Speaking with a Public Voice

Much is being made of the crisis of the Humanities, and rightly so. Here at Yale, bastion of Arts and Letters, resources are being poured into the STEM disciplines, while language and literature programs are languishing, due to falling student numbers and the pressures of an increasingly technocratic workplace. I have long thought that a political approach to this problem could be of some avail. I’m not referring to politics of the intramural variety, so much as the attempt to shore up support among the general public, beyond the walls of Academe. In other words, to speak with a public voice. While the sciences do a good job of publicizing their work, and advances in the fields of social science and technology are available to lay audiences, we in the Humanities could be doing much more in this regard. As scholars of Italian studies, we are especially well positioned to reach out beyond the Ivory Tower to promote our work, given the general “name recognition” of medieval and Renaissance cultural giants, and the well-deserved popularity of Italy as a tourist destination. Within our own department, such outreach efforts have included the annual film festival, which draws a faithful following among cinephiles from the greater New Haven area and engages them in post-screening debates about the contemporary Italian scene. Planning is in full swing for “Dante 2021” designed not only to showcase the best scholarship in the field, but also to bridge the town/gown divide by appealing to audiences outside the confines of campus. I can think of no better figure than Dante, who chose to write his poema sacro in the vernacular, to teach us how to speak with a public voice.

- Millicent Marcus
From the Director of Graduate Studies

This fall, the department was delighted to welcome two new graduate students. Costanza Barchiesi comes to us from Georgetown University, where she obtained her MA in Italian Studies. Giacomo Berchi, comes to us from NYU and is pursuing a combined PhD in Italian and Renaissance Studies.

Over the course of the academic year, three of our graduate students received their PhDs:


It my pleasure to report the following job placements for all three of the above:

**Allison Hadley**, Coordinator for Community Programs in Science, Yale University; **Alexandra Catrickes**, Lecturer, Film, Television and Media Arts, Quinnipiac University; **Luca Peretti**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Ohio State University.

Last but not least, our graduate student lecture series, First Draft, has been a welcome addition to the life of the department. Inaugurated in 2017, the series serves as a dress rehearsal for conference papers, invited lectures and job talks. In the spring, Anna Manara presented material from one of her dissertation chapters, “Boccaccio’s Notes on Meditation.” In the fall, Giacomo Berchi gave a talk entitled “Stefan Zweig, Literature, the World: the Case of “Magellan”.” We look forward to two upcoming talks this spring by Giulia Pucci (“Microstorie: Reading Il Sistema periodico and the Advent of Micro”) and Megan Cogno ("The Space of Memory: The Jewish Ghetto through the Eyes of the Other in Monatte’s La storia”).

- Christiana Purdy Moudarres

From the Director of Undergraduate Studies

I am happy to report on the continued success of our undergraduate program, as well as some updates and additions to its prior offerings. This year marked our 5th Annual Fall Feast, with an attendance of over fifty undergraduates enrolled in our department’s language, literature and culture courses. The Italian Club, Lo stivale, has continued to thrive, with activities ranging from an inaugural Festa dei Biscotti (a group baking class in Morse College) to the annual bocce tournament and Scarabeo contest.

Based on several years’ worth of the major evaluation forms our students complete prior to graduation, we have revised the periodization requirement for the major, which now offers a bit more flexibility and coheres with the major requirements of other language and literature departments at Yale. The department is also pleased to announce the launch of its Certificate of Advanced Language Study, which grants formal recognition to non-majors who complete four courses beyond L4. We look forward to celebrating our first cohort of participants at graduation in 2019.

In the meantime, I wish to congratulate our most recent alumna, Amanda Corcoran, who graduated in May 2018. She completed her senior thesis, “Lo stato attuale dell’immigrazione femminile in Italia: l’accesso ai servizi sanitari”, under the direction of Simona Lorenzini, and was awarded distinction in the major. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to include her among our undergraduate alumni, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

- Christiana Purdy Moudarres
From the Language Program Director

It is interesting to observe that although The Modern Language Association (MLA)’s latest reports from fall 2013 and fall 2016 regarding U.S. enrollments in languages other than English fell 9.2 percent, for the Italian Department at Yale University this trend has not been reflected so dramatically. In fact, there has been only a minor fluctuation in enrollment from beginning to upper level courses during the past four years.

As the LPD for the Italian Department and as a first-year and sophomore advisor, I have the opportunity to survey students in language classrooms. The information I gathered in the latest semesters is that students did not lose their interest in language and culture, rather they choose their courses based on their primary program of study, which may restrict their choice of courses outside their major.

