A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
ANNA DE FINA

Dear colleagues, students and friends,
I hope that the Fall semester is proceeding smoothly for all of you here at Georgetown. With the beginning of the semester comes our fall edition of the newsletter highlighting some of the most important current and past events and our forthcoming initiatives. As you will see from the summary of activities, our professors have participated in many academic events, delivered many invited lectures and put the final touches on new publications during the summer. In the newsletter we also highlight the work of our colleague Prof. Fulvia Musti, and we celebrate two outstanding members of our community, the alumna Gianna Ward-Vitrano, now a Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley, and the undergraduate student Emilio Joubert, recipient of a Baker Scholar Program Fellowship. We invite you to check our forthcoming initiatives. Among them, we feature an important event, our Conference on Innovation in Italian Programs and Pedagogy, co-sponsored by the Italian Embassy and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, which will take place on October 21rst. You will also find information on new courses for the next semester and on new opportunities for students who want to perfect their Italian, immerse themselves in our country’s culture, such as internships, and study abroad initiatives. As you will read, we are proud to launch a new study abroad program at Villa le Balze in Fiesole for the summer 2018.

We also reproduce in this newsletter a message by President De Gioia reaffirming Georgetown University’s commitment to social justice and to the defense of undocumented students as we feel that his words perfectly reflect our feelings and our policies. We want to make sure that all undocumented students know that our department is a safe space and that we will always be advocates for their cause.

Buon lavoro a tutti!
Anna De Fina
FULVIA MUSTI

I was born in the heart of Rome (on via Po, 37), and moved to California in 1980. My life took a wonderful turn, in a totally unpredictable way. I had not intended to stay in the US, but only to earn a degree and eventually return to Italy.

Well...not all roads lead to Rome apparently; some, as it turned out, only begin there. In California I completed a BA and a Masters in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second/Foreign language), and subsequently taught both Italian and English as a Second Language at the Loyola University in San Francisco. I became interested in Improvisation Theater, painting, and photography, and soon after I opened my own language school, the Language Through Drama School, where Italian, ESL, Spanish, and French were offered. It was a very exciting experience.

But it was soon time to uproot again, this time to the East Coast, which has been my home base since the early 90s, with the exception of a three-year interval in which I lived and worked in Bologna, a beautiful and elegant old city nested in medieval towers, churches, unexpected piazze, and intricate cobblestone streets. While I taught Italian in the intensive program at the Johns Hopkins University, I also continued to study at the Accademia del Disegno and at the University of Bologna, where I earned a laurea in Modern Languages.

At Georgetown, I have been the recipient of several teaching awards, such as the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award, and a two times grant recipient. In 2016 I received a Doyle Fellowship to develop a new course, Italian Through Visual Art, a beginning level language and art course that I plan to offer in the 2018-2019 academic year.

My heartfelt dedication to teaching, however, has not detracted from my passion for the visual arts. I have produced and directed a short documentary and a sculpture on the plight of oral cancer patients, Courage Unmasked (Library of Congress, 2010), and shown my collages and mixed media paintings in galleries in the DC area. In spite of my teaching and research commitments, I continue to nourish this important aspect of my life.

Returning to the States with two small children was quite a challenge. I then had the fortune of meeting the Italian Department’s chair at the time, Professor Emeritus Roberto Severino, to whom I will be forever grateful for believing in my professional capacity and my dedication to teaching. Since then, I have been a loyal and committed, but also a proud member of the Georgetown community, so much so that last year, in recognition of my long-standing service, I was awarded the vicennial medal. Time flies!

Teaching Italian language and culture courses in the Italian Department has taught me that because our outstanding students expect and deserve the best, we, as educators at this distinguished institution, are called to meet the highest possible standards. I feel I have responded to the call, by remaining an active member of the Georgetown community, sharing its profound humanistic and ethical values, and committing myself to foster a positive learning environment in all my courses: caring for the individual, engaging in open, productive, stimulating, and collaborative dialogue with my students. I am deeply committed to promoting justice, equality, and respect for diversity.

