



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

**THE
DEPARTMENT
OF FRENCH
AND ITALIAN**

**2022-2023
NEWSLETTER**

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of French and Italian at Northwestern,

I am happy to present you with this tapestry of lively activity in the department during the academic year 2022–2023 as we returned fully to campus and began to reactivate programs and initiatives interrupted during the years of COVID. I was indeed very fortunate to follow through several initiatives already planned during the final months of my predecessor, Doris Garraway, whose dedicated and capable leadership left a strong and well-functioning department ready to take on the challenges of the year. This solid ground allowed us to make 2022-23 a year of collaboration within the department and with other units of the University. Our collective aim was to continue to offer an exciting and innovated curriculum to our students, both undergraduate and graduate, and to further enhance of our intellectual and cultural environment where diversity of ideas, positions, and cultural expressions were encouraged and debated rigorously, safely, and imaginatively.

We conducted two job searches this year and are therefore thrilled to introduce two new colleagues to the broader community. Ty Blakeney, a specialist of 19th-century French literature joins the department following the completion of his dissertation at the University of California Berkeley. Hasheem Hakeem, a specialist of queer language pedagogy, joins our teaching track faculty in French, following several years of teaching experience in Canada. We truly look forward to working with our new colleagues and to welcoming them to the department.

After several years of hiatus, we revived our annual department conference with a symposium organized by Matthieu Dupas. "A Symposium on Plato's *Symposium*" brought to Northwestern colleagues from France and from the US to reflect together on the implications and stakes of Plato's *Symposium*. Students and faculty from across Northwestern attended this fascinating event that has galvanized us to plan future iterations of our annual conference. Our community was enriched further by the visits of distinguished scholars as part of our annual lecture series.

This year, we welcomed as guests Professor Julie Singer, Professor Andrea Righi, and Professor Jean Godefroy Bidima to the department. We were also honored to host Professor Carla Lunghi, our Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies, in residence during spring quarter. Professor Lunghi taught two extremely popular undergraduate courses in Italian and shared her fascinating and important research with us on fashion and the prisons in Italy.

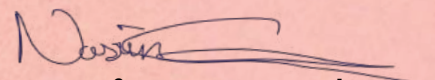
Our graduate students were full partners in all these endeavors, and we were fortunate to have such a lively and intellectually motivated group so ready to work with us in building our community. For the first time, we included a committee of graduate students on both search committees to enhance our practices of inclusivity. Students proved themselves thoughtful and rigorous partners whose input we took very seriously in our deliberations. Students also showed initiative by proposing a speaker they wanted to invite to campus. We therefore welcomed Professor Annabel Kim from Harvard, in the spring. Several of our students also completed their dissertations this year. Two amongst them have moved to tenure track positions upon graduation. We are very proud of all our students' accomplishments and congratulate them for their successes.

Our commitment to fostering cultural literacy and global engagement through linguistic and cultural diversity remained unwavering as we enhanced and innovated our language curriculum.

We are thrilled to have launched Flipped French, an innovative courseware for intermediate French developed by Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi, and designed to provide our students with individualized paths to learning French. This courseware is also evidence of our commitment to inclusivity and equity, for not only does it address differences in modes of learning it is also cost free.

We are very much looking forward to working with our new chair as of fall 2023, Christopher Bush, whose vision, intellectual rigor, and enthusiasm as well as kind and thoughtful administrative style will further enhance our department and open new horizons for all of us.

My heartfelt thanks to all my colleagues and students for all their hard work and collaboration during this exciting year as well as my deepest gratitude to the staff, Elizabeth Murray, Leon Hedstrom, and Lisa Brynes for their relentless dedication, professionalism, creativity, and good cheer.



Professor Nasrin Qader
Chair, Department of French and Italian



FACULTY NEWS

3 – 12



GRADUATE NEWS

13 – 18



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

19 – 24



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

25 – 42

FACULTY NEWS



Over the course of his first year at Northwestern, **DANIELE BIFFANTI** has taught courses in the first and second-year Italian language sequence, getting to know the students and faculty in the French and Italian department. He also joined the International Studies Residential College as a fellow and started a translation project titled "Mapping Resistance - 1945-2025: Literature and Memory in Translation," a collaboration between students at Northwestern University and Università La Sapienza in Rome. Meanwhile, he published an article titled "Between private matters and public engagement: Conflicted partisan fighters in the resistance novels of Vittorini and Fenoglio" on Forum Italicum; another article on Beppe Fenoglio's *La Paga del Sabato* is forthcoming in the journal Ticontre: Testo, Teoria, Traduzione. In May 2023 he presented his pedagogical research at the American Association of Italian Studies conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

With the support of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, **CHRISTOPHER BUSH** was on leave most of the academic year, working on a book project on the modernist haiku. He published articles in *Esprit créateur* and *The T. S. Eliot Studies Annual*, as well as a book review in *Comparative Literature Studies*. He also presented work on Proust at the symposium "Fugitive Proust" at the Maison Française, New York University, and on Eisenstein for a seminar on "Cinematic Internationalism" at the American Comparative Literature Association conference. He recently served as the invited moderator for a book event at the Seminary Co-op on Adhira Mangalagiri's *States of Disconnect: The China-India Literary Relation in the Twentieth Century* (Columbia University Press, 2023).

In 2022-2023 **MASSIMILIANO DELFINO** finalized his article titled "Italian Polizieschi of the Anni di Piombo and the Filmic Aesthetics of Random Violence: Children, Community and Catharsis", which is now forthcoming in *The Italianist*. He completed and submitted an article on Intercultural Communicative Competence, currently under review. He published on the journal *Atelier* a lengthy review of Paolo Valesio's latest poetry book "Il testimone e l'idiota" (La Nave di Teseo, 2022). He also continued working on his book on Italian terrorism representations in 1970s Italian cinema and literature. In terms of creative writing, he won the poetry competition "Italiani per il futuro" organized by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura – New York, and a selection of his poems taken from his manuscript "L'apocalisse nuda" are being published in 2023 by *Italian Poetry Review*.

Massimiliano was also nominated to be included in the Associated Student Government Faculty & Administrator Honor Roll for teaching excellence. And, thanks to Course Enhancement Funds, he was able to put students in touch with Italian with native speakers online, fostering their intercultural skills.



FACULTY NEWS



MARGARET DEMPSTER completed her second year as Director of the French Language Program and served on the search committee for the new Assistant Professor of Instruction in French hire. She is delighted to welcome Hasheem Hakeem to the department this upcoming fall. This year, Margaret created her own iteration of French 201, really enjoyed teaching the course and looks forward to teaching it again in fall. In addition to teaching in the department, she teaches the French 111 evening course for the School of Professional Studies. This year her Canvas site was nominated for an award in the category, "Excellence in DEI/Accessibility."

An active member of the Council on Language Instruction, Margaret continued serving as Co-Chair of the Study Abroad Committee as well as in her role as Associate Chair of the International Studies Residential College. She also continued co-hosting the *Table française* with colleagues Aude Raymond and Katia Viot-Southard. Margaret thoroughly enjoyed interacting with residents during the many academic and social events!

This year, Margaret was invited to join "Chicago Sister Cities International – a division of World Business Chicago," an organization that works closely with the Paris contingent. In July 2023, she will attend the annual American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) convention in Trois Rivières where she will present an innovative activity for her French 309 course for the Professions – Business, and further develop that course by conducting interviews with native Québécois speakers.

During her free time, Margaret fulfills her passion for running by leading a pace group with the Chicago Area Runners Association. Combining this passion with travel, this fall she plans to run both in *La Parisienne* 10k race in Paris and the Chicago marathon.



This academic year, **MATTHIEU DUPAS** devoted himself to completing the manuscript of his book on gallantry. The argument is organized around a single play: a "gallant comedy," the first ever written by playwright Pierre Corneille. The title is: *Gallantry as a Way of Life: Love, Civility and Marriage in P. Corneille's Mélite or the False Letters* (1629). During the spring term, Matthieu also organized a symposium devoted to Plato's *Symposium*. Four speakers were invited to share their readings of Plato's famous dialogue: a historian, a classicist, an early-modernist, and a psychoanalyst. During the year, Matthieu also created a new graduate course on feminism in France, entitled "Beyond French feminism: feminism in France from Beauvoir to Preciado." The focus of the course was on a small group of radical feminists who developed a Marxist constructivist theory of gender.



FACULTY NEWS

This year, **PAOLA NASTI** has presented conference papers in Italy (Rome, Ravenna, Lecce) on a variety of topics related to Dante, his idea of the body as an angelic butterfly, his views on theology as a peaceful practice, his representation of nature as a mirror of love. She has published several articles and chapters: *"Sanza macula di lite": "simplicitas" della teologia, "disputationes" e sofismi in Dante*, in «Le Tre Corone. Rivista Internazionale di Studi su Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio», X, (2023), pp. 135-163; 'Biblical Signa and Dante's Words: For a Taxonomy of Biblical Intertextuality in the Comedy', in *The Footsteps of Dante: Crossroads of European Humanism*, ed. by T. Bartolomei and J. R. Figueiredo, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 45-80; *Ri-teologizzare Dante? Percorsi e prospettive per Dante e la cultura del suo tempo*, in *Lecture classensi. 50. Dante oltre il centenario. Nuove prospettive per gli studi danteschi internazionali*, a cura di Giuseppe Ledda, Ravenna, Longo, 2022, pp. 63-121; 'The Monarchia', in *Dante's Other Works*, ed. by Z.G. Baranski and T. Cachey, Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2022, pp. 221-269. She has completed four articles/chapters which are now in press: 'Glossing Boethius Through Dante: Vernacular Auctoritas and Philosophical Poetry in Ms BML Plut. 78.20', *Italian Studies*, in press; "Mira excellentia, et mira subversio": la quaestio 'Utrum Solomon damnatus sit' di Remigio dei Girolami (BNCF, ms. G 3. 465, ff. 175va-176vb), *Problemi di critica e storia testuale*, in press; 'La farfalla angelica: metamorfosi umane fra esegesi e scientia aristotelica', *L'Alighieri. Rassegna dantesca*, 60 (2023), in press; 'L'altra voce di Dante: vox e virtus verborum fra terra e cielo', *Atti degli Incontri sulle Opere di Dante. Paradiso. Temi, personaggi, episodi*, a cura di G. Ledda, Firenze: Sismel - Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2023 (in press).