Fortunately, Yale College Faculty and the Italian Department at Yale encourage foreign language study beyond the minimum requirement. Starting this year, students receive the opportunity to obtain a certificate of advanced language study by taking a collection of advanced courses in a specific foreign language and for our specific case in Italian language. Numerous students have expressed their desire to obtain the certificate in Italian. As I also mentioned previously, during the past thirteen years the Italian Department has been attracting a large number of students who join the Siena Summer Program, and therefore study Italian in a full immersion setting during the summer months. The 2018 summer program sought students learning Italian language and culture for the complete eight weeks program successfully. This demonstrates that students have not lost their interest in learning languages.

It is important for us to acknowledge the diversity of the ways in which students learn. Personally, I find it enriching meeting with students in extended community events such as cooking classes organized in collaboration among the Italian Department and the undergraduate Italian Club. Some examples of such events during the past semesters were represented by the Biscotti and the Pizza activities in which students of Italian and their friends prepared, hands-on, these Italian staple recipes and enjoyed them too. These events bring solid construction to language and culture programs.

- Anna Iacovella

Filmmaker Alina Marazzi

In March 2018 we welcomed in our department award-winning filmmaker Alina Marazzi, for a screening of her film Vogliamo anche le rose (We Want Roses too) and a class visit. Marazzi directed several feature length documentaries and a fiction film, and in the spring 2018 she taught at NYU. She has created a particular style by recuperating found footage material: her first film, Un’ora sola ti vorrei (For One More Hour with You) she used her family’s amateur shorts to recount the tragic life of her mother, while We Want Roses Too portrays the transformations brought on by the sexual revolution and the feminist movement in Italy during the 1960s and 1970s. Director Marazzi introduced the film in a well-attended event at Loria, and was joined for the post-screening discussion by Paola Bertucci (Yale), Millicent Marcus (Yale) and Francesco Zuccconi (Harvard). The event was coordinated by PhD student Teresa Rossi, and her visit was sponsored by the Department of Italian, the Film and Media Studies Program, The European Studies Council of the MacMillan Center, and the Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program. Marazzi also attended a class of an undergraduate course on Italian cinema: the students enthusiastically engaged with her, asked many questions and enjoyed the chance of talking to a filmmaker.

- Luca Perretti
Italian Cinema for the New Millennium

In April 2018, the Department of Italian presented its 13th Annual Yale Festival of New Italian Cinema. With one exception (indicated below), all films were released in 2017.

We opened the festival on Thursday evening with The Manetti Bros’ riotous Ammore e malavita (Love and Bullets), which may best be categorized as a mafia musical. Through an innovative mix of genres including the tradition of musical drama known as sceneggiata napoletana, this film parodies and celebrates layers of the actual city of Naples and her many artistic representations, ranging from mockery and mimicry to ingenuity and innovation.

Fabio Mollo’s Il padre d’Italia (The Father of Italy) continued the festival on Friday, telling the story of Paolo and Mia as they travel from Northern Italy to the South on a quest for the absent father of Mia’s unborn child. Although strangers at the outset of their journey, these lonely individuals find solace and connection in their growing friendship. This bond allows them to confront perils such as intergenerational misunderstanding, familial heartbreak and abandonment with courage and clear eyes.

On Saturday we screened Francesco Amato’s boisterous Lasciati andare (Let Yourself Go), which traces the transformation of Elia, a grumpy, detached psychoanalyst in Rome, after he is compelled to hire a personal trainer to improve his health. Renowned actor Toni Servillo seems to relish this role as the character tackles the question, “What does it mean to loosen up?” As the first of two Sunday matinees, La guerra dei cofoni (The War of Bumpkins, 2016) tells the story of two warring groups of boys and the centuries-old class divide that separates them, recalling Lord of the Flies in its absence of adults. Directors Davide Barletti and Lorenzo Conte take a timeless tale and anchor this story geographically and historically through their strategic use of mise-en-scène and dialect.

Francesco Bruni’s Tutto quello che vuoi (Everything You Want) brought the festival to a close on Sunday. Alessandro, a young man living with his parents who fills his time with video games, discovers an unexpected kinship when he begins a new job as a caregiver for an elderly poet, Giorgio Ghedarducci, who suffers from memory deterioration due to advancing Alzheimer’s disease. Their friendship leads to new wisdom for both men and stretches each to reconsider what it means to engage with the world. A significant team effort, as it is every year, our festival is the result of nearly a year of research, screenings and meetings that begin during the Yale Summer Session in Siena, Italy and continue through engagement with our greater community. It is such an honor to bring new, engaging films to our New Haven audience members and to hear their thoughtful reflections and comments.

Our upcoming 2019 film festival (the 14th) will run from Thursday, April 11th through Sunday, April 14th. We are always seeking new ideas and tips about the dynamic contemporary Italian film landscape.

