

FIS Bulletin(o)

The Newsletter for the Division of French and Italian Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle

Special Features

- ◆ *Professor Richard Watts to join FIS faculty*
- ◆ *Student & Faculty Awards*
- ◆ *Stories From Abroad*

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Contributors: Matthew Fitzgerald, Julia Holter, Christopher McQuain, Sabrina Tatta, Jennifer Vandergrift
Editor: Jennifer Keene



FIS Welcomes Our Newest Faculty Member, Dr. Richard Watts, to Campus in Autumn 2009



Richard Watts

Dr. Watts is a well-established scholar in Francophone Studies with a national and international reputation of excellence. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Economics in 1989 at UC Santa Barbara, a Master of Arts in French from Yale University in 1993, and a Ph.D. in French from Yale University in 1998. He has been an Assistant Professor of French at Tulane University from 1998-2004, an Associate Professor of French from 2004-2009, and Executive Director of The Tulane University Center for Global Education from 2006-2009.

Dr. Watts' scholarship is marked by his innovative approaches that are helping to shape the contours of the disciplinary field of Francophone Studies, which is very much in evolution. His research has focused on three overlapping areas: the history of literary publishing of authors from the French colonies and postcolonies; the debates in West Africa and the Caribbean on the link between the racial and cultural differences and literary production; how the ecological turn in post/colonial literatures complicates discourses of identity. His book, Packaging Post/Coloniality studies how the presentation of francophone colonial and postcolonial literature to its readership through the paratext (covers, illustrations, promotional summaries, epigraphs, dedications and most importantly, prefaces) mediates the tensions surrounding these texts in the moving from the context of their production (or setting) to the primary context of their consumption.

More recently he has been at work on a very exciting vein of research as part of his current book-length project, Water Narratives: Post/Colonial Representations of a Global Commodity. In this research, Watts ranges far beyond the symbolic role of water in narrative traced by thinkers such as Bachelard to an analysis of its role in the colonial and postcolonial francophone text that takes into account legacies and traces of the colonial control of natural resources and their meanings, as well as strategies of resistance to colonial models. A Faculty Research Fellowship Award through the Society of Scholars program at the UW Simpson Center for the Humanities will enable Dr. Watts to conduct research for this book project during winter quarter.

During fall quarter, Dr. Watts will conduct a graduate seminar entitled "Ecocriticism and the Post/colonial" in which students will read the literary and cinematic production of the francophone post/colonial world through the lens of ecocriticism with a view to understanding the limits of both ecocriticism and postcolonial theory as well as finding the critical common ground between them. In the spring, Dr. Watts will teach an undergraduate survey course on Francophone Literatures and Cultures.

We are very glad to welcome Dr. Richard Watts to the Division of French and Italian Studies at the University of Washington!

Student Excellence



French Major Awarded Dean's Medal in the Humanities

We are delighted to report that Ada Dea Sherman Albuquerque da Silva, a graduating senior in French Studies, has been awarded the 2008-2009 prestigious Dean's Medal in the Humanities. Outstanding graduating students with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.85 or higher are nominated by faculty for consideration for this award.

Mrs. da Silva is expecting a child in August and is planning to enter the Master of Arts program in the School of Social Work, where she will focus on immigrant rights and advocacy. Her goal is to work within disadvantaged communities to promote economic equity and social justice on both the local and international level.

Italian Student Receives Library Research Award

Valerie Hoagland, a Classics and CHID major and Italian minor, has received a Library Research Award in the non-thesis division for her project entitled "La vergine completa: visione particolare di una donna straordinaria nel Quattrocento." The *donna straordinaria* who is the subject of Valerie's research is Isotta Nogarola, a female humanist writer from the early 1400s.

Thanks to this award, Valerie will be able to purchase a laptop computer, which will come in handy when she heads off to graduate school in the Italian Studies program at NYU in the fall.

A extra special thanks goes out to Assistant Professor Susan Gaylard, whose guidance and support were invaluable to Valerie as she conducted research and applied to graduate programs.



James Terry Receives Dissertation Fellowship Award

Hats off to James Terry, who has received a Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship Award for the Arts and Humanities! Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship Awards are designed to assist graduate students in the final stages of completing their dissertations.

