

Letter from the Chair

OANA PANAIȚE

Without a doubt, since last August, FRIT has experienced another year of challenges and transitions. After overcoming the institutional tensions around the IU graduate workers' strike which led to a long-overdue stipend raise, we welcomed a new department administrator, [Ms. Connie Sue May](#) as the head of our dedicated staff team. All of us – faculty, graduate students, and staff – have come together during this year, when all aspects of our work fully resumed in person, to face the shifting dynamics of academia while continuing to champion the core values of our department: first-rate research, innovative pedagogy, and committed service to our IU community and the world.

Among the highlights of the Fall semester, we can boast our first Open House held at the College's Walter Career Center (in the Ernie Pyle building) to which all IU students interested in our French and/or Italian programs were invited. This event that not only confirmed our popularity on the Bloomington campus but also the impressive network of volunteers who serve as our advocates among their peers, such as the passionate and ingenious student association *Les Chevaliers de la Table Française*. Another first that drew wide attention on our campus and beyond, attracting many Bloomingtonians, was the exciting Italian Week made possible by our indefatigable team of Italian language instructors led by their inspiring and innovative director. Moreover, FRIT's research power shined brightly both at the College of Arts and Sciences' 2023 Distinguished Alumni event and at the College's Book Exhibit where we were proudly represented by no less than eight publications, including an award-

winning monograph!

Spring offered a unique series of *Mélo* events that blended music and 19th-century poetry featuring a week-long master class with an internationally acclaimed French vocal artist and capped by a delightful student recital, held under the aegis of the Center of Excellence of the French Embassy at IU.

The bi-annual Colloquium



Cassis harbor, France. Watercolor by Kelly Sax

organized by our Graduate Student Organization, devoted this year to the theme of "Patterns and Singularities", brought together two distinguished guest speakers (one of them a FRIT alumnus!) who joined MA and PhD student presenters from IU and other institutions along with FRIT faculty for two stimulating days of plenary lectures, roundtables, and panel talks on subjects as wide-ranging as bird symbolism in muwashshahat and troubadour lyric, journalistic storytelling in postwar Italy, and high vowel laxing in Québec French! The colloquium was only one of the numerous events such as guest lectures and symposia which saw us hosting scholars and artists from the US and abroad throughout the academic year. Most of them joined us in person, but even remote events such as the virtual concert, public lecture, and small-group conversations with an Italian-Liberian rap artist deeply resonated with IU audiences. ... A whole host of traditional FRIT activities, such as the *French Club* and *Circolo Italiano* or our study-abroad programs in Aix-en-Provence and Bologna, were enriched by more recent developments like the groundbreaking opportunity for our Italian students to use VR (virtual reality) devices in their language classes, an idea that stole the spotlight and attracted a large audience of prospective students and their families during our department's participation in the College's Direct Admit Day, to intern at the French Consulate in Chicago, or to participate in the Innovation Policy Program in Toulouse.

The letter continues on page 2.

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In future years, we hope to renew two memorable experiences that bookended this academic year: hosting Indiana high-school class visits! At our annual Awards Ceremony and our FRIT Commencement Reception we once again celebrated the remarkable work and impressive achievements of our undergraduate and graduate students, our Associate Instructors, and one exceptional faculty member who received this year's Trustees Teaching Award. Another significant and moving event was the reception to honor the retirement of a longstanding member of our department, Senior Lecturer Kelly Sax, who in her decades of service as Director of our French Language Instruction program, educated, advised, and mentored generations of students and instructors. Both in person and in writing, students and colleagues paid tribute to Kelly's utter professionalism, boundless generosity, and inimitable style that has always combined fashion and flair with an authentic sense of care. Her lovely watercolor paintings inspired by French themes can be found on the cover and page 4.

On a personal note, as I end my term as Chair, I feel both humbled by the many instances of solidarity, dedication, and resilience I have witnessed from our faculty, students, and staff during the past few years while being faced with unprecedented pressures and demands, and heartened by the resourcefulness, creativity, and ambition to continue our tradition as one of the best French and Italian departments in the US and recognized worldwide. I am fully confident that, with the continued support of our extended FRIT family which includes our generous donors and alumni, our valued traditions strengthened by innovative initiatives will continue to define us under the inspired leadership of our next chair, Prof. Hall Bjørnstad.

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Department of French and Italian

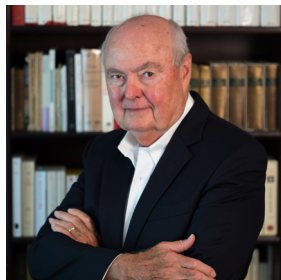
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College of Arts and Sciences

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Welcome to FRIT, Connie ! We are delighted to introduce Ms. **Connie May**, our new department administrator! Connie joined FRIT in August 2022, bringing a wealth of experience to the job. She began her career at IU 31 years ago as an assistant to legendary Vice President Terry Clapacs, then moved first to the Department of Comparative Literature and later to Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. Connie's tireless contributions to setting up the new Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies earned her IU's coveted Staff Merit Award in 2016. She is particularly proud of her role in assisting with the proposal that brought to IU a large federal grant to establish the Arabic Flagship program, now in its 8th year. Connie has generously served as a campus campaign leader for the United Way and is currently the Chair of our building's Safety and Emergency Control Committee. When asked what she enjoys most about her work, Connie mentions three main areas: planning events, managing the budget, and supporting students. As an army veteran, a mother, and a grandmother, Connie has always loved challenges and is looking forward to her second year in our busy French & Italian community!