- Sarah Atkinson

Dante Working Group

The Dante Working Group had an exciting, engaging and productive year. We were able to organize a number of diverse events that drew in a vast audience of scholars and students from many different disciplines. In addition, we held informal lunch meetings with professors from other universities. This year’s speakers reflected the breadth of interests of our group. We began our year on May 1st with Sara Diaz, assistant professor at Fairfield University. Her talk was titled “Age, Viability, and Vernacularity: Boccaccio’s Portraits of the Artists as Young Men” and it particularly focused on Boccaccio’s contradictory approaches to the Narrator’s age in the Decameron, compared to his manipulation of age-tropes in his biographies of Dante and Petrarch. This very well-attended event drew several scholars from different departments for a lively and noteworthy encounter.

We started our Fall semester with a talk by Prof. Francesco Marco Aresu, Assistant Professor of Italian and Medieval Studies at Wesleyan University. His talk combined a thematic inquiry into the imagery of books and book production in the Vita Nova with a material approach to the textual tradition of the libello. The event attracted scholars and students from a wide variety of disciplines and it sparked a lively discussion about the presentation of his inspiring ideas.

Finally, we ended our semester with an informal lunch with Alison Comish, professor of Italian at New York University, who talked about her research and provided her sense of Dante studies in the US and abroad. This collegial meeting gave graduate students as well as undergraduates the opportunity to ask questions about the state of Medieval and Dante studies, to investigate new ways to teach Dante and to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue that attests to the continuing relevance of Dante’s work.

We thank the Whitney Humanities Center for its continuous and unwavering support of our activities.

- Teresa Rossi

http://italian.yale.edu
Orizzonti di un Maestro

On June 18th, 2018, scholars of Italian Literature gathered from both sides of the ocean to honor Prof. Giuseppe Mazzotta’s career and his groundbreaking works, which changed the field of Italian Studies. The event was hosted by Temple University in Rome, and it was organized by Dr. Hilary Link from Temple University, Dr. Jason Houston from Gonzaga University, Dr. Erminia Ardissino from University of Torino, Dr. Fabrizio Ricciardelli from Kent State University, and Dr. Stefano Baldassan from ISH Florence. With many of his former students and friends in attendance, a room full of people welcomed Prof. Mazzotta and the speakers. Prof. Piero Boitani, from University of La Sapienza in Rome began the conference with a discussion of Mazzotta’s contribution to the field of Dante’s Studies, and how his books from Dante Poet of the Desert (1979) to Dante’s Vision and the Circle of Knowledge (1993) shaped the intellectual conversations on Dante for more than three decades. In addition, Mazzotta’s Teaching Dante (2014) is a testament to his passion for teaching, as it allowed the general public to access his famous course on the Divine Comedy, taught at Yale to generations of students. Boitani’s speech sparked a lively discussion on Mazzotta’s contributions to understanding Dante, and to his fundamental role in the careers of many scholars, several of whom were present among the public.

The second speaker of the day, Prof. Luca Marcozzi from Roma Tre, discussed Mazzotta’s investigations on Petrarch, specifically his steering of Petrarch Studies away from sterile philology, by creating a new method for analyzing the Canzoniere based on decoding metaphors and allegories. He traced Mazzotta’s contributions from an early essay of 1978 to the essay “Orpheus: Rhetoric and Music in Petrarch” (1992) and the book Worlds of Petrarch (1993). Mazzotta recognized the Canzoniere as a palimpsest and reconstructed Petrarch’s moral authority by reconceptualizing his relationship with classical antiquity and its myths. The final speaker of the morning was Prof. Susanna Barsella from Fordham University, who led the audience throughout a journey in Boccaccio’s studies and in Mazzotta’s field-changing works, especially the World at Play in Boccaccio’s “Decameron” (1986). Conceived during the 1982 World Cup, this book sees the originality of Boccaccio as a thinker and author. By presenting philosophy and literature as allies, rather than competitors, for Boccaccio, Mazzotta underlined how literature can be a form of knowledge. Through the key concept of play, Mazzotta’s book disenfranchised the discourse on Boccaccio and allowed scholars to see the ethical dimension in the Decameron, and to see Boccaccio as an original writer and an autonomous thinker.

Following Marcozzi’s and Barsella’s speeches, a question and answer session reflected upon the legacy of Mazzotta’s scholarship and his methodology, which is based on concepts of marginality, liminality, the importance of play, and the analysis of metaphors and allegories tracing back to Classical culture.