After earning a Master’s in Museum Studies at Georgetown University, I enrolled in a doctoral degree in the Department of Liberal Studies, focusing my interdisciplinary thesis on Masaccio and fifteenth-century Italian history, culture, and society.
GIANNA WARD-VETRANO  
(B.A. IN ITALIAN, 2011)

When I arrived at Georgetown, I already knew that I would major in Italian, but I didn't know that I was about to be warmly welcomed into a small, but congenial, not to mention academically rigorous department. It was a privilege to be in courses conducted entirely in Italian.

As my senior research project, completed under the direction of Professor Nicoletta Pireddu, I wrote a paper on the largely unknown and as yet untranslated writer, Clotilde Marghieri.

I graduated from Georgetown with a degree in Italian in 2011, after which I worked in various capacities, ranging from editing dissertations to evaluating grant proposals for documentary film productions. In 2017, I completed my M.A. in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis on Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, at the City University in New York, where I completed an experimental multi-genre thesis under the advisement of Wayne Koestenbaum. This Fall I have begun my doctoral studies in Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley with a Chancellor's Fellowship.

Among the many projects that I'm excited to start working on as a doctoral student are translations of Clotilde Marghieri's work, continued research on Ida Dalser, Mussolini's first wife, and the further exploration and elucidation of 'domestic feminism,' a new and still-to-be-defined feminist theory that I began to develop as part of my M.A. thesis. In addition to my formal studies, I have written a blog (www.unbearablebookishness.com) for the past four years where I write on literature, cinema, music, and feminism and have had my stories published in Scoundrel Time and forthcoming in THAT Literary Review.
EMILIO JOUBERT  
(UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT)

My name is Emilio Joubert, I am from Haverhill and Lawrence, Massachusetts, I’im a Junior in the College, and I’ve studied Italian for the entirety of my Georgetown career. I’ve always been interested in business, but didn’t want to take the full step when I was younger; I was afraid to look into the subject. After speaking with some mentors, I learned that The Baker Scholar Program is a fellowship dedicated to academic excellence, ethical business practice and community service. The Baker Program offers a series of benefits that include, but are not limited to mentorship from alumni, a scholarship and professional development grants that serve to enhance it’s members college experience. Interested in the opportunity, I pursued at, and was blessed to have been accepted!

The Italian Department has gone far beyond the duty of just teaching me how to speak the language; it has taught me how to think holistically by approaching issues in a cultural context separate from the U.S. This proved particularly helpful to me during my interviews with the Baker Scholars. I spoke often about how I’ve found my voice as a result of the constant presentations that I’ve had to give, I’ve grown more knowledgeable due to the news sources that I’m now able to read (Rai, for instance). I come from Puerto Rican and Italian families but never had a true chance to learn either language to the capacity that I would’ve liked. I had grown up with the Puerto Rican side of my family more than my Italian side, so I have felt fairly disconnected from the Italian side of my family. Taking Italian has been absolutely transformative for me; I find myself enjoying every moment I spend in class, and I’ve learned so much about my family through the cultural lessons the classes teach.

Learning Italian has taught me about the importance of bridging gaps between culture and people. As I’ve learned more about the language, I’ve learned more about the history in Italia, and learned why Italian-Americans today hold many of the political and social ideologies they now have. Italian has been power because it has taught me that in order to work with other people, you need to enter their space, and learn more about them. Through learning a language I have learned more than a simple semester of research could do; I’ve learned that in order to practice empathy and to demonstrate understanding, it is essential to go the extra mile, and invest time into creating connections with me. Italian has taught me the importance of heritage and culture in a way no other class has thus far.
The Department of Italian at Georgetown is excited to offer its first summer course in Italy from June 5 to July 11, 2018. This 6-credit third-semester language course will take place at Georgetown’s very own Villa Le Balze in Fiesole, which is situated in the beautiful hills overlooking Florence, just minutes from the city center. Through dynamic and interactive lessons that focus on culturally salient and contemporary topics, this intensive course will expand and refine grammar structures and vocabulary already acquired during the first year of language study. A variety of activities will be included such as day-trips to visit the artistic and historical gems of Florence, excursions to Siena (during the Palio) and Bologna and guest lectures. Students will live with local families for the duration of the program to enhance their experience of authentic daily life in Italy.