Celebrating Bill Carter. FRIT was privileged in September 2022 to celebrate alumnus **William Carter's** (PhD, French, 1971) return to Bloomington to accept a **Distinguished Alumni Award** from the University. Dr. Carter (Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama) is an internationally renowned Proust scholar and the editor of Yale University Press's recent English-language volumes of *A la recherche du temps perdu*. FRIT graduate and undergraduate students had front-row seats at the event and also enjoyed a special coffee hour with Bill and his wife Lynn.

French Embassy Center of Excellence

Two years ago, IU was recognized as a [Center of Excellence of the French Embassy!](#) As one of only 25 such centers hosted by US universities, we now enjoy a special relationship with the French Embassy and its regional representatives like the Chicago Consulate and its Cultural Services. Thanks to the annual stipend generously provided by the French Embassy and a special competitive grant awarded in 2022, this past year, **Professor Alison Calhoun** collaborated with colleagues in the Jacobs School of Music to produce *Mé- lodie: French Art Song*, a series of four interdisciplinary, interactive workshops open to students in Music and French as well as the general public. In addition to hearing superb performances of art song, the genre that defined the Belle Epoque, participants were treated to a series of dialogues between French opera star/ author François LeRoux (*Le Chant In- time*, Oxford, 2021) and IU professors Cal- houn, Jean-Louis Haguenuer (Jacobs School), Allan Armstrong (Jacobs School), and **Nicolas Valazza** (FRIT). Each workshop included a master class with IU voice and piano students. You can see and listen to the last class [here](#).



In addition to sponsoring special events such as *Mé- lodie*, the French Embassy invites our students to apply for prestigious internships that use their French skills in practical ways.

This summer, **Imari Walker** (French & Franco- phone Certificate in Global French, BA Linguistics and International Law, 2024) won a competitive place in the Embassy's Innovation Policy Internship Program,

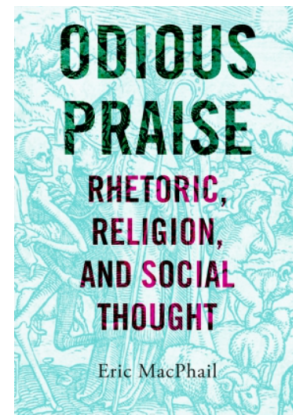
following up on **Madeleine Thurin's** (French minor, BA International Studies & Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2022) participation in summer 2022 as IU's first awardee. Imari writes: "I had an amazing time in Toulouse this summer! The first week was full of classes offered at Sciences Po Toulouse by distinguished professors from different Universities in Toulouse. After that, we all had individual internships with public institutions in France. I interned with the Department of European and International Relations at the Université de Toulouse. I learned so much about international mobility and relations in French higher education. I am so very grateful for the opportunity and support from the French Department since freshman year!"

Finally, **Mad- eline Ruprecht** (BA, French & In- ternational Studies, 2024) was selected to intern at the French Consulate in Chicago in Summer 2023. Maddy writes: "This summer, I have had the privilege of interning in the press and com- munications depart- ment at the Consulate General of France in Chicago. Some of my main responsibilities have been maintaining the so- cial media pages, writing retrospectives on consular events and activities, assisting in event planning, including for the 150-person Bastille Day celebration, and updating our web- site. My favorite part of my internship would have to be see- ing all the planning behind the Bastille Day celebration on the observation deck of the Hancock Tower come to fruition. Not only did I get to attend the event and network with distin- guished members of the community, I was able to see all the hard work everyone had put in come to life. I am very grateful for this opportunity, and I would like to thank the FRIT De- partment for bringing this opportunity to my attention and helping to support me throughout the process."

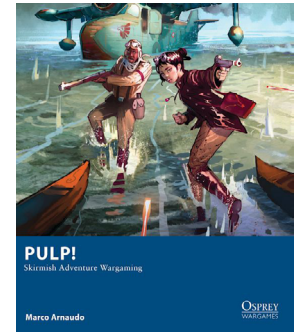
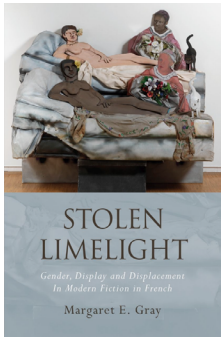
BARBARA VANCE



