing the holdings found in non-Research 1 institutions in the US Midwest. When manuscripts are not catalogued, it can be difficult to know what holdings exist, but it is clear that many valuable manuscripts and manuscript

"Students here bring a lot of intellectual curiosity to class."

fragments are out there, waiting to be studied. The project aims to build community among holding institutions in the region, and to generate new knowledge about the medieval materials they preserve. Some of them, Hebbard suspects, were sold by Otto Ege, a "book-breaker" from Cleveland who, in the early decades of the twentieth century, disassembled manuscripts, selling them piecemeal to institutions and individuals around the country.

At IU-Bloomington, Hebbard has quickly integrated into the lively community of medievalists, and she has helped to convene the Occitan

Reading Group and the Manuscript Studies Working Group. The former group includes both French and Italian graduate students, as well as colleagues from Linguistics, English, and of course Medieval Studies. "This is a great place to be a medievalist," says the young scholar.

Hebbard's own original research focuses on medieval French and Occitan lyric composed



Annual Awards and Honors

The Department held its annual awards ceremony in the State Room East of the Indiana Memorial Union on Friday, April 5 to celebrate the excellent academic work of our undergraduate and graduate students as well as the dedicated teaching of our top Associate Instructors. Professor Margaret Gray once again paid homage to former professor Grace P. Young, in whose memory several awards were made, by wearing a hat, since Young always considered this essential teaching attire. She taught French at IU in the genteel decades of 1917 to 1956.

To conclude the ceremony our department chair, Massimo Scalabrini, presented the Trustees Teaching Award to Professor of French Linguistics Barbara Vance, and also said a fond thank you and farewell to retiring Professor of Italian Cinema Antonio Vitti.

Charlotte F. Gerrard Memorial Prize

Hunter Pace

Lander MacClintock Memorial Award

Rebecca Hailperin-Lausch (BA '19, French and

BS '19, Psychology)

Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award

Patricia Davis (BA '19, English)

Olga Ragusa Graduate Award

Carlotta Vacchelli (MA '17, Italian)

Grace P. Young Undergraduate Awards

Emma Coates (BA '19, French and Political Science)

Megan Crow (BA '19, French and English)
Audrey Hood

Grace P. Young Graduate Awards

Evie Munier (MA '18, French/Francophone Studies)

Victoria Lagrange

Mary V. Lèbano Memorial Prize

Nicholas Moreton

Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prizes

Samantha Myers

Grace Miller



Professor Andrea Ciccirelli explaining the many reasons doctoral student Carlotta Vacchelli earned the Olga Ragusa Award this year. Photo: Carlo Buenconsejo.

Maria Triantafyllopoulos

Eneria Ruggeri Memorial Award

Francesco Samarini (MA '18, Italian)

Peter Cannings Memorial Prize

Martin Maillot (MA '16, French linguistics)

Mario & Katrina Vangeli Memorial Award

Deanna Cinquemani

John K. Hyde Award

Claire Ambrose (BA '19, French)

Carol Ann Brush Hofstadter Memorial Scholarship

Victoria Myhand

Deanna Cinquemani

French Associate Instructor Awards

Evie Munier (MA '18, French/Francophone Studies)

Erin Stigers

Italian Associate Instructor Award

Emma Pcolinski (MA '17, Italian)

Thank you to our generous donors, who make these awards possible!



Undergraduate award recipients in French: Samantha Myers, Patricia Davis, Claire Ambrose, Rebecca Hailperin-Lausch, Emma Coates, Maria Triantafyllopoulos, and Hunter Pace. Photo: Carlo Buenconsejo.

in the 12th and 13th centuries, and the notion of authorship (those who wrote the manuscripts documenting the songs were often not the composers) as well as the relationship between lyric text and melodic setting. She is particularly interested in how the term “chansonnier” has been used by scholars somewhat inconsistently, which has, she argues, led to significant undercounting of the number of manuscripts of troubadour lyric in existence.

Her interest in the music of the troubadours reflects the central role of music in Hebbard’s professional and personal life. She studied bassoon as an undergraduate, earning both a B.Mus. in performance and a B.A. in French and German from the University of Georgia. Music has been an in-road to settling down in Bloomington as well. She has joined the Bloomington Chamber Singers

and frequently attends the IU opera and ballet. “Bloomington seems so small,” says Hebbard, “but there is a lot going on, especially in the arts.”

There is also a lot going on in Hebbard’s life off campus. She and her husband Trevor Verrot, a career coach at IU’s Walter Center for Career Achievement, welcomed their first child into the world last fall. Baby Theo has already attended faculty meetings and our annual departmental awards ceremony, showing remarkable patience as the youngest member of the FRIT family.



