

Yale Department of Italian

Fall/Winter 2016-17

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SAVE THE
DATE

April 6-9, 2017
12th Annual Italian

Reflections from the Chair



“A hard act to follow,” “difficult shoes to fill” – these are the expressions that immediately come to mind when I consider what I face as in-coming Chair after Giuseppe’s splendid years of leadership. My hope is to build on his vision for Italian within the Humanities at Yale, and within the profession at large. To that end, I responded to the Provost’s invitation that we organize our guest lectures this year around a central theme (and in so doing, qualify for a substantial grant from the university’s Kempf fund). The application process helped me to articulate and clarify my ideas for how to further the Mazzottan lead in championing the cause of *italianistica* on campus and beyond. The following is an

excerpt from the rationale that I, in consultation with colleagues, submitted for the funds (which, by the way, we were generously granted).

The proposal was entitled “Italy at the Center,” and it made the case for the centrality of Italian to a number of vital cultural discourses. The spatial metaphor of the title includes a built-in temporal component. Our approach is trans-historical, extending from classical antiquity to the 20th and 21st centuries, as the centrality of Rome within the ancient world has remained a collective memory, for better and for worst, which has animated revivals in such forms as Dante’s ideal of the *volgare illustre*, the Renaissance return to classical models, 18th century neo-classicism, Mussolini’s imperial aspirations, along with its post-colonial legacy, and so forth.

Within a humanities curriculum, the primacy of Italian in the Early Modern period needs no belaboring. In disciplinary terms, the centrality of Italy extends from such obvious fields as literature, art and architectural history, archaeology, theology, economic history, the sciences, fashion and design, to the burgeoning new area of Mediterranean Studies. And of course, it is Italy’s geographic centrality which had made it the gateway to Europe for the tidal wave of immigrants seeking refuge from the poverty and wars of the Third World. “Destination” Italy would therefore be another facet of our approach, embracing not only this influx of desperate newcomers, but also the voluntary and privileged visitors who have made the country the center of their touristic and consumerist desires. The issue of centrality must not go uncontested, however, as the dialectic of center-periphery will form an active part of the debate which these lectures seek to address. The marginal Italy of the above-mentioned refugees, the Romani community, the citizens of out-lying regions whose relationship to the center has always been problematic – such concerns also invite sustained inquiry.

In sum, our spatial metaphor is designed to offer a wide and varied platform for the study of Italy’s “position” with respect to a number of disciplinary pursuits. In addition to promoting the importance of Italian within a humanities curriculum, our approach also has an “intra-disciplinary” goal – to offer profound and nuanced explorations of Italian culture itself, across time and of course, space.

- Millicent Marcus

From the Director of Graduate and Undergraduate

In my double capacity as DUS/DGS, I was privileged to oversee a series of fortunate beginnings and endings. On the undergraduate front, our two Italian majors turned in splendid senior theses: Daniel Reitz authored “La bussola sempre in mano: Alla ricerca dell’accordo tra l’individuo e la comunità nel *Romanzo di Ferrara*,” and Emma Sonesson, “‘Non pur nei miei occhi è paradise:’ An exploration of feminine beauty in the *Decameron* and *Divine Comedy*.”



This Fall, we welcomed two new students into our graduate program: Sarah Atkinson, from the University of Chicago, and Teresa Rossi, from l’Università di Roma Tre. Already in their short time on campus, Sarah and Teresa have become vital members of our community, and we look forward to their livening influence on our departmental life in the coming years.

At the other end of their graduate careers, three of our Ph.D. candidates brought their dissertation research to triumphant conclusion: Eleonora Buonocore, with “Ciphers of Remembrance and Fluidity of Oblivion: A Study of Memory in Dante,” Simona Lorenzini, with “Questioning the Utopian Myth in Renaissance Pastoral Drama: From Politian to Guarini,” and Rachael Streeter with “Musical Theater and Baroque Poetics in Giambattista Marino’s *Adone*.” We wish them all the best for life-after-Yale, and hope that they will maintain their ties with us as their careers unfold.