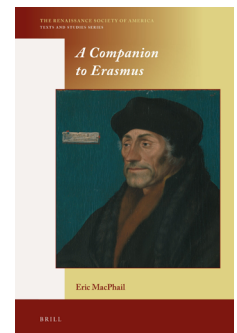
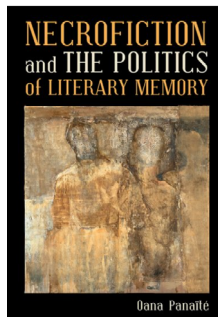
At a party and book exhibit hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences this past December to celebrate faculty authors and editors of books published since 2020, department faculty were represented by no fewer than **eight volumes**. Leading the pack was **Massimo Scalabrini's** prize-winning *Commedia e Civiltà: Dinamiche anticonflittuali nella letteratura Italiana del Cinquecento*, which received the American Association of Teachers of Italian Book Award (2022) for Literary, Critical Theory, and Cultural Studies. Originating in classroom discussions with graduate students and written during the darkest months of the COVID pandemic, the book – despite the somber context of its writing – focuses on 16th century Italian literature's propensity towards the comic, grounded in classical and ethically oriented sources and re-purposed to found a modern civiltà, or society. Across the border, French writers of the Renaissance – as **Eric MacPhail's** *Odious Praise: Rhetoric, Religion and Social Thought* argues – engage in re-purposing of their own as they employ praise as a strategy of critique, thereby challenging cultural values. Such paradoxical use of praise does not occur in the Catholic liturgy, however, at least not as depicted by Dante; instead, Visiting Assistant Professor **Helena Phillips-Robins's** *Liturgical Song and Practice in Dante's "Commedia"* explores the ways in which Dante's use of the Catholic liturgy, a familiar presence in the daily lives of his readers, invites them performatively into a relationship with the divine.



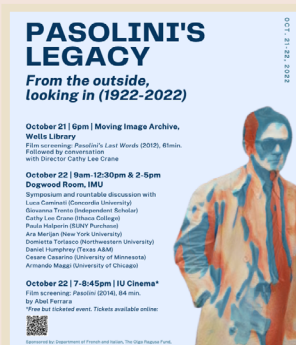
Serendipity favored the development of several faculty projects. A change of scenery was apparently crucial for **Hall Bjørnstad's** *The Dream of Absolutism: Louis XIV and the Logic of Modernity* and **Margot Gray's** *Stolen Limelight: Gender, Display, and Displacement in Modern Fiction in French*. A year's leave spent on the Madison, WI, campus brought Bjørnstad the realization that the book he was in the process of not writing on "royal exemplarity" at the time of Louis XIV was really a book demanding to be written on the "dream of absolutism." Across the Atlantic, it was during a conversation over a potato omelet in a small brasserie in Paris's rue de Vaugirard that Gray discovered that various smaller projects involving 20th-century French and Francophone novelists all had a powerfully overarching theme: display manipulated for purposes of displacement. Despite what its author calls its "bleak" title, **Oana Panaïté's** *Necrofiction and the Politics of Literary Memory* emerged from a fortunate series of serendipitous encounters, beginning with colleague Eric MacPhail's work on literary tombs. As for many faculty, the arguments of Necrofiction, honed in a graduate classroom, owe a debt to our "amazingly bright and engaged" students, as well as to supportive colleagues and friends who acted as sounding boards. Panaïté points to the importance of additional serendipitous encounters, from Achille Mbembe's challenging reflections on fraught contemporary politics and culture to visual work by the late Senegalese artist Kalidou Sy – whose "haunting" painting "Joola" became, as Panaïté puts it, "thanks to the infinite generosity and unflinching friendship of my colleague and mentor, Eileen Julien, far more than the cover."



Certain faculty authors took their studies well beyond the confines of French, Francophone and Italian traditions, however. **Marco Arnaudo** explains that his book, *Pulp! Skirmish Adventure Wargaming*, contains a war game inspired by 1930s American fiction. **Barbara Vance** co-edited, with two other colleagues in the field – including husband and Visiting Scholar **Richard Janda** – the *Handbook of Historical Linguistics: Volume II*, which offers a range of new insights, from linguistic evidence for reconstructing human prehistory, to the relevance of field biology for studying language variation and change, to historical treatments of languages as diverse as French, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language. Most recently, **Eric MacPhail's** edited volume, *A Companion to Erasmus*, explores Erasmus's life, work, and legacy, while also offering an expert synthesis of the most important research in the field and contributing importantly to the many disciplines influenced by Erasmus, including philosophy, religion, history, rhetoric, education, and the history of the book. Published just this past January, MacPhail's Companion gets faculty publications for 2023 off to a flying start!



Fred Kwornu. Fall 2022, organized by Professor Colleen Ryan and Black Film Center & Archive



Pasolini. Fall 2022, organized by Professor Colleen Ryan and Lucia Casiraghi



Karima 2G. Spring 2022, organized by Professor Colleen Ryan and Lucia Casiraghi

Highlighting Italian Artists

Tradition and modernity

Warm congratulations go to three faculty members on their promotion to Full Professor as of Spring 2023! They are: in French & Francophone Studies, **Hall Bjørnstad** (also stepping into the role of FRIT Chair as of July 1, 2023) and **Margaret Gray**, and in French Linguistics, **Kevin Rottet**. Sincere congratulations are also in order for **Colleen Ryan**, who was named Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs as of December 2022.

Guillaume Ansart published an article entitled “One injustice can never become a legitimate reason to commit another: Condorcet, women’s political rights, and social reform during the French Revolution (1789-1795)” in the *Intellectual History Review* (33.2, 2023).

Hall Bjørnstad has been kept busy by the 400th anniversary of the birth of French polymath Blaise Pascal (1623-1662). In March, he co-organized a seminar stream with thirteen papers on Pascal under the heading “Pascal at 400: A Critical Perspective” at the yearly meeting of the *American Comparative Literature Association* in Chicago, where FRIT graduate student Jason Wright presented the paper “Rediscovering Mysticism in Pascal” and Bjørnstad himself spoke about “Pascal and the Wound of Thinking.” Bjørnstad also presented the paper “La haie et la plaie: Lire les *Pensées* de Pascal aujourd’hui” at a large Pascal conference in Paris in June.