Genie Lemieux, Evanston Photographic Studios

DANIELA POZZI PAVAN was honored to have been the recipient of the 2023 CLI Excellence in Language Teaching Award. She would have not been able to receive this prestigious recognition without the support of her students and colleagues, in particular Paola Morgavi and Nasrin Qader. In the awarding citation, the committee writes "During her career at Northwestern, Daniela has distinguished herself by her commitment, professionalism, organization, and collegiality. Students praise her energy, her enthusiasm, and her ability to create an immersive and inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and free to contribute."

Daniela's students appreciate her easy-to-navigate Canvas site and nominated her courses for the Canvas Hall of Fame for two consecutive years. Her dedication and passion for promoting language learning goes beyond the classroom. During the last academic year, she sponsored and organized several extracurricular activities both on campus and off campus. She brought back the annual field trip to the Chicago International Film Festival, and in collaboration with her colleagues, she organized the Italian Immersion Day. To bring together the Italian community at Northwestern, she advocated for the creation of an Italian Association, and she now serves as the Advisor of this newly formed student organization.

As co-chair of the Meeting and Orientation Committee, Daniela proposed and hosted workshops on relevant issues of hybrid teaching, American Sign Language, and Oral Proficiency Interviews. In the last year, she has been invited to participate in the Search Committee for a Teaching Track Assistant Professor of Instruction in Spanish. She was thrilled to collaborate with her colleagues to evaluate dossiers, conduct interviews, observe teaching demonstrations, meet with the candidates, and select the finalists.

Last year, Daniela also presented her project "Family through Time: Gender and Intersectional Identities in

FACULTY NEWS

Contemporary Italy,” at the NeMLA’s 54th Annual Convention. In addition, she has also developed a project based on recent Italian movies, aimed at exploring the immigration and naturalization process in Italy, analyzing the social, emotional, and cultural difficulties encountered by second-generation Italians, while fostering learners’ communicative and critical thinking skills.

“New Narratives of Haiti: Socially Engaged Art in a 200-level French class”



In this TeachX workshop, held in May, I discussed a new unit I designed on Haiti for French 201. In reporting on the political and social upheaval in Haiti the Western press tends to present reductionist accounts of the country’s persistent violence and corruption, leaving out the historical causes of these ongoing crises. After attending workshop by Cécile Accilien, a Haitian scholar and editor of a recent book, *Teaching Haiti: Strategies for Creating New Narratives*, I was inspired to create a unit that would focus on Haiti’s remarkable story of resistance and revolution, both past and present. I discussed how I successfully incorporated readings by Haitian scholars, as well the socially engaged music of Boukman Eksperyans into the classroom. This set the stage for final course projects, in which students were asked to design a socially engaged art project of their choice, in the form of a short “grant proposal” which they were then required to present and defend to their peers. This turned out to be a powerful way to get students to reflect on the possibilities of art as a form of social resistance, perhaps offering a bit of hope in a time of despair.

—Fay Rosner, Associate Professor of Instruction in French

This year, as co-chair of the Chicago Language Symposium committee, **KATIA VIOT-SOUTHARD** had the opportunity to develop and organize the 2023 Symposium which took place at Northwestern in the spring. With a focus on “DEI in the World Language Classroom”, the symposium was a very successful all-day event with inspiring presentations from a variety of perspectives.

Katia also attended ACTFL 2022 in Boston and gave a presentation on activities she has developed for her course “Acting French.” Her well attended talk generated many questions and lively conversations on theater in the language classroom.

In addition, as the coordinator for the Intermediate French sequence, Katia mentored and worked alongside graduate students and visiting instructors to develop best teaching practices and explore questions of representation in the French language classroom. To further her understanding of DEI in the classroom, Katia attended the Inclusive Teaching Practicum and the Universal Design for Learning Practicum.

Katia is an ISRC fellow and participated actively in many ISRC events. She also co-organized the French Table with Margaret Dempster and Aude Raymond.



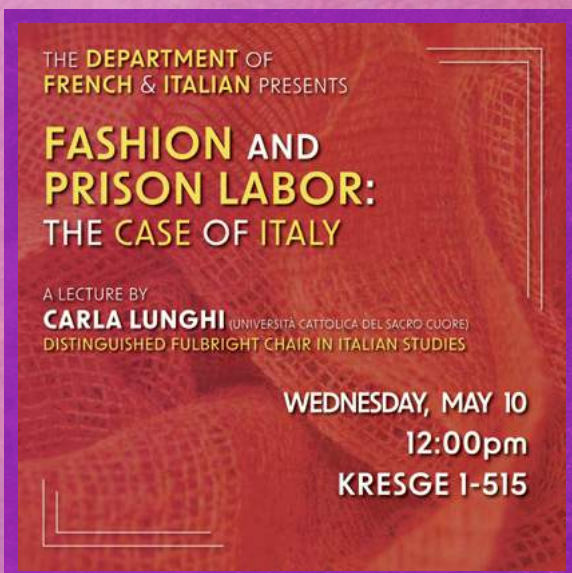
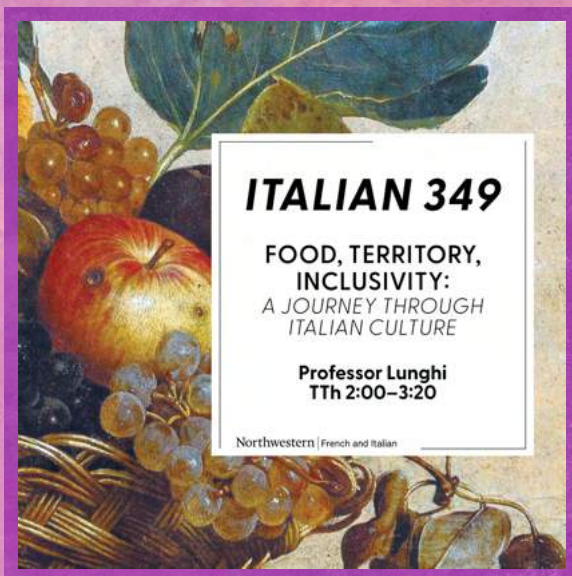
CARLA LUNGH

*DISTINGUISHED FULBRIGHT
CHAIR IN ITALIAN STUDIES*

In spring quarter, Professor Carla Lunghi joined the department as Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies. Professor Lunghi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan), where she teaches sociology of culture. She is also on the Board of Advisors of ModaCult, the Centre for the Study of Fashion and Cultural Production of the same university.

In her teaching and research activities, Professor Lunghi explores the themes of communication and material culture, paying particular attention to the cultural industries – mostly fashion, food and design – and their interaction with urban transformations and social inequalities such as poverty, immigration, and imprisonment. She is the author, co-author, and editor of the following books: *Culture creole: Imprenditrici straniere a Milano* (Franco Angeli 2003); with E. Montagnini, *La moda della responsabilità* (Franco Angeli, Milano, 2007); *Creative evasioni. Manifatture di moda in carcere* (Franco Angeli, Milano, 2012); with L. Bovone (eds), *Consumi ai margini* (Donzelli Editore, Roma, 2009); with Trasforini M.A. (eds), *La precarietà degli oggetti. Estetiche ordinarie in contesti di povertà* (Donzelli Editore, Roma, 2010); with L. Bovone L. (eds), *Resistere. Innovazione e vita quotidiana* (Donzelli Editore, Roma, 2017); with F. R. Rinaldi, M. Turinetti (eds), *What's fashion? It's method!* (Egea, Milano, 2018); with L. Bovone (eds), *Italia creativa. Innovazione, condivisione e sostenibilità* (Donzelli Editore, Roma, 2020).





Professor Lunghi offered two popular courses for the department in spring quarter. Taught in English, **Italian Culture and the History of Fashion** dealt with both the history and the political economy of fashion, inflected by gender and problems of justice and the law. Taught in Italian, **Food, Territory, Inclusivity: A Journey Through Italian Culture** analyzed the cultural and social attitudes around the culinary traditions of Italy, including food's role in disadvantaged communities, cultural intersections, and inclusion.

In addition to these courses, Professor Lunghi gave a lecture to students and faculty entitled **Fashion and Prison Labor: The Case of Italy**. In this lecture, she presented her important research on fashion, gender, and the carceral system in Italy. This lecture presented as case studies three Italian fashion brands (Sartoria San Vittore, I Gatti Galeotti, and MADE IN CARCERE), all of which function as cooperatives working within Italian prisons and their unique place in both Italian fashion and the prison system.



FACULTY PROMOTIONS

MARGARET DEMPSTER and PATRICIA SCARAMPI

Congratulations to Margaret Dempster and Patricia Scarampi for their well-deserved promotions to the rank of Full Professor Instruction. These promotions are recognitions of Margaret and Patricia's dedication and excellence. We are lucky to have them as our colleagues and teachers.