- Millicent Marcus

From the Language Program Director



The past year has been yet another strengthening year for our language programs and department events. All the positive efforts have been put forward to create an Italian language community inside as well as outside of classroom.

This year, I was particularly excited to share my doctorate degree research in the field of Pedagogy (Educational Leadership) with scholars and graduate students interested in language students’ motivations pursuing advanced language learning goals.

The focus of our Italian language programs has been and continues to be the students’ personal goals in combination with the knowledge of language and culture of Italy. The creation of new advanced language courses is tailored to students’ personal interests and goals. Particularly the Yale Summer Programs in Siena encourage a decent number of students to attend upper level language courses upon their return from the “all Italian experience”.

Moreover, *Italian Conversation Tables* are built into a complex structure in order to accommodate varied students’ schedules. The integration of cultural events such as *The Scrabble Tournament* and other language talks have been attracting large audiences of students who are willing to either “keep up with the language” or to expand general comprehension proficiency for our L1-L5 level students. Many students participating in our *Siena Summer Programs* are currently enrolled in upper level language courses and participate in proficiency practices events such as the *Fall Feast* held in our Department in a convivial atmosphere. It is vital to our programs to continue building vigor especially with the supportive strengths, which are continually offered by our Italian double major, Master’s, and Ph.D. students.

- Anna Iacovella

About our Outgoing Chair: Lifetime Achievement



Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta has been recently recognized by the Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America Foundation. Professor Mazzotta received the ISSNAF Life Achievement Award. The award acknowledges outstanding individuals of Italian origin who, thanks to their pioneering spirit and lifetime commitment, have honored their country of origin and given a significant contribution to research, leadership, or mentorship in one of the fields of natural sciences, humanities, and engineering.

Italian Cinema for the New Millennium

From April 28 through May 1, 2016, our department hosted the 11th Annual Yale Festival of New Italian Cinema. The festival featured renowned actor and filmmaker Giorgio Pasotti, star and director of *Io, Arlecchino* (2015); producers Nicola Salvi and



Elisabetta Sola also took part. On Friday, Pasotti introduced the film and participated in the Q & A. He also led a workshop at Yale's School of Drama, instructing students on how to perform *lazzi*, the

comedic bits that are part of the *commedia dell'arte* repertoire. In addition, Pasotti attended a Master's Tea at Saybrook College with many undergraduate students from Millicent Marcus's Italian cinema course. At that event, students learned that the release of *Io, Arlecchino* was the first time the character of Harlequin appeared on the big screen. Dealing with contemporary issues such as the influence of media and trash television, as well as personal issues like a father-son relationship and romance, the film proposes the techniques of *commedia dell'arte*, like hiding the face and inhabiting the body as the sole means of expression, as a way of better revealing our most honest and free versions of ourselves in the present. At the end of the tea, student volunteers re-enacted the film's comedic and beautiful love scene, challenging themselves to convey emotions

through their bodies; this successful experiment resulted in much laughter. In these various appearances at Yale, Pasotti was always dynamic, funny, and enthusiastic. He captivated all his audiences, inspiring a genuine love for *commedia dell'arte* and a strong desire to reconnect with tradition and with the body.

The 2016 festival also included a diverse line-up in terms of genre, including tragedy, comedy, and documentary. Other films included *Mia Madre* (Nanni Moretti, 2015), *Se Dio Vuole* (Edoardo Gale, 2015), *Il Nome del Figlio* (Francesca Archibugi, 2015), and *Palio* (Cosima Splender, 2015). The festival also provided a moving occasion for senior graduate students to bid goodbye to the audience and thank the community for the ongoing dialogue across the years, which has become a central part of the film experience at Yale.