Kevin Rottet taught a new Gen Ed course in Fall 2022 on Cajun and Creole Louisiana. A highlight of the semester was a special performance of Zydeco music by **Cedric Watson** and his band Bijou Creole, who were in Bloomington for the Lotus Festival.

As part of a developing book project on French mass media and the Algerian War, **Brett Bowles**



Performance of Zydeco music by Cedric Watson

published an article titled “Fragmentary, Censored, Indispensable: the Audiovisual Archive of October 17, 1961” in the spring 2023 issue of *French Historical Studies* and conducted two weeks of additional research at archives in Paris and Aix-en-Provence during May 2023, supported in part by an International Mobility Grant from IU’s Office of the Vice-President for International Affairs.

Margot Gray greatly enjoyed teaching two new courses over the past academic year. Her seminar “20th and 21st-Century Lyric and Narrative Poetry” began with such iconic poets as Apol-

linaire and Valéry, and extended beyond the Hexagon to include lyrics by a First Nations Québécoise as well as by poets from Belgium, Martinique, and Switzerland. A second new course, taught in translation for the Hutton Honors College, traced issues in cultural codes involving race and gender through the fictions of four francophone women writers from Cameroon, France and Belgium.

Elizabeth Hebbard is one of just eight faculty members at all ranks across multiple IU campuses to receive a 2023-24 [IU Presidential Arts and Humanities Fellowship](#). Hebbard’s research, which focuses on medieval manuscripts and music in French and Occitan, also earned her a Fall 2022 Fellowship from the College Arts & Humanities Institute. She traveled to Paris in the Fall to consult manuscripts at the Bibliothèque Nationale and taught a new graduate seminar on the Troubadours (including women troubairitz) in Spring 2023. Hebbard also heads up a grant project that is cataloguing and digitizing little-known medieval manuscripts housed in the Midwest.

In February, Professor Emerita **Eileen Julien** participated in an international event to honor Senegalese novelist, journalist, essayist, and screenwriter, Boubacar Boris Diop. She presented a French translation of the foreword she had written (“An Urn for the Dead, an Hourglass for the Living”) for the first American edition of Diop’s acclaimed novel on the Rwandan genocide, *Murambi, the Book of Bones*. Professor Julien also served as Africa Editor for Wiley-Blackwell’s four-volume *Literature, A World History*, prepared under the auspices of the Stockholm Collegium of World Literary History. This vast, international project covering thousands of years of literary history from around the globe was prepared by a team of more than 30 scholars over a period of seventeen years. In October, Professor Julien organized a colloquium and art show, “Kalidou Sy: Return to the Native Land,” at the Museum of Black Civilizations in Dakar, Senegal. Visual artist and public intellectual Kalidou Sy had been the director of Senegal’s Schools of Fine Arts and Art Education (1986-96). Upon retiring in 1996, he moved to Bloom-



Prof. Panaïté (right) and Prof. Julien (center), with Prof. Joanna Grabski of IU at the Dakar Colloquium in October 2022.

ington, where he devoted himself fully to painting and artistic research until his death in 2005. After attending the Sy event, **Oana Panaïté** and Julien then joined other faculty leaders from African institutions for the week-long 3rd annual meeting of the Mellon Summer Institute on African Urbanities, hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

This year, the research group on Paulin S. Vieyra led by **Vincent Bouchard** has been work-

ing diligently to organize a research workshop for May 2024, which will bring scholars from around the globe to Bloomington to explore IU’s collections on early African Cinemas (1950s-1960s). During the workshop, participating researchers will benefit from the rich materials in the Sembène papers at the Lilly Library and in the Paulin S. Vieyra archives at the Black Film Center & Archive. This event will mark the opening of the Vieyra archives to the public, thanks to the BFCAs recent grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to process these key documents which Bouchard has worked to make accessible to researchers since 2018. He and members of his research team, including **Dana Vanderburgh** (BA, French and Francophone studies, 2018) and **Claire Fouchereaux** (MA, French and Francophone studies, 2020), presented in the department’s Student Faculty Forum in September about the process and team effort in bringing Vieyra’s papers to IU.

Nicolas Valazza has been awarded a Research Fellowship from the College Arts and Humanities Institute and a Research Grant from the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs to pursue a collaboration on the research project [UtPictura18](#) at the University of Aix-Marseille during the 2023-24 academic year.

Jeffrey Lamontagne is working with alumna Anne-José Villeneuve (PhD French Linguistics, 2011) and their graduate students on language variation in formal Canadian French, presenting their ongoing research at several conferences in the spring and preparing new work on French in Alberta. Furthermore, Lamontagne co-authored “Weight sensitivity and prominence in Laurentian French” in *Glossa*, showing how intonation in French follows systematic but previously untested patterns.



Watercolors by Kelly Sax

Our graduate students commit to excellence

Last academic year, our graduate students once again demonstrated their academic and pedagogical excellence, whether by obtaining prestigious scholarships and teaching awards, presenting their research work at major conferences, publishing in quality journals, or contributing to the scientific community by organizing a graduate conference. Let's have a closer look at the outstanding contribution of our graduates to IU's teaching success and renowned research activity.