For more information, click here:

IL CIRCOLO ITALIANO

Il Circolo Italiano, Georgetown University’s Italian club, aims to celebrate the Italian language and culture among students. At our weekly Chiacchiere e Caffè, students of all levels are welcome to practice their Italian speaking with peers and get exposure to the language outside the classroom. Il Circolo Italiano holds a variety of events both on and off campus to learn more about Italian traditions and food. Among our typical events are dinners at Il Canale, visit and lunch at the Italian Embassy, and movie nights with pizza. We are currently planning a pasta-making class along with the GU Eating Society, for which an Italian chef will come to campus to teach students how to make traditional pasta, along with tastings after. For more information about joining il Circolo Italiano, contact circoloitaliano@georgetown.edu

CIRCOLO EVENTS

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 4:00PM - BUSINESS CONFERENCE - Public Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Infrastructure and Finance Speaker: Fabio Gallia, CEO of the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti - MBS 415
- FRIDAYS – for the rest of the semester - Chiacchiere e caffè - ICC –Galleria
- Facebook page for Il Circolo Italiano! (https://www.facebook.com/circoloitalianogtown/?fref=ts)
EVENTS

Michelangelo Zaccarello - Dante's Comedy Talk  
03/01/2017

Italian Department Open House!  
03/23/2017

End of the semester- Spring Pasta Party  
05/02/2017
Graduating Students Ceremony!

Italian interns celebrating the 4th of July U.S. Consulate General in Milan, Italy

Italian Department Open House!
08/28/2017
The ability to innovate has always been a fundamental trait of the Italian spirit characterizing the work of Italians in many domains, from the arts, to design, to cuisine. In recent years, Italian departments, researchers, and teachers have had to find innovative ways to confront the challenges brought about by changes in higher education and the general shift in students' interests. Join us on October 21, at Georgetown University, for the third iteration of the Italian Language and Culture Conference which this year focuses the discussion on pedagogical innovations to increase enrollments in the Italian classroom. The Keynote Speaker will be Giuseppe Cavatorta from the University of Arizona, and the conference will feature guest speakers from the US and Italy. This event is sponsored by the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics at Georgetown University, the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington DC.

Professional development credits will be awarded to K-12 educators in attendance.

Registration information and the conference program are available here:

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Prof. Anna De Fina**

During the summer professor De Fina was invited to give a plenary lecture on *Complexity and ethnographic approaches to multilingual and multicultural realities in the globalized world*. Conference of the Language Associations of Southern Africa in Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, June, 27, 2017. As part of the work supported by a FLL Summer Fellowship, she participated in the Language Across the Mediterranean: South-North Mobilities/Immobilities, which took place in Palermo on June 22, 2017 where she presented a paper on *Silences and epic tales: storytelling as collective journey among unaccompanied minors and their teachers in Sicily* coauthored with Marcello Amoruso and Giuseppe Paternostro.

She has just published a chapter on Narrative Analysis in the *Routledge Handbook of Language and Politics*, edited by Ruth Wodak and Bernhard Forchtner.

**Prof. Laura Benedetti**

"Laura Benedetti participated in a program on “Torquato Tasso and the Arts” at the Library of Congress, together with Peter Lukehart (Center for the Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art). She received a grant from the Renaissance Society of America to prepare the edition of an early sixteenth-century travel log. During the summer, she delivered lectures at the Università di Torino and the Università per Stranieri di Siena, and she participated to the conference “Intersezioni” in Florence."

"Secondo piano, Laura Benedetti’s new novel, is an unconventional thriller that focuses on the contradictions of globalization, the role of universities, and literature’s potential to give meaning to a world shaken by dizzying changes."

**Prof. Gianni Cicali**

Gianni Cicali recently published one essay on Renaissance and 18th-century Italian theater, “Tradizione e innovazione nel teatro sacro del Rinascimento fiorentino. La Rappresentazione di San Giovacchino (metà sec. XVI)”, Rivista di Letteratura Teatrale Italiana.