James' dissertation, which is about refrains in thirteenth-century lyric poetry, has the working title, "Contingency and Connotation in the 13th-Century Old French Refrain." In his own words James explains, "Like our modern 'choruses,' medieval refrains are often lines repeated at the end of each verse of a song. However, they can also be single lines that change from verse to verse, but which are cited in many different songs. My problem is to explore how each poet conceives of certain lines as refrains, drawing on the idea that in addition to its denotative, literal meaning, each refrain also contains a connotation, a meaning specific to the poet who uses it. While a refrain can have a different connotation for each poet, it can also accumulate connotations the more it is used."

Graduation Reception 2009

In honor of our 2008-2009 graduates, countless rounds of applause! We salute you in the knowledge that immeasurable amounts of energy and dedication have been put forth in earning your degrees from the University of Washington.

In our wish to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating French and Italian students this year's Graduation Reception will be held at the Waterfront Activities Center. Family and friends of graduating seniors, along with faculty and staff, gather together to eat, drink, and be merry. Community businesses have chipped in with gift certificates for the students with top honors.

We hope that each student will leave the UW with fond memories and a solid education that will serve them long and well in everything they choose to undertake in life. Warmest regards and best wishes to one and all from Italian and French Studies!

-Sabrina Tatta, Academic Counselor



Delectable entries from a previous year's dessert competition

Bachelor of Arts Degrees in French Studies

♣ ♪ Ada Dea Sherman	Adrienne Lorraine Himel	♣ Kayla Kristine Roark
Albuquerque da Silva	Brina Nicole Johnson	Brittany Rose Rogers
Hande Ataman	Helen Jennifer Kei	♣ Lindsey Victoria Schoeneman
Erica Lee Bergmann	Jennifer Claudine Kohler	Courtney Louise Schultz
♥ Jennifer Anne Cushing	Jeremy Leon Konick-Seese	Michael Anne Sheppard
♣ Michelle Renee Dailey	Bernice Shiu-Lam Koo	Alison Mari Sprecher
♣ Leonardo Ribeiro De Jesus	Sarah Alinn Krieg	♣ Elizabeth Diana St Clair
Davis	Vanessa Dolores Montoya	Meghan Marie Stevens
Desiree Michelle Decker	♣ ♣ Kris Oliver Murray	Amber Christine Streifel
♪ Jamie Lee Enslin	Tina Thuy-Huong Nguyen	♣ Anna Ostby Vinnedge
Elizabeth Kathryn Figel	♣ Desiree Michelle Olson	Young Ji Yoon
Susanne Alexandra Forrayi	D'Amelio	♣ Conrad Owen Zeutenhorst
Gabriela Galindez	Nancy Ly Pham	
Caitlin Renee Henry	Vanessa Justina Rhodes	

Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Italian Studies

Tasha Rose Caffrey	Amy Kathleen Hornung	Eric Joseph Sather
Rebecca Holland Clark	Shela Nicole Mejia	Carin Marie Trygg
Brittany Nicole Glant	♣ *♪ Risa Marie Pavia	♣ * Jasmine Mei Wang
Hollie Ann Hatch	Nathan Joseph Rice	♣ Sarah Lovering Wharton

* Department Honors

♣ Recognition of Academic Excellence
(decided by faculty vote)

♣ Cum Laude (3.76 cumulative gpa anticipated)

♪ Magna Cum Laude (3.87 cumulative gpa anticipated)

♥ Summa Cum Laude (3.96 cumulative gpa anticipated)

Graduate Degrees in French Studies

Ara Chi Jung — Master of Arts
Jillian R Nicks — Master of Arts
Joel Strom — Master of Arts
Lisa J Friedli-Clapié—Doctoral Candidate