All through the past academic year, all the FRIT concentrations have been particularly active research-wise. In French linguistics, **Kai Owens** (MA, 2023) gave several talks and presented multiple posters last year. They presented a paper at the Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting entitled "Musical genres exhibit distinct sociophonetic targets in Quebec French," which will be published in the *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*. They were the "Best student poster" award recipient at the Annual meeting of the Canadian Linguistics Association, May 31st-June 2nd, in Toronto, Ontario (Canada). Their poster re-evaluated the role of duration in Laurentian French high vowel laxing. **Jennifer Cox** (MA, 2022) was awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies award to study Arabic over the Summer of 2023. Last June, she presented online a paper entitled "The influence of nation-state ideologies on minority language standardization and policy" for the British Association of Applied Linguistics conference in London, England, and two papers about Picard in the spring at the 7th Forging Linguistic Identities Conference: Language in the Nation, the Region & the World in Towson, Maryland, and the International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation in Honolulu, Hawaii. For her part, **Jane Gilbert** presented two posters this semester at the Acoustical Society of America and Manchester Phonology Meeting and returned to France to take part in IU Honors program in foreign languages dedicated to high school students during the summer. She is part of Prof. Laurent Dedytspotter's processing lab with fellow graduate student **Decker Pope** and presented at the lab's spring colloquium. She also co-chaired Share Fair with French and Francophone Studies PhD candidate **Jade Liu** (MA, French and Francophone Studies, 2019). Last but not least, **Ludovic Mompelat** (MA 2019) gave a presentation at the International

Conference on Computational Linguistics 2022 conference in October in South Korea, which led to a publication in the *Proceedings* of the conference entitled "How to Parse a Creole: When Martinican Creole Meets French." (Mompelat, L., Dakota, D., Kübler, S.) He also gave three invited talks, at the University of Alabama (November 2022), the second at the University of Miami, Florida (February 2023) titled: "Alexa, you have your reason, and I have mine" and at Kennesaw State University (February 2023). He is collaborating on a Call for Papers with alumna Vic-

Personal assistants have shaken the world with their ability to understand human language and produce human-like utterances, and it has become evident that artificial intelligence (AI) will continue to play an important role in our everyday life. However, because AIs do not "think" like humans, common knowledge and reasoning can sometimes get lost in translation. We are still far from systems capable of understanding the world the way humans naturally do.

Artificial intelligence and personal assistants (Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant) are systems that lie at the intersection of language and technology, and Computational Linguistics (CL) is the field that connects these two domains of AI. Work in CL led to the creation, development, and advancement of AI technology for the most prominent human languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, etc.). My current research opens the field to more under-resourced languages, more specifically, Creole languages. In this talk, I show how my research in CL uses the latest technologies to develop language resources and computational tools for under-represented languages, and explain how it contributes to bridging the gap between AIs and humans.

Event is sponsored by the Department of Languages and Literatures and the Joseph Carter Memorial Fund

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

JOSEPH CARTER MEMORIAL FUND

toria Lagrange (PhD, French and Francophone Studies, 2022), Assistant Professor of Game Narrative (Department of English, Kennesaw State University) for the South Atlantic Modern Language Association 95th conference "(In)Security: The Future of Literature and Language Studies" (Nov. 9th-11th 2023).

On the Italian side, **Lucia Casiraghi** (MA, 2021) is a member of the Computer-Mediated Discourse (CMB) lab directed by Prof. Susan Herring (Information Science and Linguistics) and the Mediated Public Engagement with Technology and Science (mPETS) research group directed by Prof. Noriko Hara (Information Science) and received with her colleague Eugene Kim, a Ph.D. Candidate in The Media School, a Sustainability Research Development Grant (SRDG) from the In-

NICOLAS NOE

tegrated Program in the Environment at IU for their project "The Role of Public Mediators in Addressing Climate Change." This spring, she gave two talks at international conferences. One was entitled "Gen-Z and Multilingualism in Italian Social Media" and presented at the American Association of Applied Linguistics Conference in Portland,



Oregon (March 2023), and the other, "Tweeting on thin ice: Climate Change Public Engagement with Scientists on Twitter during COP26" was presented at the International Communication Association Conference in Toronto, Canada (May 2023). Moreover, **Alvise Stefani** (MA 2020) presented at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Puerto Rico, San Juan, in March. He volunteered to take part in the [Student Academic Appointee Council](#) in the College of Arts & Sciences for the next academic year (2023-2024). Finally, PhD Candidate **giorgio losi** (MA, 2019) struck a perfect balance between research and teaching this past academic year as they were awarded the Collins Teaching Award (Spring 2023) for their class "Animals and Literature," which took the shape of a seminar on human exceptionalism, animal exploitation, and solidarity with other animals as they appear in the history of literature. Additionally, in the fall of 2022, giorgio also taught Italian M300, in which students produced a 37-minute documentary on the Italian Program at IU called *La vita italiana*. It premiered in the auditorium of GISB on April 6.