I can't thank you and your collaborators enough for bringing the newest Italian films to Yale every year! I look forward to this event with great anticipation and joy. You bring the best and allow the audience to participate in the most meaningful talks with the directors and the Q&A sessions. I do hope you will continue your wonderful work and know how much it is appreciated. With deepest gratitude, Grace Loeffler

I just want to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to all involved in the planning and implementation of the 2016 film festival. The selections were wonderful and I enjoyed every minute. Thank you, Amelia

Italian Cinema in the Present Tense: In Honor of

On November 13 and 14, 2015, colleagues and students of Professor Millicent Marcus gathered in Lancaster (PA) for a seminar in her honor. The event was held at Franklin & Marshall College, under the title *Italian Cinema in the Present Tense: New Narrative Practices from Adaptation to Transmedia and Transnational Cinema*. Taking the lead from Professor Marcus' prizewinning book on cinematic adaptation of literary works, *Filmmaking by the Book* (1992), the seminar explored approaches and challenges to adaptation in contemporary Italian films.



Professor Marcus opened the two-day seminar with the presentation "From MTV to cinema impegnato: Transmedia Encounters in *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*." Director Susanna Nicchiarelli, who had also been a guest of our Department at Yale

earlier that month, attended as special guest, introducing the screening of her films *Cosmonauta* (2009) and *Per tutta la vita* (2014), as well as discussing intermediality through her work.



The following day, several cinema scholars shared their papers in front of a large audience. As part of a delegation of Yale graduate students who attended the seminar, our own Luca Peretti presented on "Oltre l'adaptation: Lizzani, DeBenedetti e l'ex ghetto di Roma." The closing roundtable, celebrating "Millicent Marcus's Legacy: Inspiring Research, Empowering Community", was probably the most memorable part of the seminar: former students of Penny, as we all call her, spoke about her commitment to higher education and her influence as a role-model in their lives, both within and outside academia.

- Giovanni Miglianti

Dante Working Group

This year The Dante Working Group organized very diverse events that drew in audiences from many disciplines. Both faculty and students gave talks, and we hosted the popular reading marathon of Dante's *Divine Comedy* in Italian. In addition, we held informal lunch meetings featuring professors from other universities.

This year's speakers reflected the breadth of interests of our group. We began with a talk by Professor Jane Tylus, professor of Italian and Comparative Literature and Faculty Director of the Humanities Initiative at New York University, who spoke on "Siena, City of Secrets" and presented her new book on the topic. Secondly, in conjunction with the Italian Department's Annual Dante Lecture, we had the honor of having as a speaker Anthony Esolen, Professor of English at Providence College, on October 29th, 2015. The informal meeting gave graduate students the opportunity to ask questions regarding the state of Medieval and Dante Studies, to investigate interesting new ways to teach Dante, to attract an interdisciplinary dialogue, and to discuss issues of translation.

For Halloween, we organized a one-day marathon in costume in which the participants read the entirety of *Inferno* in Italian.

We ended the Fall Semester with a faculty talk by Professor Giuseppe Gazzola, Assistant Professor of Italian in the Department of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Stony Brook University. The title of his presentation was "What is an Allegory? Dante, Elliot, Montale." It was a great success, and it sparked a lively discussion on the relationship between Dante and modernism.

We began our spring semester with a mock job talk by Eleonora Buonocore, who presented a part of her research on "From the Solidity of Memory to the Fluidity of Oblivion: Dante's Way to Salvation."

Finally, we ended the semester in March. The Dante Working Group hosted Sandro Angelo De Thomasis, a PhD student in the Italian Department, who discussed his approach to reading the *Comedy* in a talk titled "Dante goes Vertical: A Genealogy of the *Commedia's* Vertical Structure," focusing on the emergence of vertical readings of the *Divine Comedy* and its representations in art history.

All these events were made possible thanks to the support of Whitney Humanities Center.