Margaret Dempster was hired at Northwestern in 2003 as a lecturer while completing her dissertation at Indiana University in French literature. She moved through the program quickly, teaching across our curriculum at all levels, from beginning French to her own niche course "Commerce and Industry," an iteration of our French for Professions (FR 309). In 2021, she was appointed by unanimous support as the Director of the French Language Program (DLP). Her appointment as DLP rested not only on this wide-ranging experience and expertise in pedagogy but also on her leadership roles both inside and outside the department. The department's choice of DLP is, therefore, a strong testimony to our collective confidence in Margaret's proven excellence at all levels, and in her ability to have earned the respect and the trust of her colleagues.

Patricia Scarampi came to the department in 2011 as a specialist in pedagogy and language teaching technologies. She holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics. Her dissertation on the "impact of sequencing on the learning process in digital learning" reflected a cutting-edge approach to digital pedagogical materials, making Patricia a leading expert in this field. It was this work that became the backbone of our intermediate level Flipped French courseware, developed by a team of three faculty members in our department, herself, Christiane Rey, and Aude Raymond, and launched this academic year. Without Patricia, this innovative personalized digital courseware, adaptable to other languages and other levels, would have been impossible to design. Flipped French is a cutting-edge courseware with personalized paths guiding students through grammatical and cultural lessons and free of charge. Patricia's expertise in language pedagogy also supports our graduate program, providing theoretical and practical training to our graduate students. Moreover, our department, recognized for the excellence of its training of graduate students as teachers, offers a pedagogy certificate to students, the completion of which depends on Patricia's expertise and dedication to student training.



WELCOME NEW FACULTY

TY BLAKENEY and HASHEEM HAKEEM



Ty Blakeney (he/him) joins Northwestern from UC Berkeley, where he received his PhD last May. His research focuses on same-sex sex in prisons in the July Monarchy and representations of July Monarchy prisons into the present. His project draws on a wide range of sources: literary works by authors like Hugo and Balzac, memoirs written by criminals themselves, popular media, and film. He has also published articles on nationalism and sexuality in Proust and contemporary right-wing politics. Outside of work, he enjoys video games, cooking, and K-Pop.

Hasheem Hakeem, Assistant Professor of Instruction in French, holds a dual PhD in French Studies, with a focus on queer literature and theory, and in Education from Simon Fraser University.

Hasheem has taught a variety of courses in French language and culture at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels at Simon Fraser University and at the University of Calgary. At the University of Calgary, he was course coordinator for language classes, responsible for the training and mentorship of graduate student teaching assistants, and for the redesign of the French placement test and two grammar-based courses. Exploring strategies for teaching French through multimodal texts is part of his pedagogical commitment to developing students' critical literacy skills in both lower and upper-level language courses. He is a member of the Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum (DDFC) steering committee.

His areas of research focus on queer pedagogical approaches to French language teaching, queer and cultural studies, critical discourse analysis, and more recently queer ethics. Following the organization of a panel at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at York University, he is co-editing a journal issue for *Arborescences* entitled "Au-delà de l'inclusion : pour une pédagogie critique, intersectionnelle et décolonisante".

In his spare time, Hasheem loves playing tennis (recreationally and competitively) and catching up on the latest Netflix movies and series.



FLIPPED FRENCH



On April 24, 2023, the Department of French and Italian celebrated the completion and the full launch of the Flipped French Program, a comprehensive courseware for all three quarters of second-year French at Northwestern.

The courseware includes 12 units of six components each: grammar, listening comprehension, vocabulary, reading comprehension, pronunciation as well as introductory videos of native French speakers. The grammar component presents two major innovations: an adaptive tool that offers a unique learning path to each student and tailored formative feedback for all grammar activities. Flipped French increases students' exposure to French outside of the classroom, in order to devote class time entirely to meaningful communicative activities. The courseware is available on Canvas at no cost to students.



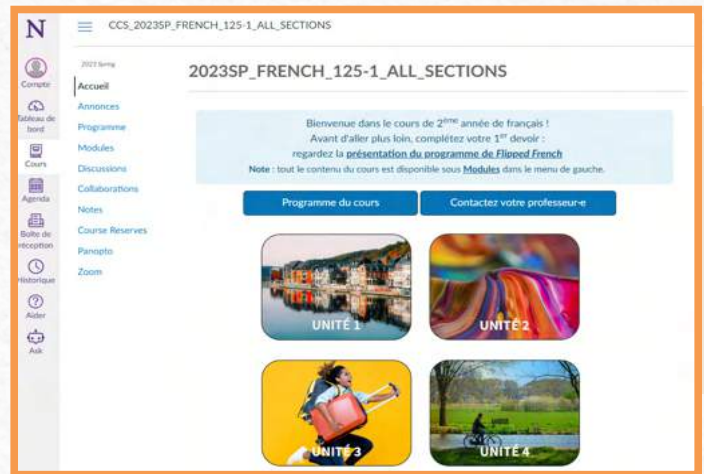
Patricia Scarampi, Christiane Rey and Aude Raymond dedicated eight years authoring the program in collaboration with Matt Taylor and Sergei Kalugin from MAD Studio who developed this cutting-edge grammar platform.

The project received many grants over the years from the Department of French and Italian, WCAS, the Provost's Office, the Northwestern Alumnae Association, the Northwestern Library and, last but not least, the precious contribution of students, colleagues, friends, and guests.



FLIPPED FRENCH

The Flipped French Program was used for the first time in the Intensive Intermediate French sequence (French 125-1 in Spring 2022, French 125-2 in Fall 2022, and French 125-3 in Winter 2023) and the response has been highly positive, as seen in some of the students' comments below.



"The different types of learning techniques are helpful and fun to complete."

"This is the best way that I have ever learned French."

"I think the ability to move at your own pace is very valuable."

"The algorithm that assigns you exercises personalized for you is fascinating."

"I really enjoyed the in-class activities and thought they were very fun and engaging. I especially liked how collaborative they were."

Students also nominated Flipped French to the Northwestern Canvas Hall of Fame and on May 18, Aude, Christiane and Patricia were awarded the Northwestern's **Canvas Hall of Fame for Most Innovative Course Site** for the academic year 2022-2023.



FRENCH

GRADUATE NEWS

FRIT graduate students celebrated a number of important milestones this year. Colin Jackson, Maureen Winter, Noran Mohamed, Moussa Seck, and Gorgui "Ibou" Tall all successfully defended their Ph.D.s, while Alice Marchaisse and Céline Cotton both defended their prospectus and moved on to the dissertation stage.

Congratulations to Noran, Moussa, Ibou Tall, and Maïté Marciano, all of whom obtained academic posts for next year. Noran will be starting a tenure-track position in the Department of Romance Languages at Hunter College, Moussa will begin a tenure-track post in French and Francophone Studies at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, Ibou was hired for a language teaching position at Loyola University, and Maïté will take up a visiting assistant professor position in French at Centre College in Kentucky.

This year we also recruited three excellent new students: Arundhati Ghosh, Ryan Marr, and Dylan Bess. Thanks to all the faculty, staff, and grad students (especially Louise Barbosa) who helped with the graduate recruitment campus visit!

Professor Topher Davis
Director of Graduate Studies

LOUISE BARBOSA is excited to begin her fourth academic year in the fall of 2023. She is thankful for all of the experience that being faculty-student liaison and student event coordinator has offered in the past two years. This included organizing recruitment weekend, a workshop on Platonic Love, and inviting Dr. Annabel Kim to discuss her feminist work on excrement in the French canon. Louise will also miss being a language instructor and is grateful for her students and the support of the department and language coordinators in helping develop her teaching skills. She received the Excellence in Graduate Language Teaching Award for the 2022-23 academic year. Additionally, Louise was a coach in the *Come on Out Japan* program in the summer of 2023 where she mentored Tokyo high school students to develop their life missions with a global mindset. Moving forward, she is excited to work on her dissertation regarding fairy tales and what they teach us about motherhood.

Since he began graduate work at Northwestern in the summer 2022, **YOUSSEF BOUCETTA** has been actively at work on several fronts. He won the Comparative Literary Studies Best First-Year Essay Prize for his piece "Painting Polyglossia: Etel Adnan, the Casablanca School and the Language(s) of Visual Abstraction" which he also presented at the Northwestern MENA and Art History conference Forms of Liberation Symposium in January 2023. Along with Micol Bez, Laiba Paracha, and Xena Amro, he co-organized a successful CLS Cinema Night around the theme "Bad Mothers and Bad Lovers" and co-curated the French Department Ciné-Club with Maïssa Koudri. In March 2023, Youssef published "Parmi Nous, ou quand le cinéma Marocain pense au-delà du Maroc" a public-oriented piece of film criticism for Panoramapost.com. As of June 2023, Youssef is hard at work shooting his documentary "Moroccan Roll" which he pitched to a room full of Mediterranean producers, TV networks and distributors in Marseille in December 2022 and was acquired by national Moroccan TV. In late June, Youssef will participate in the Northwestern/Sorbonne Nouvelle Summer Institute for Psychoanalysis in Paris.



GRADUATE NEWS

This year, **GUILLAUME DE BROUX** taught beginning French to Northwestern undergraduates and completed his last coursework requirements. In addition to presenting papers at the UVA Medieval-Renaissance conference, the ASFS conference, and the Department of French & Italian's faculty-graduate student colloquium, he also secured publication of his research in two peer-reviewed journals, namely the *Romanic Review* ("Embarkation for Méséglise: Thinking Proust's World with Watteau" which is forthcoming) and *Early Modern French Studies* ("Perrault immoral: le sens caché du conte Le Chat Botté"). Guillaume was also selected for the NU-ENS Paris exchange program for 2023-24, where he will continue his research.