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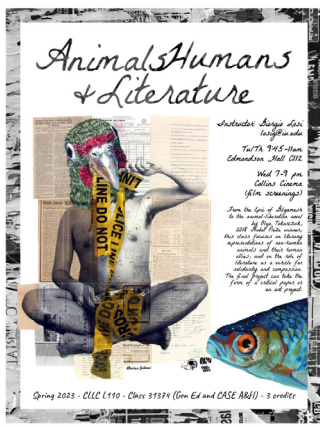
Report from Study Abroad



Study Abroad was back in full swing with many students attending our longstanding semester and year-long programs in Bologna, Paris, Rouen, and Aix-en-Provence. Below, Prof. Karolina Serafin in Bologna with students Holly Fizer (right) and Erica Goldsworthy.

At the close of Spring semester 2023, Alison Calhoun led her Hutton Honors class (H251, Parisian Spaces) through a two-week in-person exploration of *La Ville Lumière*. The group is pictured at left (with Calhoun and Hutton colleague Jeff Heerdink-Santos at front center) at their Opéra Garnier visit, after which they attended The Dante Project ballet.





In French and Francophone studies, **Claire Fouchereaux** (MA 2020) recently received a prestigious Graduate Student Scholarship from the International Council for Canadian Studies/Conseil international d'études canadiennes. This funding supported her summer research trip to Montréal, Québec, to explore collections related to her dissertation on rap in Québec and the genre's relationship to cultural institutions. This past October, she also participated in the American Council for



Québec Studies' biennial conference, where she had the pleasure of meeting FRIT alumnae Dr. Antoinette A. Barffour (MA, French Linguistics, 2012), Dr. Olga Amarie (PhD, French and Francophone Studies, 2011), and Dr. Erin Edgington (PhD, French and Francophone Studies, 2013), the latter two pictured here with Claire (from left to right). For his part, **Nicolas Noé** (MA 2023) gave a talk in June 2023 for the 64th Society for French Studies annual conference at Newcastle University, England. He is part of the [IU Share Fair](#) organizing committee and a member of the [IU Graduate and Professional Student Government Health and Wellness committee](#). He is currently writing an article on Caribbean writer and philosopher Edouard Glissant with Prof. Panaité. Our graduate students have also collectively shone at this year's FRIT Graduate Conference, "Patterns & Singularities" (March 31-April 1), organized by graduate student organizers **Corentin Mazet** (MA French Linguistics, 2022), **Nicolas Noé**, and **Alvise Stefani**. Twenty-six students from the department and six different universities engaged with the topic from the standpoint of differ-



Group picture of the Graduate Conference participants including guest speakers Michael Dow (bottom left corner) and Rocco Rubini (center)

alumnus **Michael Dow** (French Linguistics, PhD, 2014), now a Professor of Linguistics and Translation at the University of Montreal, "Applying Twitter data to linguistics research: case studies in sound, form, and meaning." The second was given by **Rocco Rubini**, Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Chicago, entitled: "The Making of the Italian Philologist: from Petrarch to Timpodoro."

alumni notebook

"I was Joanne Sabarese as a graduate student," writes **Joanne M. Greenway**. She adds, "I received my master's degree in French Lit. in 1971 and, following grad school, I worked a wholly unintentional, but rewarding, 30 years as a social worker for the Hamilton County (Ohio) Department of Human Services. I developed a renewed interest in poetry and have had two chapbooks published since 2016, *Limited Engagement* and *True Confessions*. I will have a third released in August of this year from Finishing Line Press, entitled *Low-hanging Fruit*." Greenway lives in Cincinnati.

"I am a global health guy, which basically means that you go off to some distant place on the planet and try to make the people healthier, or at least try to prevent them from dying of something really horrible," writes **Carl W. Henn III** (BA French, 1981) of Indianapolis. He adds, "In my case, I worked on HIV/AIDS in Africa for the last 20 years, in addition to working earlier on disaster relief. I started out in the Peace Corps in the 1980s and then went all around Africa, eventually working in 29 of the 54 nations. I finally came back from Africa just before the pandemic, then broke my wrist in a cycling accident. So, I wrote a book about Africa, titled, *My Two Centuries in Africa*. The book is a humorous, affectionate, unconventional book about Africa, part travel book and part memoir." In it, Henn strives to "set the record straight on Africa. It is not all war,

poverty, and disease. It is not just a game park for wealthy foreigners to go on safari and see all the wild animals."

Christopher J. Momenee (MA French, 1990) wrote the romantic comedy *Senior Moment*, starring William Shatner, Jean Smart, and Christopher Lloyd, which premiered in theaters on March 26, 2021. Shatner plays a retired Top Gun Navy pilot who, stripped of his driver's license after a street race, must learn to navigate life and love without his beloved vintage Porsche. Momenee is a writer and editor who lives in New York City.

"It definitely feels like it's another lifetime ago that I walked into my first cultural anthropology class at IU," writes **Stephanie N. White** (BA Anthropology & French, 1995). She adds, "I was hooked and love the field even to this day. I've had a twisting career and personal path which led me to jobs in the diagnostics and pharma sectors, to teaching English as a foreign language, volunteering, blog writing, and finally moving abroad to Switzerland where I've lived for 23 years. Throughout my career I held positions in sales/key account management, business development, global marketing, corporate partnering all within the healthcare field. Then, I left to do a master's degree at Bocconi in Milan in international healthcare management and economic policy." White continues, "All the while, I got married, had a child, became a dog mom, and even

managed it all with a debilitating and progressive chronic illness since the age of 19. My current career choice took me into social impact and the luxury fashion industry, working for a unique change-maker brand which empowers female refugee artists to lift them up out of poverty through their own talent and hard work. SEP [*the type of firm White is working for, ed.*] stands for Social Enterprise Project and has been like a dream come true."