In the afternoon Prof. Fabrizio Ricciardelli explored Mazzotta’s extensive scholarship on the Renaissance, and especially his book Cosmopoiesis or The Renaissance Experiment (2001). Here Mazzotta underscores the fundamental role of perspective in both Machiavelli’s work and the cultural project of the Renaissance. Moreover, Mazzotta’s book illustrates the power of the scientific discourse and of specific new sciences, such as optics, when seen in connection to literature. The final speaker of the day, Prof. Andrea Battiatti from University of Bologna, remarked on Mazzotta’s work on Vico, and especially on his book The New Map of the World: The Poetic Philosophy of Giambattista Vico (1999). By underlining Vico’s understanding of imagination’s fundamental role in human history and the centrality of poetry as a form of knowledge, this book illuminates the complexity of the Neapolitan philosopher’s thought.

Final words of the conference were given to the guest of honor. All scholars present listened intently to Professor Mazzotta’s concluding speech, wherein he retraced the touchstones of his career. Recalling the path that brought him from his hometown in Calabria to Toronto, then Cornell, and finally to Yale, he fondly evoked the lessons of his own maestri, from John Freccero to Robert Kaske, and stressed the profound importance of reading contemporary thinkers such as Paul DeMann, Jacques Derrida, and Victor Turner. As the conference drew to a close, Prof. Mazzotta directed his final remarks towards the teaching of literature to new generations of students, emphasizing the future of Italian studies and the opportunities offered to scholars by the new global stage.

- Eleonora Buonocore and Giulia Cardillo
Memory Studies in Europe Working Group

Founded in 2015 by a group of graduate students from several humanities departments, the Memory Studies in Modern Europe working group (MeME) – sponsored since 2016 by the Whitney Humanities Center – is now in its fourth year of activity. The group gathers graduate students and professors on a monthly basis, promoting events that range from paper presentations to film screenings, from reading discussions to workshops on research in progress. First and foremost, the group aims at serving as a venue for open discussion, providing opportunities to connect with fellow scholars at various stages of research in an informal setting.

In April 2018, we organized an international graduate student conference on Resistance and Collaboration in Occupied Europe. This was our biggest event to date; it involved four co-organizers from four different departments (Karolina Kulpak, Till Hilmar, Svetlana Teoreva, and myself) and it gathered generous sponsorship by a considerable number of institutions at our university: the Dean’s Fund for Research Workshops, Seminars and Colloquia, the Departments of English, French, German, History, the History of Art, and Italian, the European Studies Council at the MacMillan Center, the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, the Judaic Studies Program, the Yale Divinity School, the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, and the Whitney Humanities Center. Professor Timothy Snyder and Professor Marci Shore delivered keynote addresses, opening and closing, respectively, a full day of presentations and debates among young scholars from North American and European Universities. The nine graduate student speakers, selected among a record of over seventy applications, explored and challenged the categories of resistance and collaboration via transnational and transdisciplinary methodologies, dealing not just with Nazi occupied Europe, but also with the legacy of World War II and current memorial practices and conflicts across contemporary Europe. Our hope is that the vibrant atmosphere of this conference on April 2, 2018, attended by a wide and engaged audience, will lead to fruitful new dialogues and collaborations in the near future. Of course, Ann DeLauro’s support proved invaluable to the success of the event.

Among our regular events, several meetings in the last year dealt with Italian-related subjects and benefited from the active participation of colleagues from the Department of Italian Language and Literature. On April 18, we hosted a workshop on Representations of Resistance and the Shoah in Post-War Italy, co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University. The workshop continued some of the debates sparked by the conference, with special reference to the Italian case, thanks to presentations by Alessio Panchi (Johns Hopkins) and Alice Franzon (Leeds), moderated by Guido Fux (Durham). Another workshop on related themes, provisionally titled The Ethics of Italian Resistance, is likely to be held before the end of this academic year at the University of Leeds, in the UK. On October 3rd, Benedetta Carnaghi (Cornell) returned to Yale to present her doctoral dissertation in progress on Fascist and Nazi spies in Italy and France.

This year, we are pairing up with the Italian Department’s First Draft series on to present a talk by our very own Dr. Serena Bassi titled “Mistranslating Minority: Desire and Queer Marxism in the Italian Movimento del ‘77” (March 26th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm, room TBD). As always, we look forward to welcoming interested participants at all our future events!

- Giovanni Miglianti
From Campo to Campus

The 2018 edition marked the twelfth anniversary of the Yale Italian Summer Program in Siena and it was, as always, a memorable summer for all involved, students (48) and instructors. This summer, the Department of Italian Language and Literature offered three language classes, two in Elementary and one in Intermediate Italian, and a 1-credit culture class paired with the Intermediate language course. Professor Millicent Marcus taught her course on “History, Culture, and Film in Tuscany” during which the students engaged deeply with ideas about and representations of Tuscany through films and literary texts.