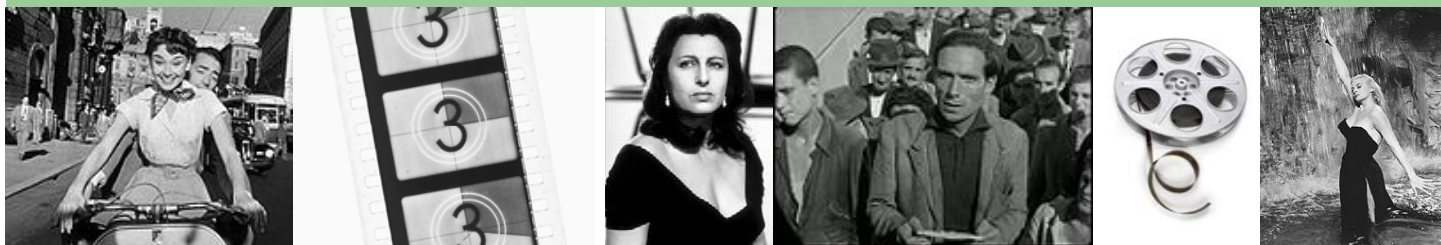
Graduate Degrees in Italian Studies

Jennifer R Allen — Master of Arts
Erin M Tindell — Master of Arts

We wish to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations for this year's Graduation Gala:

- ◆ ACT Theatre
www.acttheatre.org
- ◆ Bella Cosa Jewelry Artist Ginny Tremblay
gmimosa.etsy.com
- ◆ Buca di Beppo
www.bucadibepo.com
- ◆ Scarecrow Video
www.scarecrow.com
- ◆ Seattle Art Museum
www.seattleartmuseum.org
- ◆ Sugar Mountain
www.sugarmtn.net
- ◆ Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria
tuttabellapizza.com
- ◆ University Bookstore
www.bookstore.washington.edu

Félicitations!
Congratulazioni!



Exploration Seminars

Last summer, Giuseppe Leporace, Senior Lecturer in Italian, and Anthony Geist, Associate Professor of Spanish, led an Exploration Seminar entitled, “Translating Rafael Alberti: Cádiz to Rome, a Poetic Pilgrimage,” for Spanish or Italian students at the 200-level or beyond. Students spent four weeks studying and translating [Roma, peligro para caminantes](#), (trans. “Rome, Pedestrians Beware!”) into English. Those with a background in Spanish served as the primary linguistic resource for the Italian students, and the Italian students in turn guided their Spanish counterparts through Alberti’s Roman sources.

This summer, Claudio Mazzola, Lecturer in Italian Studies, and Jennifer Bean, Associate Professor in Cinema Studies, will co-direct an Exploration Seminar in Rome during from late August to mid-September: “Framing Space: Cinematic Space and the ‘Eternal City.’” Tracing cinematic representations of Rome from the 1950’s to the present, this seminar will juxtapose American cinema’s “stable” portraits of the city with a tradition of Italian filmmaking that alternately maps what is called “uncertain” space—a volatile, culturally conflicted, and highly contingent urban landscape.

For further information on these and other Exploration Seminars, please visit <http://depts.washington.edu/explore/about/index.htm>.

Stories From Abroad

Julia Holter, Luxembourg Garden Scholar



Julia Holter, at the École Normale Supérieure

Thanks to the FIS exchange program in Paris, I was incredibly lucky to spend this school year at Ecole Normale, in the heart of the Latin Quarter. As a FLAS fellow, I could dedicate all my time to studying, without having to teach or worry about room and board. I attended classes at Ecole Normale, Collège de France, Sorbonne and other Parisian universities, assisted at a dozen colloquia and many public lectures given by the best French scholars and guest-speakers from other countries. Ironically, it took a trip to Paris to hear Judith Butler, American philosopher, present her latest work or to chat with Tony Morrison, a Nobel prize-winning American author.

Looking down through my room window, I saw the entrance to the Ecole Normale. Walking through this door were Julia Kristeva and Bernard Henri Lévy but more often, the small flocks of young French elite that call themselves *les normaliens*. Ecole Normale hosts more colloquia and lectures than any other Parisian institution, but also numerous music recitals and film screenings presented by the actors and the filmmakers themselves. The presence of culture is natural and casual. In fact, there is something going on every day and at times the choice is hard to make. This was my choice for the 11 of March: stay at the school to see a production of Oedipus Rex; listen to Michel Serres at Collège des Bernardins or Jean-Claude Milner at Chicago University in Paris (both very original thinkers); or take advantage of the opera tickets available for free to the students of Ecole Normal (I opted for Michel Serres; his lecture was quite a spectacle, just like an Opera or a play can be!).