In 2022-23 **FANNY ALICE MARCHAISSE** became a recipient of the Frankel fellowship while participating in the Northwestern University's Paris Program in Critical Theory. At the ACLA panel "Queer Kinship in World Literature" she presented a paper titled "Once upon a time in a queer Kingdom." She also presented in June 2023 for the conference: "Norm and Transgression in the Fairy-Tale Tradition: (Non)Normative Identities, Forms, and Writings" held at Brown University and organized as part of the MadLand - Madness in Fairy Land project. Her paper: "'Les belles déguisées' of Literary Fairy Tales: Aulnoy's Belle Belle ou le chevalier fortuné, L'Héritier's Marmoisan and Murat's Le Sauvage", studied three cases of cross-dressing in literary fairy tales, paying attention to the legitimizing role played by the fairies. Her thesis, provisionally titled "Fairies' Performances on Bodies in the French Fairy tales of the late 17th and early 18th centuries," deals with questions of body, gender and sexuality through French literary fairy tales in the 17th and 18th centuries.

EMILY JACKSON successfully completed her first year as a graduate student at Northwestern. In October 2022, she gave a lecture as an invited co-presenter for the Asia@Noon series hosted by Texas Christian University's Asian Studies program. During the academic year, she regularly participated in and attended Northwestern FRIT department events, including the spring conference, "Symposium on Plato's Symposium: Platonic Love After the Affective Turn." This summer, Emily will study an intensive course in Intermediate Vietnamese at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a program for which she received a Foreign Language Area Studies fellowship. Alongside her language studies, Emily will work with Northwestern's Dr. Ihnhee Kim to research and edit an article which will consider the portrayal of foreigners in Korean media from the perspective of critical media studies. Next year, she will serve as event co-coordinator for the French department.



THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN PRESENTS



A FACULTY- GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

NOTHING AT ALL:
MATERIALITY AND FORM
IN TROUBADOUR LYRIC

Topher Davis

Assistant Professor of French
and Director of
Graduate Studies

**THE WORLD OF
PUSS IN BOOTS:**
ABSOLUTISM AND
SOCIAL CHANGE IN
17th-CENTURY FRANCE

Guillaume de Broux

PhD Student

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 | 2:45PM
KAPLAN SEMINAR ROOM | KRESGE 2-351

Northwestern | French and Italian

ANNABEL KIM

In the spring quarter, graduate students invited a guest scholar, Dr. Annabel Kim, Roy G. Clouse Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, to speak on her recent publications and give a public lecture. Her research interests include feminist writing and theory and the French novel, with an emphasis on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She has published two books: *Unbecoming Language: Anti-Identitarian French Feminist Fictions* (2018, Ohio State University Press) and *Cacaphonies: The Excremental Canon of French Literature* (2022, University of Minnesota Press). Her current book project, "Ought to Fiction," critiques the domination of auto- and exofiction in contemporary French literature and calls for a return to inventiveness and fiction.

Thanks to the sunny weather, graduate students were able to convene with Dr. Kim in the Kresge courtyard to discuss the introductory chapter "We Have Always Been Fecal" from *Cacaphonies*. Dr. Kim argues that despite fecal blindness (the inability to see shit) and fecal illusion (seeing shit where it is absent), shit has been present in the French language and the French literary canon since medieval times. *Cacaphonies* insists on the materiality of shit, refusing to sanitize its language or distort its fecality through the psychoanalytic lens of fecal filtration. Shit is a reminder of the materiality of everything, including ideas and literature, and it is the waste material of every living being, making fecality a powerful alternative to the abstraction of French universalism. During the workshop, Dr. Kim argued how literature should not be subordinated to theory or seen as a mere confirmation of theory. Instead, literature should be considered an aesthetic experience valuable for its cultivation of aesthetic sensibilities. Dr. Kim also discussed the process of turning dissertation work into a book project, which was greatly appreciated by graduate student workshop participants in various stages of the PhD program.

The afternoon lecture, entitled "Shit's Place: Gender, Property, Space," criticized the negative impact of the gendered fecal taboo, in which women's defecation is subject to a culture of shame, on female fecal discourse. Deftly weaving close textual analysis with insightful commentary, Dr. Kim argued that in Marguerite Duras's *La Douleur* (1985), only men can be fecal actors, while women are limited to being fecal authors: dispossessed of their own shit, women become responsible for the shit of others. In *La Douleur*, the sight, smell, and sound of shit are confined within the feminine private sphere yet only spew out of the masculine body. Dr. Kim then contrasted Duras's disavowal of female fecality with Monique Wittig's narrative of the ungendered, collective fecality of childhood in *L'opoponax* (1964). Wittig's famous assertion that lesbians are not women insofar as women are defined by their relationship to men is prefigured in this work, which transposes radical lesbian separatism onto the anarchic freedom of the pre-sexed child. Dr. Kim demonstrated how in *L'opoponax*, the collectivity and non-privacy of shit describes and imagines another fecal world, that of the child, where there are no divisions of public and private or male and female. Still, however, the disavowal of female fecality persists: in *L'opoponax*, children and lesbians can defecate, but women cannot. In this lecture, Dr. Kim emphasized the presence and materiality of shit in the twentieth-century French literary canon while arguing that despite this fecal existence, there is a denial of women's fecality and fecal discourse even in literature written by women, a phenomenon which obscures the universality of shit across genders.

—Emily Jackson



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

NORAN MOHAMED and IBOU TALL

The past academic year saw five French graduate students defending their doctoral dissertations. Below are the abstracts for two such disseration projects by Noran Mohamed and Ibou Tall.

Re-Membering Narrative – Corporeal Writing and Memory in the Maghrebi Novel

Noran Mohamed

This dissertation project investigates the relationship between corporeality, writing, memory, and identity in a selection of contemporary Maghrebi novels through what I call “corporeal writing and memory.” The project focuses on four novels written in French and Arabic: *La Prière de l’Absent* (1981) by Tahar ben Jelloun, *Dhakirat al-jassad* (1993) and *Fawdā al Hawās* (1997) by Ahlam Mosteghanemi, and *Corps désirable* (2015) by Hubert Haddad. Each novel mobilizes corporeality as a medium through which to explore individual memories, sensations, and identities within the context of a broader national or historical narrative. I propose that in these works, the body is both represented and created through a process of remembering and writing memories. The body becomes legible as it writes itself, making for a different kind of bodily representation – one that does not solely rely on its visual likeness. The process places an emphasis on the sensorial capabilities of the body, such as smell and touch, and relies on bodies coming together to form a network of corporeality. In this way, the project traces the relationships and movements of various types of sensing bodies, particularly in moments of crisis and often during moments of bodily violence, ranging from civil war to medical experimentation. Corporeality and memory come together to write a history of the body and of the everyday that is necessarily one that is always shifting.

The Mechanisms of Cultural Production in the Postcolony: Plurality, Relationality, and (Auto)-Translation in the Senegalese Novel

Ibou Tall

Recently, the field of African epistemology, especially on the francophone side, has been experiencing a postcolonial turn as theorists, philosophers, and novelists explore the centrality of Europe in the canonical literature of global history and increasingly look beyond Europe to rethink central concepts in our common modernity. This latter effort has called for the expansion of the canon to include non-Western thinkers and urged an exploration of the distinctive conceptual and institutional trajectories of non-Western discourses. The effort to pluralize questions and sources promises a *decentering* of Europe as the implicit backdrop for decolonizing world history. It is a tendency, an attitude to write back to the colonial past and at the same time to “re-member” the pre-colonial past that has been brutally dismantled and buried by the colonial empires. It deliberately interrupts the “grand narratives” of colonial tradition with peripheral narratives and creates “counter-narratives.” But this project also raises other questions: What criticism of universalism is proposed by the literature in French from Africa? What are the forms and tropes from which that literature imagines the universal, even if it means resisting it in the same movement? What methods of reading and interpretation of that literature are required to decenter Europe and decolonize the universal? In sum, this dissertation concerns the ways in which post-independence francophone African literature anticipates and/or encounters the universal, with a particular focus on the articulation of the universal in the postcolonial Senegalese novel.

INCOMING GRADS



DYLAN BESS begins his graduate studies in French and Francophone Studies at Northwestern University in fall 2023. He received his BA in Francophone Studies from Bowdoin College in 2021. In his honors thesis, "Le val et le cadre : espaces mortivitaux de Rimbaud et de Mouawad," he explored through philosophical and literary analyses the relationship between death and the pursuit of meaning, coining the term "mortivitalité" to qualify the experiential space between life and death traveled by the protagonists of Arthur Rimbaud's "Le dormeur du val" and Wajdi Mouawad's *Seuls*. His current research interests are in 19th- to 20th-century Caribbean and French philosophy/literature and 20th-century French film.

Before joining Northwestern's Department of French and Italian, he worked for two years as a chemist and a metrologist in Saint Louis, Missouri.

ARUNDHATI GHOSH joins the graduate student cohort of the department after having received her B.A. in Modern European Languages, Literatures and Culture Studies from Visva-Bharati University (Santiniketan), specializing in French. She then received an M.A. and an M.Phil. in French and Francophone Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). Her Master's thesis focused on a comparative study of Dani Kouyaté's *Keïta! L'héritage du griot* and Satyajit Ray's *Agantuk*. Motivated by a desire to expand her research capabilities, she focused on Antonin Artaud's theatre and cinema of cruelty for her M.Phil, which allowed her to explore the vast opportunity that lies embedded in an Artaudian investigation of 21st century films. Being a film aficionado, she is interested in multilingual, interdisciplinary, semiotic, comparative, and transmedial research alongside her broader interest in Francophone film studies and Francophone literature of the Indian Ocean.