As the Program Director, I was glad to work with wonderful colleagues. In addition to Professor Marcus, I taught with the Language Program Director Anna Iacovella, Anna Marra, Giovanni Miglianti, Luca Peretti, and Julia Pucci. Sarah Atkinson assisted Professor Marcus, helping her students to get the most out of their study of Tuscan culture. The 2018 summer marked a terrific novelty for our Program that, for the first time, was entirely held in Italy. The 8 weeks added more unforgettable experiences for everyone. Fully immersed in the small and safe reality of Siena, the students took advantage of close and friendly relationships with their hosts, and the inhabitants and the social life of Siena. During a five-week period, our students experienced the spectacle of the Palio and enjoyed the lively atmosphere that surrounds this unique event. The day of the Palio (July 2) was an exciting one; the Contrada II Drago won this spectacular race. In the days leading up to the Palio, our students were fortunate to visit the museums of the Pantera and La Tartuca, and to attend the Contrada’s cenno. We are delighted to offer these first-hand insights of a real Contrada’s life to our students thanks to the generosity and hospitality of our local coordinator Iolma Giannini and her husband Paolo.

As in the previous years, we took several trips as a group, including visits to San Gimignano, Florence, Pisa, Lucca, the Etruscan archeological site of Populonia, and a weekend in Rome. Our students were also thrilled to spend an entire afternoon at the crescent-shaped seashore of Golfo di Baratti. For the second time, we also had the great opportunity to visit the Bottini, Siena’s underground network of aqueducts that supplies water to fountains and wells. It is a really unique experience walking along these passageways and learning about the story of this labyrinth of over 25 kilometers. During the past summers, hundreds of Yale students have taken advantage of a full immersion in Italian life, exhibiting, with increasing confidence, their speaking skills in a public context, in the close relationship with the outstanding and generous hosting families, and in a great variety of events and activities. As every year, the program closed on a festive note over dinner with our faculty, students, and host families in the lovely Orto deli Peci. This summer, we were also pleased to welcome a new addition to our Program, Victoria Van Luit, the Siena Program Director of the CET Academic Programs with which we have partnered for the first time. We are so grateful to have Vicky and the CET help us with student cultural adjustment and other issues related to living abroad.

Applications have now opened for the 13th Siena Summer Program. This summer we will offer Elementary and Intermediate language classes, plus a 1-credit culture class in English paired with the Elementary course and co-taught by Prof. Marcus and Prof. Jane Tylus, and a 1-credit culture class in Italian paired with the Intermediate course and taught by Dr. Simona Lorenzini. We are very glad to have Prof. Tylus join our Program and share her expertise in Siena’s history and culture – she authored two books on Siena, Reclaiming Catherine of Siena, and Siena, City of Secrets – with our students. We are all excited to again spend 8 weeks in Italy and we are looking forward to sharing the Senese and Italian culture with a new amazing group of students. Arrivederci a Siena!

- Simona Lorenzini
Millicent Marcus, Professor, Chair.

In Spring 2018, I enjoyed a much-welcome leave, during which time I was able to make progress on my long-standing project on contemporary Italian cinema. Two other areas of research—representations of the Holocaust in Italian cinema, and neuro-aesthetic approaches to the study of film—were the subjects of the following public lectures in 2018: “From the Mirror of Narcissus to Mirror Neurons: What Cognitive Science Has to Teach Us about Films (Italian Ones in Particular),” Italy at the Center Speaker Series, Yale, October 25; and “Italian Cinema and Holocaust Memory: Focus on the Ghetto of Rome,” Muhlenberg College, Allentown, April 10, 2018. An earlier research focus on medieval studies, in combination with a subsequent focus on filmic adaptation of literary works, led to a presentation at the American Association of Italian Studies conference in Sorrento on June 16 entitled “Boccaccio, Giotto, Pasolini: Realism and the Surface of the World in Decameron 6.5.”


Giuseppe Mazzotta, Sterling Professor in the Humanities for Italian

On the morning of March 23, 2018, I landed in China, and I will recall forever my state of mind as soon as I met and was warmly welcomed by colleagues and students. It did not take long to wake up to the realities of this magic land, of this country: I had no doubt that I was in the middle of a vibrant and active world, where I would be privileged to stay till April 4 of the same year.

I had been invited for this space of time (which for me coincided with the Holy week) along with other colleagues to visit and lecture at some universities. The task implied that I was to connect with audiences of students, professors, and officials at some universities (e.g. Dalian ‘Xian) in order to explore the possibility of devising what was to be a global network of teachers, universities, and shared projects – an idea that I had been nourishing for a while here at Yale University. At the University of Dalian – which is in the north – I spoke to a hall crowded with students and scholars familiar with our culture. On the advice of the Dean I asked the audience if they wanted to hear me speak on “Dante” or on “Shakespeare and Italy.” A chorus of voices unanimously answered: “Dante”! At the animated question-and-answer period following my talk I was so impressed with their performance, their modesty and insights that I thought to myself they were all familiar with a famous insight on virtue by Plato. I had read somewhere or had heard from one of my friends in New Haven the famous warning by Plato that I paraphrase here: when you travel to an unknown land, remember to treat with kindness everyone you meet, because everyone you meet in the street is like you – fighting a tough battle.