Among many other touching encounters I should name meeting Michel Deguy and Pascal Quignard, both authors whom I hold in high esteem, listening to George Steiner at a very rich colloquium on the Tragedy, Yves Bonnefoy in the intimacy of the Maison de l’Amérique Latine, telling stories of my Siberian childhood to Raymond Depardon, a photographer and filmmaker whose films about the French peasants remind me my country of origin. A visit with Evelyne Ender who initiated me to research when she was part of FIS was also a pleasant surprise as well as the opportunity to talk about that research... Research... Research, isn’t that what it’s all about?

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Stories From Abroad

(Continued from page 4)

What I find incredibly stimulating in academics is that work and pleasure go hand and hand and at times are inseparable. This year was a unique example of such an ideal union. I was able to discuss with various professors the possible subjects for my theses while sitting in the terraces of the Latin Quarter, and then shape it further while hanging out at the book stores where the authors were signing the very books that I was about to study. My classes too were too exciting to call work. (A parallel can be drawn here with the physical work-out: jogging daily at the Luxembourg garden was no sweat at all but an aesthetic pleasure). For my class at the Sorbonne on surrealism, I worked (or played?) out the question that puzzled me during my Master exam at the UW: what is the relationship between Blanchot and Breton? At Ecole Normale, I presented my close reading of Marivaux examining in his texts what two centuries later Sartre called the “bad faith”. I received a standing ovation and my stylistics professor suggested that I become a stylistician. I was happy not to put the honor of the UW in the dust. This exchange is a unique opportunity for our UW PhD students not just to do research (the conditions in Paris are good but we have the same or better) but all the more, to really get in touch with the literary scene that Paris is famous for – even if just for the sake of pleasure.

From the Eternal City, to Rogliano, Town of Bread, Artisans, and Greek Traditions by Matthew (Matteo) Phillip Fitzgerald



From the first time we all met, back in Autumn 2009 for an informational meeting, I knew this program would be a precious jewel to be treasured for all eternity. In Spring 2009 Giuseppe Leporace (a.k.a. Papa G.) & Ruggero Taradel (a.k.a. Roger) brought a group of 29 girls and five guys to Rome and Rogliano, Calabria, Italy.

The Rome Experience was unforgettable in so many ways. We were there during *la Settimana Santa* or Holy Week (i.e. Easter)! Several Pope experiences later, including two hours standing in a crowd of devout believers from all over the world listening to a sermon for Via Crucis and the Mass at the Vatican (though I didn't go I

heard it was amazing – the space fills so many!), I can say I have a much deeper understanding of how religion is so deeply tied to Italian culture.

This program was unique in that this was the first year in which participants were able to meet with Roman government officials. We met the *Assessore della Cultura*, Umberto Croppi, and *il Sovraintendente ai Beni Culturali*, Umberto Broccoli, along with two directors of significant museums in Rome. The two side trips we took as a group were to Umbria and Paestum (Paestum was on the way to Calabria). In Umbria we visited the utterly stupendous cities of Perugia and Assisi (seeing St. Bevignate, an important Knights Templar church in Perugia, and the Sanctuary of San Domenico and the Basilica of St. Francesco in Assisi). We met Count Beppe and went to his beautiful country estate to see his castle and celebrate Giuseppe's birthday. The villa where we



Campo dei Fiori, in the evening

stayed, Villa Pieve, was also impressive, with a poetry reading by the delightful chef Paola and wild asparagus frittata (collected by us!). The townspeople of Corciano welcomed us and were delighted to have us there. Paestum was incredible in its own right, for it was a striking introduction to the Greek cultural aspects of the south. There was also a *sagra* (festival) of *mozzarella di bufala*, which

we learned to make. I discovered that *gelato di bufala* is very intriguing! My time in Rogliano has been unique, to say the least. When we arrived I was unsure of what to expect, but when I walked away with my smiling host family I had great expectations. The town itself has a main street that runs from one end to the other in a sort of half-moon shape (the town used to be a