RYAN MARR is an incoming graduate student in the Department of French and Italian at Northwestern University. His research interests focus on the relationship between religion, popular music, and literature in Francophone West Africa. Prior to joining Northwestern, Ryan participated in the Peace Corps as volunteer in Benin where his interest in African literature and culture germinated. He learnt Biali, one of the 60 languages of Benin, spoken in the village where he lived and became interested in translation. Upon return to the US, he enrolled in the Writing Program at Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned an MFA, working on essays on traces of West African musical tradition, notably *vodun*, in Western musical forms.

La guitare est plus forte que l'épée

Isaac Boone

(featured in Rosa la Rose, Volume XXI)

Apprendre à chanter en trois nouvelles langues pendant une soirée semble peut-être un exploit insurmontable, mais pour ceux qui sont allés au concert du musicien et activiste Ezé Wendtoin, c'est du gâteau. Ici, la variété linguistique se transforme en outil expressif – et pourquoi pas, quand il en parle tant ? Né au Burkina Faso et étudiant en Allemagne, Ezé écrit des chansons en allemand, en français, et en mooré, la langue de son pays natal. Mais si vous n'êtes qu'anglophone, ne vous inquiétez pas—ses explications en anglais de ses chansons ne laissent aucune place à se perdre. Cette variété de moyens expressifs est transmise de même par son talent musical – Ezé apporte avec lui quelques percussions à main, sa batterie, sa guitare et sa belle voix, jouant parfois deux ou trois instruments simultanément. Il joue même de ses propres joues !

Ce divertissement rencontre une atmosphère chaleureuse qu'Ezé crée en démolissant aussitôt le mur entre le public et l'artiste. Au début du concert, personne ne sait où il se trouve – jusqu'à ce que, bien sûr, il se révèle parmi le public en chantant et en jouant son instrument qui ressemble à des castagnettes. Pendant qu'il se promène dans les rangs de la salle de concert, on se sent invité à participer, à taper dans les mains. Et quand Ezé vous apprend les mots d'un refrain, il ne reste aucune autre option que de hurler de tout cœur ! Entre les chansons, il tisse magistralement son histoire très personnelle au cours du concert, au point où tout le monde veut explorer tous les coins du globe comme lui, que ce soit la découverte d'une nouvelle culture riche ou les études à l'étranger.

Tous ces éléments servent à soutenir ce qui me frappe le plus – ses messages activistes. Sa colère envers les atrocités commises actuellement, de jeter des immigrants maghrébins dans la Méditerranée, à nier la Shoah, contredit directement le rythme et l'harmonie tellement joués de ses chansons. Pourtant, force est de constater qu'Ezé, qui à travers cette ironie nous rend aussi fâchés que motivés de lutter pour un monde meilleur, nous montre le vrai génie artistique.



EZE WENDTOIN

Interactive concert, free and open to the public!

Songs in German, French, Mooré, and English!

OCTOBER 6 2022
6-7:30PM
HARRIS HALL 107
NORTHWESTERN
EVANSTON CAMPUS

JOIN US FOR A MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCE WITH MUSICIAN AND ACTIVIST EZE WENDTOIN AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY!

Northwestern
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Department of German

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN COUNCIL ON LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN
PROGRAM OF AFRICAN STUDIES DEUTSCHER AKADEMISCHER AUSTAUSCHDIENST (DAAD)
ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES NORTHERN ILLINOIS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF GERMAN (IAATG)



JULIE SINGER



On October 7th, the department had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Julie Singer, current department chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literature at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a specialist in Medieval French and Italian Literature and the author of two books, *Blindness and Therapy in Late Medieval French and Italian Poetry* (D.S. Brewer, 2011) and *Representing Mental Illness in Medieval France: Machines, Madness, Metaphor* (D.S. Brewer, 2018). Her current research explores the uses of fetal speech in medieval French literature and law. Her visit provided both a graduate student workshop and public lecture that engaged with students and scholars across multiple departments.

During the workshop, Professor Singer invited students to reflect on her drafted article "Hearing an Urban Plague: Gille li Nuisis in Tournai, 1349-50." This became her passion project when she was struck by the way that plague bells in Gille's prose appeared to affect the physical health of his community. Her work stimulated a productive conversation concerning the formation of soundscapes, how sounds become defamiliarized within new contexts, and how contagion as a sensory experience gives us a new historical interest in Gille's writings. Professor Singer also offered guidance on the process of publishing and how to incorporate suggestions from reader reports, advice that was greatly valuable to the graduate student attendees.

That afternoon, Professor Singer presented her work "Opportunity Knocks: Translation as Race-Making in the First French Boccaccio." She used Christina Sharpe's book on "wake-work" to think through medieval tales of social displacement, specifically within Laurent de Premierfait's "Le Procès de Jacques Coeur." This lecture merged translation studies with pre-modern critical race studies to understand medieval race-making as a construction of difference built on fascination with contrariety. She presented both literary translations and visual media to analyze indicators of race and its increased emphasis on class politics. Her analysis stressed how translation as a literary and spatial action degrades and dehumanizes the body, while inversely holding the potential to act as a rehumanizing enterprise.

—Louise Barbosa



ANDREA RIGHI

On January 20, 2023 we had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Andrea Righi, Director of Italian Studies at Miami University, as a guest scholar in the Department of French and Italian. During his invigorating visit, Dr. Righi presented a lecture titled "Mimesis: The Role of Transcendence in Anthropogenic Climate Change" and animated a dynamic graduate student workshop on a chapter from his recent book, *The Other Side of the Digital: The Sacrificial Economy of New Media* (2021). A robust *fil rouge* or common thread connected the two interventions, as Righi reflected on the various ways in which politico-theological transformations, and our altered relationship to finitude and transcendence, thwart our efforts to rise to the contemporary challenges of the anthropocene, of the digital economy and of the new patriarchal symbolic registers. Displacing Günther Anders' diagnosis of the *superliminal* beyond the nuclear problem, Righi reminded us that we are experiencing a relatively new problem, as "*our curse does not consist anymore... in the fact that we are condemned to a finite existence and thus to mortality; rather it consists in the fact that we cannot stem or cut off the unlimitedness and the immortality of the effects of our actions*" (2021, 170). Developing this insight in the context of neoliberal digitality, *The Other Side of the Digital* proposes a lucid engagement with contemporary technological transformations and reconfigurations of knowledge, desire, agency, and temporality, exposing how the digital operates as a secular god-like figure that represses key aspects of transcendence and reshapes structural power dynamics into what he deems a new "sacrificial economy." A slogan, borrowed from a billboard, echoed throughout Righi's talk and book chapter: "Because investors will always be human;" a particularly risible message, Righi notes, as not only is investment fundamentally algorithmic and inhuman, but the human has become "digitized, absorbed, and reshaped by the vectors of virality" (2021, 169). Crucially, as he explains in the chapter we discussed in the workshop, "Woman: Love and Automated Profit," these new subject formations still operate within a phallic logic and advance a masculine position, coming to redefine woman, love, and servitude in deceptive new assemblages. Still, the chapter offers a glimmer of hope, as his reading of Don DeLillo's *Point Omega* gestures towards a potential crack in the algorithmization of life. Righi left us with this somewhat uplifting thought: "the first signs of subtraction of support for neoliberalist domination will most likely appear at the intersection of economy and sexuality."

—Micol Bez

JEAN GODEFROY BIDIMA

A scholar of passionate eloquence, Professor Bidima was gracious enough to discuss his research and writing with graduate students in what turned out to be a fascinating two-hour long workshop! While engaging with the political and cultural issues facing Africa and the African diaspora, he offered new perspectives on the ways in which a creative appropriation of the tools of critical theory might help us challenge dominant narratives, including those of prominent decolonial thinkers. In comparison to Fanon, Césaire, and Mbembe, for example, Bidima places greater emphasis on cultural analysis. Students found his treatment of the question of art restitution particularly compelling. Current debates over the return of colonial-era plunder, Bidima argued, tend to reduce the continent's rich art history to a monolithic, unified bloc, and to silence "la voix des sans espoir" embodying the complex and multifaceted experiences of subjects in pre-capitalist African societies.

—Guillaume de Broux



On Friday April 14, Professor Jean Godefroy Bidima delivered a lecture in the department entitled "Decolonizing: Conversation on Some French Philosophers of the 20th Century." He was invited to the department as the distinguished speaker of the spring edition of our annual lecture series. Professor Bidima began his lecture with an historical overview of the relationship between the state and the institution of philosophy in France since the French Revolution. He then turned his focus to the 20th century. While identifying figures of anticolonial thought and activism, he teased out the colonial threads and ambiguities running through the French philosophical tradition to show the implicit and explicit crossing of knowledge and power. The lecture, attended by faculty and students, was followed by a lively discussion and exchange of ideas regarding both the broader issue of philosophy as an institution and regarding individual philosophers mentioned by Professor Bidima.

Professor Jean Godefroy Bidima is a distinguished scholar of Francophone African thought and culture. Since 2004, he has been teaching at Tulane university where he holds the position of Yvonne Arnoult Chair in Francophone Studies. Originally from Cameroon, he completed his studies in France, receiving a PhD in Philosophy from Paris Sorbonne. He has also been a visiting associate professor at Bayreuth, Germany, and program director at College International de Philosophie. His research includes Continental Philosophy, Arts and Literature of the Francophone World, African Philosophies, Juridical Anthropology, and Medical Ethics.

