



Il febbraio dei nostri sogni

Cari lettori e care lettrici,

Welcome back to Charlottesville for another semester of exciting adventures in Italian Studies. This spring we have many fun-filled events planned for our students, colleagues, and friends of Italian.

In March, our fans can take in a fascinating talk by Dr. Maria Morelli, who will visit us from the Università degli studi di Milano. Also during the month of March, those of you in search of fun can participate in Game Night with the UVA Italian Club, or you can attend one of their movie nights, if you are a cinephile.

April brings not only the rainy season here in Virginia, but also our annual bocce tournament and, for all of you with a sweet tooth, the return of *Dolcissimo*. We will also have the honor of hosting Prof.ssa Roberta Trapè, from the University of Melbourne, who will give a talk, sponsored by the IWL, at the Language Commons.

So, as you can see, there will be no shortage of activities this spring to indulge your passion for Italy. To learn more about these, and other happenings in the Italian Studies Program, make yourself an espresso and curl up with this February edition of *La Vendemmia*.

-Enrico Cesaretti, Director Undergraduate Program in Italian Studies



"As in the USA, 14 February is Valentine's Day in Italy. In the boot-shaped land, this holiday is also sometimes known as La festa degli innamorati. In contemporary Italy, those celebrating the day of hearts may give each other chocolates or, if they really want to be romantic, attach a padlock to a railing as a symbol of their enduring love."

-The Editors

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Every year, the Honor Society organizes Il festival del gelato.

Your Honor Society Needs You!

The Italian Honor Society wants you! It's that time of the semester when we offer the opportunity to students who might be interested in joining to learn more about life as a member of the Italian Honor Society. If you would like to participate, don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

Sneak Peek

The Italian Honor Society, "Gamma Kappa Alpha," is very active in our program: every semester the members organize a free tutoring service, Caffè Italiano and other events, including everyone's perennial favorite, Il festival del gelato! There is also the chance to participate in the National Italian Honor Society "Spring Essay Contest" to receive a monetary prize.

All Are Welcome

The induction ceremony will take place on 22 March. Since our President, Christine McDermott, is graduating in May, we will also need a new leader and new board members: anyone who is part of the Honor Society can apply! If you are interested in knowing more, please email Stella Mattioli (sm6dn).

-Stella Mattioli

Da Non Perdere!

Il caffè italiano

- ◆ 28 February, 10:00 am
- ◆ 20 March, 2:00 pm
- ◆ 15 April, 1:00 pm
- ◆ 26 April, 3:00 pm

Il club italiano

- ◆ 5 March: Movie Night
- ◆ 19 March: Game Night
- ◆ 2 April: Movie Night
- ◆ 19 April: Bocce Tournament on the Lawn

Lola Peliccia Essay Prize

- ◆ 22 March: Deadline to submit an essay for consideration

Talk by Dr. Maria Morelli

- ◆ 25 March: "Acting Women: Feminist Views on the Italian Stage"

Dolcissimo!

- ◆ 5 April: The Lorna Sundberg International Center

Movie with ITAL 2020

- ◆ 10 April: *Il rosso e il blu*, 5:00 pm in NCH 268.

Il Festival del Gelato

- ◆ 11 April: 4:00 pm on the South Lawn

Talk by Prof.ssa Trapè

- ◆ 12 April: 3:30 pm

-Stella Mattioli &

Christine McDermott

Da Leggere...

The students of ITAL 2020 have a book recommendation for you.

This spring, they are reading Marco Lodoli's *Il rosso e il blu* (2009).

Lodoli is a long-time educator who recounts his experiences teaching in a high school on the outskirts of Rome in this contemporary work.

The book's title derives from the way Italian teachers correct student work by using two different ink colors: red to signify minor errors, and blue to represent more serious issues.

The book proved so popular that it was adapted to the screen in 2012 by Giuseppe Piccioni.

On 10 April, the Italian Studies Program will sponsor a special movie night to show *Il rosso e il blu*.

Students from ITAL 2020 will be on hand to offer their thoughts and answer your questions about Marco Lodoli's fascinating story.

-The Editors

DOLCISSIMO: *Live the Sweet Life*

An Italian dessert-cooking competition and second language acquisition project

Sponsored by the Institute of World Languages



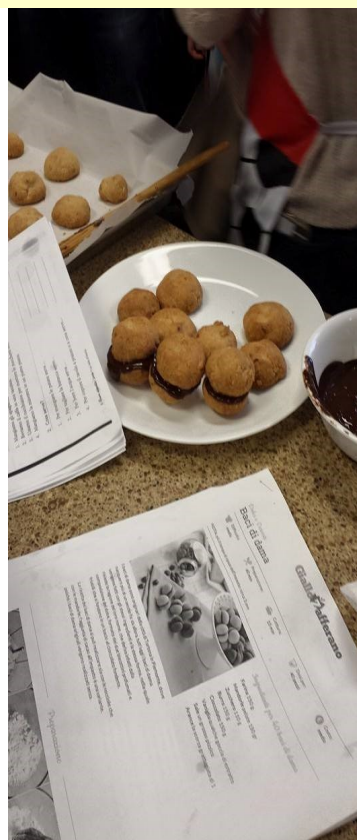
Whip up a sweet creation, wow the V&J judges, speak Italian and win a lot of prizes!

