



Febbre di Maggio...

Cari lettori e care lettrici,

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter, *La Vendemmia*. Since you were last here, there have been some exciting developments.

On 23 March, the Italian Studies Program welcomed the filmmaker Alina Marazzi to grounds to show her documentary *We Want Rose Too* (*Vogliamo anche le rose*), about the Italian feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Then, just one week later, chefs from the programs in French, Chinese, and Italian competed at our annual baking competition, *Dolcissimo*. And that was just in March!

In April, the Italian Honor Society invited guests to the lawn for the second annual Festival di Gelato, and then at the end of the month we celebrated our majors and minors at the annual Italian Garden Party.

Now, as May brings with it warm weather, new flowers, and eventually summertime, we prepare to say "arrivederci" to our fourth-year majors and minors. You can read all about their accomplishments in these pages.

So, find a sunny spot outside and settle in with the May edition of *La Vendemmia*.



"The Italian Studies Program celebrates not only Commencement in May, but also Dante Alighieri's birthday. While the poet's exact birth date remains a mystery, Canto 22 of his Paradiso reveals that he was a Gemini. Meanwhile, Dante once told a friend from Ravenna that he was born in May of 1265. Also celebrating a birthday in May, is 19th-century author Neera, who was born on 7

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Emily O'Connor and Ansley Gould present their tiramisù to the judges.

Battle of the Sweets

The second-to-last day of March began like any other at The University of Virginia. Students woke up barely in time for their classes, took tests, handed in papers, and saw friends. By all appearances, it was a normal day. However, for the Department of French and the Programs in Italian Studies and Chinese, it was to be a day of reckoning, for it was on this day that their chefs would meet in a battle for glory at the Lorna Sundberg International Center.

Dessert vs. Dessert

Six teams (two from each language program) squared off in the kitchen to compete for the title of best dessert, 2018. Each group selected a traditional dish from the country of their target language, researched the treat's origins, and then presented their tasty confections to a panel of VIP judges.

Shocking Upset!

Last year, when French and Italian competed against one another for the first time, the Gâteau de Nancy won first prize, making the French chefs the favorites in this year's competition. However, the Sweet Rice Balls prepared by the Chinese cooks proved too tempting for the judges, enabling the newcomers to pull off a shocking upset. The Italian Sweet Ravioli took second place. Prizes were also awarded for best use of the target languages and best apron design.

Dolcissimo will return in the spring of 2019, when the Arabic Program will join the competition. Who will reign supreme?

La Scena

Un altro successo: *Dolcissimo!* Tre squadre (gli italiani, i francesi e i cinesi) hanno diviso la cucina per creare i piatti culturali distintivi. Era ovvio che preparavano i piatti eccellenti mentre i giornalisti affamati camminavano intorno alla tavola mentre passava il tempo. Che grande evento! Gli studenti e le studentesse di classi diverse si sono incontrati/e e hanno parlato del cibo che hanno deciso di preparare. La stanza dei giudici sembrava intimidatoria ma accogliente con le sue decorazioni. Alla fine della giornata, tutti erano soddisfatti con



The chefs of Dolcissimo

Documentary Now!

On 23 March, the Italian Studies Program welcomed celebrated filmmaker Alina Marazzi to grounds.

Alina Marazzi is best-known for her documentary films, including *Un'ora sola ti vorrei* (*For One More Hour with You*) and *9 x 10 Novanta*.

She came to UVA to screen her 2007 documentary, *Vogliamo anche le rose* (*We Want Roses Too*), which was nominated for the David di Donatello award for Best Documentary in 2008.

The film discusses Italy's feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

UVA students were not only able to see it, but they also engaged the director in a question and answer session, moderated by Prof.ssa Bernadette Luciano, afterwards.

It was a memorable occasion for everyone.

-Francesca Calamita



Alina Marazzi



Prof.ssa Parker (left) and Prof. Cesaretti (right) with Tess Toland (center)

Party People!

On 27 April, professors, students, and friends of the Italian Studies Program at The University of Virginia gathered once again to celebrate our majors and minors at the Italian Garden Party. This event takes place every year and is made possible by generous donations from the family of the late Lola Pelliccia. Ms. Pelliccia was a beloved lecturer here in the Italian Studies Program for many years, and today that same program bestows prizes in her honor for excellence in essay writing.

This year, those prizes were claimed by Tess Toland (1000-2000 level) and Christine McDermott (3000-5000 level) for their work in Elementary Italian and Advanced Italian, respectively.

The Garden Party also recognizes our graduating majors and minors in Italian Studies, who this year are: Mary Collins, Moira Hull, Tyler Jones, Katherine Kaufman, Nathan Maizels, Avery Morrison, Eric Petruzzo, Rebecca Ramdass, Matilda Sullivan, Benjamin Stievater, and Mary Philippott.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

-Sarah Annunziato



Mary Collins presents her DMP thesis.

Gnam-Gnam

If you were in the vicinity of the lawn on 16 April, you probably noticed more traffic than usual in this popular spot. That is because the Italian Honor Society invited everyone to stop by for a taste of gelato.

The annual Festival di Gelato took place courtesy of Splendor, which generously donated samples of its delicious merchandise, to our cause. Visitors to the lawn were treated to flavors of their choice and *due chiacchiere* with our students.

The Festival di Gelato is a popular tradition, and one that we hope to repeat next year. Until then, satisfy your gelato cravings at Splendor.

Proud Mary

The Italian Studies program can barely contain its pride in our student, Mary Collins, who presented her Distinguished Majors Project on 30 April. The Distinguished Majors Program allows fourth-year students to conduct in-depth original research on a topic of their choice related to their majors. Each student works under the guidance of a faculty advisor and second reader to produce a thesis, which he or she then presents at the end of the academic year.

Mary's thesis was entitled *La scrittura post-coloniale di Igiaba Scego e Cristina Ali Farah: identità, spazio e questioni di genere*. In it, she studied two modern Italian authors who represent a growing community of post-colonial writers in contemporary Italy. Mary worked on her research under the tutelage of Prof.ssa Francesca Calamita and Prof. Enrico Cesaretti. She is the second Italian Studies major in a row to earn acceptance into the Distinguished Majors Program. Last year, we were pleased to hear Francesca Trombetta's (2017) presentation about her research on modern-day applications of Dante's poetry.

The Italian Studies Program looks forward to welcoming more of our students into the Distinguished Majors Program in the future. But for now, please join us in congratulating Mary.

-Adrienne Ward



Splendorific gelato was enjoyed by all on 16 April.

Super Stella!

It was a busy semester on the conference circuit for Stella Mattioli.

This spring, she presented in a roundtable, and she also organized and chaired another one.

In April Stella went to the NEMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) conference in Pittsburgh, where she presented the first results of her new research, called "Self Assessing Participation in the Italian Classroom: The Make-Your – Own Rubric Method". The roundtable, organized by professor Tania Convertini from Dartmouth College, was called "Raise Your Hand!: Assessing Student Participation in the Foreign Language Classroom".

Stella later organized a roundtable of her own, entitled: "Facebook, Twitter and Other Social Media: How They Can Be Used for Academic Purposes". This allowed Stella to share some of the efforts that her students have already put in to projects on social media



Tom Tom Fest
@TomTomFest

Follow

Have you found yourself "Sucking Up" to someone in your life? @UVA Professors of Italian & English, respectively, Deborah Parker & Mark Parker share insights. Hear their talk on @uvapress's book "Sycophancy"! Previous work digests #danbrown's "Inferno." tomtomfest.com



Prof.ssa Parker and her co-author, Prof. Mark Parker (James Madison University) spoke at this year's Tom Tom Festival on 12 April.

Adventures in Professing

Prof. Cesaretti and Prof.ssa Parker once again wrote to regale us with exciting tales of their springtime adventures, which have taken them both to some interesting events up and down the eastern seaboard.

In March, Prof. Cesaretti's newest book officially debuted. *Italy and the Environmental Humanities* is a collection of essays featuring work by over twenty eminent scholars in the field. The book offers an interdisciplinary approach to Italy's role in the ongoing environmental movement. Prof. Cesaretti edited the work, along with Prof.ssa Serenella Iovino (University of Turn) and Prof.ssa Elena Past (Wayne State University).

Meanwhile, our fearless leader also gave the keynote address at the *24th Annual Carolina Conference for Romance Studies* at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Also enjoying an adventurous semester, was Prof.ssa Parker. She spoke about her new book, *Sucking Up: A Brief Consideration of Sycophancy*, at the annual Tom Tom Festival in April, with her co-author, Prof. Mark Parker of James Madison University.

We are very proud of all of their accomplishments and are sure that there will be many more to report to our readers next year.

-Sarah Annunziato

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).



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