PhD students Carlotta Paltrinieri and Francesco Samarini during the traditional “horse race” on Piazza Santa Chiara in Assisi, as part of the Florence program, where they served as Als.

Italian Film Symposium Concludes Ten-Year Run

ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH

Ten years, ten filmmakers, countless intellectual exchanges. The symposium “New Trends in Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema,” was an international gathering of film scholars, directors, and journalists at Indiana University Bloomington that took place annually in April from 2010 through 2019. Organized by Professors Antonio Vitti and Andrea Ciccarelli, it was an unusual hybrid between a scholarly conference and a film festival. The event was a wonderful opportunity for our own graduate students and put Bloomington on the map for those interested in Italian film.

Professor Antonio Vitti, who retired this summer, came to IU from Wake Forest University in 2009 as a specialist in Italian cinema studies. He had organized a film festival that was held at Wake Forest and in Venice in alternate years, and he sought to continue the tradition in a new way at IU. Partnering with Professor Andrea Ciccarelli, the IU symposium launched in April 2010. It was organized around a certain theme each year, and a guest director was invited to fit in with that theme.

This year’s guest director was Wilma Labate, whose works (both documentaries and feature films) deal with labor and the working class, feminism, the Mafia, and the way social changes of the last 40 years have impacted everyday Italians. Papers read at this year’s conference dealt with similar themes: feminism in Italian-American film, *The Sopranos* HBO TV series about an Italian-American Mafia family, and contemporary immigration issues in Italy.

“From discussing the semiotics of baseball caps with Vincenzo Marra to sharing a coffee with Carlo Verdone, this event has been an incredible access point to the world of contemporary Italian cinema,” says **David Winkler** (PhD ‘16) now Assistant Professor of Italian at the University of Delaware. **Lisa Dolasinski** (PhD ‘17), currently Visiting Assistant Professor at Dickinson College, remembers her first participation in the symposium, in 2014. “I recall being in complete awe of the scale of this event. Having the opportunity to hear an Italian director’s insights and interventions about the films screened was a new and exciting experience for me.” **Edward Bowen** (PhD ‘15), who now holds a faculty position at the University of Kansas, says “I was fortunate to participate in the symposium every year that I was a doctoral student at IU, and I consider it an important part of my education. The event helped me to make contacts, including Guido Chiesa and Carlo Verdone, who helped me with my dissertation.”

Over the ten-year period, films made for Italian television have received greater attention at the annual symposium. The quality of films made for television, says Professor Ciccarelli, is almost as high

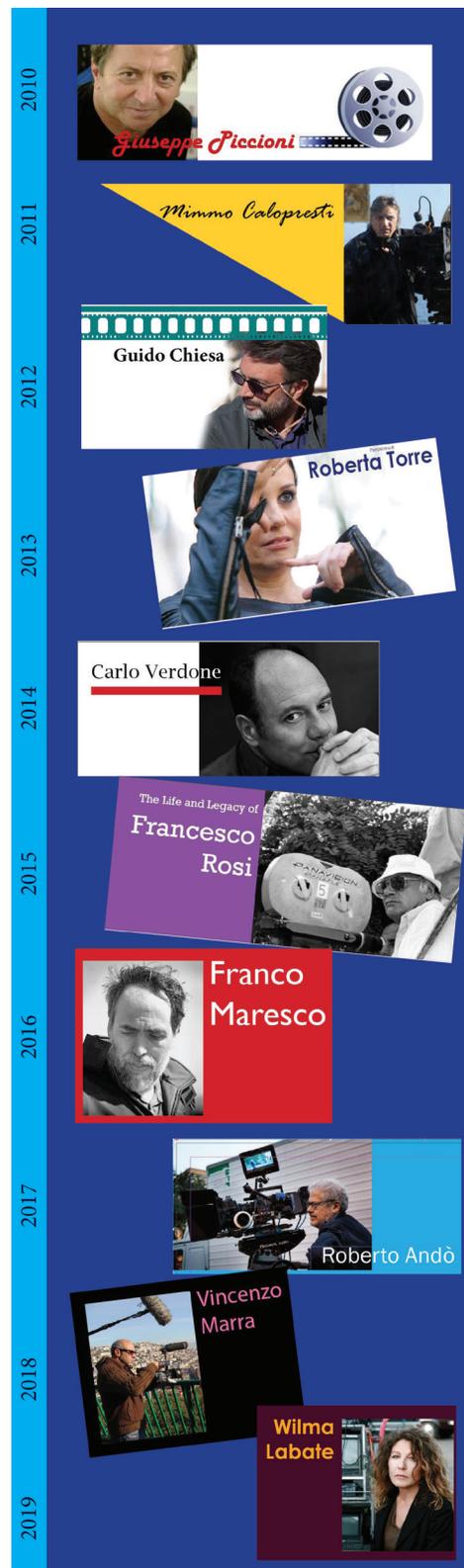
these days as that of films for cinematic release, so he and Vitti included more such works by the guest directors. Another change over the course of the IU symposium’s lifespan has to do with documentary films. In the early years, documentaries from other prominent directors were shown, unrelated to the guest director who was invited to campus. The last few years, the lunch-time documentary screenings were of the guest director’s own works.