The day after my talk, I decided to visit a famous terracotta mausoleum just outside of ‘Xian. I brought home with me a wonderfully illustrated book, Valiant Imperial Warriors 220 years ago. It tells of the discovery in the spring of 1974 of Emperor Qin’s terracotta armory, warriors, horses, chariots, and weapons buried there. The scene at the mausoleum is a wonderful, genuine “culture site” and most of its history is still wrapped in mystery. I recognized some students and teachers I had seen at the lecture the day before. One of them politely (which I take to be a sign of a wise sense of limit) asked me about the origins or sources of the Italian Renaissance. The Italian Renaissance. I answered with a smile that most likely it had to do with ancient Rome’s mass of ruins and mausoleums. Once back home, I spent most of the remaining months of 2018 in the preparation of a proposal for the commemoration of the seventh century of Dante’s death (1321). The ultimate objective of this project, akin to a global vision of the university, was to re-think the fundamental principles of the Humanities as an Encyclopedia (regarding most of the spheres of culture and intellectual history, such as myths, literature, history of art, history, music, political views, including ethics, cinema, theater, etc.), which rest on a distinctive sense of imagination and education, both as dialogues essential to the disquieting reality of our age, an age when the directions of history seem uncertain.
Faculty Notes (cont.)

Christiana Purdy Moudarres, Assistant Professor of Italian, DUS, DGS

In January of 2018, I was happy to return to Yale and resume teaching and service to the department in my roles as DUS and DGS. My undergraduate spring seminar, Women in the Middle Ages, drew its strongest enrollment yet, as did Dante in Translation in the fall. While teaching Dante, I had the pleasure of rejoining the Literature faculty for Directed Studies for the first time since 2014, revisiting the Western canon (at breakneck speed, as per D8 tradition) from Homer to Dante.

As far as publications go, I have resumed working on revisions for my book, Dante, Poet of the Future: Faith, Science and the Imminence of the Age to Come, under contract with the University of Notre Dame Press, and am eagerly awaiting the publication of a volume of essays, Dante’s Volume from Alpha to Omega: Inscriptions on the Poet’s Universe, forthcoming with the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. In tandem with a forthcoming article on Dante’s treatment of the Virgin Mary, I have organized two sessions for this year’s NeMLA conference, Female Agency in the Later Middle Ages.

Aside from teaching and research, I have been happily involved in the co-organization of the department’s second annual Lecture Series, Italy at the Center, as well as inter-departmental conference in honor of the seventh centennial of Dante’s death, Dante 2021.

Jane Tylus, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature

It’s an honor to join this illustrious department. Much of the fall was spent getting to know the wonderful students and colleagues in Italian and Comparative Literature, my other home at Yale. Starting with a lovely party at Penny and Allan’s the first week of classes, my husband Bill Kletz (who has an appointment in Directed Studies and History) and I have been made to feel very welcome. I hope to be able to use my experiences from previous positions at NYU and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to ensure that Italian continues to have a vibrant presence at Yale, and I look forward to the new year and to new students in New Haven as well as Stena.

While research was put on hold this fall for the move, editorial work obeys only its own rhythms, and the fall 2018 issue of I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance came out more or less on schedule, featuring a cluster of articles devoted to the topic of “Unfinished Renaissances.” I spent a week in the UK in November where I gave a keynote entitled “Translation and as Accompaniment” for a conference at Clare College, Cambridge, and interviewed author Dacia Maraini before a packed house at London’s Istituto Italiano di cultura. (Dacia will come to Yale on February 27 to give a talk - save the date!) I also had the pleasure over the summer of speaking at the University of Zagreb and participating in a 10-day workshop at NYU’s Villa La Pietra on “alterity and sound in early modern Europe,” where I learned a great deal from the profession’s most innovative musicologists. My goals for 2019 are to develop some new courses on Sicily, on pastoral literature, and on translation theory, to make progress on my new book, “Taking Leave: Saying Goodbye in the Renaissance” – the title of my spring seminar at the Divinity School – and to learn to play all of Bach’s Goldberg Variations.
Alumni News