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Stories From Abroad

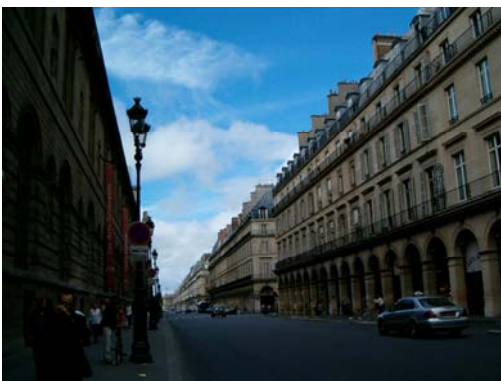
Summer in Paris by Christopher McQuain



Even before I arrived in Paris at the end of July last year, I had considered UW's Paris in the Summer program a wonderful and unexpected opportunity to make studying abroad part of my UW experience; a month-long program was perfectly suited to the needs of students like me, who are unable for one reason or another to take a quarter or a year off commitments and obligations at home. However, as I had yet to actually experience the program, I assumed that its truncated length would mean that students would have to make some "sacrifices"; surely, I thought, there would have to be some shortcomings, either in academic depth or in time set aside for us to explore and enjoy the city.



I'm happy to report that those concerns were entirely unfounded: the summer program, despite lasting "only" a month, compromises nothing on either the academic or cultural fronts. I was awed by the how thoughtfully prepared our professors/program coordinators were, and how well they were able to integrate academics and the experience of being abroad. Of course, there was regular time spent in the classroom, but we also spent an enormous amount of class time visiting the sites in and around Paris that we had discussed in the program's Parisian history course, being introduced (by Professor Vilavella-Collins, the most adroit and expert tour guide imaginable) to the history and architecture of Notre-Dame, or the historical context and meaning of the artworks in the Louvre, or the "hôtels particuliers" of Le Marais. If we were reading *Abelard and Heloise* for a course, we would be assigned to find and describe the tragic pair's fascinating gravesite in Père-Lachaise. The program is designed so that much of the "homework" actually involves getting one's bearings in the city, becoming familiar enough with the Metro to easily find your own way from place to place. This also equipped us to get the most out of our three-day weekends, during which we were left comfortably to our own devices, whether we wanted to revisit sites we'd fallen in love with on our field trips or finally make that obligatory journey over to the Eiffel Tower.



In addition to the well-considered organization of the program, our accommodations were almost shockingly *nice*. La Maison des étudiants canadiens (La MEC), tucked away in a serene corner of La Cité universitaire, is a place inadequately described by the word "dorm." No one-bathroom-to-a-floor privations here! We were put up in either individual or double rooms that were equipped with their own showers/restrooms, refrigerators, telephone, and an ample desk/study area. For those who brought their laptops, La MEC has a free wireless network, which the wonderful front desk staff is more than happy to explain to anyone who's interested. And the front desk is *always* staffed, providing round-the-clock security, answers to any questions, and even, if you ask nicely, advice on where to shop/eat, etc.

Every element of the Paris in the Summer program is designed to maximize the students' experience of the city and their knowledge of its history. I have personally never enjoyed a trip—not even vacations—as much as I enjoyed my time in Paris last summer. It is a truly remarkable opportunity that I would enthusiastically and unequivocally recommend to anybody who's considering taking advantage of it. The things it allowed me to learn and experience have, of course, immeasurably enriched my academic journey. But beyond that—and perhaps more importantly—I was able to broaden my own view of the world and expand my frame of reference. I brought back memories, impressions, and friendships whose value will last me for the rest of my life.

Stories From Abroad

Rogliano: Italy Beyond Rome by Jennifer Vandergrift

The Italian Studies Program, under the direction of Giuseppe Leporace and Ruggero Taradel, took me for a fascinating spring quarter this year in *Italia*. In my mind, my time in Italy is sharply divided into two sections. The first resembles that of most foreigners who come to Italy. There are some differences, of course; most tourists do not live in an apartment in Rome for a month while taking classes. However, for the most part, I played the tourist, visiting famous Roman sites with my class and on my own. The second part of my Italian adventure was vastly different—and more important. The goal of the Italian Studies Program was not to visit Italy but to visit Italians. We certainly saw plenty of Italy: Rome, the eternal city; Assisi, home of Saint Francis; Paestum, an ancient Greek colony; and Reggio Calabria, famed for its archeological museum. Yet, along the way, we always made time for people as well as history, meeting museum volunteers, local government officials, and a count. It was this aspect of our travels that we focused upon halfway through the quarter when we went to stay in Rogliano in the southern region of Calabria: in Rogliano, we did not live in apartments, but with families.

My own family at home has three times hosted Japanese exchange students for a month at a time, so it was with great interest that I found myself on the opposite side of the relationship. Before, I had been a member of a host family; now, I was a foreign exchange student. It certainly gave me a new sympathy for our Japanese guests! It can be difficult, surrounded entirely by people who only speak a language that you have barely begun to learn. Yet despite the frustrations, the rewards are great. Linguistically, I gained an ability to speak Italian *ad lib*, an ability that crept upon me unawares. It was not until my oral exam at the end of the quarter that I realized how much better my speaking and listening skills are, although I suspect I will not fully appreciate what I have learned until I take Italian 201 in the autumn with students who have never been in Italy.

However, the linguistic gains are only a fraction of what living with a family provides. You gain cultural insight—I never knew I could eat that much on a regular basis, and they do it all the time—and the family itself. Everyone was so nice; one of the cousins whom I had met only two brief times before visited on my last day solely to say good-bye and *buon viaggio*. Another cousin, Egidio, celebrated his tenth birthday and first communion while I was there, and I was able to attend both events, just like one of the family. My host mother, Pina, gave me presents, stuffed me with good food, washed my clothes, and refused to let me spend a cent.

My most cherished memory of Italy is not visiting Saint Peter's Basilica or throwing a coin into the Trevi Fountain, but when the congregation at Egidio's first communion began to sing. They sang, of course, in Italian, but I recognized the tune and sang along in English. In that moment, all barriers of language and culture seemed to melt away, and all that remained was our common humanity.



A View of Rogliano

The Division of French & Italian Studies directs several study abroad programs in France and Italy:

- ◆ Summer in Paris, France
- ◆ Fall in Nantes, France
- ◆ Fall in Paris, France (sponsored by Comparative Literature)
- ◆ Italian Studies in Rome (spring)
- ◆ Exploration Seminar in Rome (summer)

<http://depts.washington.edu/frenital/study-abroad.html>

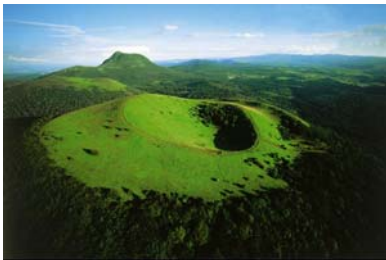
New Courses

Fashion, Nation, and Culture

In winter 2010, Assistant Professor Susan Gaylard will a new large lecture course for undergraduates entitled "Fashion, Nation, and Culture." This course will provide an introduction to Italian culture focusing on fashion and manners from the late Middle Ages to today, exploring common assumptions about nation, gender, clothes, make-up, and manners, through literary and visual analysis. Students will also have the opportunity to make use of resources in the Henry Art Gallery and Special Collections at Suzzallo Library.



"Lucrezia" by Lorenzo Lotto, c. 1533



Yann-Arthus Bertrand, "La terre vue du ciel" (1999)

Ecocriticism and the Post/colonial

In autumn 2009, new faculty member, Associate Professor Richard Watts, will direct a graduate seminar in which students will read the literary and cinematic production of the francophone post/colonial world through the lens of ecocriticism with a view to understanding the limits of both ecocriticism and postcolonial theory as well as finding the critical common ground between them. Authors/filmmakers to be studied include Césaire, Chamoiseau, Bessora, Kane, Diop Mambéty, Le Clézio, and Tran Anh Hung; other readings from Morton, Glissant, Serres, Heise.

The First New Media: Cultural, Social, and Political Impacts of the 'Printing Revolution'

Assistant Professor Geoff Turnovsky will offer a 400-level course in autumn 2009 on the rise, influence, and durability of print culture throughout the modern era in France and Europe. Students will explore key changes to the fabric of intellectual, social, and political life introduced by what Hugo, 400 years after Gutenberg, still depicted as 'new media,' focusing on the legal and economic structures to which it gave rise: authorship, intellectual property, censorship, etc..