Friday, March 25, from 4 to 7 pm

Lorna Sundberg International Center



For more info please contact Dr. Franческа Colaninno fc@virginia.edu



Dolcissimo rides again in April. Don't miss it!

Dolcissimo V: Judgement Day

On 5 April, *Dolcissimo*, the annual baking competition of the Italian Studies program, returns again for another dramatic showdown in Kitchen Stadium (also known as The Lorna Sundberg International Center).

Last year's instalment of this perennial tradition featured an intense battle among not one, not two, but three language programs: Italian, French, and Chinese. The afternoon of baking and eating finished with The Chinese Program stunning the defending champions from the French Department to win the title of best dessert.

This year, it's personal for the French, who will try to win back their crown, while the Chinese Program vows to defend its honor. Meanwhile, the scrappy Italian Studies Program will not be ignored, as it too vies to become master of pastry. But wait...there's more!

For the first time in the history of *Dolcissimo*, the Arabic Program will join the fierce competition. Can they reign supreme over the kitchen?

Find out on 5 April when *Dolcissimo: Jet-Set Edition* débuts.

-Sarah Annunziato



Diversifying Italian Studies

Last year, Prof.ssa Parker published an essay on the website, *Inside Higher Ed*, entitled "Race and Foreign Language." In it she reflected on her experiences as an Asian American professor of Italian Studies, a field that historically has not been known for its great diversity of ethnicities and nationalities.

This article inspired a conversation among Italianists throughout North America about ways to address the under-representation of minorities in our field.

In January, this dialogue culminated in a conference at the prestigious Calandra Italian American Institute in New York City on the subject of diversity in Italian Studies.

The Institute invited Prof.ssa Parker to give the keynote address, entitled "Diversifying Italian Studies." Many professors and graduate students from around the world joined Prof.ssa Parker at this historic event.

Panels addressed a variety of issues ranging from the need to create diverse course materials for Italian language classes, the African American experience in Italian Studies, incorporating the LGBTQ community into the field, greater inclusion of students with disabilities, and more!

The Italian Studies Program at UVA looks forward to incorporating some of the proposed solutions into more of its courses and activities in the future.

To learn more, visit the Calandra Institutes webpage at <https://calandrainstitute.org/>.

-Sarah Annunziato

News for Students

Speaking of diversity in the language classroom, students of Italian Studies are once again participating in the *Gender and Language Project*.

Created in 2016 by Prof.ssa Francesca Calamita, this project asks students to examine issues of sexism inherent to the Italian language.

Each year, students of ITAL 2020 research and analyze news headlines from Italy to better understand how gender bias often makes its way, sometimes unobserved, into day-to-day Italian.

After identifying the problems with the headlines they unearth, the students then re-write them to eliminate the questionable features.

The students will present their work on 24 April between 12 and 3:00 pm. All who are interested may attend, but spaces will fill up quickly, so please contact Prof.ssa Calamita to make your reservation.

-Sarah Annunziato



Like Sands Through the Hourglass

Students of ITAL 2020 will once again write, direct, and star in another season of the Italian-language soap opera, *Un posto al sud*.

In preparation for season 3 of *Un posto al sud*, the Intermediate Italian students will receive a helping hand from Italian author Claudio Rinaldi.

Rinaldi is the author of several collections of contemporary fairytales. He is also a long-time friend of the Italian Studies Program, having visited students of "Growing Up Italian-Style: Children's Culture," twice previously.

This spring he will meet with ITAL 2020 students to answer their questions about the art of fiction writing. He will also be available to critique their plot outlines for the upcoming *Un posto al sud* episodes.

If you are a fan of this extremely dramatic show, stay tuned for updates this March and April.

- The Editors



UVA students visited La Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa during their stay in Tuscany.

UVA Students Have Love Affair with Tuscany

The J-Term program in Tuscany was once again a rousing success! 17 students, accompanied by Prof. Enrico Cesaretti and Sig.ra Stella Mattioli, spent 15 days traveling to Florence, Prato, Pisa and throughout the Tuscan countryside, learning about regional culture and history.



The students had the opportunity to meet locals, visit an authentic Tuscan vineyard, and also learn about Poggio a Caiano, Charlottesville's sister city in Italy (they also met the mayor, Francesco Puggelli!).

The J-Term in Tuscany happens every other year: so, if you want to apply, you need to be patient for a while. In the meantime, you can look at these pictures!

-Stella Mattioli

The Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese offers two kinds of specialization in Italian Studies: a major in Italian Studies leading to the B.A. or B.A. with distinction; and a minor in Italian Studies.

For information on becoming a major or a minor in Italian Studies, please contact Professor Enrico Cesaretti (efc4p@virginia.edu).



Contact Us!

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