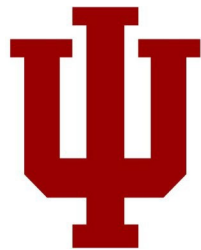


The Department would like to thank our donors, in particular those whose gifts fund our awards and fellowships. Special thanks go to:

Hall Bjørnstad and Sonia Velázquez
Andrea & Amanda Ciccarelli
Douglas Hofstadter
Fritz Lieber
Oana Panaïté and Craig R. Dethloff

Attention graduating students!

You are cordially invited to our commencement reception on Friday, May 8, 12:00-2:00 pm in the Georgian Room at the Indiana Memorial Union. Please RSVP to fritdept@iu.edu.



Department of French & Italian
Indiana University-Bloomington
Global & International Studies Building
355 N. Eagleson Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-1105
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Department of French & Italian

Annual Awards Ceremony

4:00 pm
Friday, April 17, 2026
Federal Room
Indiana Memorial Union



Welcome from the Chair

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad

Tribute to Prof. Guillaume Ansart at the occasion of his retirement

Charlotte F. Gerrard Memorial Prize

Prof. Vincent Bouchard

Una Mijatovic (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

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

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

Prof. Oana Panaïté

Arnaud Le Bihan (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

Micah McCauley (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

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

A Carnegie, Guggenheim and National Endowment for Humanities award-winner, Eileen M. Julien made lasting contributions to the profession and worldwide community as Professor of Comparative Literature, French and Italian, and African Studies, while also serving as the 16th President of the African Literature Association and founding director of the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal. This award recognizes a graduate student in French and Francophone Studies' demonstrated potential for innovative and world-oriented scholarship.

Recascino Family Study Abroad Scholarship in Italian

Prof. Cristina D'Errico

Melissa Herin (Junior: Italian Studies)

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

Trustees Teaching Award

Prof. Filippo Petricca (*not present*)

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

Associate Instructor Awards

Ms. Erin Candeias

Julie Malet (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

Una Mijatovic (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

Isabel Piedmont-Smith

Graduate Student Service Awards

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad

Sonia Cani (PhD Student: Italian Studies)

Una Mijatovic (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

Ye-Ye Xu (PhD Student: French Linguistics)

Jordan Howard (PhD Student: French, Francophone Studies)

Sofia Lo Ciacio (PhD Student: Italian Studies)

Kai Owens (PhD Student: French Linguistics)

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

Olga Ragusa Graduate Award

Prof. Massimo Scalabrini

Angelo Grossi (PhD Student: Italian Studies)

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

Grace P. Young Undergraduate Awards

Mary Jane Hart (Senior: French, Journalism)

Prof. Alison Calhoun

Maddie Kruger (Senior: French, Linguistics)

Prof. Jeff Lamontagne

Mira Shortt (Senior: Pub & Env Aff/Arts & Sci, French)

Prof. Liz Hebbard

Jake Stevenson (Senior: French,

Prof. Kevin Rottet

Political Science/Economics, Philosophy)

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

Grace P. Young Graduate Award

Justina Eshun (PhD Student: French Linguistics)

Prof. Jeff Lamontagne

Edoardo A. Lèbano Memorial Award

Julia Blad (Senior: Italian, Psychology)

Prof. Karolina Serafin

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

Lander MacClintock Memorial Award

Gwenyth Lawler (Senior: Gender Studies, Italian)

Prof. Massimo Scalabrini

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

Eneria Ruggeri Undergraduate Award

Isabella Vesperini (Senior: Journalism, Italian minor) (*not present*)

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

Peter Cannings Memorial Prize

Prof. Kevin Rottet

Ye-Ye Xu (PhD Student: French Linguistics)

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

John K. Hyde Award

Isabel Lyons (Senior: Intl. Studies, French minor) Prof. Liz Hubbard

Dilloni Pinnock (Senior: Political Science, French) Prof. Alison Calhoun

Melody Sutter (Senior: French, Microbiology) Prof. Brett Bowles

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

Eneria Ruggeri Graduate Award

Prof. Marco Arnaudo

Miriam Burrascano (PhD student: Italian)

Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prize

Danny Chapman (Junior: French, Psychology) Prof. Jeff Lamontagne

Allegra Foley (Junior: French, Art History) Prof. Alison Calhoun

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

Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award

Evie Hill (Junior: French, Linguistics) (*not present*)

Meredith Matzen (Senior: Intl. Studies, French minor) Prof. Brett Bowles

Robert Owen (Senior: International Studies, French) Prof. Kevin Rottet

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

AATF Excellence in French Award

Prof. Nicolas Valazza

Parnasi Bandyopadhyay (Microbiology, French)

Olivia Cutka (International Studies, French)

Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society

Ms. Natalia Pineda

Addi Antibus (Senior: Music, Arts Management, Italian minor) (*not present*)

Maria Beltramea (Sophomore: Economics, Italian)

Annabelle Heun (Senior: Music, Italian minor)

Jonathan Matten (Senior: Neuroscience, Italian minor)

Levi Pearson (Senior: Neuroscience, Italian minor) (*not present*)

Matteo Prevosto-riou (Senior: Music, Italian minor)

Maddie Thoennes (Senior: Media, Italian)

Madisyn West (Senior: Molecular Life Sciences, Italian minor) (*not present*)

Note: The Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society induction took place in Fall 2025

Phi Beta Kappa

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad

Olivia Cutka (Senior: International Studies, French)

Mary Jane Hart (Senior: French, Journalism)

Parnasi Bandyopadhyay (fall inductee) (Microbiology, French)

Anastasia Spahr (fall inductee) (English, French, Law JD candidate)