Erminia Ardissino (Ph.D ’93)
“...The census of printed Biblical literature in Italian (1463-1650), on which I have been working since 2015 at the Centre d’Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance (Tours, FR) is now in print at Brepols. We hope to offer to scholars a useful tool for new researchers on the presence of the Bible in early modern Italy. Even the proceedings of the conferences Lay Readings of the Bible in Early Modern Europe (Tours, November 24-26, 2015) and Oli Italiani e la Bibbia. Leggere, interpretare, riscrivere (Tirno May 19-20, 2016) should come out soon (at Brill the first, at Brepols the second). My research is now directed on women communities of interpretations in Renaissance Italy and still on poetry and prayer, a topic I have recently explored in Giovanni Giudici’s poems. This year I gave few lectures in Bologna, Padova, Chiari-Pescara, and Torino. Moreover, I was asked by Mondadori to organize a “manuale” to prepare teachers for teaching Italian in kindergarten, primary, middle, high school. I directed a group of more than twenty scholars, and together we worked at two books that have recently come out. The Yale Club in Milan is still alive, we meet few times a year with great pleasure.”

Ken Browne (M.A. ’78)
“I have been taking Italian classes at the wonderful Italian department at Montclair State University - near where I live and now work - Montclair, NJ. I continue to work as Ken Browne Productions, with clients mostly in New York, such as FIT-SUNY, for whom I produce branding and social media video. This past summer I had the good fortune to work with the brilliant Professors Teresa Fiore who holds the Infrusa Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at MSU on a research trip to Sicily to interview elderly Sicilians about “Io sarco” - the Allied landing in World War 2 in Sicily in 1943, specifically about food. We filmed ten “vecchetti” aged 80 to 101 who shared vivid eye witness accounts about the experience. It has been a great joy to return to the Italian classroom, and utilize my production skills on this project.”

Jo Ann Cavallo (Ph.D. ’87)
She is the founding editor of the new book series Anthem World Epic and Romance (http://www.anthempress.com/anthem-world-epic-and-romance). She also co-edited the anthology Boiardo (Uracolli, 2018) and published the essays “The Ideological Battle of Ronaldo: The Critique of Political Power from Pulci’s Morgante to Sicilian Puppet Theatre Today,” in Luigi Pulci in Renaissance Florence and Beyond, edited by James K. Coleman and Andrea Moudarres (Brepols, 2017), 209-32, and “Boiardo and Ariosto in Contemporary Sicilian Puppet Theater and the Tuscan-Emilian Epic Maggio” in Modern Language Notes 133.1 (2018): 48-63. She continues to serve as associate editor for Italian Literature at The Literary Encyclopedia (http://www.litencyc.com) and has recently joined the editorial board of the new journal Letteratura cavalleresca italiana and expanded her website eBOIARDO (Epics of Boiardo and Other Italian Authors: a Research Database Online) at http://edblogs.columbia.edu/eboiardo.

Nicola (Nick) Camerlenghi (B.A. ‘98)
“My first book is out with Cambridge University Press. It is a study of the Basilica of St. Paul’s Outside the Walls, the burial place of the Apostle Paul and one of Rome’s most important churches. With the help of state-of-the-art computer reconstructions, I recount the long history of the site, from its construction in the fourth century, through the devastating fire of 1823, to the modern reconstruction. The book examines how buildings in general trigger memories and anchor meaning, and how and why they endure, evolve, and remain relevant in cultural contexts far removed from the moment of their inception. Aspects of this research—including downloadable images and digital walk-throughs—can be viewed at: dartgo.org/virtualbasilica. A further, and still ongoing project of mine, conducted in collaboration with scholars at the University of Oregon and Stanford University, can be found at: Mappingrome.com.”

Dina Donnett (Ph.D. ’93)
After leaving Oxford University last summer, she has taken the role as Dean of Faculty at Ashridge-Hult Business School in Berkhamsted, England. The school and her work is mainly focused on customized executive education. Some of her clients include Ferrari in Italy.

Giuseppe Gazzola (Ph.D. ’08)
He is on a yearlong sabbatical in Bangalore, where he is working on a new manuscript: “Tourism and Empire: Italians in India, 1860-1940.” His edition of Marinetti’s Translations from Mallarmé is out this year, and the edition of the lost drama by G.A. Borgese, “La fuga in Egitto,” will be out in 2019 with SEF - Società Editrice Fiorentina.

Lieberman, Hilary, (Ph.D ’00)

The Allegheny College Board of Trustees has unanimously elected Hilary L. Link, dean of Temple University Rome, as Allegheny’s 22nd president. Link will assume the presidency on July 1, 2019.

https://sites.allegheny.edu/president-elect/?fbclid=IwAR2jHko6QeF-3rthqrgE5unTTrTb0Uwp6hrYwGHs8HS5DCm_1BWOJR5jGk
Alumni News

L. Zarker Morgan (Ph. D ’83)
“I am on sabbatical for the 2018-2019 school year. I continue to work on editing Huon d’Auvergne, a 14th -15th century Franco-Italian text, with a team (Dr. Shira Schwam-Baird, of the University of North Florida and Dr. Stephen McCormick of Washington and Lee University). We should be putting version 2 on line later this year (with photos of manuscripts), for now version 1 is at http://huondaauvergne.org/. I’ll be travelling to Grenoble, France, to present the project in December. We also have a contract to publish a print edition and translation; our manuscript for publication is due next August. I’ll be returning to teach in fall 2019, completing a term as Associate Chair for Student Issues in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Loyola College in Maryland, where I have been since 1989.”