For Ciccarelli, the most important aspect of the symposium is that it brought Italian directors to the US, not just to IU where our students and faculty could learn from them, but to other universities and Italian cultural centers, as most combined their trip to Bloomington with other US stops. The symposium even gained recognition and coverage from two major Italian newspapers, *La Repubblica* and *Corriere della Sera*.

As cited above, IU students benefited from the incomparable educational opportunities the symposium brought to campus. Mimmo Calopresti, the guest director in 2011, conducted a workshop for students on how to shoot video on a smart phone. He later allowed a student he met at IU to visit him on set in Italy. Roberto Andó, the guest director in 2017, “loves the pedagogical aspect of being a director,” says Ciccarelli. Since he is also a well-known drama writer and director of theatrical productions, his broad knowledge of Italian culture led to many interesting conversations with students and various cultural connections. “Andó is also a foodie,” says Ciccarelli. “When I asked him how the food was at the conference, he said, very diplomatically, ‘different than in Italy.’”

While we couldn’t offer gourmet food that met Italian standards, the Department of French and Italian, largely through its graduate students, was a friendly and engaging host. Many, if not most, Italian graduate students in recent years have given papers at the symposium and have subsequently published their scholarly work in Vitti’s online journal, *Rivista Luci e Ombre*. **Marzia Bagnasco** (MA ‘17), **Giorgio Losi** (MA ‘19), **Pantalea Mazzitello** (MA ‘18), **Francesco Samarini** (MA ‘18), and **Carlotta Vacchelli** (MA ‘17) have all read papers in recent years.

Leonardo Cabrini (MA ‘17), a PhD candidate in Italian who is working in the field of Italian film, recently reflected on the impact of the symposium on his development. “As a scholar, I had the chance to be part of the last four conferences, develop my own research on the history of Italian film criticism, and exchange interesting opinions with other scholars and friends.” Although the symposium will not continue, the connections made between scholars will carry on and enrich the field of Italian film studies for years to come.



Upcoming Workshop

Professor Vincent Bouchard, along with Professor Terri Francis, director of IU’s Black Film Center/Archive, is organizing a workshop to take place Sept. 5-6 at IUB entitled *P.S. Vieyra: Pioneer of African Cinemas, Filmmaker, Producer and Historian*. Scholars from the US, Canada, France, and Senegal will discuss the legacy of Paulin Soumanou Vieyra (1925-1987), who was born in Benin and spent most of his adult life in Senegal. Director of over 30 documentaries, Vieyra was also a founding member of the Fédération panafricaine des cinéastes, director of the national cinema news service of Senegal under president Léopold Sédar Senghor and production manager for Ousmane Sembène. For more information about the workshop, please contact vbouchar@indiana.edu.

Michael O'Donnell, MA '68 (French) recently celebrated 50 years of teaching at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. He published his third memoir, *An Odyssey: 50 Years of World Travel*, in 2018. His main job at UVA-Wise is as professor of French, but he has also held many administrative posts throughout the years, including Director of Admissions and Athletics Director.

Elizabeth A. "Beth" Melix-Stanciu, BA '95 (French), writes that she thought she would be a professor one day, but after a rather unexpected career path—via non-profit administration and accounting in Minnesota and then Cambodia—she landed in Portland, Ore., as the international finance manager for Mercy Corps, an international humanitarian agency working in 40 countries. Since six of those countries are francophone—the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Niger, Mali, Tunisia, and Haiti—she has had numerous trips to places she never expected to visit and frequent occasions to use the French language. She also makes her way back to Strasbourg, where she studied abroad in 1992–93 under the tutelage of Professor Emeritus Samuel N. Rosenberg, every few years to see friends and walk along the quai beneath the window of "la 254," her room in La Gallia dormitory.