Gutenberg reviewing a press proof, 19th c., artist unknown

Faculty Grants, Fellowships and Awards

Denyse Delcourt, Associate Professor in French, was awarded a UW Canadian Studies Center Grant for 2009-2010 in order to develop a course entitled "The Past as Question: Comparing Québécois and Irish Literature."

Giuseppe Leporace, Senior Lecturer in Italian, was nominated for a Distinguished Teaching Award nomination. This was Giuseppe's 8th nomination.

Adrienne Paetzke, Teaching Associate in Italian, was nominated for a Distinguished Teaching Award. This was her second nomination.

Albert Sbragia, Associate Professor in Italian and Chair of FIS, was awarded a Course Development Grant for 2009-2010 in order to develop a course entitled "European Auteurist Cinema," which will be offered during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Giuseppe Tassone, Lecturer in Italian, has received a 2009 Business Language Grant through the UW Global Business Center, in partnership with the federally funded UW Jackson School Outreach Centers, in order to create a business Italian module to be used in selected Italian 103 classes, which will appeal to students with an interest in international business.

Sabrina Tatta, Lecturer in Italian, was recognized by the Celebrating UW Women program as part of Women's History Month in March 2009.

Geoffrey Turnovsky, Assistant Professor in French, received a Research Cluster Award (Early Modern Research Group [Emerge]), through the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

Richard Watts, Associate Professor in French, received a Society of Scholars Research Fellowship to support research for his book project, entitled, "Water Narratives: Imagining Global; Environmental Change in the Francophone Post/Colonial World."

The Midnight Oil: Faculty Publications and Works in Progress

Denyse Delcourt, Associate Professor, French

Book chapter, "Le Repas Contrové: The Three Witches' Meal in Amads et Ydoine," Cheleen Mahar, ed. Cuisine and Symbolic Capital: Food in Film and Literature, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Forthcoming 2009.

Susan Gaylard, Assistant Professor, Italian

"Castiglione vs. Cicero: Political Engagement, or Effeminate Chatter?" Article in press at Italian Culture.

"Re-envisioning the ancients: Pontano, Ghirlandaio, and exemplarity." Article in press at Italian Studies.

Giuseppe Leporace, Senior Lecturer, Italian

Translation of Collected Works of Amelia Rosselli, Chelsey Publishing House, NY, 2009.

Poetry: The Art of Surprising—A Conversation with Poet Laureate Mark Strand, Columbia University & The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Società Editrice Fiorentina—Firenze—Italia, 2009.

Louisa Mackenzie, Assistant Professor, French

"Lyrics of the French Renaissance: Marot, Du bellay, Ronsard," ed. and trans. Norman R. Shapiro, Renaissance and Reformation, (forthcoming).

Claudio Mazzola, Senior Lecturer, Italian

Co-author of A Vicenda, McGraw-Hill, 2008

Ruggero Taradel, Lecturer, Italian

The Holy See and the Racial Laws in Italy and Europe (La Santa Sede e le leggi razziali in Italia e in Europa). Race, Jurisprudence, Experiences. Seventy Years after the Racial Laws. June 2009, Il Mulino, Bologna.

Italian translation and editing of Thomas Toivi Blatt's book From the Ashes of Sobibor. A Story of Survival (Northwestern University Press, 1997). To be published in Italy in 2009.

Revised and updated edition of the book L'accusa del sangue. Storia Politica di un mito antisemita to be published in 2009.

Giuseppe Tassone, Lecturer. Italian

Ricordati di me—EF Film Study Program, Edizioni Farinelli, New York, 2009.

Geoffrey Turnovsky, Assistant Professor, French

The Literary Market: Authorship and Modernity in the Old Regime, U Penn Press, Material Texts Series, forthcoming November 2009.

"The Making of a Name: A Life of Voltaire," in Cambridge Companion to Voltaire, ed. Nicholas Cronk Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009), 17-30.

"Authorship." Entry for the Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Novel. Forthcoming 2009.

Book review. Gregory Brown, Literary Sociability and Literary Property in France. 1775-1793: Beaumarchais, Société des auteurs dramatiques and the Comédie Française. Sharp News (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing), Fall 2008.