—Professor Nasrin Qader





HOW TO DO THE HISTORY OF GALLANTRY

A faculty colloquium with Professor Matthieu Dupas
Friday, April 21 | 2:30pm | Kaplan Seminar Room

Can we account for gallantry without relying on French identity or heterosexuality? To avoid these two pitfalls, I propose to assess gallantry from a historical, sociological, and political perspective *at the micro level*. For that purpose, I focus on the creation of the first gallant comedy ever performed on the theatrical stage in France, Pierre Corneille's *Mélite ou les fausses Lettres*, in 1629. The play is gallant in the sense that it represents in a realistic way the practice of gallantry, which may be described in the light of Erving Goffman's interactionism as an *erotic* "rite of civility," which regulated civility, love, and marriage between men and women. It is through the practice of gallantry, which did not cancel, but rather displaced and reconfigured gender inequality, that was invented the gallant lifestyle progressively adopted by the social elites of the Absolute Monarchy.

Northwestern | Department of French and Italian



SYMPOSIUM ON PLATO'S *SYMPOSIUM*



In spring of 2023, Matthieu Dupas organized a fascinating one-day symposium on Plato's *Symposium*. The event brought together distinguished scholars from France and the US and was attended by graduate students and faculty from across the departments in the humanities at Northwestern. This lively and provocative event was motivated by the following questions:

Is Platonic Love still a useful category of analysis? Plato has famously premised desire on lack, but recent trends in the humanities have tended to emphasize not the negativity but the positivity and productivity of desire, whether desire is thought about as emotion, affect, or subjectivation. Nevertheless, the reference to Plato's theorizing of desire, clearly more diverse and complex than the notion of Platonic Love conveys, has remained extremely productive in the humanities. How does Plato help us think about love and friendship, gender and sexual identifications, emotional and social attachments, the agency of affects in political formations in the past and today? And maybe also, how does our current understanding of desire, gender, emotions, affects open new readings of Plato's text?

Professor Sandra Boehringer, a specialist of gender and sexuality in the ancient world at the University of Strasbourg, reflected in her paper on the famous speech of Aristophanes

to explore the reasons behind its marked influence on Freud and what gave the "myth of the androgyne" such hermeneutic authority.

Professor Laurie Laufer, both a practicing psychoanalyst and a specialist of psychopathology at University of Paris Cité, began with Jacques Lacan's reading of Plato's *Symposium* to explore the ways in which Platonic love appears to those practicing psychoanalysis in the form of transference.

Professor Todd Reeser, a specialist of gender and sexuality and French Renaissance studies at the University of Pittsburgh focused his analysis on the translations of the *Symposium* in the Renaissance both in the English and in French.

Professor Barbara Rosenwein, Emerita professor of Medieval history at Loyola University Chicago, focused on love, transcendence and obligation in the medieval world in the wake of the *Symposium*.

This symposium was all the more special because it relaunched our annual departmental conference, interrupted for several years by COVID. We are excited about and look forward to the future iterations of this annual event organized by different faculty members in the department and on topics of interest to both faculty and students in the department and broadly at Northwestern.

—Professor Nasrin Qader

LETTER FROM THE FRENCH DUS



The 2022–2023 academic year has been rich with growth and innovation. From the implementation of the groundbreaking *Flipped French* instructional model designed by Professors Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey and Patricia Scarampi to the hiring of two new faculty members, Drs. Ty Blakeney and Hasheem Hakeem, the French Department at NU continues to climb to new heights.

As Director of Undergraduate Studies in French, I have a front-row vantage point from which to see the myriad ways in which our students gain mastery of our challenging foreign language. I am continually amazed at the magnitude of our community's achievements, and in all the ways that our students find to come together in over-coming the challenges along this path.

Warmest congratulations go to our graduating seniors of the Class of 2023: Lucie Boyd, Trent Brown, Caroline Burnett, Dori-Taylor Carter, Elizabeth Craan, Celia Crompton, Hadley Delaney, Sierra Erdman-Luntz, Mikaela Fenn, Emily Fischer, Pablo Griswold Morales, Jordan Hickey, Samantha Humphrey, Solomon Jackson, Lauren Kelly, Kyra Lin, Maddie Malueg, Isabella Moran, Shira Nash, Gloria Park, Joey Patronik, Evelyn Perfall, Xinyuan (Joyce) Pu, Evan Robinson-Johnson, Grayson Welo, and Janey Wilson.

Every year, the French Department recognizes the outstanding written work produced by our students in their courses at all levels across the academic year. We were privileged to celebrate the winners of the 2022-2023 Undergraduate Essay Prizes at our annual awards ceremony in June. This year's winners are: Catherine Duncan (2nd-year language), Sabrina Hayes (3rd-year language), Bobby Yalam (3rd-year literature), Claire Iben (4th-year language), Jordan Hickey (4th-year literature). Amaya Mikolic-Berrios received the prize for Distinguished Essay Written in English on a French Subject. This year, our highest award for a distinguished research paper written in French, the Tilde Sankovitch Distinguished Essay in French, was won by Maddie Malueg. Congratulations to all our winners for their outstanding work!

Maddie Malueg also received the highest undergraduate distinction in French studies — the AATF (American Association for Teachers of French) Outstanding Senior Prize. This prize is conferred on a senior with a record of excellent academic achievement as well as leadership skills and an exceptional commitment to the study of French outside the classroom. In recognition of her academic excellence and important contributions to the life of the department, Maddie Malueg was named French and Italian's 2023 Senior Marshal. This honor goes to a graduating WCAS student; it entitles the winner to serve as the standard-bearer of the French and Italian Department and lead our students in the graduation procession. Congratulations, Maddie!

Félicitations also go to Shira Nash, who has been awarded the very prestigious Fulbright ETA Award. This award from the Fulbright Commission and the International Agency of the French Ministry of Education, France Education international, is granted to a maximum of only 11 students per year from across the U.S. We are very proud to have Shira among them next year!

Many faculty members and students generously gave their time and efforts to ensure the exceptional quality of our undergraduate program in French. Special thanks go to the members of the Undergraduate Committee (Professors Marie-Thérèse Pent and Fay Rosner, who served with me and Professor Nasrin Qader) and the Essay Prize Committee (Professor Katia Viot-Southard, who chaired the committee, along with Professors Scott Durham and Aude Raymond). The French Department also thanks our Student Advisory Board representatives, Evan Vlahandreas and Sierra Erdman-Luntz, and the dedicated volunteer tutors who staffed the French Language Instructional Center: Kydie Al Moutaa, Clara Asseily, and Hannah Christensen.

The successes and innovations of 2022–2023 would not have been possible without our extraordinary and dedicated staff members, Liz Murray, Leon Hedstrom, and Lisa Byrnes, who share their expertise and support all student affairs and events.

Finally, the department's gratitude goes to our outgoing Chair, Professor Nasrin Qader, for her superb leadership. In this whirlwind year, Professor Qader has promoted new ideas, new methodologies and brought new faces to forge a very promising future for French and Italian at NU!

With best wishes for a restful summer and an inspiring new academic year!

Professor Cynthia Nazarian
Director of Undergraduate Studies in French

LETTER FROM THE FRENCH DLP

This academic year simply flew by! Throughout the year, the teaching-track faculty and graduate teaching assistants continued to inspire students with their enthusiasm for teaching. Our tutors, Clara Asseily, Khadija Al Moutaa, and Hannah Christensen provided guidance and French conversation opportunities to our students. Aude Raymond, Katia Viot-Southard, and I had continued success hosting the *Table française*. Marie-Thérèse Pent and Maïssa Koudri organized the Ciné-Club, showing a variety of French and Francophone films, while Thao Nguyen and Massimiliano Delfino organized the department's undergraduate literary magazine, *Rosa la Rose*, showcasing our students' diverse talents. The department also appointed a new Assistant Professor of Instruction in French, Hasheem Hakeem, and we look forward to welcoming him to the department this upcoming Fall.

Our spring quarter was particularly eventful. On April 24, we celebrated the official launch of the groundbreaking courseware for Intermediate French, *Flipped French*, with the team, Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi, and the Media and Design Studio. We all beamed with pride in acknowledgement of their significant accomplishment. More kudos to the team for receiving the Canvas "most innovative course site" award for French 125-1 using *Flipped French*. The department anticipates incorporating *Flipped French* in both French 121 and 125 starting in Fall 2023. We are so proud of their continued success!