Lisanne V. Jensen, BA '97 (Journalism, French), serves as the coordinator of faith formation and youth Ministry at the Church of St. Joseph (Stottville/Stuyvesant Falls, N.Y.) and as the coordinator of secondary faith formation and youth ministry at St. James Parish (Chatham, N.Y.). She also writes for *Catechist* magazine, a national publication serving catechists and

catechetical leaders in parish religious education and formation programs and religion teachers in Catholic schools.

New York City-based performer **Adrienne S. Howard**, BA '07 (Ballet, French), began her career with the Boston Celtics Dancers and is a former member of the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. More recently, she toured the country in a production of the Tony Award-winning musical, *Memphis*, and received a 2016 Astaire Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Broadway Show for *Shuffle Along*. She appeared in Disney's *Aladdin* at the Hollywood (Calif.) Pantages Theatre from Jan.–Mar. 2018, and has been part of the musical's North American Broadway touring company for the past two years.

A financial reporter with *The Washington Post* since 2014, **Danielle H. Paquette**, BA '12 (Journalism, French) has been named West Africa bureau chief, a new role created as part of *The Post's* international expansion. She will be based in Dakar, Senegal, a jumping-off place for coverage of Nigeria and more than a dozen other countries across one of the world's fastest-growing and most volatile regions. Before joining *The Post*, Paquette was a reporter at the *Tampa Bay Times* and a freelance writer in Los Angeles.

Paola Marrero-Hernandez, MA '14 (Italian), taught Italian for two years at the University of Puerto Rico and has been on the faculty of Marywood University in Scranton, Penn. since January 2019, teaching Italian and Spanish. At Marywood, she is in charge of El Cafecito, the



Mini-reunion at the International Colloquium in 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies, 14-16 March, Oklahoma City: Adjunct Assistant Professor Aiko Okamoto-MacPhail, PhD student Amanda Vredenburgh, Jessica Tindra (PhD '18), Flavien Falantin (PhD '15), and Marie-Line Brunet (PhD '12)

Spanish conversation hour. This summer she is co-leading a one month academic trip in Siena, Italy for students of the University of Puerto Rico.

Thomas Bebekoski, BA '15 (French, Microbiology), earned his medical degree from Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in Michigan this spring. He is working in the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit to continue his training as a Resident Physician in Emergency Medicine. He reports that "French helped me immensely during my time as a medical student, from working with a medical university in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to translating research documents from English to French, to helping assist translating for patients in the metro Detroit area who only spoke French. As a new physician, I seek to always provide exemplary medical care for my patients, but as a former Hoosier student of the French language and culture, I aim to always keep cultural competency and respect for people who are different than me at the forefront of what I will do every day."



"Body, Spirit" continued from page 2

blason—a form of poetry that praises, mocks, or disdains a particular feature of the body. Ladyga's dissertation explores the late verse of Marguerite de Navarre within the context of blason poetry.

Ladyga explains that although de Navarre is not typically considered a poet of the blason, she was certainly aware of the tradition. In much of de Navarre's late verse, the relationship between God and the believer is accompanied by considerations of the body and its individual parts, therefore highlighting the tension between spiritual and earthly experience. According to Ladyga, de Navarre's works share similarities in structure and treatment with the blason, but often present readers with an unusual twist. Ladyga explains that his research will use the lens of the blason to illustrate de Navarre's consciousness of both the capacity and limitations of language to articulate spiritual experience. A reader will gain additional meaning from de Navarre's work by exploring it through the framework of the typical blason and through knowledge of the author's personal experience as well as the literary and cultural context in which she was writing.

"Faculty Notebook" continued from page 3

tion of the transhumance, the practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically to lowlands in winter and highlands in summer, ensured regular cultural exchanges between low- and highlanders across time.

Colleen Ryan has enjoyed presenting at various conferences on Italian film and Italian American studies this year, from the MLA in Chicago to the Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies meeting in Rome. Her professional highlights, though, were her two spring courses, *Italian American Women Artists* in the Hutton Honors College and the *Italian Theater Work-*

Like Vredenburgh and Robu, Ladyga found the versatility of his research to be the most rewarding. "It has allowed me to explore so many different realms of intellectual thought and culture that I wasn't aware of before," he says.

Vredenburgh, Robu, and Ladyga all found the interdisciplinary nature of their research as challenging as it was exciting. They each emphasize the importance of keeping the many ideas they treat in dialogue with one another, as well as maintaining a realistic outlook on their projects.