In December, **Amanda J. Sarasien** (BA French & Spanish, 2005) completed a 2022 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. Her in-progress translation of the Brazilian novel *Springtime in the Bones*, by Álex Leilla, was among 24 projects awarded an NEA Literature Translation Fellowship. She is now pursuing the translation's publication. She is also in the final stages of writing a book of her own, a memoir/essay looking at illness and disability through the lens of literary translation. She explains that the themes of the two books intersect. "The main character of *Springtime in the Bones* grapples again and again with words, trying to understand the pain, give it a grammar. And yet, she always comes up short," she says. "Both the novel and the memoir use experimentation to confront those challenges – each piece informed the other."

Sarasien, of Chicago, is a writer and literary translator working from French and Portuguese, her respective major and minor at IU. She recently completed a two-year tenure as co-chair of the PEN America Translation Committee. Learn more about Sarasien's work at amandasarasien.com.

Chantal Fink Mehill (BA, Criminal Justice, English & French, 2010) was promoted from attorney to officer in the St. Louis office of Midwest law firm Greensfelder in February 2022. She handles a wide range of construction matters, including contract negotiations, early dispute resolution, arbitration, and litigation and has represented owners, general contractors, subcontractors, and designers on a regional and national level. She also has represented businesses in contractual, lending, employment, and real estate matters. This marks the second time in two years that Greensfelder has promoted an all-female class of attorneys to officer, fitting with the firm's core value of promoting equity and removing barriers to success. Mehill lives in St. Louis.

Davidson College Professor and Chair of French & Francophone Studies **Caroline Fache** (PhD, French & Francophone Studies, 2007) was named a [Mellon Academic Leadership Fellow](#) by the Associated Colleges of the South. This two-year fellowship will per-

mit Fache to work toward a more inclusive and dynamic experience in the Humanities for students and administrators at Davidson and beyond.

In February and March, FRIT and IU welcomed **Caroline Strobbe** (PhD, French & Francophone Studies, 2011) as a visiting scholar. Prof. Strobbe conducted research and generously offered her time to mentor graduate students while on sabbatical from her position as Associate Professor of French at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

Professor Colleen Ryan attended **Cinzia Marongiu's** (MA, Italian, 2010) dissertation defense at the University of Mainz in Germany on April 28, 2023. Prof. Ryan served as co-director of Dr. Marongiu's project, which examines race relations in the works of a diverse set of Italian-American women writers.



Caroline Fache

Colleen Ryan also recently had the opportunity to visit with **Flavien Falantin** (PhD, French & Francophone Studies, 2017) during her brief visit to Colby College



Amanda Vredenburg (PhD, French & Francophone Studies, 2020) has accepted a tenure-track job as Assistant Professor at the University of Houston.

Forrest Gatrell (BA, French & Political Science, 2020) has been accepted to graduate school at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs as a Robertson-O'Keefe Fellow in Public Administration and International Relations. From 2021 to 2023, Gatrell was a bilingual case manager with the Hensley Legal Group in Indianapolis.

Thanks to Vanessa Cloe, Director of Alumni Relations for the College, for her contributions to the alumni sketches.

in May 2023. Dr Falantin is tenure-track Assistant Professor and author of the very recent monograph *Faut-il brûler Sagan?* (Classiques Garnier, 2023), which was one of the top five most read Garnier books of the winter season!

News from our Undergraduate Programs

From animating our classes and clubs, to volunteering at our outreach events, to interning or studying abroad on short or long-term programs, our undergraduates stay busy!

Innovative instruction

This year, the Italian section led the department in purchasing four VR headsets that allow current and prospective students to explore Italy and French-speaking countries through virtual reality. This tool offers the amazing possibility of walking virtually through the places where students want to travel or study abroad. The headsets are now used at outreach events and will be introduced in classes this Fall as a language learning tool.



Outreach

FRIT now has a long and happy tradition of participating in the First Thursdays Arts & Humanities Festival on the Arts Plaza, but on October 7th we 'went rogue' and held our own expanded event, an Open House especially for French and Italian undergrads held in the downstairs lobby of

the Walter Center. Student representatives from *Les Chevaliers*, Study Abroad, and the College's Ambassador program joined faculty, grad students, and our College advisor Amanda Lueck to welcome new and prospective French and Italian students with music from Italy, France, and Québec and food provided by One World Catering.

Closely following the Open House came another first: Italian Culture Week! Organized to celebrate *La Settimana della Cultura Italiana nel Mondo* (October 17th - 21st), this event was filled with daily cultural events highlighting different aspects of Italian culture: language, music, art, cuisine, and cinema. The activities included guided tours of IU opera and the Eskenazi Art Museum, cooking les-



sons, painting, student exhibits showcasing various Italian regions, a concert, and finally a showing of the famous film *La vita è bella* topped off by a live Zoom interview with the director Roberto Benigni and his wife Nicoletta Braschi. All the students and faculty were involved in the organization of the

events and the whole week was successful in raising awareness of Italian culture across the campus. A repeat event is planned for Fall 2023!