Stories From Abroad



Lawn in front of the Basilica of St. Francesco in Assisi.

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way-point for the trip between Cosenza and Catanzaro, two of the biggest cities in Calabria).

I was assigned to one of the older host families consisting of Carmine Fuoco, 76, born and raised in Rogliano on a farm (the entire half of a mountain, unfortunately burned in 2006), and Elvira Vizza, somewhere over 60 (it is rude to ask a woman her age...) born and raised in Rogliano proper. They moved into an apartment about 30 years ago in the Rione of Cuti, famed for its incredible slow-food movement, wonderful bread, and the nationally acclaimed band *Zona Briganti* (who we got to meet following their return from a long concert tour in South America). They speak Roglianese, the local variant of Calabrese dialect, and always tell me to *curcarrare* after lunch – this means *dormire*, or sleep.

My days in Rogliano consisted of waking up around 7:00 A.M., going to the *Tianemen* elementary school to spend some time teaching English to seven and eight year-olds in second-grade B, then riding a bus over to the *Oreste D'Epiro* elementary school to work with eight and nine year-olds of third-grade B. A side benefit of 3B was that Giuseppe, the grandson of Carmine, was in that class.

I love my host family immensely, but the cultural differences became apparent the first time Elvira (who is a 3 Red Star Michelin chef in my book) set about 5 servings of *pasta asciutta* (dry boxed box) in a massive bowl in front of me and said, “eat.” That was the start of me devising ways to avoid over-eating. I learned to repeat the phrase “*non ce la faccio piú!*” which means, “I can’t do it anymore!” with a pained expression on my face, and also to parrot the words “*questo é per Leone*” (the family’s massive sheepdog) and push my pasta away from my zone of the table in a “can’t do it” fashion. The meat delicacies shed new light on the concept of “eat everything”. The family had killed a pig in January, and I had *salame piccante* (they love their VERY SPICY

peppers here – they are so spicy you need to wash your hands after touching them or you can burn your skin), *cotica di maiale* (a.k.a. pig skin), pig meat in gelatin (very salty and definitely not for the common diner), pig ribs, *prosciutto crudo* cured it in *Parmigiano Reggiano* (delicious!), bacon (called *pancetta* - a slice of 90% fat, 10% meat, which when cooked is salty enough to make kidney stones form instantly!), pig snout, pig feet, pig chest, pig flank, pig...there are so many parts I simply don’t remember what I ate anymore.

Another interesting cultural phenomenon was the fact that Elvira said she would hit me if I didn’t eat (thus the pretending I couldn’t take it anymore, the various allusions to feeding the dog...) and always wanted me to “*fare la scarpetta*” or “do the shoe” which means to clean out the massive bowl of sauce with a piece of bread. She said her father used to beat her if she didn’t and she learned fast. Italians are definitely a very physical people – they like to touch you when they talk, and sometimes violently gesture (though to them it’s a normal form of communication). I found the people of Rogliano to be friendlier than the people in Rome. Romans seemed to be a bit phased with tourists in general (there are literally more tourists than natives in Rome) and were incredibly reserved. In Rogliano I would walk to the square and all the young guys my age would walk up to me and introduce themselves, want to talk, and tell me about themselves.

The town itself is a wonder to behold – the churches are incredible (especially the *Duomo* or Cathedral of St. Pietro Apostolo with Roglianese artistry). The graveyards in this area are unique in the sense that they are built on mountaintops and all have “homes for the dead” or literally house-like standing tombs where coffins are stacked one on top of the other (there are also traditional graves, but there are fewer of them and - they are also stacked above the ground encased in some sort of stone-like marble or granite).

As the son of an Italian immigrant, I have previously been exposed to the culture of Sicily, and through it, Italian culture in general. However, I never learned to speak the language, so this trip has provided the perfect opportunity for the development of my language skills. No words can express how deeply this program has changed me for the better (or at least that is the hope), and given me greater understanding of my mother’s roots (my maternal grandmother, *Nonna*, is originally from Calabria!). It has been filled with surprises and incredible experiences- I will never, ever, forget this trip with the University of Washington Italian Studies program.

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C-254 Padelford Hall
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Seattle, WA 98195-4361
Phone: 206-616-3486
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