- Anna Marra

Southern Italian Folk Music



Michela Musolino, Phil Passantino, and Jeff Panettieri delighted an enthusiastic audience of students and locals alike with a concert of traditional southern Italian music and some Sicilian holiday songs. The trio, which tours locally in the tri-state area, performed on a variety of instruments, including guitar, accordion, mouth harp, and tamburello. They also taught a brief lesson on traditional dances of the region, with enthusiastic participation following.

- Allison Hadley

The Italian Department Goes to Jeopardy!



Siobhan Quinlan participated in the television show Jeopardy! on July 15, 2016. Congratulations, Siobhan!



From Campo to Campus

As the deep chill of winter is finally setting in in New Haven, the sunny summer in Siena seems a distant memory. It was, however, a memorable summer for all involved!

This year marked the ten-year anniversary of Yale's summer program in Siena. Professor Penny Marcus first began the program back in 2006, building on her love of the city and on her strong friendship with local coordinator Idelma Giannini and her husband Paolo. Over the course of ten years, hundreds of Yale students have had the opportunity to experience Siennese life first-hand, living with our generous host families and deepening their knowledge of Italian language and culture with our extraordinary faculty.



This summer, we had a large cohort of nearly fifty students enrolled in Introductory and Intermediate language classes. Based on the successful pairing last year of a 1-credit culture class with the intermediate language course, we offered the same to our introductory language students. Professor Marcus taught her course on "History, Culture, and Film in Tuscany," during which the students engaged deeply with ideas about and representations of Tuscany, completing their study with the creation of their own short films about what Tuscany means to them ("La mia Toscana"). For the first time, Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta offered the course "A Tale of Two Cities," an exploration in English of the literature and culture of Florence and Siena, to the introductory language students. Both courses deeply enriched our overall curriculum.

As the Program Director this year, I was glad to be working once again with an amazing team of colleagues. In addition to Professors Marcus and Mazzotta, I taught in the company of Language Program Director Anna Iacovella, Simona Lorenzini (Ph.D.'16), Giulia Cardillo (Ph.D.'15), Anna Marra, and Eleonora Buonocore (Ph.D.'16). Kyle Skinner and Chris Kaiser worked tirelessly in assisting Professors Mazzotta and Marcus, respectively, and helping their students to get the most out of their study of Tuscan culture.

As in years past, we took several trips as a group, including visits to San Gimignano, Florence, Pisa, and a weekend in Rome. We also had a special guided tour of the Monte dei Paschi, including their archives and their incredible collection of Medieval and Renaissance art. Some students also visited a Siennese vineyard where they learned about the process of winemaking, took in beautiful panoramas, sampled some wines, and even met a Count!

The day of the Palio was an exciting one, as always. The *contrada* of the *Lupa* won for the first time in 27 years. Needless to say, it was a joyful victory! In the days leading up to the Palio, our students were fortunate to be able to visit the museum of the Giraffa and to attend that *contrada's* cenino. To have this "insiders" view of some of the events around the Palio is quite special—we're delighted to be able to offer it to the students.

Applications have now opened for next year's iteration of our successful summer programs. We look forward to sharing Siena and its culture with a fresh group of students! Alumni and friends in Italy this June and July, we hope to see you in the *Campo*!

Interested in Learning Italian in Siena, Italy...and Earning Credits?

For more information, visit
<http://summer.yale.edu/studyabroad>

Questions? Contact the Program Director

- Siobhan Quinlan

Faculty Notes

Giuseppe Mazzotta, Sterling Professor in the Humanities for Italian.

As the year 2016 draws to a close and I find myself halfway in my sabbatical year, it becomes increasingly clear to me that the idea of the leave deserves great appreciation. I have been working on the third volume of what I call my Dante trilogy, and I wish I could tell you that I am near to finishing paving the way to a fresh understanding of the poet of Italian literary history. The truth is that I have just started laying the basis for inquiring into some “forgotten” issues of the poem. And so I cannot but make a tactical retreat by stepping back to a different angle on my activities this last year.