At the other end of the academic year, in March, we took part in the College's new Direct Admit Day, interacting with admitted high school seniors and their parents as they explored their chosen majors.

Italian and French Clubs

The *Circolo Italiano* organized several extra-curricular events, among them a Treasure Hunt, a Cooking Lesson, and the San Remo Festival Concert. For the concert each Italian language course prepared and sang one of the San Remo winning songs from different decades. Students voted for the best interpretation and the best song won an award. A great community-building event! One highlight of the year in *French Club* was the Regional Languages Festival, where students were introduced to the less well known bilingual communities of France who speak Breton, Occitan, Flemish, Catalan, Picard, and other languages that fall along a scale of unrelated (Basque) to closely related (Gallo) to French. *Les Chevaliers*, our student-run French Club, hosted popular weekly conversation tables and several special events.

For news of special interest to undergraduates – and others – be sure to follow us on Instagram! [@iufrench](#) [@iu_italian](#)

Celebrating Student Success: Awards, Scholarships, and Degrees

Undergraduate Merit Awards

- **Martha Abaddi** – Eneria Ruggeri Award
- **Holly Fizer** – Edoardo A. Lebono Memorial Prize
- **Gavin Gorski** – John K. Hyde Award
- **Kayla Gundeloy** – Grace P. Young Award
- **Mason Hatfield** – Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prize
- **Sarah Hensler** – Grace P. Young Award
- **C. Lane** – Grace P. Young Award
- **Kathryn Mick** – Lander McClintock Memorial Award
- **Anastasia Spahr** – Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prize
- **Grace Young** – Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award

Graduate Merit Awards

- **Lucia Casiraghi** – Olga Ragusa Graduate Award
- **Angelo Grossi** – Eneria Ruggeri Graduate Award
- **Corentin Mazet** – Isabel Piedmont Graduate Student Service Award
- **Clara Miller-Broomfield** – Peter Cannings Memorial Prize
- **Nicolas Noé** – Charlotte F. Gerrard Memorial Prize and Isabel Piedmont Graduate Student Service Award
- **Arielle Roadman** – Grace P. Young Graduate Award
- **Nicolò Salmaso** – Isabel Piedmont Graduate Student Service Award

Overseas Study and Internship Scholarships

- **Martha Abbadi** – Carol Ann Brush Hofstadter Memorial Scholarship



- **Nanaka Onishi** – Marjorie and Francis Gravit Scholarship (Aix-en-Provence)
- **Fiona Pol** – Joel C. Walz Scholarship (Aix-en-Provence)
- **Madeline Ruprecht** – Marjorie and Francis Gravit Scholarship (Chicago Internship)
- **Grace Sarrazin** – Mayrene Bentley Scholarship (Paris)
- **Imari Walker** – Marjorie and Francis Gravit Scholarship (Toulouse Internship)

Graduate Fellowships

- **Lucia Casiraghi** – College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- **Elke Defever** – Pi Delta Phi President's Scholarship for Graduate Students
- **Claire Fouchereaux** – International Council for Canadian Studies Graduate Student Fellowship
- **giorgio losi** – College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship
- **Ludovic Mompelat** – College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Teaching Awards

- Student Awards**
- **Scott Evans** – French Associate Instructor Award
 - **Jane Gilbert** – French Associate Instructor Award
 - **Nicolò Salmaso** – Italian Associate Instructor Award
- Faculty Award**
- **Barbara Vance** – Trustees Teaching Award

Pi Delta Phi, Phi Beta Kappa and Gamma Kappa Alpha inductees

- Gamma Kappa
Alpha – **Martha Abaddi, McKenzie Bennett, Lindsey Dibble, Cordelia Ellis,**

Audrey Goodpaster, Laura Looper, Askar Mazitov, Alessandra Mella, Joseph Pickett, Grace Eva Richardson (undergraduates).

- Phi Beta Kappa – **Katie Miles (Italian), Claudia González-Díaz** (French)

- Pi Delta Phi – **Lila M. Caplan, Anastasia Spahr, Maya Goldenberg, Ana Gaston, Mason Hatfield, Alex Johnson, Haoulia Barry, Allison Waller, Leyla Fern King, Braden Chapman, C. Lane, Madison McEwen, Andrea Safran** (undergraduates); **Jennifer Kellett, Mélissa Lapalus, Nicolas Noé** (graduates).

Degrees

- PHD
French & Francophone Studies: **Evie Munier**
Italian Studies: **Leonardo Cabrini**

- MASTER OF ARTS
French & Francophone Studies: **Sara Albert, Jordan Howard, Nicolas Noé, Riley Grace Poe, Jason Wright**

- French Linguistics: **Kai Owens**

- French Instruction: **Mélissa Lapalus**

- Italian Studies: **Angelo Grossi, Giacomo Polinelli**

- BACHELOR OF ARTS

- Italian: **Katie Miles, Anne Noble, Payton Romans, Hannah Walker**

- French: **Claudia González-Díaz, Sarah Hensler, Alex Johnson, Kathryn Mick, Charlie Montgomery, Ashleigh Prentice, Darrell Schreiner, Dylan Schick, Claire Shea, Madison Smith**