Andrea Moudarres (Ph.D. ’11)
He is Assistant Professor of Italian and the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research interests include Renaissance epic, Dante, Humanism, Machiavelli and political philosophy, and the presence of classical literature in medieval and early modern culture. Professor Moudarres’s book, The Enemy in Italian Renaissance Epic: Images of Hostility from Dante to Tasso (forthcoming with the University of Delaware Press), examines the question of violence with regard to both internal and external forms of hostility. He is also co-editor of two volumes of collected essays: New Worlds and the Italian Renaissance: Contribution to the History of European Intellectual Culture (Brill, 2012), and Luigi Pulci in Renaissance Florence and Beyond: New Perspectives on his Poetry and Influence (Brepols, 2017).

The Modern Language Association of America announced it is awarding its twenty-first annual Aldo and Jeannie Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies to Andrea Moudarres, of the University of California, Los Angeles, for The Enemy in Italian Renaissance Epic: Images of Hostility from Dante to Tasso, to be published by the University of Delaware Press. The award is one of eighteen that was presented on May 2019, during the association’s annual convention, held in Chicago. The members of the selection committee were Timothy Campbell (Cornell Univ.), chair; Richard H. Lanning (Brandeis Univ.); and Meredith K. Ray (Univ. of Delaware).

The committee’s citation for the winning manuscript reads: Andrea Moudarres’s The Enemy in Italian Renaissance Epic: Images of Hostility from Dante to Tasso is an eloquent and original account of the Renaissance epic tradition in Italy. Using an impressive array of sources across a variety of philosophical and literary traditions, Moudarres allows different voices to come into conversation around the notion of civil strife. The result is not only a brilliant account of the political stakes of how we read Ariosto and Tasso, among others, but also a welcome intervention in the contemporary moment, when conflict often seems to be the linchpin of political life. Both erudite and highly accessible, this study is an outstanding contribution to Renaissance studies and to wider discussions of the relation of conflict to how we live together. Andrea Moudarres is an assistant professor of Italian at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his PhD from Yale University. Moudarres is co-editor of Luigi Pulci in Renaissance Florence and Beyond: New Perspectives on His Poetry and Influence and New Worlds and the Italian Renaissance: Contributions to the History of European Culture. He has contributed essays to books and to journals such as I Tatti Studies and MLN.

Arielle Saiber (Ph. D. ’99)
“My book Measured Words: Computation and Writing in Renaissance Italy (Uni of Toronto) came out in December of 2017 and I was fortunate and honored to win the MLA’s Scaglione Publication Award, the Newberry Library’s Weiss-Brown Award, and The American Initiative for Italian Culture’s Bridge Award for American non-fiction. This last award carries with it the translation of the book into Italian and its publication in Italy. I have also had the honor and pleasure of working with Carla Zecher (the Executive Director of the RSA) to develop and employ the Mentoring Program, and guest-teaching at UCLA (Fall ‘18) as the Speroni Endowed Chair of Medieval & Renaissance Studies.”

Federico Schneider (Ph. D. ’02)
He has recently presented a lecture at Scuola Estiva Internazionale in Studi Danteschi – dodicesima edizione (Verona-Ravenna) entitled “Riflessioni sui Dante Studies di ieri e di oggi.” The lecture can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKi7-SnRCK.
Managing Editors
Ann DeLauro
Amanda Thomas

Contributors
Professor Millicent Marcus
Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta
Professor Purdy Moudarres
Professor Jane Tylus
Anna Iacovella, Senior Lector
Simona Lorenzini, Lector
Sarah Atkinson
Eleonora Buonocore, Ph.D. ’16
Giulia Cardillo, Ph.D. ’15
Luca Peretti, Ph.D. ’18
Giovanni Miglianti
Teresa Rossi

Alumni!
If you want your news to be featured in our next Newsletter, please email any updates by October 1, 2019, to: Ann.Delauro@yale.edu.

In your email, please include your degree and graduation year.

SAVE THE DATE: ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 11th
THE PLACE

Friday, April 12th
QUANTO BASA

Saturday, April 13th
MANUEL

Sunday, April 14th
COMME UN GATTO IN TANGENZIALE

Sunday, April 14th
QUESTIONNE DI KARMA