



FALL/WINTER 2015-16



## Reflections from the Chair



This is the last message I have the privilege of writing as an opening of the annual Newsletter as the current Chair. At the end of the current academic year (June 30, 2016), after so many years of service, I shall step down from the chairmanship of our department and go on a sabbatical leave for one year.

Probably because I have gone beyond any reasonable deadline in sending in this contribution I have received quite a number of suggestions about what to write. One student, who will go unnamed, asked me in a tone that sounded like an injunction more than a friendly suggestion if I was going to take an inventory of the department and recount how it has (or has not) changed from what it was when I was re-appointed Chair. A couple of other students, who are clearly somewhat politically minded, wondered if I was going to take this opportunity and write “something that really matters to our Yale community and the role of our

department in it”, namely if I would at least mention last November’s campus debates about free speech and moral values. Actually, it had briefly dawned on me that a truly “political” thing for me to write about might be reflecting on some of the recent changes that have occurred both in our department and in our university: the slow and seemingly inevitable fading of the humanities from the centrality they enjoyed till some ten years ago. After all, the visible and gradual diminution of their force was most likely to affect the future for all of us here as well as our profession at large, since this was the trend in all liberal arts colleges.

The thought of devoting the space given to me in the Newsletter at first tempted me because it took on the appearance of a “smart” ploy to remind the university administrators (who anyway know it too well) of the importance of the humanities to the culture of our times. I decided against the suggestions I received and against my own vague inclination to address what actually amounts to a social crisis because the issues are so important that they can hardly be adequately discussed in a single paragraph. It would mean almost nothing to my benevolent readers/friends if I tried to connect the crisis in the humanities (and especially of the language departments) to what some experts call the “reification of language”, a phrase that describes something like a taste for clichés and betrays a narrowness of thought and of superficiality in so many discourses.

Let it be clear, I am not really bidding farewell, I am simply stepping down from the chairmanship, and will be back.

I sign off by confirming that we are ready to meet all challenges and so to make sure that the future of our department looks bright.

Giuseppe Mazzotta  
Sterling Professor in the Humanities for Italian  
Chairman of the Italian Department

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 28-May 1, 2016**  
11th Annual Italian Film Festival

## From the Director of Graduate Studies

It is with the greatest pleasure that we welcomed Giovanni Miglianti this Fall into the department.

Giovanni obtained a B.A. in Italian from the University of Udine, where he was also a student at the Scuola Superiore, and an M.Phil. in European Literature and Culture from Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. His main areas of interest include 20th century Italian literature and cultural history, representations of the Holocaust, Primo Levi, life-writing, and Italian dialect poetry.

Since his arrival on campus in late August, he has already become a wonderfully active member of our graduate student community, and we're all delighted to be working with him now and in the coming years.

Our current graduate students are always active. For example, Anna Marra presented a paper, titled *Il dorso al lume. Luzzi tra Martini e Sant'agostino. L'arte e il suo significato*, at the University of Pennsylvania conference on "Mario Luzzi. The Man and the Verbum." Anna also made a documentary (Bmad), which has been selected to be shown at the Cervignano Film Festival. She won the STM Summer Ambassadors Grant, and travelled to El Salvador to shoot a documentary on El Salvador's civil war and new communities.

I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to students who completed their doctorates last year. Their names and the titles of their dissertations are as follows: Giulia Cardillo, "The Question of Prophecy in Dante's *Commedia*;" Taylor Papallo, "Green Scenes: Shades of Postwar Italian Cultural Ecology."

- Millicent Marcus



## From the Director of Undergraduate Studies



It is my pleasure to report on a vibrant year for our department's program of undergraduate studies. Thanks to the energetic leadership of Anna Iacovella (Language Program Director) and her exceptionally devoted teaching staff, enrollment in our language program remained strong throughout the academic year, drawing a fantastic turnout for an array of extracurricular events, from our department's annual Fall Feast and its Culinary Class at Davenport College to its newly reinstated *Scarabeo* tournament and annual *Pizzata* at the Yale Farm.

Upper-division courses ranged from mainstays such as *Italian Film: From Postwar to Postmodern*; *Representing the Holocaust*; and *Dante in Translation* to newer additions such as the *Catholic Intellectual Tradition*; *Italian War, Literature and Politics*; and *Women in the Middle Ages*. The interdisciplinary spirit that these courses share was well reflected in the senior theses of our record number of graduating majors. We hope this upward trend continues, and that students will begin to take advantage of our new B.A. -

M.A. program, a combined degree that will allow majors to obtain a Master's within four years upon completion of additional coursework at the graduate level. I'm especially optimistic given the extraordinary job that Emma Sonesson ('16) has done in reviving our department's undergraduate club, *Lo Stivale*. For the second year in a row, she and fellow students David Mele, Emma Clarkson, and Camila Franco have brought their love of all things Italian to the undergraduate community at large through their online newsletter and a variety of cultural events, from film screenings and a guided tour of the Yale University Art Gallery to culinary classes and a trip to the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In light of the eighty-five (!) signups the club received at this fall's extracurricular bazaar, the future is looking bright.

Last, but not least, I wish to congratulate our department's most recent alumni and to applaud them for the distinguished senior theses they defended in May.

We wish them all the best in their post-college careers, and hope that they will maintain their vital connection with the Italian language, culture, and our program at Yale.

### 2014-2015 Italian Major Senior Theses

Andrew Chanos (Italian)

*Boccaccio the Gastronomist: A Historical and Literary Analysis of Cuisine in the Decameron*

Karen Cruz (Italian, History of Science and Medicine)

*A Translation of Valeria Babini's Liberi tutti, Chapter 5: "Asylums: The Final Act"*

Erin Kelly (Italian, Psychology)

*Angela da Foligno: una santa in transizione*

Jeffrey March (Italian, Biomedical Engineering)

*The Empty Throne: An Original Translation*

Anna Wichorek (Italian, Humanities)

*Chiara di Assisi: la rivendicazione della sua francescanità*

- Christiana Purdy Moudarres

## Angela Matilde Capodivacca to Resign

I am passing on the news of Angela Capodivacca's decision not to return to teaching next January 2016. Health concerns in her family have forced her to resign. Her decision was undoubtedly difficult. I understand it and I must admit that, albeit grudgingly, I admire the inner hierarchy of values Angela carries within herself and applies them to her world.

We will miss Angela and we thank her for her service to this department. We will miss her intellectual energy and, above all, her extraordinary insights into the Renaissance as an intellectual prism that had to be studied with a sense of "wonder" and "curiosity" in the whole spectrum of the time's culture. I, for one, was always willing to bet that her perspective on that culture was going to bring a resurgence of interest among students and scholars alike. It's no small comfort that it will be the focal point of a rebirth of the golden period of Italian culture somewhere else.

- Giuseppe Mazzotta

## Giuseppe Mazzotta to Join the Dante Studies Advisory Board

Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta will serve on the newly formed Dante Advisory Board to the Society's flagship publication, *Dante Studies*. The journal was first published in 1882 under the title of *The Annual Report of the Dante Society, with Accompanying Papers*, one year after the founding of the Society—the second oldest in the world—by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and friends.

In the fall of this year, *Dante Studies* will put out its 133rd issue. The Advisory Board is to be constituted by leading scholars of the life, times, works, and historical influence of Dante Alighieri, both from North America and throughout the world. The Board's purpose is to assist the editorial board in continuing the distinguished legacy of the journal, broadening its reach to include scholars from neighboring fields and disciplines, and fostering exchanges within the global community of Dante scholarship.

## Congratulazioni, Matteo!

It is with great pleasure that I announce Matteo Godi's *magna cum laude* graduation from Yale College in May, 2015. Matteo received his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a double major in Ethics, Politics & Economics and Philosophy. Matteo first joined the Department of Italian in 2011 upon his arrival on campus as a freshman in Pierson College. During the time we worked together, we inaugurated the Annual Newsletter; we now create our own in-house posters for the Annual Italian Film Festival and we have an online reservation system; and we design flyers for many departmental events. These last four years have flown by!

While we wish Matteo congratulations, we don't actually have to say "arrivederci", since he is now a J.D. candidate at Yale Law School. He won't be spending as much time with us but he will continue to be a vibrant presence around here while he moves forward with pursuing the next part of his education.



## Remembering Matthew Elijah Julien Court



Matthew, in July 2015

Matthew was born at Yale-New Haven, February 7, 2002. He died in Madison, Wisconsin on July 13, 2015. He was the beloved son of Kristin Phillips-Court, who taught in our department from 1998 to 2006, and Ricardo Court.

We cherish fond memories of Matthew, and extend our deepest sympathies to Kristin, Ric, and their daughter Clare in the face of their heart-breaking loss.

The photo on the left-hand side was taken 10 days before he died. The other photo is from Halloween, 2003 at Calhoun College.



Halloween, 2003 at Calhoun College (photo by Aisling Colón) with Kirstin Phillips-Court



# Intellectual Exchange

Throughout the course of the academic year, the Italian Department hosts numerous talks by scholars from other universities and institutions. This commitment to vibrant intellectual exchange extends departmental life beyond the borders of New Haven, and fosters a rich and wide-ranging conversation among students, faculty, and guests. These events span the temporal range of the Italian textual tradition: from history in Dante to new Italian cinema. They also feature a multiplicity of disciplines and approaches, including architecture, literary close reading, film, philosophy, poetry, and politics. Although there is insufficient space here to go into detail about each one, I will choose three to stand in for the rest.

On October 9, 2014, Professor Steven Smith from Yale's Department of Political Science gave a talk entitled, "Machiavelli's Family Values: A Reading of *Mandragola*." His lecture dived straight into the confused web of tricks and double-crosses presented in Machiavelli's most famous play. Through an analysis of these convoluted relationships, Professor Smith was able to shed light on Machiavelli's other works and his historical context.



Yale  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN  
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE


*presents*



**Steven Smith**

*Alfred Cowles Professor of Government and Philosophy  
at Yale University*

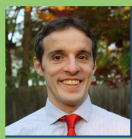
**“Machiavelli’s Family Values:  
A Reading of ‘Mandragola’”**



Yale  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN  
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

*presents*



**Luca Cottini**

*Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Italian Studies  
- Villanova University -*

**“Cigarettes, Smoke, and the  
Modernist Ideal of a Light  
Being”**

Scholar and independent Italian filmmaker Fred Kuwornu visited the department on February 6, 2015 to present his film *Inside Buffalo*. The documentary tells the story of the US 92nd Infantry Division, a segregated African American force that fought in brutal and historic battles in central Italy as the Allies pushed northward. He had also visited the department on a previous occasion, when he presented another film, *18 Ius Soli*.

Professor Luca Cottini of Villanova University delivered a paper on February 20, 2015 titled, "Cigarettes, Smoke, and the Modernist Ideal of Being," which focused on the image of the cigarette in modernist literary and artistic works. By tracing the development of this image across texts, he made the argument that the cigarette is the symbol of modernity *par excellence*. He called upon a wide range of works, which extended from the canonical *La coscienza di Zeno* by Italo Svevo to lesser known cultural products, such as cigarette advertisements from the turn of the century.

The department is grateful to everyone who travelled to share their work, and looks forward to continuing the conversation in the 2015-2016 academic year.

- Christopher Kaiser

## Pier Paolo Pasolini at Yale



The conference *The Legacy of Pier Paolo Pasolini*, organized by PhD students Karen Raizen (Italian) and Luca Peretti (Italian and Film and Media Studies), took place at Yale University on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. It marked the forty-year anniversary of the death of the Italian writer, filmmaker, and essayist Pier Paolo Pasolini, as well as the thirty-fifth year anniversary of the first major conference on Pasolini in the United States (Yale, 1980). The 2015 conference drew speakers from many different countries, as well as a large number of attendees; the film screenings, which took place on the Thursday and Friday evenings, drew an even larger crowd.

The conference proved to be a truly cross-disciplinary exchange: the mix of young scholars and more established faculty members nurtured an environment that stimulated further dialogue on the themes of the conference and beyond.

The conference drew attention from critics and scholars around the world, and has already appeared in the press with the publication of a short excerpt of one of the keynote speeches. The names of all the participants and the titles of their papers can be viewed online at <http://www.thelegacyofpasolini.net/conference.html>. Those involved included: Karen Pinkus (Cornell) and Ara Merjian (NYU) who delivered the keynote speeches, Millicent Marcus (Yale), Paola Bonifazio (UT Austin), Stefania Benini (Harvard), Francesco Casetti (Yale), Giuseppe Mazzotta (Yale), Evan Calder Williams (independent author), Toni Hildebrandt (Bern), Paolo Russo (Oxford Brookes), Christy Wampole (Princeton), David Ward (Wellesley), and filmmakers Hisham Bizri and Cathy Lee Crane.

The conference was a broad, collaborative effort, and involved the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Italian at Yale, as well as a number of other departments and schools. The conference would not have been possible at all without the tireless help and energy of Ann DeLauro.



- Karen Raizen and Luca Peretti

## Italian Cinema for the New Millennium

On April 23-26, the department hosted our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Yale Festival of New Italian Cinema. The festival has now become one of the largest events in film studies! It is so successful, and the audience members so enthusiastic, that we no longer need to formally advertise; instead, news of the festival is spreading by word-of-mouth through the greater New Haven area.

The planning for the festival occurs during the nine months of the academic year. In September, our graduate student committee immediately begins screening promising new titles.

**Yale** ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT  
WHITNEY HUMANITIES CENTER

**The 10th Annual Yale Festival of New Italian Cinema**

April 23 - April 26, 2015 • Whitney Humanities Center • 53 Wall Street, New Haven

At the end of each screening we discuss the films as a group, considering aspects from cinematography to relevant cultural issues and even which day of the week films should be shown, in order to best suit the emotional climate of the festival. Every year, our goal is to bring the very best and most culturally relevant recent Italian cinema to the New Haven community. Most importantly though, this is the time when our department gets the opportunity to connect with the community outside of Yale; it is a chance for students to practice the crucial skill of acting as competent experts who can condense specialized knowledge and speak simply and clearly to the public.

The 2015 program included *Allacciate le cinture* by Ferzan Ozpetek (2014), *Il capitale umano* by Paolo Virzi (2013), *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* by Pif (2013), *La luna su Torino* by Davide Ferrario (2013), and *Song'e Napule* by Antonio and Marco Manetti (2013). From melodrama to film noir and comedy, the festival covered a wide range of emotions as well as a broad geographical range from Palermo to Como.

Planning for our 2016 Festival, which will be held on April 28-May 1 in the Whitney Humanities Center Auditorium, has already begun! If you will be in New Haven during these dates, please do not forget to reserve your seat. If you have any suggestions for the 2016 lineup, please email us. We would love to hear from our alumni and friends!

- Maria Alexandra Catricken

## Dante Working Group

The Dante Working Group had an exciting, busy and productive year. We began our semester with a lunch talk by Professor Jason Huston, Associate Professor of Italian in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma, on September 17th, 2014. The informal meeting gave graduate students the opportunity to ask questions regarding the state of Medieval and Dante Studies and to investigate interesting new ways to teach Dante and to attract an interdisciplinary dialogue. This talk was followed by our traditional Halloween marathon in costume in which the participants read the *Inferno* in Italian. This was the first year that we have managed to read in marathon form the entirety of the *Divine Comedy*! This event proved to be quite popular and was a



great success as lots of students came to spend an afternoon in Hell.

During Advent, and in preparation for the Winter Holidays, we collaborated with the Dante in Translation Class, and Prof. Purdy Moudarres, by organizing our very first Purgatory Marathon, in a very unusual setting: East Rock Mountain. The students and graduate students alike read and acted out scenes from Dante's Purgatory.

We jumpstarted our Spring Semester with a collaboration with the Pier Paolo Pasolini Conference. Our own Sandro Angelo De Tomasis led an exciting group conversation on "Dante and Pasolini," presenting to a large interdisciplinary audience of graduate students, professors and scholars, excerpts from Pasolini's own scholarship on Dante.

In March the Dante Working Group also continued with the series of *Lecturae Dantis*, which featured our own Patrick Waldron, who discussed his reading of *Inferno* XXII, focusing on the harsh language of the canto akin to the *Rime petrose*. Finally, we ended the year in April on an uplifting note. We held our first ever Dante's Paradiso Marathon. It was a very well attended event, which drew a number of scholars from different departments and surrounding universities to the Whitney for a lively and memorable encounter.

- Eleonora Buonocore

## Grazie, Prof. Mazzotta, for the Online Dante Lectures

Professor Mazzotta's undergraduate lecture course on *Dante in Translation* was recorded for Open Yale Courses in Fall 2008. The audio and video recordings were published online, by the Yale Open Courses initiative. In 2014, The Open Yale Courses Series published a book based on Prof. Mazzotta's highly popular class. Over the course of the following year, Prof. Mazzotta received numerous emails from all over the country and the world, thanking him for his inspirational words. Below you may find a small selection we would like to share with you.

Recently, I finished watching your series of lectures on Dante in Translation, and I want to let you know I appreciated them very much. I picked up the Kindle version of the *Comedy* a couple of years ago, and I glimpsed some interesting scenes though I don't think got a sense of the *Comedy's* greatness. ... Then, looking for something else, I came across your course and lecture series. ... From your exceptional and interesting lectures, I now have some greater sense of the meaning in the work and a fuller understanding of its magnificence. Those are treasures, and I want to thank you for your role in bestowing them on me.

- Joe Hinchliffe, Urbana (IL)

I would like to thank you for sharing your intelligence on Dante, which allowed me to understand *Inferno*. ... In May, I was introduced to *Inferno* by one of my past English professors as a "fun summer read." I was hooked after the first tercet. I have decided to focus my research on Dante's *Inferno*. My dance choreography, which will include multiple performances, will portray Dante's journey through the Nine Circles of Hell. Your lectures "brought me face to face" with Dante and the unrepentant lost souls.

- Vivian Lee Reach, Alabama

I read several of the translations. I tried reading it in Italian. I read some of the recent commentaries. More has been written about 'The Divine Comedy' than can be read in one lifetime. I watched Professor Mazzotta's Yale lectures. ... His classes are so good I watched them all twice. He's a great teacher. If you don't fall in love with Dante you will fall in love with Professor Mazzotta. ... I am nearly 66 years old and although my best work is not behind me most of my life is. Making smart career moves is no longer on the agenda. I don't think it ever was. But a one-man 'Divine Comedy' delivered as a 'stand-up' with a running time of nearly two hours might look like an attempted suicide. ... That's my adaptation of The Divine Comedy which opens at The Edinburgh Festival in August.

- Mike Maran, Edinburgh

## From Campo to Campus

Summer 2015 saw the ninth installment of the Yale Summer Session in Siena. We had near record enrollment with a group of 49 students participating in two sections of Intermediate Italian and one section of Introductory Italian.



The program was directed by me, Siobhan Quinlan (Ph.D. '14), a Lecturer in the department. I was very excited to take on this new responsibility and I'm very happy to say that everything went very well. I felt very fortunate to have the support of our local site coordinator Idelma Giannini, and her husband, Paolo, and to have an amazing teaching team with me. Stanley "Toby" Levers (Ph.D.'14) and Kyle Skinner gave an enthusiastic group of students their first introduction to Italian. We had so much demand for Intermediate Italian in Siena that we had two sections—one led by Anna Marra and Giulia Cardillo (Ph.D.'15), and the other by Patrick Waldron and myself.

This year we were delighted to be able to pair Intermediate Italian with a 1-credit culture course, "History, Culture, and Film in Tuscany," which was led by Professor Millicent Marcus, with the invaluable assistance of grader Chris Kaiser. Prof. Marcus's students, in addition to watching and analyzing several films that explored representations of Tuscany, read texts by the *Tre Corone* in the original Italian, and even made their own films representing *La Mia Toscana*. The visits to cultural sites in and around Siena were also an essential part of this course. Assignments that demonstrated the students' engagement with the places and things they saw were directly incorporated into the curriculum. The result was a greater level of participation in cultural activities in Siena and a greater appreciation for the cultural patrimony of the city. Based on the success of the four credit combination of L3-L4 + Culture, we will be repeating that this year and we will be expanding our L1-L2 offering to include a culture course taught by Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta.

As in previous years, the full group traveled to Florence and spent a weekend in Rome, visiting the Vatican Museums, the Galleria Borghese, and various sites throughout the "Eternal City." We also spent a lovely afternoon in San Gimignano and a very hot day in Pisa and at the beach. Kyle and Toby led their Introductory Italian students on an excursion to Bologna, with many students taking this trip as an opportunity to spend a weekend in Venice. Chris led a small group of students on a meditative walking trip along the Via Francigena, offering the students a glimpse of medieval travel and stunning views of the Tuscan landscape.

The *Palio* proved as exciting as ever, in spite of sweltering heat. The students got a first-hand view of the Machiavellian maneuvering that is part and parcel of the event: the *mossa* seemed it would never arrive because the *Montone* jockey wouldn't take his proper place. When the race finally began, it was not long before the *Montone* jockey pulled the *Nicchio* jockey off of his horse! Students also got to have an inside view of gentler aspects of the *Palio*, as well, through a dinner in the *Pantera contrada* and a guided tour of the museum of the *Giraffa*, where students were also able to see the clothing, wigs, and wool tights that had been laid out for the *contrada* participating in the procession on the day of the *Palio*.

We are all looking forward to next year's trip with great anticipation! Alumni and friends in Italy this June and July, we hope to see you in the *Campo*!

- Siobhan Quinlan

## From the Language Program Director

I am extremely delighted to report that the Italian Language Program continues to attract both international students and Italian heritage students as well. The piloting of online placement tests this year has proven helpful to individuate the strengths of our students in varied course levels. Additionally, students have the utmost opportunity to participate and benefit from the well-established *Italian Department Study Abroad Programs* in Siena, Italy. Orientation events for prospective majors and study abroad students are organized throughout the academic year. This year the Italian Department events such as *Fall Feast* and *Pizzata* as well as *Dante's Marathon Readings* take place as per tradition with the collaboration among the Italian instructors, graduate, and undergraduate students. The robust team of *Lo Stivale*, Italian Language Club at Yale University, organizes activities and initiatives, which enables the extension of Italian culture to all students on campus. Our Italian Language instructors have increased the possibilities for the community to participate together with the Italian students in *Italian Conversation Tables*. A musical event will expand our exceptional events open to our community concurrently with our significant *Italian Film Festival*. I am confident that the collaborative leadership in our department is going to continue to grow bringing the excellent results that we are persistently seeking to attain. Many thanks to all of the members of the Italian Department for their ceaseless support.



- Anna Iacovella

# Faculty Notes

**Giuseppe Mazzotta**, Sterling Professor in the Humanities for Italian.

It was a great honor for me to have my academic achievements acknowledged by my undergraduate college: the University College of the University of Toronto gave me the “Alumnus of Influence Award” last November 2015. On the home front, within my department, I have wished farewell (last May) to three new Ph.D.’s. And, as of this moment, I am directing eight doctoral dissertations.

I have finished my Petrarch book, which I provisionally have called, *A World of Words: Petrarch’s Cultural Project*, which will be soon sent to a Press. Some of my publications this past year are: “Calabria’s Place in the Grand Tour,” *Studies in Honor of Guido Pugliese*, ed. Anthony Mollica (Welland, Ont.: Soleil, 2015), pp. 31-48; “Boccaccio’s Way,” in *Boccaccio 1313-2013*, eds. F. Ciabattini, Elsa Filosa, Kristina Olson (Ravenna: Longo, ed., 2015), pp. 29-42; “Introduzione,” in *Le Teologie di Dante* (Ravenna, 9 novembre 2013), ed. Giuseppe Ledda (Ravenna: Centro Dantesco dei Frati Minori Conventuali, 2015), pp. 11- 21; “Petrarch’s Confrontation with Modernity,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Petrarch*, eds. Albert Russell Ascoli & Unn Falkeid (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2015), pp. 221-238.

And here are some of the lectures I have given this past year: “Understanding Rome: Dante and his Traditions,” Villanova University, (Jan. 22, 2015); “Dante’s Paradiso,” Fairfield University (April 20, 2015); “Art and a Sentimental Education,” Keynote speech at the Conference “Amor Vincit Omnia: Love as a Destructive Force in Italian Arts and Literature,” organized by Graduate Students in the University of Chicago Departments of Romance Languages, Italian, Art History, (April 24 & 25, 2015); “The Future of the Middle Ages: A fourteenth century Polemic,” Annual Medieval Lectures Series, Yale University (September 23, 2015); “The Virtues and the Teachers,” *Studies in Honor of Guido Pugliese Conference*, University of Toronto at Mississauga (October 1, 2015); “Dante’s Theology of the Future,” Annual Dante Lecture, Baylor University (November 12, 2015); “Castles on My Mind,” International Conference on “Castles” sponsored by the Center for Renaissance Studies, UCLA (November 20-21, 2015); “The Emperor Frederick II,” Medieval Lunch Series, Yale University (Dec. 8, 2015); “Purgatory and Paradise,” Directed Studies Program, Yale University, (Dec. 9, 2015).

To put it in one sentence, I have made every effort to make this department part of the university’s discourse.

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**Millicent Marcus**, Professor of Italian and Director of Graduate Studies.

The following articles, some of them long in the pipe-line, appeared in the past academic year: “Trinacria: la forma del desiderio in *L’avventura*,” in *Michelangelo Antonioni: Prospettive, culture, politiche, spazi*, ed. Alberto Boschi and Francesco Di Chiara; “Federico Bondi’s *Mar nero*: Channelling the Geographic Unconscious,” in *Destination Italy: Representing Migration in Contemporary Media and Narrative*, ed. Emma Bond, Guido Bonsaver and Federico Faloppa; “History and Afterness: Italian National Identity on International Screens: Cannes 2008,” in *L’Italia allo specchio: Linguaggi e identità italiane nel mondo*, ed. by Fabio Finotti and Marina Johnston; “Adventures in Interdisciplinarity: Teaching *The Periodic Table*,” *MLA Approaches to Teaching World Literature Series* (New York: MLA, 2014); “The Child as ‘custode della memoria futura’: *The Man Who Will Come* and the Massacre of Marzabotto,” *Quaderni d’italianistica*, 34 (2013): 133-148; “Boccaccio and the Seventh Art: The Decameronian Films of Fellini, De Laurentiis, Pasolini, Woody Allen,” *Mediaevalia* 34 (2013): 267-279. I presented the following conference papers: “Il ‘cinema di poesia’ in Theory and Practice: The Case of *Edipo Re*,” The Legacy of Pier Paolo Pasolini, Yale, March 6; “The Immersive Realism of *Gomorra*: A Neuro-aesthetic Approach,” American Association of Italian Studies annual conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, March 28; “Fascism and the Representation of the Holocaust in Italian Cinema,” Fascismo: Making, Thinking, and Imagining History conference, University of Rochester, April 17. Invited lectures included: “The Restless Priest and the Reluctant Pope: Nanni Moretti’s Journey from *La messa è finita* to *Habemus Papam*,” College of Charleston, March 11 and Baylor University, March 18; and, “Italian Cinema and Holocaust Memory,” College of Charleston, March 12. On campus, I was thrilled to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yale Festival of New Italian Cinema, together with our terrific committee of graduate students and the indispensable help of Ann DeLauro.

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**Christiana Purdy Moudarres**, Assistant Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Her publications this past year include “Legends of the Fall: Generation and Corruption in *Inferno* 27” in *Dante Studies*, 2014, “Bodily Starvation and the Ravaging of the Will: a Reading of *Inferno* 32-33” in *Viator* (forthcoming), and “The Flesh and Bone of a Montefeltro” in a collection of essays she has just finished editing, *Dante’s Volume from Alpha to Omega: Inscriptions on the Poet’s Universe*. Tempe, Ariz.: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (forthcoming). She was honored to receive a Morse Fellowship in the Humanities for 2015-16, during which time she plans to complete her first book, *Dante, Poet of the Future: Faith, Science and the Imminence of the Age to Come*, under review with University of Notre Dame Press, as well as a commissioned article on Boccaccio, “Chichibio and the Crane” in *Lectura Boccaccii: Day VI*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016 (under contract). In addition to her course offerings within the Italian Department, *Dante in Translation* (Fall 2014) and *Women in the Middle Ages* (Spring 2015), she was delighted to join the Literature faculty of Directed Studies for the first time this fall, and to serve as thesis advisor to four of our department’s graduating majors. In addition to research and teaching, she has thoroughly enjoyed her work as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Faculty Moderator for the Whitney Humanities Center’s Dante Working Group.



# Alumni News

**Erminia Ardisso** (Ph.D '93) (Università di Torino) writes: "Thanks to the Fellowship at the Centre d'Etudes Supérieur de la Renaissance (Tours, FR) I could concentrate my energies on the preparation of a census of printed Biblical literature in Italian (1471-1650). This Repertorio will prove how much Biblical knowledge was spread deeply among Italians, even in the period when Biblical translations were forbidden. It will also offer many suggestions for literary scholars and historians. In addition, I am also working on a project on women's interpretative communities in early modern Italy (Venice and Florence, so far). Last year the revision of my "Seicento" was published as a chapter of the *Storia della Letteratura Italiana*, directed by Andrea Battistini (Il Mulino). I also published a paper on "Galileo, scrittore della luce," in *Tintenfass und Teleskop* (De Gruyter) and a talk given in Beijing on Boccaccio in 2013 has been translated into Chinese. I always recognize my debt towards Yale: what I learned is still giving strength to my present work."

**Diego Bertelli** (Ph.D '11). A poet as well as a literary critic, he has taught in the USA, and most recently in Florence. In 2005 he published his first poetry collection, *L'imbuto di chiocciola* (Edizioni della Meridiana, Florence), which was awarded the Opera Prima Astrolabio National Prize in 2008. His poems and fiction have also been published in Italian and American literary reviews and blogs, and he is part of the anthology *Toscani maledetti* (Piano B, 2013), edited by Raoul Bruni. Dr Bertelli's scholarly publications include articles and essays on contemporary Italian literature, and have appeared in distinguished venues such as *Paragone*, *MLN*, *La Rassegna della letteratura italiana*, *L'Indice dei libri del mese* and *Alias/Il Manifesto*. He is member of the editorial board of the Italian poetry magazine *Atelier* and the online bilingual literary review *Samgha.me*. Dr. Bertelli also contributed to *The Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies* (Routledge, 2007) and is the curator of Italian poet Bartolo Cattafi's official web site ([www.bartolocattafi.it](http://www.bartolocattafi.it)). His forthcoming monograph on 1970's Italian novel and poetry, *Viaggio al termine della scrittura*, appears this year.

**Jo Ann Cavallo** (Ph.D '87) is a Professor and current Chair of the Department of Italian, Columbia University, taught in the Columbia in Venice Summer Program 2015 and will return to the University of Venice Ca' Foscari for the spring 2016 semester to offer two courses: "Nobility and Civility: East and West" and "The Romance Epics of Boiardo and Ariosto: Global Perspectives." Her latest book, *The World beyond Europe in the Romance Epics of Boiardo and Ariosto* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013), will be published in Italian by Il Saggiatore. Her recent articles include: "Encountering Saracens in Italian Romance Epic and its Folk Performance Traditions," in *Teaching Medieval and Early-Modern Cross Cultural Encounters Across Disciplines and Periods*, eds. Lynn Shuttars and Karina Attar (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), 159-78; "Il corredo: Loss and Continuity in an Italian American Family," in *Embroidered Stories: Interpreting Women's Domestic Needlework from the Italian Diaspora*, eds. Edvige Giunta and Joseph Sciorra (Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 2014), 313-25; "On Political Power and Personal Liberty in The Prince and The Discourses," in *Machiavelli's The Prince at 500*, ed. John McCormick, *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 81:1 (Spring 2014): 107-32.

**Victoria Davidson** (B.A. '10) writes: "I recently graduated with a Master's Degree in Italian Literature from Columbia University in May and I am just finishing up 6 glorious weeks as a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy in Rome."

**Zeke Farrow** (B.A. '96) writes, "I'm living happily in Los Angeles making my way as an indie writer/producer in Hollywood. My film *Gayby* streams on Netflix. I won The Peabody Award for writing and producing the documentary, *Best Kept Secret* (POV/PBS), also streaming on Netflix. I am in post-production on my new feature, *Before the Sun Explodes*, which will play the festival circuit in 2016."

**Alexia Ferracuti** (Ph.D '14) is the Assistant Director of Teaching Initiatives and Programs at Columbia University's Center for Teaching and Learning, where she works with graduate students and faculty to enhance and promote excellence and innovation in teaching. Before joining Columbia in spring 2015, she served as the Assistant Director of Yale's Center for Teaching and Learning. Alexia received her Ph.D. with distinction from Yale in Italian and Renaissance Studies in May 2014 with a dissertation entitled *The Art of Ambiguity: Mirrors, Mimesis, and Metamorphosis in Italian Renaissance Comedy*. She recently published an article in *California Italian Studies* entitled "Reflections of Isabella: Hermaphroditic Mirroring in Mirtilla and Giovan Battista Andreini's *Amor nello specchio*" that can be found at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/4br8n5zs>.

**Doug Hoppe** (B.A. '97) writes: "I conducted "O Mio Babbino Caro" from Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" with a youth orchestra at the Tilles Center in Long Island, NY. Aargh! In another recent concert at LIU Post's Fine Arts Center, I conducted the youth orchestra in lots of Italian/ Italian language repertoire: Respighi's ancient airs and dances, *Voi Che Sapete* from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, *Batti Batti* from his *Don Giovanni*, and also Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Cellos*.

**Alison James** (B.A. '12) has recently released two songs of her new solo music project and is in the process of recording more of her piano driven singer-songwriter tracks. You can watch her first music video here and download her first two singles on iTunes. Sign up for the newsletter on [www.alisonjamesmusic.com](http://www.alisonjamesmusic.com), or Like her page on Facebook to keep up to date. She's got songs in both Italian and French soon to come!

# Alumni News

**Joseph Luzzi** (Ph.D '00) has a new book, *In a Dark Wood: What Dante Taught Me about Grief, Healing, and the Mysteries of Love*, published by HarperCollins in June 2015.

**Jakara Mato** (B.A. '10) writes: "I graduated with a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and will be starting as a Policy Specialist with Google in Mountain View, California, in August. I'm looking forward to connecting to the Italian community in SF, and will actually be living really close to the historically Italian neighborhood of North Beach. This summer I also traveled around Europe, including Italy, and reconnected with many friends I made there during my time in Rome as a Fulbright scholar. A particular highlight was staying with a friend in her country home in Maremma, Italy, and seeing the beautiful sights there, including the Abbazia di San Galgano."

**Jennifer (Pursell) Mazzon** (B.A. '93), a lifelong resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, recently visited Yale for work—she leads a team at Coursera that enables universities to offer their courses as MOOCs to the global community of learners. (Jennifer hopes to convince Prof. Mazzotta to offer a Dante course on Coursera within the next few years.) When Jennifer isn't working, she is tending her family (husband Massimo and children Beatrice, Leonardo & Sebastiano) and doing improv (<http://www.blueblanketimprov.org>).

**Emanuel L. Paparella** (Ph.D '90) writes: "Since last year, my wife Cathy and I have become grandparents for the fourth time with the birth of Colin Campbell. I continue teaching Italian and Philosophy at Broward College and Barry University and continue writing. My latest publication is an e-book which chronicles the first six months of the meetings of a global philosophical symposium which I have coordinated for three years now. The participants in the bi-weekly symposium on the role of aesthetics in art and literature and philosophy are: Ernesto Paolozzi who teaches Philosophy in Naples, Italy, Nikos Laios who lives in Australia, Abigail George a writer from South Africa, and myself. The book can be downloaded from Ovi magazine via its bookshop. All the best to Giuseppe Mazzotta and all my fellow Yale alumni."

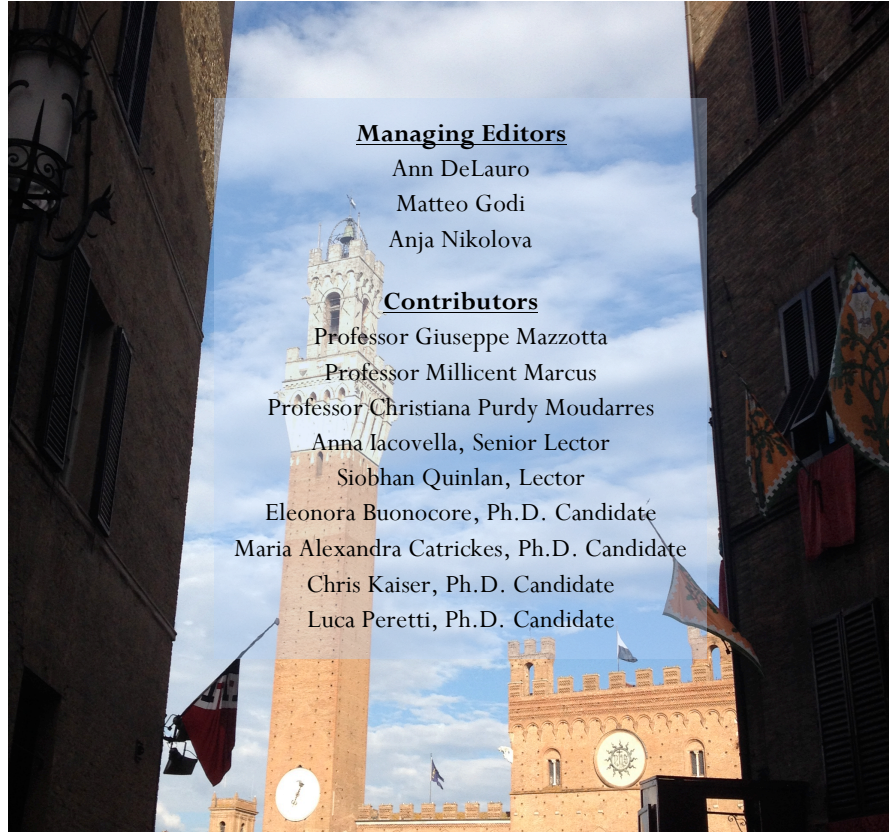
**Sherry Roush** (Ph.D '99) Associate Professor of Italian, Penn State University, writes: "My latest book, *Speaking Spirits: Ventriloquizing the Dead in Renaissance Italy*, was published this year by The University of Toronto Press (<http://www.utppublishing.com/Speaking-Spirits-Ventriloquizing-the-Dead-in-Renaissance-Italy.html>), while I continue researching other projects focused on Tommaso Campanella and Jacopo Caviceo. I was named a Faculty Example of Leadership by the Malini Foundation through Penn State's Schreyer Honors College as part of their commemorations for International Women's Day this year, and I served as a member of the jury of "The Bridge" inaugural Book Award, sponsored by the Casa delle Letterature of Rome, the National Italian American Foundation, the Embassy of the United States in Rome, and the American Initiative for Italian Culture."

**Massimo Scalabrini** (Ph.D '98) in 2015 published a critical edition of partially unpublished works by *Lodovico Castelvetro: Parere sopra una comedia di Aristophano et sopra ciascuna di Plauto*, ed. critica a cura di Massimo Scalabrini (Bologna: Commissione per i testi di lingua, 2015). As of July 2015, he is serving as Chair of the Department of French and Italian at Indiana University.

**Dillan Siegler** (B.A. '95) writes: "I run civic engagement programs at David Axelrod's Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago. I live and work here in Hyde Park—where I grew up! I'm getting married in October to Nicole Deschane. And we'll be traveling to the Costiera Amalfitana, Roma, Siena, Volterra, and Firenze in September."

**Carolyn Springer** (Ph.D '81) writes: "I have been named the Rosina Pierotti Chair of Italian Literature at Stanford. My latest book, *Armour and Masculinity in the Italian Renaissance*, appeared in 2010 with the University of Toronto Press (reprinted in paperback, 2013)."

**Rebecca West** (Ph.D '74) writes: "I will be the De Sanctis Visiting Professor at the ETH (Swiss Polytechnical University) in Zurich this fall, 2015, where I'll teach a seminar on Modern Rome in Film and Literature. I retired in 2013 after 40 years on the faculty at the University of Chicago but I have continued to teach and to mentor doctoral students. I am currently writing an introduction to selected English translations of poet Giulia Niccolai's verse for an anthology of modern Italian poetry edited by Luigi Ballerini and Beppe Cavatorta, forthcoming with the University of Toronto Press."

**Managing Editors**

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Italian S110-120 + 1-credit culture course  
with Prof. Giuseppe Mazzotta = 4 credits

Italian S130-140 + 1-credit culture course  
with Prof. Millicent Marcus = 4 credits

<http://summer.yale.edu/studyabroad>

*Questions? Contact Program Director Siobhan Quinlan, [siobhan.quinlan@yale.edu](mailto:siobhan.quinlan@yale.edu)*