He presented papers at international conferences such as NeMLA (North East Modern Language Association, and RSA (Renaissance Society of America). He has been invited by the University of Toronto to give a lecture on Italian Renaissance for the prestigious Goggio Lectures, and also for a series of lectures in cooperation with La Sorbonne (Université de Paris) at the University of Bergamo (Italy). He also presented at the Italian Embassy in D.C. (Castiglione’s “Sprezzatura” A long journey). He serves in the advisory boards of Letteratura teatrale italiana (Italy), Quaderni d’italianistica (Canada), Gentes (Italy), Renaissance and Reformation (Canada). He has recently designed a new course on the Medici for the Spring 2018 Semester.

**Prof. Nicoletta Pireddu**

Prof. Nicoletta Pireddu received the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics Distinguished Service Award, which is presented annually to a member of Georgetown University’s FLL faculty who has made extraordinary contributions to the programs and mission of the FLL through his or her research, teaching, and service to the community. She delivered the invited plenary talk “The Mediterranean Roots of Europe” at the Towson Academy of Scholars, and published the articles “Handing Out Beauty: Gabriele D’Annunzio’s Ritual Squanderers,” in the special issue of Forum Italicum “Reawakening Beauty: D’Annunzio’s Seduction of the Senses,” and “Europe at the End of the Chunnel: Malcolm Bradbury’s and Tim Parks’s Eurosceptic Albion” in English Studies.

During part of the summer she conducted research in Italy and France for her forthcoming books *Recoding and Reinventing Literary, Critical and Cultural Theories*, under contract with Palgrave MacMillan (2018), and *Migrating Minds*, a collection of essays in progress, co-edited with Professors Didier Coste (Université Montaigne, Bordeaux) and Christina Khona (Université de Montpellier).
FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers grants to study, conduct independent research, or serve as an English Teaching Assistant in over 140 countries, including Italy. U.S. citizens who are seniors, graduate students, or alumni are eligible to apply. The Georgetown Office of Fellowships, Awards, and Resources (GOFAR) advises students and alums who are interested in pursuing the Fulbright; to join the Fulbright listserv, students should email fulbright@georgetown.edu. Please visit the GOFAR website for additional information about the application process. The internal deadline is September 1, 2017. Please see below for specific information about Fulbright grants in Italy.

**Independent Research/Study Grants in Italy (9-month grant):** Candidates at all degree levels and in all fields of study are eligible to apply. Candidates seeking to enroll in courses held at Italian universities or to conduct projects in innovative and contemporary issues or in science and technology are particularly encouraged. Intermediate Italian language proficiency is required.

**English Teaching Assistantship Grants in Italy (9-month grant):** Grantees will be placed in Italian high schools, providing part-time assistance (12-25 hours per week) to permanent teaching staff. All high schools will be located in cities or towns in southern Italy. Italian language proficiency is not required, but it is strongly recommended. Students with teaching/mentoring experience are encouraged to apply.

There are also several special Fulbright grants to study for master's degrees in gastronomic sciences, criminology, public administration, and deafness studies. Visit the Italy page on the Fulbright website for more information about these special opportunities.

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT RESOURCES - DACA

“As a university located in our nation's capital and animated by our Catholic and Jesuit identity, we are called to support all of our students, including our undocumented students. These young women and men demonstrate an extraordinary passion to make America, and our increasingly interconnected world, a better place. Here at Georgetown, we are dedicated to creating a context where they can succeed, free from constraint or limitation.”-John J. DeGioia, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Georgetown University's commitment to social justice and to the defense of undocumented students as we feel that his words perfectly reflect our feelings and our policies. We want to make sure that all undocumented students know that our department is a safe space and that we will always be advocates for their cause.
SAVE THE DATE

- October 21, 2017 - Italian Language and Culture Conference- Innovation in Italian Programs and Pedagogy
- Workshop Perugia University
- Panettone and Tombola – at noon - December 7th, 2017
- Pasta party – Spring - 2018

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