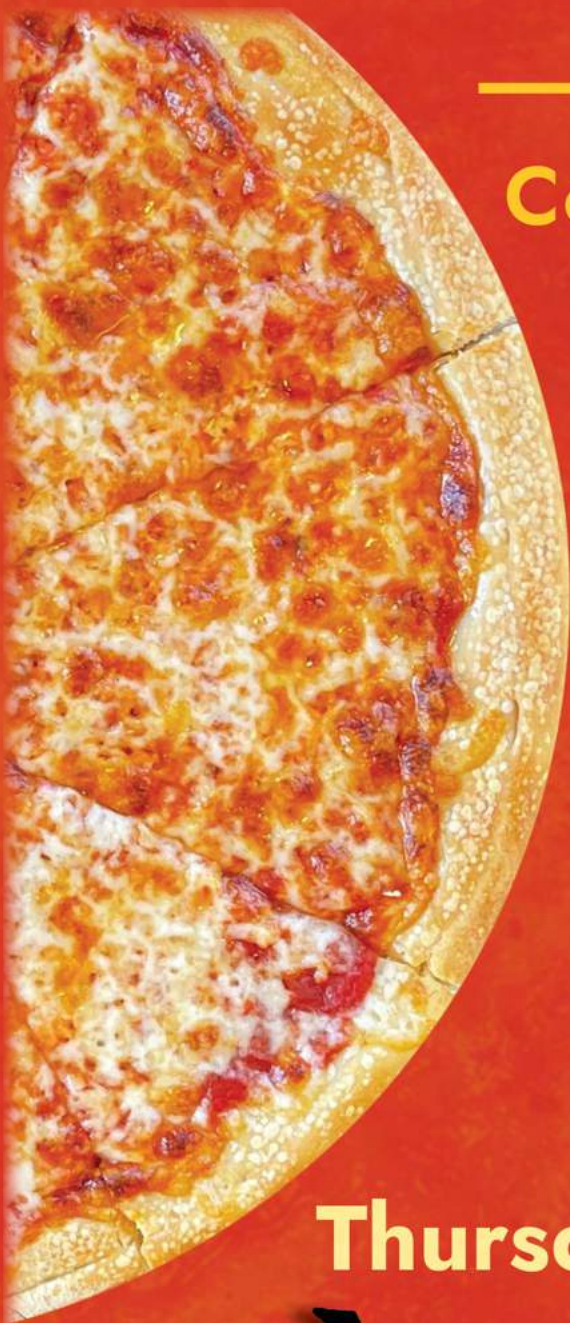
During the week of May 8-12, professors of language instruction, along with student majors and minors, participated in the Festival of Languages and Cultures organized by the Council on Language Instruction. The department arranged events including a decorative table at "the Rock," where we offered sunglasses from the Department of French and Italian, treats from France, and trivia games about French and Francophone cultures. We advertised upcoming events, and discussed upcoming courses, study abroad information, and language learning opportunities with students. We also held a special edition of the department's *Table française*, offered a unique French film showing and discussion sponsored by the Ciné-Club, and participated in the student talent show. The academic year concluded with many festive events, including the *Rosa la Rose* reading and undergraduate awards ceremony, the departmental end-of-year party, and our reception for graduating seniors.

As Director of the French Language Program, I would like to thank Nasrin Qader for her skilled leadership, her knack for finding creative solutions to challenges, her sense of humor, and her ongoing support for the teaching track faculty during her time as Department Chair. And a hearty thank you to my colleagues, to the graduate and undergraduate students, and to the staff for your commitment to teaching and learning, and to fostering community in the Department. *Merci beaucoup!*

Margaret Dempster

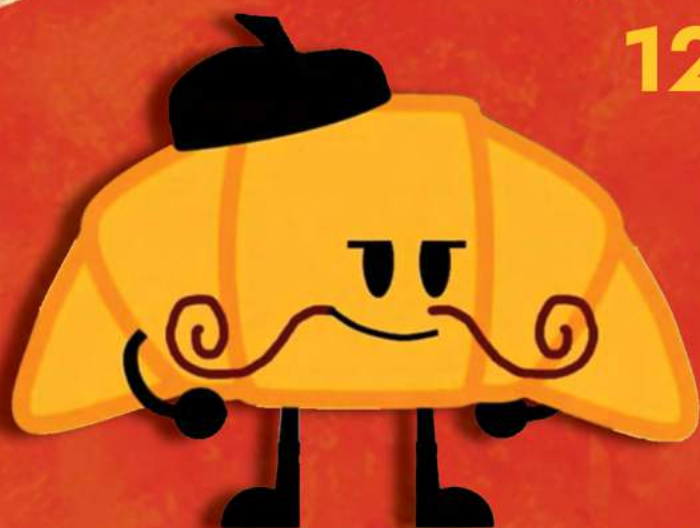
Professor Margaret Dempster
Director of the French Language Program





**Come and meet other
French students,
learn about the
major and minor,
and about
winter classes
at our lunchtime
*pizza social!***

**Thursday, November 10
12:00–1:30pm
Crowe 2-130**



Northwestern | French and Italian


Study Abroad in France Info Session

Come grab pizza
and learn about
Study Abroad
opportunities in
French-speaking
countries from
returning
students!



Tuesday, January 31
11:30am–1:30pm
Crowe 2-130





INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FRENCH *MAJOR* OR *MINOR*?

Sign up for a 20-minute open
advising session with

Professor Cynthia Nazarian

Director of Undergraduate Studies in French

May 10, 11am–1pm | May 11, 2:30–4:30pm
May 12, 10am–12pm

LE CINÉ-CLUB

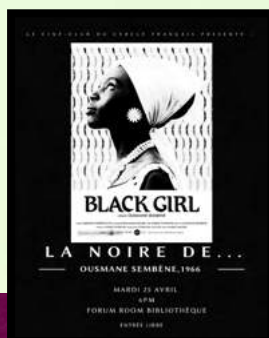
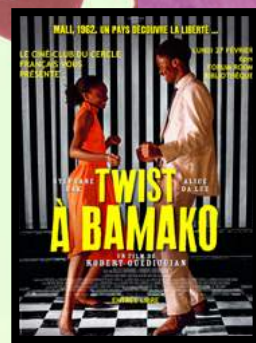
This academic year saw a full twelve films screenings held in the Forum Room of the University Library.

The films projected this year covered a diverse range of style and subject matter, ranging from Henri-Georges Clouzot's classic *Le Corbeau* (1947) to Leyla Bouzid's Tunisian romantic drama *Une histoire d'amour et de désir* (2021).

In spring quarter, Maïssa Koudri and Yousseff Boucetta took on the responsibility of organizing Ciné-Club screenings. Un grand merci to them both!

We look forward to another successful year of film appreciation and discussion in the coming academic year.

The Ciné-Club is open to all!



LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN DUS



This past year, the Italian Program was excited to fully return to a series of in-person events that comprised film screenings, poetry and film workshops, and lectures. In Winter, the Program was thrilled to host Professor Andrea Righi, Director of Italian Studies at Miami University, and recently the author of *The Other Side of the Digital: The Sacrificial Economy of New Media* (University of Minnesota Press). Professor Righi delivered a lecture titled “Mimesis: The Role of Transcendence in Anthropogenic Climate Change (From René Girard to Paolo Virno),” in which he asked who or what is responsible for the widespread inaction vis-à-vis the current climate crisis and made the argument that, as a system, transcendence is chiefly responsible for producing such an impasse. Professor Righi also led a graduate workshop on “Woman: Love and Automated Profit,” in which students read and discussed readings of literature and films that show how aesthetic works register and expose the secret alliance between sexuality and the financialization of life.

In Spring, we had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Carla Lunghi (Università del Sacro Cuore, Milan) as our Fulbright Distinguished Chair. A sociologist and a specialist of Fashion Studies, Professor Lunghi became an active participant of Northwestern’s intellectual life. To the great acclaim of our undergraduate students, she taught a course on Italian culture and the history of fashion and another titled “Food, Territory, Inclusivity: A Journey Through Italian Culture.”

Last but not least, at the beginning of the year, Daniele Biffanti joined the department as Assistant Professor of Instruction. Professor Biffanti earned his B.A. in Modern Literature and M.A. in Modern Philology from the Università degli Studi di Padova, and his Ph.D. in Italian from Stanford University. His research focuses on post-WWII literature, cinema, and political history, and second language acquisition. Welcome!

Professor Domietta Torlasco
Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian

LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN DLP

The Italian program had a vibrant and successful academic year in 2022-23, with remarkable accomplishments and enriching activities for both faculty and students.

The fall quarter began with a screening of the animated short film *S'ammutadori*. Thanks to Massimiliano Delfino, writer/director Francesca Floris and animator Fabrizio Di Palma attended the event engaging students in a discussion about the power of animation to raise awareness of political topics and Sardinia's — the region of Floris and Di Palma — rich cultural heritage.

In the spring, Massimiliano also organized and led a poetry workshop, giving students an overview of the Italian major poets and providing them with a creative space to experiment hendecasyllables and rhymes in Italian.

Daniela Pozzi Pavan successfully revived the "traditional" field trip to the International Film Festival after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Students from various Italian courses traveled to downtown Chicago to watch the film *Il signore delle formiche* by Gianni Amelio.

Daniele Biffanti, the new Assistant Professor of Instruction who joined the Department of French and Italian in September, restructured the format of *Tavola Italiana*. As a fellow of the International Studies Residential College, Daniele hosted *Tavola* during dinner time in Allison Dining Hall, creating an immersive environment for students to practice Italian and experience Italian culture.

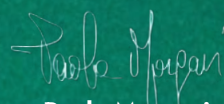
During the Festival of Languages and Cultures in the spring, the Italian language faculty organized a table in Kresge Café to promote the Italian courses for the following fall and showcased Italian culture through activities, quizzes, and "sweet" prizes. The screening of *Luca* on the third day of the Festival fulfilled a students' request while providing an opportunity to address and discuss stereotypes.

The academic year ended with a full immersion day in Italian language and culture organized by the students with assistance from their instructors. They prepared a nonalcoholic aperitivo with small *tramezzini* and showcased their artistic talents through singing Italian arias, dancing, photography, and poetry.

Faculty and student achievements were also noteworthy during this academic year. Daniela Pozzi Pavan received the 2022-2023 CLI Excellence in Language Teaching Award for her exceptional teaching skills. Massimiliano Delfino was nominated to the faculty honor roll for teaching excellence and won a prize for his poetry in the competition "Italiani per il futuro," highlighting his talent as a poet.

Among the students, a sophomore and prospective minor in Italian, Carmine Cultrona, was awarded the Undergraduate Language Grant to study at *Università per Stranieri di Perugia* over the summer. Cameron Barnes, a senior with a minor in Italian, received a Fulbright Scholarship and will serve as an English Teaching Assistant in an Italian school in the upcoming year.

These accomplishments and the busy year are a testament to the success, brilliance, and dedication of both the faculty and students. The constant support from the department chair and the assistance provided by the staff were invaluable. Grazie a tutte e a tutti and best wishes for a sunny summer.