I begin by reporting (or to say it better: by bringing to light) the great pleasure and genuine humility with which this last October (17 and 18) I was called to Washington, D.C. for an unexpected recognition: I was chosen to be the recipient of a “Life Achievement Award” from the Association of Italian Scientists and Scholars Foundation. I cannot hope to sketch out the intellectual contours of this Association. I will simply recapitulate what I take to be the fundamental principles guiding its activities: the conviction that our culture flourishes only if it is practiced and experienced as the work of connecting what could be called the “encyclopedia” resources of our traditions.

I was asked to address the gathering at the American Embassy of Italy and, quite predictably, I shared with the audience the elements common to and articulated with rare force by the likes of Dante, Vico, and that unique phenomenon we all know as the Florentine Renaissance. Especially the idea of the Renaissance, not just as a particular historical time, but as places-- the cities of Florence, Rome, Ferrara--and as the world of real and metaphorical bridges they built. All points of view, all perspectives (scientific, political, literary etc.) are necessarily present in the maps humanists and scientists alike draw up as they study the history, the geography, and the dialogues and debates of the Renaissance and the philosophers/poets (such as Dante and Vico). They, along with others (from Valla to Machiavelli to the Cusan and Ariosto etc.) steadily dreamt of new beginnings, of how to make them possible in our own time, and so have us participate in our history.

All of this was my way of avoiding the transcription of the lectures I have given over the past year and the scholarly papers I have published. Buone Feste a tutti.

Millicent Marcus, Professor, Chair.

During 2016, the following essay came out: “*Gomorra* by Matteo Garrone: ‘La normalità dello sfacelo,’ in *Italian Polilogical Cinema: Public Life, Imaginary, and Identity in Contemporary Italian Film*, ed. Giancarlo Lombardi and Christian Uva (Bern: Peter Lang, 2016), pp. 302-316. My list of conference papers and invited lectures for the year includes: “Liberating the Left: Toward a Humanist Language of *Impegno* for a Post-ideological Age in Roberto Andò’s *Viva la libertà*,” MLA; “When Old Stories Are Given New Life: Literature into Film and the Renewal of Culture,” Keynote, Chiasmi, Harvard-Brown Graduate Conference; “From the Mirror of Narcissus to Mirror Neurons: Cognitive Science and the Hyper-realism of Garrone’s *Gomorra*,” Keynote, Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Italian Section, Lexington; “I Was an ‘Angel of the Mud’: A Memoir of the Flood in Florence, Fifty-Years Later,” Boston College; “The Long Journey of a Short Film: Scola’s ‘43-’97” Symposium on The Cinema of Ettore Scola, Venice; “From Holocaust Trauma to Sweet Reminiscence: Food and Memory in Ferzan Özpetek’s *La finestra di fronte*” Gettysburg College.

Christiana Purdy Moudarres, Assistant Professor, Director of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies.

I was honored to receive a Morse Fellowship in the Humanities for 2015-16, during which time I completed my first book, *Dante, Poet of the Future: Faith, Science and the Immanence of the Age to Come*, now under review with University of Notre Dame Press. Other completed projects include an article published this Fall in *Viator*, “Bodily Starvation and the Ravaging of the Will: a Reading of *Inferno* 32-33” and an edited collection of essays, *Dante’s Volume from Alpha to Omega: Inscriptions on the Poet’s Universe*. Tempe, Ariz.: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (forthcoming). During my leave, I was also honored to receive the Poorvu Family Prize for Interdisciplinary Teaching in Yale College. Upcoming research plans include a commissioned article on Boccaccio, “Chichibio and the Crane” in *Lectura Boccaccii: Day VI*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016 (under contract); and an article on Dante’s representation of the Virgin Mary, “The Face that Most Resembles Christ: the Matter of Motherhood for Dante’s Holy Family.” In the Fall of 2016, I look forward to resuming my teaching responsibilities and role as Director of Undergraduate Studies, as well as a new opportunity to serve as Director of Graduate Studies.

Alumni News

Jo Ann Cavallo (Ph.D. '87)

Professor and current Chair of the Department of Italian, Columbia University, recently published the article "Marco Polo on the Mongol State: Taxation, Predation, and Monopolization," in *Libertarian Papers* 7.2 (2015): 157-168, and is co-guest-editor (with Carlo Lottieri) of *Speaking Truth to Power from Medieval to Modern Italy*, forthcoming in *Annali d'italianistica* 34 (2016). She also returned to Venice to teach Renaissance literature and culture in the Columbia Summer Program at Ca' Foscari 2016 and continues to serve as area editor for Italian Literature at *The Literary Encyclopedia* (<http://www.LitEncyc.com>).

Giuseppe Gazzola (Ph. D '08)

He writes: "I have been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department at Stony Brook. My second monograph, *Montale, the Modernist*, will be published by Olschki in the Fall."

John C. McLucas (Ph.D '83)

He writes: "I have just completed my 32nd year on the faculty of Towson University (formerly Towson State) near Baltimore, Maryland, where I teach all levels of Italian language, culture, and literature (plus Latin and occasionally French as well). I served six years as chair of Foreign Languages and have often taken students to Italy for semester-long or short-term study abroad experiences. I joyfully anticipate retirement in the next few years. Recent scholarly work has focused on the teaching of Ariosto and on my translation of Tullia d'Aragona's 1560 epic *Meschino, altramente detto il Guerrino*, forthcoming from University of Toronto and edited by Julia L. Hairston. For the past several years, I have been actively involved with the *Cenacolo*, a once-a-semester interdisciplinary gathering of scholars in Italian Renaissance studies from institutions throughout the Baltimore/Washington area. Through them, I have also been on the steering committee for an international conference to commemorate the 500 year anniversary of Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* (1516) that will take place October 11-15 in Baltimore on our three campuses: Johns Hopkins, Loyola University Maryland, and Towson University. Other institutions actively supporting the conference include Goucher, the Walters Art Museum, and the Peabody Institute."

Leslie Zarker Morgan (Ph.D. '83)

She writes: "I've now completed 27 years at Loyola University Maryland. I and an interdisciplinary - international team are in our last year of an NEH project to produce an on-line edition of *Huon d'Auvergne* (a Franco-Italian and ultimately Italian poem); progress is visible on www.huondauvergne.org. The initial synoptic collaborative edition (simultaneous edition of all textual witnesses) together with a translation into English will be ready by the end of December 2016. Secondly, the Baltimore Cenacolo (including Walter Stephens and John McLucas, also Yale graduate alums, and April Oettinger of Goucher College), is organizing a conference to commemorate the 500-year anniversary of Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* (1516). The conference will take place October 11-15 in Baltimore on multiple campuses, Loyola University Maryland, the Johns Hopkins University, and Towson University. A number of other Yale alumni will be taking part."

Emanuel L. Paparella (Ph.D. '90)

He writes: "As I approach the sunset of my life, the academic year 2015-2016 can only be characterized as bitter-sweet. I suffered a heart attack and had to undergo a quadruple bypass which necessitated the suspension of teaching for a whole semester; however, the operation turned out to be quite successful. I am now back to my old daily routines alternating teaching, writing, exercising (biking and swimming), traveling and enjoying the company of my wife, three daughters and four grandchildren, the last one, Collin, born just a year ago. My family and I moved from Broward to Palm Beach county, Florida (Lake Worth). Socially, intellectually and professionally I currently keep busy teaching Italian and philosophy at both Broward College and Barry University, and continue to coordinate the monthly on-line Ovi magazine symposium, a philosophical global conversation among humanists and philosophers of all stripes dedicated to the exploration of the nature of Art within modernity and the envisioning of a new humanism. I remain grateful for whatever life has dealt me, both good and bad, and especially for the gift of colleagues, friends and relatives. All the best to all my fellow Yale alumni."

Alumni News

Sherry Roush (Ph.D. '99)

She writes: "I am elated to share the news of my promotion to Professor of Italian at Penn State University. And my most recent monograph *Speaking Spirits: Ventriloquizing the Dead in Renaissance Italy* (University of Toronto Press, 2015) is a finalist for "The Bridge" 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, in the English language non-fiction category for 2016."

Federico Schneider (Ph.D. '02)

He writes: "I published a new book with Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura (Rome, 2016), in the Collana Temi e Testi, 141. The title is: *Unsuspected Competitive Contexts in Early Opera: Monteverdi's Milanese Challenge to Florence's Euridice* (1600)."

Daniel L. Selden (B.A. '77, Ph.D Comp. Lit. '86)

He writes: "Since receiving my Ph.D., I have taught at Yale, Columbia, Stanford, and the New School for Social Research. I am currently Professor of Literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz. I have a research fellowship at Cambridge (UK) for the fall, where I will be working with their superb collection of illustrated manuscripts of the Ferdowsi's *Shahnama*. As I look back over my career, perhaps the two most influential courses that I ever took were in the Italian Department at Yale with John Freccero—one on Dante, the other Saint Augustine."

Walter Stephens (B.A. '72)

He writes: "I'm beginning my seventeenth year as Charles S. Singleton Professor of Italian Studies at Johns Hopkins. With Leslie Zarker Morgan of Loyola University Maryland and John McClucas of Towson University and under the auspices of the Charles Singleton Center for Premodern European Studies at Hopkins, along with Loyola and Towson, we are holding an international conference on October 13-15, 2016, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first edition of *Orlando furioso*. In Fall 2016, I'll be offering "Magic, Marvel, and Monstrosity in the Italian Renaissance" on Mondays at Yale, a course centered around *Orlando furioso* and *Gerusalemme liberata*."

Kristin Stasiowski (Ph. D '09)

She writes: "I have been named the Assistant Dean of International Programs and Education Abroad for the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State University and I was also the recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award for my work as an Assistant Professor of Italian Language and Literature in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages."

Risa Sodi (Ph.D. '95)

After 23 years in the Yale Italian Department, Risa Sodi moved to a new role in 2013 as the Associate Director of the Yale Center for Teaching and Learning. In 2014, she also joined the Yale College Dean's Office part-time as the inaugural Director of Advising and, in 2015, joined the Yale College Dean's office full-time as an Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs. Her oversight includes freshman and sophomore advising, the Eli Whitney Student Program, the transfer student program, and other special academic programs. Through the Eli Whitney program — which enrolls non-traditional age students and is also Yale's gateway program for U.S. veterans — she became active in the Warrior-Scholar Project, a national initiative to provide a skills bridge for veterans to help them successfully transition from the battlefield to the classroom. Risa led the first-ever WSP humanities seminar this summer, on Primo Levi.

Maria Truglio (Ph.D. '01)

She writes: "I continue to enjoy teaching here at Penn State (University Park), where I am Associate Prof. of Italian and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. My current book project, *Italian Children's Literature and National Identity: Childhood, Melancholy, Modernity* is now forthcoming from Routledge's Children's Literature and Culture Series (2017). The book explores children's literature in Italy from the unification period through the rise of fascism. My colleague Dr. Nicolás Fernández-Medina and I co-direct the [Spanish and Italian Modernist Studies Forum](#) at Penn State, and our volume *Modernism and the Avant-garde Body in Spain and Italy* was published by Routledge this year. I contributed a chapter on Massimo Bontempelli's children's book, and there are chapters by Italianist colleagues Enrico Cesaretti, Lucia Re, Luca Somigli, and Keala Jewell. My two boys both graduated from Penn State, Tom with majors in Kinesiology and Biology, and Anthony with majors in Classics and French, and they are making their way in the world."