"Your project is always evolving," Ladyga explains. "You don't need to know where you're going to end up before you sit down to write." That's why a dissertation takes time and students benefit particularly from fellowships that release them from teaching duties. Both Vredenburgh and Ladyga received departmental fellowships this year to work on their projects: Vredenburgh the Gertrude F. Weathers and Francis and Marjorie Gravit Fellowship, and Ladyga the Grace P. Young Fellowship. Robu, who is earlier in her studies at IU, will be eligible for these dissertation fellowships next spring.

shop, featuring a student-scripted and produced rendition of "Pinocchio."

Nicolas Valazza recently published a book entitled *La Poésie délivrée. Le livre en question du Parnasse à Mallarmé* (Droz, 2018). In collaboration with Professor Emeritus **Samuel N. Rosenberg**, he edited a volume entitled *Paul Verlaine: A Bilingual Selection of His Verse* (Penn State University Press, 2019). In April, he also curated an exhibition of "Banned Books and Prints in Europe and the United States, 17th-20th Centuries" at the Lilly Library and organized an interdisciplinary workshop on "Literary Censorship and Obscenity Law."

The Adventure of Teaching English in France

LISA HUFFMAN

Sometimes not knowing what to expect can be a blessing. This is what Shane O'Bannon (BA '18) learned while working as a teaching assistant in France during the 2018-19 school year. The high school where he taught in Bretagne was very different from the high school experience most Americans have. But in the end he, like many of our other BA graduates in French, had a fulfilling experience.

TAPIF ([Teaching Assistant Program in France](#)) is a program run by the French Ministry of Education and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy that places Americans between 20-35 years of age as assistant English teachers in elementary and secondary schools throughout France. The TAPIF program is a great way for individuals to immerse themselves in French culture and increase their fluency.

O'Bannon spent the past seven months teaching in a technical boarding school in the city of Quimper in Bretagne, located in the Finistère region of France. Despite the rainy weather, the region is a popular destination for the French to retire since it is on the seaside and has a mild climate. He found the food wonderful, especially *le beurre demi-sel*, a specialty of the region, as well as fresh seafood and savory crêpes.



Like all TAPIF positions, O'Bannon's teaching job was part-time, with various semester breaks allowing him to travel and explore the country. At the school, he noticed the lack of diversity: The student population was comprised of all males with similar interests. Another big difference O'Bannon noticed compared with US high schools is that there were no non-academic courses such as sports, art, or music. The teachers there created a traditional, teacher-centered

environment, so there was not a lot of room for creativity in lesson planning. But O'Bannon settled in and was lucky to live rent-free at the school, and eat very cheaply at the cafeteria. This allowed him to stretch his part-time salary and pay for many short trips throughout northern France.

He took advantage of the many discounts for young people in France, including train tickets and museum entrance fees, as well as the many youth hostels, which allow you to pay little for overnight accommodations while traveling. Visiting Mont St Michel off the coast of Normandy was a high point for him. Here he shared a particularly great evening with other travelers at the hostel. "They were just as excited as I was," he recalls, "to meet someone of a different nationality that was friendly, open-minded, and eager to make a connection."

O'Bannon noted that a foreigner must be outgoing and motivated to make friends in France. The French take longer to get to know, he says, and it took longer to be invited and included in groups. His advice for future TAPIF participants is to not have any set expectations about what the experience will be like. Remain flexible, and it is likely there will be many pleasant surprises.

Sarah Panfil (BA '18) also concluded a nine month TAPIF experience this past June. Her placement was a lycée/trade school affiliated with *l'Académie de Bordeaux* (founded under Napoleon I) in St. André de Cubzac, a small village of around 10,000 people. She commuted to work from Bordeaux and loved the cultural opportunities this bigger city provided, especially enjoying walks on the *Quais de Bordeaux* alongside the Garonne River.

Participating in the TAPIF program was Sarah's second stay in France, as she also studied in Aix-en-Provence as part of the IU study abroad program three years ago. At that time, she



mostly interacted with students, and this time had a chance to experience France from the point of view of a young working professional, which was very different. She noted that American participants need to be prepared to be independent and take the reins when getting involved in the TAPIF program compared with a study abroad program. Study abroad programs help take care of many personal details associated with living in another country. With TAPIF, she was connected to networks of people to help her get settled, but in the end, it was up to her to secure her living space and take care of essential activities like paying bills.

Panfil reports that she taught students aged 15-18 with varying English abilities. She prepared short lessons on contemporary American culture and engaged in discussions with the students to work on their English communication skills. She was pleased to be able to renew her teaching commitment and will return to France to teach English again during the 2019-20 school year.

Like O'Bannon, Panfil noted that sometimes it can be hard to break into a social circle and make closer friends that are native speakers. In her experience, the French often seem very cool and elegant but a little standoffish until they start warming up to you, and then eventually they appreciate the contact.