Professor Paola Morgavi
Director of the Italian Language Program



Northwestern | French and Italian

Tavola Italiana

Il linguaggio giovanile

How young Italians speak today

October 11

4:00pm

Kresge 2-329





FESTA DI CARNEVALE

4:00PM
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 1

KRESGE 2-305

LIGHT ITALIAN
REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED!

Northwestern | French and Italian

ITALIAN MAJORS AND MINORS OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 5
4:00-5:00pm
KRESGE 2-305

Northwestern | French and Italian



Poetry Workshop

April 19
4:00–5:30pm

Kresge 2-435

Free and
open to the public

If you have questions
contact **Professor Delfino** at
m.delfino@northwestern.edu

Northwestern | French and Italian

ITALIAN FILM SERIES

The year was inaugurated with the projection of Francesca Floris' *S'Ammutadori*, a touching animated short film that deals with pressing social issues through the lens of traditional Sardinian culture. Subsequently, our Italian program organized a student excursion to the Chicago Film Festival. On this occasion, students had the opportunity to watch Gianni Amelio's *Il signore delle formiche*, a historical drama that explores the themes of societal prejudice against homosexuality, the misuse of the legal system, and struggles for individual freedom and identity within Italian society.

In order to help foster discussions around Italian cultural stereotypes, we screened *Benvenuti al nord*, which proved to be highly entertaining for the attending students. As winter arrived, we showed *La mia classe* by Daniele Gaglianone, a film that meaningfully reflects on the topic of contemporary immigration to Italy by showing the journey of immigrants, their striving to learn the language, integrating into society, and securing a livelihood in their new home.

Concluding the year, we presented Disney Pixar's *Luca*, a fun fairy tale that enabled us to examine how Italian stereotypes are still used and propagated within contemporary media. Overall, the year was marked by great success, and we thank our students for their consistent participation. We are looking forward to our film projections next year!

—Professor Massimiliano Delfino



ITALIAN IMMERSION DAY



On Wednesday May 17th, the Italian program celebrated its students with one day of events, activities, and performances. The celebrations began at 11am in Harris Hall, with a reading of selected poems written in Italian by students Abbie Farley, Olivia Haskins, Ashlyn Milford, Josefina Espino, Alex Buerck, and Maria Heim. Snacking on the delicious *tramezzini* and *insalata* provided by Professor Morgavi and Professor Pozzi Pavan, the day continued with a presentation on snails' biology by student Iliana Garner. After a very competitive quiz show hosted by Professor Delfino and Professor Biffanti, singers/students Morgan Small, Sofia Ricciarini, Matthew Huang, and Catie Canu (accompanied on the piano by pianist and vocal coach Ken Smith) delighted the audience with some of the most famous Italian opera pieces. This excellent *esibizione canora* was then followed by student Sonya Dymova, who introduced and displayed her photography series, and by a video demonstration by the dancing group Fusion Dance Company, introduced by students and dancers Madeline Friedman and Ronaldo Tineo. The Immersion Day allowed all students of Italian to partake of several aspects of Italian culture in a convivial setting, celebrating the end of the academic year while refining their linguistic and cultural Italian skills.

Special thanks go to Leon Hedstrom, Liz Murray, and Alessandra Visconti for their contribution to the success of this event!

–Professor Daniele Biffanti



ROSA la ROSE

In spring quarter, the Department of French and Italian publishes an annual issue of *Rosa la Rose*, a literary magazine curated by faculty and featuring literary and artistic works by students.

This year's issue of *Rosa la Rose*, helmed by Professor Massimiliano Delfino and Professor Thao Nguyen, is available now on the department's website.

Featured here is a small selection of work from the magazine.



Io corro.
Ashlyn Milford

Io corro vicino al lago.

Per il campus

Per la morte di mio nonno

Per la mia amica che va a vivere altrove

Per la terra e la ghiaia

Per le memorie e la paura

Per il mio primo anno al liceo

Per il mio primo anno all'università

Io corro.

Si ferma la paura

L'ansia

Le mie idee vorticano

Io sbatto il mio piede a terra

Così forse la mia testa non farà lo stesso

Io corro al nord

al sud

alla luna

Forse ancora lontano

Dalla mia sanità mentale

Per pop

Maria Heim

Hai vissuto una vita di classe e ambizione
non scorderemo il tuo servizio alla comunità.
Grazie per aver aiutato molte persone,
sempre con garbo e molta umanità.

Con ago e filo creavi arte,
abiti che raccontavano una storia.
Per sempre sarai una parte
di me e della mia memoria.

Arrivato in questo paese ancora molto giovane,
il tuo ricordo vive in ogni respiro.
Un legame d'amore che durerà intero,
una storia nel cuore, un tesoro.

Una cravatta, hai indossato.
Un abito, hai creato.
Una vita, hai vissuto.
Un retaggio, hai lasciato.

Famiglia

Jaida Hill

Le persone nella tua vita che non puoi scegliere
La cui compagnia ti godi inaspettata
Famiglia ti fa fare una risata
Ed è sempre pronta a sostenere
La preferisco quando è allargata
Perché nonostante il detto di una famiglia nucleare
Penso che avere più sia meglio che meno

La beauté que nous trouvons dans nos épreuves qui transcende le temps et nous-mêmes

Martha Contreras

Malgré les épreuves qui peuvent surgir,
La beauté peut encore fleurir,
Dans les moments difficiles et les défis,
Elle brille encore, même quand tout semble gris.

La paralysie qui entrave notre corps,
Peut nous amener à voir la beauté autrement encore,
Elle nous montre que même dans la douleur,
Il y a des merveilles à découvrir.

L'oppression sociale qui peut nous peser,
Peut nous rendre plus conscients de la beauté,
Dans les actes de résistance et de solidarité,
Qui nous rappellent que la beauté est aussi la liberté.

Et même lorsque tout semble sombre et morose,
La beauté peut se trouver dans la rosée du matin,
Dans le sourire d'un ami, dans le calme de la mer,
Elle est partout, si nous prenons le temps de la voir.

Alors, même lorsque nous sommes confrontés à l'adversité,
Rappelons-nous qu'il y a toujours de la beauté,
Dans la façon dont nous pouvons trouver la force,
Dans l'obscurité, pour faire face aux défis de la vie avec courage et
grâce.

La beauté qui émerge des moments difficiles,
Peut être partagée à travers les mots et les illustrations,
Elle peut traverser le temps et toucher les cœurs,
Et nous inspirer à atteindre de nouveaux sommets.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN FRENCH

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN FRENCH

Maddie Malueg

Tilde Sankovitch Distinguished Essay in French
Le libéralisme sexuel dans Les Particules Élémentaires et Baise-moi

Amaya Mikolic-Berrios

Distinguished Essay in English on a French Subject
Death in The Screens

Catherine Duncan

Second Year Language
La Princesse et la genouille

Sabrina Hayes

Third Year Language
Les rapports entre l'histoire de l'immigration et les stéréotypes dans Paris à tout prix

Bobby Yalam

Third Year Literature
L'introduction de ma réédition pédagogique de Les Lettres Chinoises

Claire Iben

Fourth Year Language
Il vaudrait mieux ne pas se marier

Jordan Hickey

Fourth Year Literature
Au Hasard, Balthazar : le Hasard ou le Destin ?

AATF OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Maddie Malueg

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Sierra Erdman-Luntz, Evan Vlahandreas

FRENCH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER

Khadija Al Moutaa, Clara Asseily, Hannah Christensen

On June 1st, the department celebrated our students during the undergraduate awards ceremony, featuring readings from the department's annual literary magazine, *Rosa la Rose*.



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ITALIAN

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN ITALIAN

Lee Ekong

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 101

Madeline Friedman

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 102

Emiliano Ghislieri

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 133/134

Cameron Barnes

*Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in Italian)
Il marito distratto*

Mathieu Rojas Egoavil

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in English)

Paul-Martin Fearon-Hernandez

*Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in English),
Honorable Mention
The Politics of Dante Alighieri*

Mohammed Tulaimat

*Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in English),
Honorable Mention
Dante's Punishment of Aristotile: An Analysis of Dante's Stray
from Niomachean Ethics in Inferno*

ITALIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER

Cameron Barnes, Lizzie Wilkerson

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 GRADUATES!

Cameron Barnes
Lucie Boyd
Trent Brown
Caroline Burnett
Dori-Taylor Carter
Elizabeth Craan
Celia Crampton
Hadley Delaney
Sierra Erdman-Luntz
Mikaela Fenn
Emily Fischer
Pablo Morales
Jordan Hickey
Samantha Humphrey

Jack Izzo
Solomon Jackson
Lauren Kelly
Kyra Lin
Maddie Malueg
Isabella Moran
Shira Nash
Gloria Park
Joey Patronik
Evelyn Perfall
Joyce Pu
Evan Robinson-Johnson
Grayson Welo
Janey Wilson



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Your generous support and your
contributions help make possible all that we do.

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Nasrin Qader
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Topher Davis
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Cynthia Nazarian
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE
STUDIES IN FRENCH

Domietta Torlasco
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE
STUDIES IN ITALIAN

Margaret Dempster
DIRECTOR OF THE FRENCH
LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Paola Morgavi
DIRECTOR OF THE ITALIAN
LANGUAGE PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Elizabeth Murray
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Leon Hedstrom
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Lisa Byrnes
GRADUATE PROGRAM
ASSISTANT

FRENCH-ITALIAN@NORTHWESTERN.EDU
847.491.5490
1860 CAMPUS DRIVE, CROWE HALL 2-107
EVANSTON, IL 60208
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN