



The
Department of
*French
& Italian*

Northwestern University

2023-2024
Newsletter

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Letter from the Department Chair

So much happens in an academic year — talks, film screenings, promotions, publications — it isn't easy to capture it all in a newsletter, but this should give readers a pretty good idea of how vibrant life in and around the Department of French and Italian was this past year. Before getting into 2023–24's panoply of events and accomplishments, I have to thank Nasrin Qader for her amazing job as interim Chair the previous year, leaving the department in such great shape and doing everything possible to help this new Chair transition into a sometimes-challenging role.

For all the things that happened this year, the headline has to be that no fewer than three of our faculty published books. You can read more about these below, but let me here congratulate Matthieu Dupas, for the publication of his first book, *La Galanterie comme mode de vie. Amour, civilité et mariage dans Mélite ou Les Fausses lettres de Pierre Corneille*; Paola Nasti for *I morsi della carità. Dante a la «Bibbia»*; and Massimiliano Delfino for his poetry collection, *L'apocalisse nuda*.

It was a year of accomplishments for our graduate students as well. Guillaume de Broux published “Embarkation for Méséglise: Thinking Proust's World with Watteau” in the *Romanic Review*. Ryan Marr received TGS summer funding to study Yoruba in Benin, while Emily Jackson received a departmental summer research grant to conduct research in Avignon and Paris, as well as a scholarship for intensive language study in Seoul, South Korea, related to her research. Xinyi Wei (Comparative Literary Studies, home department French) attended the Summer Institute of French Cultural Studies at Dartmouth, with the support of the department.

It was a year of many visitors. In the Spring quarter, our visiting Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies, Stefano Jossa (Royal Holloway University of London), taught two successful undergraduate courses and gave a lively and well-attended talk on “Ariosto, Tolkien, and the Italian Way to Fantasy.” The whole spring was rich in Italian events, including a screening of Alice Rohrwacher's *La Chimera* at the Block; a reading and discussion with poet Antonella Anedda; a timely lecture by political theorist Simona Forti (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa); and a lecture and workshop with the major critical theorist and journalist Ida Dominijanni, in dialogue with Cesare Casarino (University of Minnesota). And this is not to mention a fantastic talk in the fall by Professor Daniela La Penna (University of Reading) on “Translating Italian Fiction for the Anglophone

Market: Transnational Networks, Business Alliances, Archives (1950s–1980s).”

Professor Forti's talk was the Spring installment of our quarterly departmental lecture series, which this year also featured Gary Wilder (CUNY Graduate Center)—who led a graduate student workshop and gave a public lecture, “Caribbean Polis: Recalling C.L.R. James on Socialism, Democracy, and the Good Life”—and Alani Hicks-Bartlett (Brown University), who also led a graduate workshop and presented “Adversis duro: Light and Shadow, Self and Void in Scève, Du Bellay, and Montaigne.” Our annual graduate student-invited speaker this year was Damon Young (University of California, Berkeley), who spoke on the “The Phatic Self.” As if that weren't enough, the major philosopher Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia University) attended one of Nasrin Qader's classes (via Zoom), to discuss his recent book, *De langue à langue: L'hospitalité de la traduction*.

As announced in last year's newsletter, we were joined this Fall by two new colleagues: Ty Blakeney (a scholar of nineteenth-century French literature, critical theory, and sexuality studies, joining us from the University of California, Berkeley) and Hasheem Hakeem (a specialist in French language pedagogy, joining us from the University of Calgary). Our long-time colleague Christiane Rey began her well-earned retirement this part year, but her mentorship and pedagogical innovations will continue to influence the department for a long time to come.

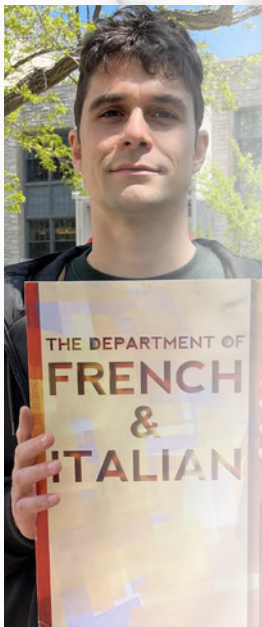
This coming year (2024–25), Doris Garraway will continue to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies for the French program, but we will have new Directors of Undergraduate Studies both in Italian — where Paola Nasti will take on the role — and in French — where Nasrin Qader will. Margaret Dempster will continue her term as the Director of the Language Program for French, while Daniela Pozzi Pavan will begin a term in that role for Italian. Thanks to all for their dedicated service, future and past!

A Chair of this department can never say enough good things about our amazing staff, Elizabeth Murray, Leon Hedstrom, and Lisa Byrnes. Their streak of professional excellence and of making an office space a welcoming home for us all continued unbroken this year. I'll thank them here, but everyone reading this should thank them next time they see them!



Christopher Bush

Faculty News



During his second year at Northwestern University, **Daniele Biffanti** taught and coordinated courses in the beginner, intermediate, and intensive Italian language sequence. For the second consecutive year Daniele coordinated “Mapping Resistance — 1945-2025: Literature and Memory in Translation”, a collaborative project between students at Northwestern University and Università La Sapineza in

Rome. In the meanwhile, he published an article titled “On Fenoglio’s *La paga del sabato* — The Partisan as Veteran” in the journal *Ticontre: Testo, Teoria, Traduzione*. Another article, coauthored with colleague Daniela Pozzi Pavan and titled “Introducing the Topic of Immigration and Integration in the Italian language curriculum — An ACTFL-oriented approach” is forthcoming in *Italica*. He further contributes to the field by regularly publishing book reviews in journals such as *Italianistica* and *Italian Studies*. During the academic year 2023-24 he presented his research at the ACTFL

Conference in Chicago (together with Daniela Pozzi Pavan), the AAIS conference in Sorrento, and the Università La Sapienza in Rome. He was recertified as a Full OPI Tester in Italian in Summer 2023.

In Fall 2023, **Massimiliano Delfino** published a research article titled “Italian Polizieschi of the Anni di Piombo and the Filmic Aesthetics of Random Violence: Children, Community and Catharsis” in the journal *The Italianist*. This article offers a novel analysis of 1970s Italian crime films by examining the representation of victims within the genre. In the spring of 2024, Massimiliano published his first poetry book titled *Lapocalisse nuda* with Marietti 1820 in the series La siepe.

Throughout the year, Massimiliano continued his involvement as a member of the Undergraduate Committee in Italian, working with his colleagues to revamp the descriptions of the Italian program on the Northwestern University website. He also continued his role as the main organizer of the Italian Film Series.

Massimiliano was honored to be elected Co-Chair of the CLI Faculty Development Committee in spring, commencing his service in the Fall. He was also a finalist for the Canvas Hall of Fame.

In 2023, Massimiliano also devised and taught a new course during the Fall semester, “Voyage through Italy.” This course enhanced students’ proficiency in the Italian language while also introducing them to historical and cultural themes crucial for their future studies. Focused on the latter half of the 20th century, the course explored themes such as the Italian Resistance, the economic Boom of the 1950s-60s, 1970s feminism, Italian emigration, political terrorism, the Mafia, immigration to Italy, and contemporary LGBTQ+ movements.

Margaret Dempster completed her third year as Director of the French Language Program and will serve in this role for another three-year term. In addition to teaching in the department, she teaches the French 111 evening course for the School

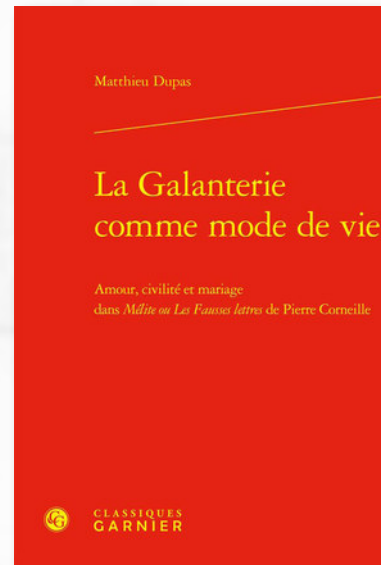
of Professional Studies.

Margaret served as an advisor for the Weinberg Language Resource Center, resumed serving as Co-Chair of the Study Abroad Committee of the Council on Language Instruction, and continued her role as Associate Chair of the International Studies Residential College. She also continued cohosting the Table française with colleagues Aude Raymond and Katia Viot-Southard. Margaret loves interacting with residents during the many academic and social events!

This year, Margaret participated in several activities hosted by Chicago Sister Cities International — a division of World Business Chicago, an organization that works closely with the Paris contingent, including attending events of the Cabaret Connexion in Paris, and welcoming French runners at the Chicago marathon. In July 2023, Margaret presented an activity for her French 309 course for the Professions – Business at the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) convention in Trois Rivières. In November 2024, she will present another aspect of her French 309 course at the American Council of Teachers of French (ACTFL) in Philadelphia.

Passionate for running, Margaret leads a pace group with the Chicago Area Runners Association. Her love

of sport and travel will take her to Paris and the 2024 Olympics where she will attend events for handball, tennis, swimming, soccer, and track and field. Quelle chance!



Over the past year, **Professor Matthieu Dupas** completed writing his book *La Galanterie comme mode de vie*, which came out in December 2023. Through a close-reading of a little-known comedy by Corneille, *Méliite ou les Fausses lettres*, the book proposes a definition of gallantry as a social “apparatus” that crystallizes, at

Faculty Spotlight Massimiliano Delfino



Since joining our Italian program in Fall 2020, **Massimiliano Delfino** has quickly become an invaluable member of the department, teaching at all levels of the language curriculum and also such popular courses as “Voyage through Italy.” Students have given Massimiliano's courses rave reviews both for how much they learn and for how much fun they have. This past year, in particular, he has enriched the life of the department beyond the classroom by organizing film screenings and inviting a major Italian poet, Antonella Anedda, to read her work. In addition to publishing scholarship, he is also an award-winning poet who this year published his first book, *L'apocalisse nuda*, with the prestigious Italian press Marietti 1820 in Bologna.

the intersection of the practices of love, civility and marriage, in the galant ritual, which now meditates, under the auspices of love marriage, the "traffic in women" (G. Rubin). This system underpins the development of a specifically "gallant" erotic culture, cultivated by the social elites under the Absolute Monarchy. Two roundtables have been organized to mark this publication. The first, in May, was held in Rouen, Corneille's birthplace, at the initiative of the director of the Musée Corneille and in collaboration with the Université de Rouen-Normandie and the Centre d'Études et de Recherche Éditer/Interpréter. The second roundtable was held last May in Paris at the Université Paris III, on the initiative of the Mouvement Transition. With this recent publication, Professor Dupas was also invited by the Inspection Générale de l'Enseignement, du Sport et de la Recherche (IGÉSR) to give a conference on "How to teach 'galant' literature in the post-#Me Too era" in February 2024.

This year, Professor Dupas also became more involved with the *Mouvement Transitions* association, writing a "saynète" for their website on Euripides's *Iphigenia in Aulis*. He was recently elected president of the association in June 2024.

In early January 2024, **Hasheem Hakeem** gave a talk at the MLA convention in Philadelphia in a panel on queer affect and embodiment in recent Canadian literature. Then, in June 2024, Hasheem attended the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences held in Montreal where he presented recent research on the EDI experiences of K-12 minoritized French teachers in Canada, while also organizing a panel on the place of artificial intelligence in French language teaching. As part of an EDID initiative funded by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Hasheem also co-authored a guide for inclusive and non-binary French for members of the Association des Professeur·e·s de français des universités et collèges canadiens (APFUCC). Finally, Hasheem published one article in the McGill Journal of Education that examines constructions of masculinity in high school boys' discourses on gender.

Looking ahead, Hasheem will be co-organizing the Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum (DDFC) Collective's third annual conference on Pooling Open-Access Resources: Designing for Justice and Access, which will be held virtually on November 8-9, 2024. members Curriculum (DDFC) Collective's third annual conference on *Pooling Open-Access Resources: Designing for Justice and Access*, which will be held virtually on November 8-9, 2024.

Paola Nasti has had a busy research schedule to complete her second book, which has now been published with the title: *I morsi della carità. Dante e la «Bibbia»* (Giorgio Pozzi Editore, 2024).

She has also published several articles and essays on Dante: "Miglior Fabbro": storia biblica di una parola', in *Linguistica e Letteratura*; "Sanza macula di lite": "simplicitas" della teologia, "disputationes" e sofismi in Dante, in *Le Tre Corone. Rivista Internazionale di Studi su Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio*; 'Glossing Boethius Through Dante: Vernacular Auctoritas and Philosophical Poetry in Ms BML Plut. 78.20', *Italian Studies*; 'La farfalla angelica: metamorfosi umane fra esegesi e *scientia* aristotelica' in *L'Alighieri. Rassegna dantesca*; 'Vita nova XXV-XXVII': Literature as Truth, by Paola Nasti, in *The Vita Nova: a Collaborative Reading*, ed. by Z. Baranski, D. Bowe, H. Webb, Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2023). One of her most challenging experiences has been working at the critical edition of a short medieval theological text on the damnation of king Solomon "Mira excellentia, et mira subversio": la *quaestio* 'Utrum Solomon damnatus sit' di Remigio dei Girolami (BNCF, ms. G 3. 465, ff. 175va-176vb), in «Studi e Problemi di Critica Testuale», 106, (2023), pp. 29-73. She has given several presentations and lectures in Italy and has been invited to give a seminar on Dante's *Monarchia* for graduate students by the American Dante Society.

Most importantly she has found great joy in teaching her popular Dante course twice this year, and a new course on the representation of Italy's criminal syndicate, the Camorra, adopting a fully student-led approach to learning.

Daniela Pozzi Pavan has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Instruction and appointed as the new Director of the Italian Language Program, effective in the 2024/25 academic year.

This academic year, she wrote an article forthcoming in the peer-reviewed journal *Italica* in collaboration with her colleague, Daniele Biffanti. Their contribution explores how to introduce intermediate and advanced Italian language learners to the topic of immigration and cultural integration in contemporary Italy, through literary works and films with activities and assessments based on the ACTFL Standards (“Introducing Immigration and Integration in the Italian Language Curriculum - An Approach Based on ACTFL Standards,” *Italica*, forthcoming). In addition, she completed a project forthcoming in the *Quaderni del Master MITAL L2*. In this project, Daniela develops pedagogical activities focused on recent Italian movies aimed at fostering learners’ communicative and critical thinking skills while analyzing the social, emotional, and cultural difficulties encountered by second-generation Italians (“Il testo filmico nei corsi di Italiano: diversità e inclusione,” *Quaderni del Master MITAL L2*).

Daniela attended the 2023 ACTFL Annual Convention in Chicago, where she gave a presentation titled “Exploring Immigration and Integration in the Italian Curriculum” together with Daniele Biffanti.

As recipient of the 2023 CLI Excellence in Language Teaching Award, Daniela presented the pedagogical activities and assessments she has developed for the Elementary Italian language and culture courses in this year’s Teaching Award Ceremony. Her presentation was titled “Developing Linguistic Performance and Assessing Oral Proficiency in the Elementary Italian Language Sequence.”

In 2024, she received a grant for an OER grammar resource for the Intermediate and Intensive Italian courses, in collaboration with her colleague, Daniele Biffanti, helping to make textbook resources more affordable for students.

Faculty Spotlight

Cynthia Nazarian

The Department of French and Italian is proud to announce that **Cynthia Nazarian** has been awarded a University Teaching Award, which entails being named a Charles Deering McCormick Professor for three years. Cynthia is exactly the kind of teacher for whom teaching awards were created, as the enthusiastic letters from her students attest. With courses ranging from college seminars for first-year undergraduates to graduate seminars on her main area of research, the literature of the French Renaissance, Cynthia has an impressive history of educating and inspiring in the classroom and beyond. Make sure to congratulate her when you can, but even more importantly – if you get the chance to take a course with her, do it!





Northwestern

In April of 2024, **Aude Raymond** and **Patricia Scarampi** presented at the Chicago Language Symposium at the University of Illinois–Chicago. Their presentation, *Engage your students: the 5 Cs in action!*, demonstrated how it is possible for instructors to hit 5 ACTFL Standards in one final project. The projects they presented are part of the Flipped French courseware they authored for the Intermediate French level. Instructors attending the presentation experienced samples of the projects and learned the pedagogical goals, the setup and conduct of the projects as well as the assessment rubric. Within the Project-based Teaching framework, this innovative approach places the “learning by doing” principle into focus while following the 5 goals of language learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.



In May of 2024, Aude Raymond and Patricia Scarampi presented a poster intitled *Maximizing Canvas Features to Engage Students* at the annual TEACHx conference. This digital poster showcased the Canvas site they designed for the intermediate-level French course when Flipped French was implemented. This course was awarded Most Innovative Course Site for the Canvas Hall of Fame 2023. Through the presentation, the audience learned about a variety of features to make the course more appealing, easier to navigate, quick to update, accessible, and where users can find everything in one place and be fully engaged.

Faculty Spotlight Daniela Pozzi Pavan

Just a year after winning a Weinberg teaching award, **Daniela Pozzi Pavan** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Instruction, an acknowledgement of her years of excellent teaching and service. In the Fall of 2024, Daniela will step into the role of Director of the Italian Language Program. While the great Paola Morgavi is a tough act to follow, we are excited to see all the ways Daniela will help the program continue to thrive. Congratulations to Daniela on this milestone, but the best is yet to come!



Stefano Jossa

Distinguished Fulbright Chair
in Italian Studies

In the spring quarter, our community life was greatly enriched by the presence of **Professor Stefano Jossa**, who served as Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies. Jossa is Honorary Research Fellow at Royal Holloway University of London and Professor of Italian Literature at the University of Palermo. He was formerly De Sanctis Chair at the ETH Zurich and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Parma and Roma Tre. Among his many publications are *L'Italia letteraria* (il Mulino 2006); *Ariosto* (il Mulino 2009); *Un paese senza eroi: L'Italia da Jacopo Ortis a Montalbano* (Laterza 2012); *La più bella del mondo: Perché amare la lingua italiana* (Einaudi 2018). He is currently editing a *Handbook of Italian Literature* (Oxford University Press), a *Companion to Ludovico Ariosto* (with A.R. Ascoli and J.E. Everson, Brill) and a collection of essays on Ariosto in Elizabethan England (with M. Marrapodi, Routledge). At Northwestern, Professor Jossa taught two courses: "Building the Italian Nation: Heroes and Anti-Heroes, from Pinocchio to the Leopard," and "Gender, Knights, Adventures, and Identity: A Reading of the *Orlando Furioso*." We are grateful for his dedication to our students and the enthusiasm with which he took part in the intellectual life of the department and of the university at large.



In April, Professor Jossa inaugurated our series of spring lectures in the Italian department with his talk "Ariosto, Tolkien, and the Italian Way to Fantasy." Professor Jossa's lecture investigated the connection between J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and Ludovico Ariosto's poem, asking question of legacy, interpretation, genealogy: "To what extent was Tolkien indebted to the Italian master of chivalric poetry? And, on the other hand, to what extent can we now legitimately read Ariosto as a precursor of the fantasy genre?" Special thanks to Paola Nasti for facilitating the exchange with the Fulbright Commission.

Letter from the Director of Graduate Studies

The 2023-2024 academic year was a time of change, opportunity, and growth for our graduate students. While negotiations this spring between the university and Northwestern's recently created graduate student union led to substantial improvements in graduate stipend levels and benefits, we continued to witness the brilliant intellectual performance of our students in the program and beyond.

Several students accomplished important milestones on the path to the PhD, beginning with Emily Jackson and Iain Millar, who passed their first-year theory exams and advanced to the second year. Emily was this year's winner of the departmental essay prize for her essay entitled "Tho Mói, Symbolism, and Non-Oppositional Duality in Pham Van Ky's *Fleur de Jade*," which was written for Chris Bush's French 460.

Louis Barbosa passed her qualifying exam this spring, while Amanda Parraguez and Guillaume De Broux defended their prospectuses this winter and spring, respectively. They have each proposed carefully considered and deeply researched projects for their dissertations, and we are anxiously awaiting the products of their efforts in the next year or two. Special congratulations to Ibou Tall, who defended his dissertation, entitled "Translation as Relationality: Toward a New Reading of the Postcolonial Francophone African Novel," in July 2023. Ibou subsequently landed a position on the teaching faculty of Loyola University in Chicago, where he will continue to teach full time.

Several students studied abroad this year on competitive fellowships. They include Céline Cotton (Paris Program) and Guillaume De Broux (ENS exchange). Amanda Parraguez has been selected to participate in the Paris Program for 2024-25. Other students received internal or external grants to study abroad or receive special training in Chicago this summer. Congratulations to Emily Jackson, who

is doing research in France and studying language in Korea; Ryan Marr, who is learning Yoruba in Benin; and Louise Barbosa, who is studying French paleography at Chicago's Newberry Library. Congratulations also to Xinyi Wei, who attended the Institute for French Cultural Studies at Dartmouth this summer thanks to a grant from the department.

Graduate students supported also the mission of the department by organizing events. Our event coordinators Iain and Emily were especially active, with support from Arundhati, helping with our lecture series visits by Gary Wilder and Alani Hicks-Bartlett. Arundhati led the organization of the graduate student lecture in the spring by Damon Young, who spoke on vlogs and the notion of the "phatic self."

Following a wonderful recruitment season in winter quarter, the department attracted a brilliant and exciting new cohort of students for 2024-25: Jackson Bronack, Lily McDonnell, and Aldo Palacio. We are thrilled to welcome them to our graduate program in the fall, and we are thankful to everyone who contributed to making our prospective student weekend a success. Special thanks to our alumna Dr. Brittany Murray for her stimulating lecture on 1970s-era Francophone women filmmakers.

Finally, a big thank you to all of our graduate student representatives Emily, Iain, Amanda, and Micol Bez for their hard work this year. Thanks also to staff member Lisa Byrnes, whose superb organization and attention to detail keeps the administrative side of things running smoothly, and to our chair Chris Bush for his steadfast support and commitment to graduate initiatives this year. Finally, I would like to thank Topher Davis for his generous and thoughtful leadership of the graduate program between fall 2022 and fall 2023.

I look forward to working with everyone again next year!



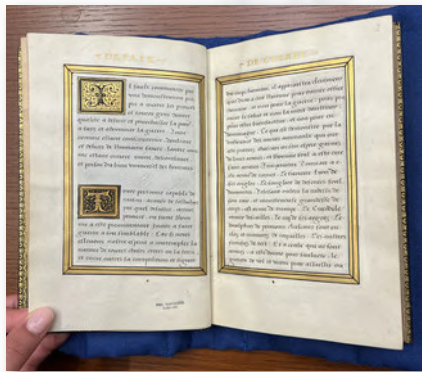
Doris L. Garraway

Graduate News



Louise Barbosa is completing her fourth year of the PhD and is working on her dissertation, currently titled “The Social Politics of Motherhood and Gendered Identity in Seventeenth Century French Literature.” In the summer of 2024, Louise participated in the Newberry Library's Summer

Institute in French Paleography. This is an intensive course on reading historical French manuscripts and archival materials as well as a class on early manuscript production, which is central to Louise's dissertation, which includes chapters on the first Western Psychological Novel and the epistolary works of Mme de Sévigné. In addition to this, Louise served as a teaching assistant for ELP Foundations, a voluntary summer course that helps new international students transition to American culture and education system. In the fall of 2024, Louise successfully submitted her dissertation prospectus and became a PhD candidate.



Guillaume de Broux spent the past academic year at the ENS Paris, where he participated in the institution's vibrant intellectual life through several events and club initiatives centered on contemporary French philosophy. In addition to successfully defending his prospectus, he also experienced the joy of seeing his work on Watteau and Proust come out in print (*Romanic Review*), and of learning that his article on Sembène and Deleuze has been accepted for publication in *French Forum* (forthcoming).



Emily Jackson, in her second year in the French program, continued her graduate coursework and taught all three language courses in the French 111 sequence. Simultaneously, she served as event coordinator for the French department, organizing and overseeing events such as Admitted Students Weekend in February and the department's annual graduate student invited lecture, given in May 2024 by Dr. Damon Young of UC Berkeley. Continuing her professional development and her research into Francophone Vietnamese literature, Emily gave a presentation titled “Health Insecurity as Intergenerational Legacy of War in Tran Thi Hao's *J'aurai vingt ans dans deux jours*” at the South Atlantic Modern Language conference in November 2023. This summer, with the support of the FRIT department's Summer Research Travel Grant, Emily will travel to Aix-en-Provence and Paris to perform archival research on the literature and history of Francophone Asia in preparation for her future dissertation work.

In 2023–2024, **Fanny Alice Marchaisse** achieved significant milestones in her academic career. She became a Candidate, successfully completing her prospectus on the influence of fairy performances on bodies in late 17th and early 18th-century French fairy tales. Her paper, "Once Upon a Time in a Queer Kingdom," presented at the ACLA 2024 panel on Queer Kinship in World Literature, has been selected for publication. This work will appear as a chapter in the forthcoming volume *Queer Kinship: New Approaches from Comparative Literature* from Palgrave in 2025. Additionally, she has completed the first chapter of her thesis, which explores the interconnectedness of fairies within the close-knit community of *conteuses*.

This fourth year in the program was a turning point in **Amanda Parraguez's** doctoral career. She passed both her qualifying exam and her prospectus during the winter term, for a dissertation project discussing the question of prostitution in literature and film across the 20th century. Amanda also participated in her first conference at New York University in the spring, and, finally, received a fellowship for the Paris Program in Critical Theory for the 2024–2025 academic year. In the meantime, Amanda is working on her first chapter, which deals with the question of prostitution as a metaphor in Bataille and Godard, and hopes to start a second chapter when she arrives in Paris.

Xinyi Wei has presented different versions of her paper, "At the Water's Edge: The Aesthetic and Symbolic Values of Spatial Hybridity in Diasporic Novels of Ying Chen," at both UCLA and the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. Additionally, she delivered a segment from her dissertation titled "Tattoo: The Pointillist Graphic, Encrypted Sign, and Map of Desire – A Study of Maghrebi Body Art with Abdelkébir Khatibi" at the Australian Society for French Studies' 31st Annual Conference held at the University of Sydney. Recently, Xinyi also participated in the Institute of French Cultural Studies 2024 Summer Institute organized by Dartmouth College. This institute offered her the opportunity to engage with the theme "The Universal: Differences and Ethnicities," connect with a global community of scholars, and expand her understanding of various perspectives on the notion of the universal.

Alumni News

In the last year, alumni of the department have seen a number of professional accomplishments...

Brett Brehm was granted tenure as Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the College of William & Mary.

Noran Mohamed was hired as Assistant Professor of French in the Department of Romance Languages at Hunter College in New York City.

Moussa Seck was hired as Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Ibou Tall was hired on as full-time teaching faculty at Loyola University Chicago.

Welcome New Grads!

Jackson Bronack received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a double major in Philosophy and French in 2022. As an undergraduate, Jackson studied several prominent French thinkers of the 20th century and became deeply interested in learning the French language. He decided to major in French and spent time studying abroad in the south of France. Prior to joining Northwestern, he spent a year living in Remiremont, France, where he taught English to middle and high school students. These experiences helped him acquire a near-native level in French and provided the pedagogical backing to prepare for a career in teaching. His general research interests include critical theory, 20th and 21st century French philosophy and literature, and critical pedagogy.



Lily McDonnell received her B.A. in French and Francophone Studies and International Studies from Vassar College in 2023. Her undergraduate thesis analyzed 19th century lesbian culture and its intersections with class identity through linguistics, the mass press, and popular literary and visual representations. She argued that the fin-de-siècle lesbian identity enforced a class hierarchy by manipulating or denying working-class queer womens' access to lesbian culture and identification. In addition to joining the Department of French and Italian as a graduate student, Lily will also be a Mellon Cluster Fellow in Gender and Sexuality Studies

Prior to coming to Northwestern, Lily was an English Teaching Assistant with TAPIF in Nancy, France. Her current research interests are 19th- and 20th- century French literature and history, queer studies, gender studies, aesthetics, and archival approaches.



Aldo Palacio graduated from Macalester College in 2024, where he received his B.A. in International Studies and French. His undergraduate honors thesis, "*La rivière ne remonte pas à sa source: relations interraciales, métissage, et assimilation dans l'empire colonial français*", explores the role of interracial relationships and imperial assimilation of colonial subjects throughout the French empire in West Africa, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. His interests range from postcolonial theory and literature in the French Caribbean and Francophone Africa to 19th-century French literature that coincides with and is influenced by the rise of the French colonial empire.



Northwestern | French and Italian presents

What happens when nothing is happening: 1970s French-speaking Filmmakers



a lecture by
Brittany Murray
Assistant Professor of French
University of Tennessee,
Knoxville

Friday, March 1
2:45pm
Kaplan Seminar Room

How does one mark time during an impasse, when overlapping crises demand absorptive attention? This question is urgent for feminist, queer, labor, anti-racist and anti-colonial political movements, seeking to develop an effective response. Film and video can help attune this required attention; they give an aesthetic shape to time, providing a chance for viewers to orient themselves when they might otherwise feel stuck. Through readings of three films by French-speaking directors, *Jeanne Dielman* (Chantal Akerman, 1975), *Les prostituées de Lyon parlent* (Carole Rossopoulos, 1975), and *Sambizanga* (Sarah Maldoror, 1972), Brittany Murray, UT Assistant Professor of French and Cinema Studies, will explore how film and video captured time during a period of impasse.

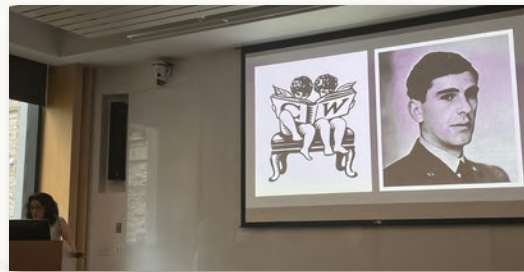


Daniela La Penna



On October 6th, the department hosted Professor Daniela La Penna from the University of Reading for a talk entitled "Italian Fiction for the Anglophone Market: Transnational Networks, Business Alliances, Archives, 1950s-1980s". Professor La Penna is a specialist in modern Italian culture and translation, with a particular focus on twentieth-century Italian fiction and poetry. She is also the cofounder and codirector of the Centre for Book Cultures and Publishing.

Professor La Penna's talk focused on her current research into what factors influenced and enabled the translation and publication of Italian fiction in the anglophone world. She shared some insights from her archival investigations at the Archive of British Printing and Publishing and gave a fascinating insight into how works came to be translated and the forces and people at play. For example she shared some correspondence which highlighted significant debate about how to market Italian texts to a British audience with one publisher at the time suggesting that the "Italianess" of texts should be reduced instead aiming for a more "European" cultural branding.



Professor La Penna also showed some fascinating graphs detailing the peaks and troughs in the number of Italian texts which were translated into English, and suggested that we can see a shift from a reliance on individual networks and relationships in the post war period through to a conglomerate period in the 1970s, and then to our current "Amazonian" period today where the ability to self publish is disrupting the publishing and translation industry once again.

Finally, Professor La Penna suggested that her research in the archives complicates the idea that translation is a lonely and singular endeavor, instead arguing that in fact the process of translation through to publication "takes a village" and historically required the author and agents to navigate cultural gatekeepers as well as engage in tense negotiations over the strategic approach as well as the fine details of the final translation.

Iain Millar

Gary Wilder

On October 13, 2023, the Department of French and Italian welcomed Dr. Gary Wilder to give a public lecture on his recent publications and current work. Dr. Wilder is a Professor of Anthropology, History, and French at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he is also Director of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change. His work on the French empire, the Caribbean, and Black Atlantic social thought is located at the intersection of historical anthropology, intellectual history, and critical theory, with special emphasis on Marxism, postcolonialism, and poststructuralism.



Dr. Wilder's works include *Freedom Time: Negritude, Decolonization, and the Future of the World* (Duke University Press, 2015) and *The French Imperial Nation-State: Negritude and Colonial Humanism Between the World Wars* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). His most recent book, *Concrete Utopianism: The Politics of Temporality and Solidarity*, was published by Fordham University Press in 2022. He is currently working on a manuscript provisionally entitled "More Abundant Life: Black Radical Humanism and the Atlantic World." In this work, he engages with C.L.R. James's postwar writings on politics, Marxist theory, history, and aesthetics.



Ahead of his lecture, Dr. Wilder led a workshop on *Concrete Utopianism* with graduate students from departments across Northwestern. Working through the framework of heterodox Marxism and Blackradicalism, Dr. Wilder's text encourages thinking about a new possible world through a relationship to futurity rooted in the past. In this dialectic of the past and the future, Dr. Wilder turns to the work of Black Atlantic thinkers like Léopold Senghor and Aimé Césaire, wrenching them out of the French and Francophone studies orbit to put them in conversation with Black writers from the Americas like C.L.R. James and W.E.B. Du Bois. Dr. Wilder contends that these authors, rather than focusing on the European origins of Marxism, are more concerned with issues including internationalism and the authoritarianism of party politics, among others, framing these topics differently than scholars and experts today. Although imperfect, the lessons from these thinkers avoid the pitfalls of realist pessimism which lead to apolitical thinking, leaving space for nonrealist imagining of future worlds and ways of living. In *Concrete Utopianism*, Dr. Wilder offers not a command for what the future will and must be, but a programmatic outline for how we as actors in the world must think and act to

bring these new and better futures out of the unthought and into focus and possibility.

Later in the afternoon, students and faculty reconvened for Dr. Wilder's invited lecture on his current research. This lecture marked the first of three annual lectures for the 2023-24 academic year. Dr. Wilder traced the evolution of C.L.R. James's post-war work, including his writings and political action, towards the philosopher's ultimate goal of achieving the "Good Life," a state of communal belonging and societal harmony between the individual and the state, for his home country of Trinidad and for the wider world. Noting James's continual revision of his ideas and stances and his pragmatic decision-making between imperfect options, Dr. Wilder emphasized three elements of James's conclusions: a commitment to disalienation; a belief that freedom and emancipation must be universal and not based on the oppression of others in near or far corners of the globe; and a recognition of humans as historically situated actors who must act using and according to their current resources. Dr. Wilder recalls James to (re)work alongside him, thinking with and like him about his world and ours. In this way, Dr. Wilder's research, which grew out of his previous work on Senghor, Césaire, Du Bois, and James to bring a more focused light onto the philosophy of the latter, returns to the idea of intertwined temporalities, looking at our world through the past to rediscover concrete ways of moving towards a reimagined future.

Emily Jackson

Alani Hicks-Bartlett



On Friday, April 12, Professor Alani Hicks-Bartlett (Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, French and Francophone Studies, and Hispanic Studies, Brown University) paid a visit to the Department of French and Italian to give a lunchtime presentation to our graduate students, and a formal talk in the afternoon to faculty and graduates from across multiple departments and disciplines at Northwestern.

Professor Hicks-Bartlett's workshop with graduate students was entitled "On Discomfort, Corporeality, and the 'Experience of Landscape' in Montaigne's *Essais*." Calling upon the work of geographer Jay Appleton, Professor Hicks-Bartlett ties Appleton's understanding of landscape as "backcloth to the whole stage of human activity" to Michel de Montaigne's own treatment of the the natural world's instabilities and of the inconstant human body in his *Essais*. Through an impressive number of textual examples, Professor Hicks-Bartlett mapped the shaky cartography of Montaigne's environmental experience throughout the *Essais*, and showed how Montaigne's perspectives raise questions for even his contemporary readers about their own stability within a natural world that is constantly shifting.

Professor Hicks-Bartlett's afternoon lecture was entitled "*Adversis duro*: Light and Shadow, Self and Void in Scève, Du Bellay, and Montaigne." Professor Hicks-Bartlett's lecture proved that she is not only a scholar of the Renaissance but in all ways a Renaissance scholar: her work spans Medieval and Early Modern studies in numerous languages including French, English, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. Her presentation on the themes of inaccessibility, loss, and desire in the lyric poetry of the French Renaissance showcased her lyric virtuosity to its full extent.

ANTONELLA ANEDDA

POETRY READING



On April 29, the award-winning poet Antonella Anedda captivated a full house in Harris Hall 108 with a memorable literary event. Celebrating the recent release of her *Collected Poems* (*Tutte le poesie*, Garzanti, 2023) and the US translation of her *Historiae* (New York Review Books), the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago and the Department of French and Italian at Northwestern University hosted a bilingual reading and discussion. Anedda, accompanied by her translator Patrizio Ceccagnoli and moderated by Massimiliano Delfino, delivered a poignant reading of her poetry in both Italian and English, enchanting the audience with her emotive delivery. The event was followed by a roundtable discussion that delved into the intricacies of poetry, languages, and translation. The session concluded with a Q&A segment, where Anedda shed light on her artistic process and poetics.



Souleymane Bachir Diagne

On Friday, May 3rd, the department hosted a discussion via Zoom with Souleymane Bachir Diagne about his latest award-winning book, *De langue à langue: L'hospitalité de la traduction* (2022). This conversation, which was open to faculty and students, was organized in the context of a graduate seminar, "The Politics and Poetics of Writing" taught by Nasrin Qader in the spring quarter. Students and faculty engaged in a lively conversation with our guest on aspects of his book such as the relation between translation, rhythm, and music; the production, circulation, and repatriation of African art; decolonization and translation, and the relation between translation and charity theorized in the book.

Souleymane Bachir Diagne, a leading philosopher of decolonial thought and practice, teaches African philosophy and Islamic thought at Columbia University. A prolific and versatile thinker, his work lies at the intersection of aesthetics, philosophy, logic, and religious thought as exemplified by *L'art African comme philosophie*, *Islam et la société ouverte*, *L'encre des savants*, *Comment philosopher en Islam*, *Bergson postcolonial*. His work has been translated in multiple languages.

Simona Forti

On Tuesday, May 7, the Department of French and Italian welcomed Simona Forti (Professor of Political Philosophy, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa) to give a lecture entitled "Everyone's Talking About Totalitarianism Again: What Meaning Can It Have Today?" to an enthusiastic audience of faculty, postdocs, and graduate students from across the university. Professor Forti's lecture consolidated arguments from her most recent book, *Totalitarianism: A Borderline Idea in Political Philosophy* (University of Stanford Press, 2024).

Professor Forti's talk began with a helpful overview of totalitarianism as a categorization born out of the extreme political violence of the 20th century. The central figure in this historical overview was Hannah Arendt, who – along with her contemporaries in the fields of political science and political philosophy – needed new political terminology in order to address the novelty of fascism and Nazism. Central to Professor Forti's argument, however, is that the features of totalitarianism articulated by political science (e.g. a revolutionary and fatalistic rhetoric, belief in an infallible leader, a chaotic diffusion of procedural political power, mass media control, elimination of political opponents and groups, etc.) have too often proven nonspecific and ahistorical, and have the potential to confuse thoughtful political analysis.

In her summation of contemporary approaches to totalitarianism, Professor Forti called on thinkers like Michel Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Judith Butler, and political theorist Sheldon Wolin. Especially prominent in the discussion of contemporary totalitarianism was Wolin, whose concept of "inverted totalitarianism" was characterized as most appropriate for describing the political present. In inverted totalitarianism, totalitarianism no longer seeks to draw the masses into its totality, but rather thrives on the individual retreating more and more into the private sphere, enabled by political apathy and by the apparatuses of the tech sector and of economic consumption.

At the crux of Professor Forti's talk was an understanding of totalitarianism as a "borderline" within political categorization, rather than as an explicit and useful label in and of itself. In Professor Forti's formulation, totalitarianism is useful insofar as it names the danger of totality – the forceful collapsing of the boundaries between the intimate, the private, the public, and the political. Forti's talk highlighted a tripartite distinction between totalitarianism (as a term within political science), totalitarianism regimes (as a designation of specific historical regimes), and totalitarian drives. Of these three distinctions, Professor Forti suggested that identifying totalitarian drives is most useful for articulating a "borderline" within our own global political situation – that is, being able to identify the features of contemporary politics (e.g. biopolitical discrimination, strongman authoritarianism, and rampant data mining in the pursuit of a robust private tech sector) which push us toward a totalizing authoritarianism which, in Professor Forti's words, "reduces human lives to brute matter."



DAMON YOUNG

In spring quarter of each academic year, the graduate students of the Department of French and Italian decide on a guest speaker to invite to the department. This May, we were joined by Professor Damon Young (UC Berkeley), who shared his research on technological subjectivity, vlogs, and the "phatic self" on display on online platforms like Instagram and Youtube.

On May 10, 2024, the Department of French and Italian was honored to welcome Professor Damon Young for a captivating lecture and graduate workshop as part of its Spring Quarter workshop and lecture series. Professor Young is an Associate Professor of French and Film & Media Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. His academic affiliations further include the Program in Critical Theory, the Berkeley Center for New Media, the Institute for European Studies, and the Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality. The central focus of the workshop and lecture was Professor Young's recent project, "Century of the Selfie: Irony and Eros in Networked Media," which explores the technological subjectivity that has emerged on social media platforms like Instagram and YouTube.

During the workshop, Professor Young encouraged graduate students to engage critically with the first chapter of his aforementioned book project, "Selfie/Portrait." This chapter dealt with the timely and relevant topic of selfies as self-portraits that have gained significant attention in recent years, as content creation has seen a surge across all age groups and different media platforms. In his chapter, Professor Young compared selfies to earlier forms of paintings,



photographs, especially self-portraits, and even autobiographies, since selfies are generally shared alongside captions. The workshop delved deep into the aesthetics of selfies, contemporary forms of subjectivity, as well as the technology and economy underlying the circulation of these selfies on the network.

The workshop was followed by an afternoon lecture on “The Phatic Self,” an extended study of selfies but in a different art form, namely vlogs. Professor Young encouraged his audience to critically observe the methods of self-narration as performed by vloggers on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. He further drew their attention towards the gendered and at times erotic, manic, and neurotic undercurrents of these vlogs, which were at once textual and visual. Showing examples of vlogs from adolescents, teens, and even adults who perform a specific template of content creation on the network to achieve virality and fame, he demonstrated how these modes of self-expression move away from Rousseau’s confessional techniques of auto-portraiture towards a more phatic function where the focus is more on being present on the network and connecting with as many viewers as possible and not on the content.

The discussion during the workshop and the lecture seamlessly traversed a range of engaging topics, like auto-portraiture, reception, affect, psychoanalysis, sexuality, eros, self-expression, semiotics, as well as algorithms, virality, contemporary social networking frameworks, content creation templates, and trendsetting aesthetics across different media platforms. The lively exchange of ideas and perspectives allowed both graduate students and members of the faculty to delve into the nuances and implications of Professor Young’s research regarding the evolving landscape of social networking and its impact on contemporary cultural and artistic expressions.

Arundhati Ghosh



Letter from the French DUS

It has been my pleasure to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies during another vibrant year for the French Department. Over the course of the 2023–2024 academic year, our students have continued their explorations across barriers of time and language, into innovative learning modalities and new curricular goals. We welcomed a new Chair, Professor Chris Bush, and two new faculty members, Professors Ty Blakeney and Hasheem Hakeem, and expanded the groundbreaking Flipped French courseware pioneered by Professors Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi into our intermediate language sequences.

The department congratulates and bids a fond farewell to our graduating seniors of the Class of 2024: Aayushya Agarwal, Agustin Bayer, Molly Braun, Hannah Christensen, William Clark, Adonis Clemente, Sophie D'Amato, Lucy Dai, Allegra Dugan, Emefa Dzodzomenyo, Kevin Foley, Alexa Goldstein, Anna Grejtak, Sydney Hogan, Alice Hurley, Hannah Jiang, Hope McKnight, Sean Pascoe, Eric Powers, Alexandra Romo, Rachel Ruddy, and Evan Vlahandreas.

On June 6, 2024 the French Department community gathered to recognize the exceptional written work produced by our students in their courses across all levels of the French curriculum throughout this academic year. This year's winners of our Undergraduate Essay Prizes are: **Maddy Bornstein** (3rd-year language), **Emefa Dzodzomenyo** (3rd-year literature), **Molly Braun** (4th-year language), **Ingrid Falls**

(4th-year literature), and **Jordan Hickey** (Business French). **Emefa Dzodzomenyo** was also the recipient of 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 **Hope McKnight**. Congratulations to all our winners for their outstanding work!

The highest distinction in undergraduate French studies — the AATF (American Association for Teachers of French) Outstanding Senior Prize was awarded to **Eric Powers**. 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.

Evan Vlahandreas received the AATF (American Association for Teachers of French) Excellence in French award, and in recognition of his academic excellence and important contributions to the life of the department, Evan Vlahandreas was also named the French Department's Senior Marshal. This honor goes to a graduating WCAS student; it entitles the winner to serve as the standard-bearer of the French Department and lead our students in the graduation procession.

Félicitations also go to **Sophie D'Amato**, who earned Departmental Honors for her work on her Honors thesis titled "Le Soft Power des Gobelins: Les politiques économiques et culturelles de la tapisserie entre

État mercantile et État neoliberal," under the directorship of Matthieu Dupas and Ty Blakeney.

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 Matthieu Dupas and Fay Rosner, who served with me and Professor Chris Bush) and the Essay Prize Committee (Professor Katia Viot-Southard, who chaired the committee, along with Professors Patricia Scarampi and Ty Blakeney). The French Department also thanks our Student Advisory Board representatives, Evan Vlahandreas and Leila Narisetti, and the dedicated volunteer tutors who staffed the French Language Instructional Center: Kydie Al Moutaa, Clara Asseily, Hannah Christensen, Merlin Gouesse, Pavi Sridhar, and Riana Tadonki.

The 2023–2024 academic year would not have been so rich without the department's wonderful staff members Liz Murray, Leon Hedstrom, and Lisa Byrnes, whose dedication sustains all our student affairs and events.

Finally, the French Department thanks our outstanding new Chair, Professor Chris Bush, for his seamless and skillful leadership in this exciting and eventful year!



Cynthia Nazarian

Letter from the French DLP

Another academic year for the Ages! As DLP, I am so impressed with the teaching-track faculty and graduate teaching assistants as they inspired students with their enthusiasm for teaching. I also would like to thank our tutors, Clara Asseily, Khadija Al Moutaa, Hannah Christensen, Merlin Grousse, Pavi Sridhar, and Riana Tadonki for their commitment to assisting our students. Throughout the year, Aude Raymond, Katia Viot-Southard, and I had continued success hosting the Table française. Marie-Thérèse and Valentin Lorange organized the department's Ciné-Club, showing a variety of French and Francophone films, and Marie-Thérèse crafted yet another edition of *Rosa la Rose*, celebrating our students' literary and artistic talents. Perhaps the highlight of the year was when the department beamed with pride as we congratulated Christiane Rey for her thirty-six years of teaching, advising, and dedicated service at the university. *Félicitations*, Christiane!



The department hosted many undergraduate events this year, including two pizza socials where students could learn about the French major and minor as well as study abroad opportunities. Our Student Advisory Board Representatives, Leila Narisetti and Evan Vlahandreas, also hosted two events, “Cocoa & Convo”

where students gathered informally to speak in French over cups of hot chocolate in the wintertime, and a screening of the film *Ratatouille* — a favorite among students of French!



During the week of May 6–10, professors of language instruction, along with student majors and minors, participated in the Northwestern 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 French and Italian Department, treats from France, and trivia games about French and Francophone cultures. We advertised upcoming events, and discussed courses, study abroad, and other 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 Department also participated in the poster exhibit to honor remarkable women organized by the Council on Language Instruction. Congratulations go to our student in French 111, Aliyah Durry, who won the 2nd place prize for her poster on Josephine Baker. The academic year concluded with many festive events, including the Rosa la Rose reading and awards ceremony, the Departmental end-of year party, and the Reception for Graduating Seniors.




As Director of the French Language Program, I would like to thank Chris Bush for his calm demeanor, his creativity, and his ongoing support for the Teaching Track Faculty during his time as Departmental Chair. I extend a heartfelt thank you to my colleagues, and to the graduate and undergraduate students for your steadfast commitment to teaching, to learning and to embracing everything French and Francophone! And to the staff, I thank you for your hard work and for your ability to foster community in the Department. *Merci bien!*

Margaret Dempster

Margaret Dempster

LA TABLE FRANÇAISE



JOIN US AND PRACTICE YOUR
FRENCH LANGUAGE SKILLS WITH
OTHER STUDENTS AND SPEAKERS
IN AN INFORMAL ENVIRONMENT!

MONDAYS
12:00-1:00PM
ALLISON DINING HALL
(1820 Chicago Ave)
ON THE MEZZANINE

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT PROFESSORS
MARGARET DEMPSTER or AUDE RAYMOND



L'ATELIER THÉÂTRE



JOIN L'ATELIER THÉÂTRE FOR

**MACARONS,
FROMAGES &
IMPROVISATIONS**



11:30AM TO 12:30PM ON

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24

WEDNESDAY MAY 8

WEDNESDAY MAY 22

IN CROWE HALL 2-130



FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

KATIA.VIOT-SOUTHARD@NORTHWESTERN.EDU

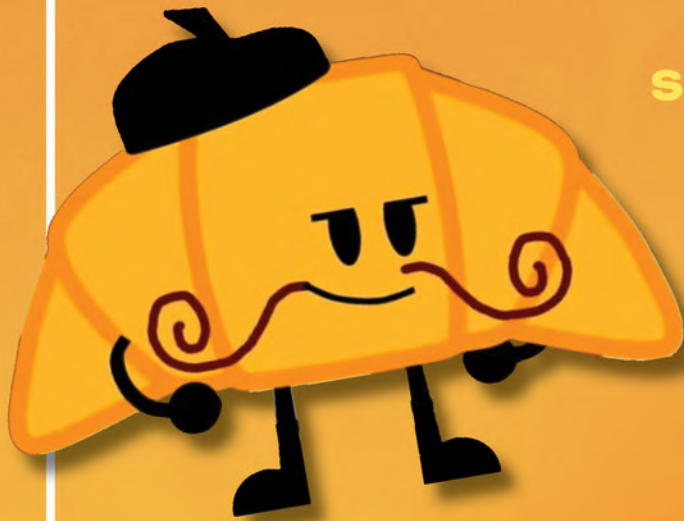


Northwestern | French and Italian

FRENCH DEPARTMENT
UNDERGRADUATE
PIZZA SOCIAL


Come for the
food, stay for the **fun!**

Learn about our
classes and programs
from other
students and faculty!




Wednesday
October 18
12:30–2:30pm

KRESGE COURTYARD
(Crowe 2-130 in the event of inclement weather)



STUDY ABROAD in FRANCE

INFO SESSION



Come for **free pizza** and
to learn more about **study
abroad opportunities** in
French-speaking countries!

TUESDAY
JANUARY 23
11:30am–1:30pm

CROWE 1-132

Letter from the Italian DUS

The 2023–24 academic year was eventful and distressing in more ways than it is possible to summarize in a few lines. Our university community was front and center in a struggle for freedom and accountability that gained international news coverage and political attention. I want to thank my colleagues and students in the Italian Program for their steadiness and commitment to open debate. Italian society is no stranger to conflict and internal divisions and, at its best, has produced profound cultural analyses and forceful collective responses. I hope the courses, events, and screenings organized by and in conjunction with our program contributed to expanding not only our knowledge of Italian culture but also our capacity to think critically about contemporary crises.



The spring saw an extraordinary line up of lectures and events.

In April, we inaugurated the series with a lecture by Stefano Jossa, Professor of Italian Literature at the University of Palermo and this year's Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies at Northwestern. Jossa's lecture was entitled "Ariosto, Tolkien, and the

Italian Way to Fantasy."



In early May, we were excited to welcome back Simona Forti, Professor of Political Philosophy at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa and part-time Faculty at The New School for Social Research in New York. She had previously served as Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies at Northwestern in 2014. Forti presented a lecture entitled "Everyone is Talking About Totalitarianism Again: What Meaning Can It Have Today?" in which she explored the meaning that totalitarianism can have for us today—whether it helps us to understand contemporary power dynamics or merely confuses us. Forti's latest book, *Totalitarianism: A Borderline Idea in Political Philosophy* was released by Stanford University press (2024). Thank you to Alessia Ricciardi for extending the invitation.

In mid-May, Domietta Torlasco (who is writing this note) and Cesare Casarino, Professor of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, co-hosted two events with Ida Dominijanni, the internationally renowned Italian political theorist, essayist, and

journalist. The first event consisted of a workshop on "Psychoanalysis and Italian Feminism," which focused on Dominijanni's book, *Il trucco. Sessualità e biopolitica nella fine di Berlusconi* (2014) and selected writings from *Another Mother: Diotima and the Symbolic Order of Italian Feminism*, edited by Cesare Casarino and Andrea Righi (2018).



This workshop saw the enthusiastic participation of colleagues and graduate students from French and Comparative Literary Studies. The second event was Dominijanni's keynote lecture, "Wounded Patriarchy: Gender Violence and Women's Freedom in Times of War." The lecture explored the transformations undergone by patriarchal power under the pressure of feminist resistance and revolt, and traced the lines of possible political interventions in the context of contemporary post-pandemic wars. Both events were made possible with the generous support of the Alumnae of Northwestern University

Domietta Torlasco

Letter from the Italian DLP

As my term as the Director of the Italian Language Program comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the faculty, staff, and students who have made my experience so rewarding. Serving in this role for twelve years has been both an honor and a privilege, and I am immensely proud of all we have accomplished together.



When I assumed this position, my vision was to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic linguistic and cultural community. Through our collective efforts, this vision has become a reality, and our language program has grown both in size and in depth. To enrich our students' learning experiences, we have introduced new courses, revised our language curriculum, and expanded our cultural offerings.



Despite the latest MLA report indicating a 16.7% decline in Italian language enrollment at four-year higher education institutions between fall 2016 and fall 2021, our

program experienced a growth of 6.3% during the same period. Furthermore, when comparing year-over-year enrollment across all three quarters from the 2016-17 academic year to the 2021-22 academic year, the increase reaches 13.8%.



One of the highlights of my term has been witnessing the extraordinary involvement and passion of the Italian language faculty. Together, we have participated in workshops, attended and spoken at national and international conferences, submitted proposals for curriculum innovation grants, and researched the latest approaches to language pedagogy. This collaborative spirit has created a vibrant and innovative work environment.



Additionally, by sponsoring a number of engaging extracurricular events, we have fostered a sense of belonging and community among our students, culminating in the creation of the Italian Club, an association run by students of Italian and Italian students at

Northwestern. By establishing a peer tutoring program, we have also provided free language support for students outside the classroom. As I pass the baton to my successor, I am confident that the Italian Language Program is well-positioned for continued growth and success. Our curriculum is rigorous and engaging, our faculty are passionate educators, our students are motivated and talented, and my successor will bring fresh perspectives and ideas that will further advance our objectives.



I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all the chairs and to my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to lead the Italian Language Program at Northwestern and for their unwavering support. I am also grateful to the department staff, whose efficiency and attention to detail made my job easier, and to the students of Italian, who challenged and inspired me every day.

Grazie di cuore,

Paola Morgavi

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

4-5pm

KRESGE HALL

2-329

Caffé
Italiano
musica italiana

Northwestern | French and Italian

The background of the entire page is a collage of various Italian playing cards, including figures like a jester, a king, and a horse, as well as symbols like a sun and a rooster.

Caffè Italiano

CARTE DI GIOCO

Monday, October 30

4:30pm

Kresge 2-420

Northwestern

Department of
French and Italian

CAFFÈ ITALIANO

STUDYING IN ITALY
AND IN THE US

A CONVERSATION WITH
TWO ITALIAN STUDENTS AT NU

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
4:00–5:00pm
Kresge 2-430

Northwestern | French and Italian

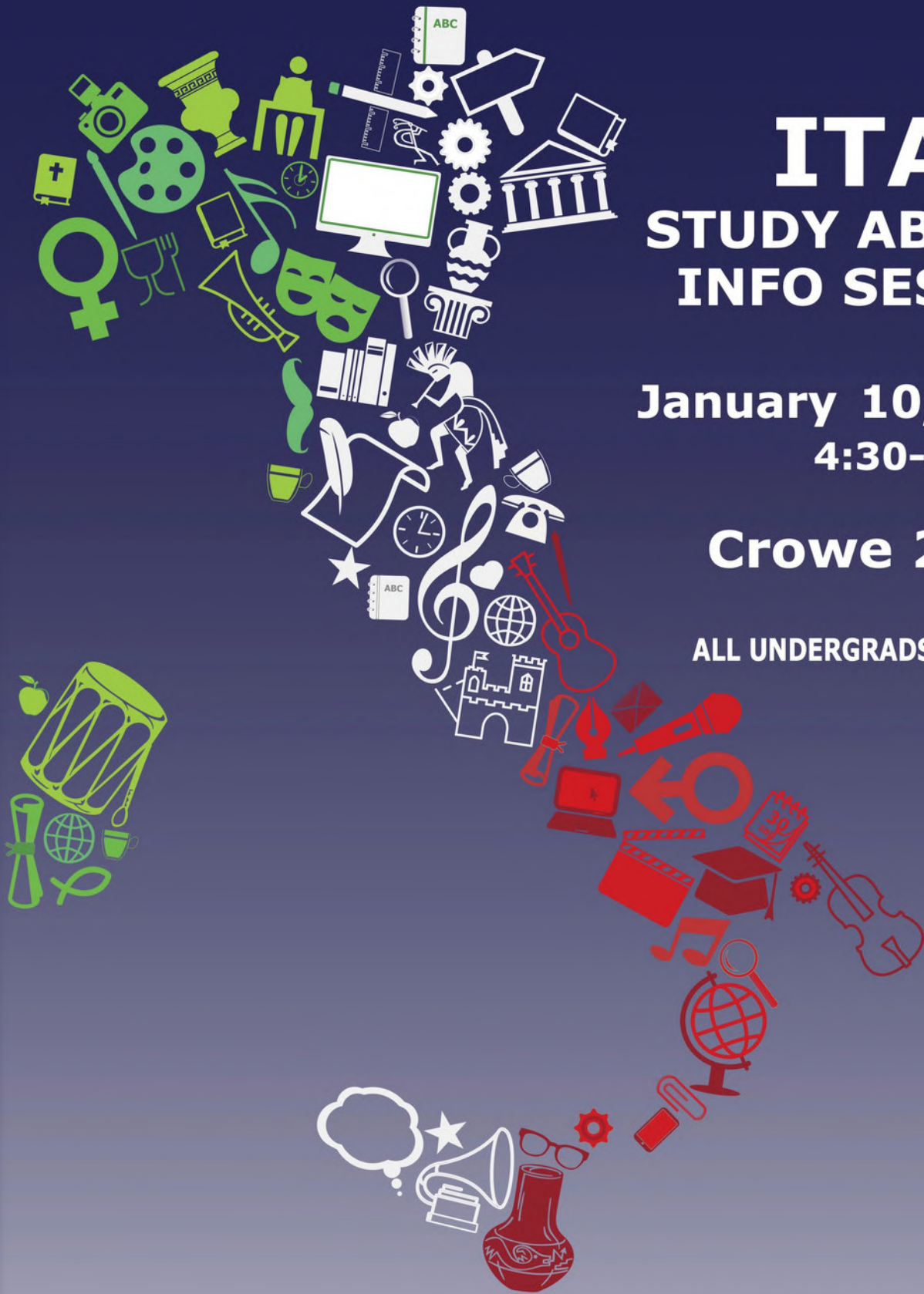
ITALY

STUDY ABROAD INFO SESSION

January 10, 2024
4:30-5:30pm

Crowe 2-130

ALL UNDERGRADS WELCOME!



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www.northwestern.edu/abroad/

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
4:00PM
KRESGE 2-339



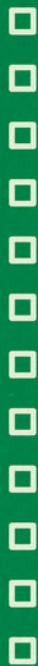
CAFFÈ ITALIANO

Northwestern | French and Italian



Join us for our
**Festa di
fine anno**

Wednesday, May 22
5:00 – 7:00pm
Hagstrum Room
(University Hall 201)



Northwestern | French and Italian



Le Ciné-Club

The Ciné-Club du Cercle Francophone, whose screenings have been held in the famous Forum Room of our library since 2009, has acquired a respected reputation.

This year, Valentin Lorange was the presenter of the films and passionately led the discussions following the screenings. I would like to thank Valentin, from the bottom of my heart, for the energy he provided during the twelve sessions where he spread his love and knowledge of the French culture and cinema, *le 7e art*.

The documentary *Little Girl (Petite Fille)* directed by Sébastien Lifshitz in 2020 received the honor of having the largest audience (between 40 and 45 spectators) and was followed by a moving discussion about the daily life of a transgender child in their family life and at school.

The cartoons, *I Lost My Body (J'ai perdu mon corps)* directed by Jérémy Clapin in 2019 and *Josep* directed by Aurel in 2020, were acclaimed for their

superb mastery of innovative and engaging drawing.

The film *120 Battements par minute* directed by Robin Campillo in 2017, a fundamentally informative film about the 1990s and the spread of AIDS in France, impressed us all with the power of the speeches by Act-Up Paris activists.

Eté 85, shot in Super 16 and directed by François Ozon in 2020, made a strong impression and sparked a stimulating discussion.

As for the comedies *The Taste of Others (Le Goût des autres)* directed by Agnès Jaoui in 2000, *Bye Bye Morons (Adieu les cons)* directed by Albert Dupontel in 2020, and *Deerskin (Le Daim)* directed by Quentin Dupieux in 2019, they are not easily understood by the American public, but nevertheless leave lasting impressions!

We're looking forward to another year of engaging French and Francophone films. See you at the Ciné-Club!

Marie-Thérèse Pent



Italian Film Series

The Italian Film Series organized by the Department of French and Italian this past academic year was a resounding success, offering students a deep dive into various facets of Italian culture and societal issues through cinema. The series began in the fall with an excursion to Facets for a screening of Natoli's *The Jungle*, which provided valuable insights into contemporary migration in Italy. In the winter, the Italian program screened Lattuada's *Mafioso* and Petri's *A ciascuno il suo* under the theme "Mafia Beyond Stereotypes." This special series will be continued during the coming academic year.

The Film Series culminated in the spring quarter with two special events. First, a screening of Alice Rohrwacher's 2023 film *La Chimera* at the Block Theater. Presented by the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, the Block Cinema, and the Department of French and Italian, the screening of this

critically acclaimed film was so popular that there were no seats available in the auditorium!

In association with the Italian Film Festival USA, the Italian program also hosted a special free screening of Michele Rondino's 2023 *Palazzina Laf*, a film about labor issues in Italy. This screening was also fully attended. Much of the audience for this screening came from Evanston and from the wider Chicago area, proving the value of Northwestern for the surrounding community.

This year's Italian Film Series not only enriched students' understanding of Italian film but also fostered thoughtful discussions on migration, crime, labor, and identity.

Massimiliano Delfino



Rosa la Rose

Volume XXII

It was in the first intoxicating fragrance of linden trees and the gentle blizzard of cottonwood seeds that the 22d edition of Rosa la Rose bloomed again. *Ecrire, c'est voler! To write is to fly!* says the prolific Belgian Francophone novelist Amélie Nothomb. And in this magazine, we are traveling from the promise of the morning sky to the sublime colors of twilight and to the eerie, soul-searching shadow of a total solar eclipse.

During the Undergraduate Awards and End-of-Year Party, on Thursday, June 6th, the FRIT Department celebrated the creativity and eloquence expressed in the beauty of the French and Italian languages.

This year, our literary magazine, *Rosa la Rose*, is more beautiful than ever.

I would like to thank Leon Hedstrom, Hanna Rodriguez, and Jasmine Sun for all their excellent work with the editing process of the magazine and Leon for his amazing photo editing.

A big “thank you” to the students who submitted their works of art, poetry, paintings and photographs. As well as a special “thank you” to Keoli Sapp for her amazing paintings which grace the front and back covers of this new edition of *Rosa la Rose*.

I also would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all the professors who, in the world of the classroom, spread the seeds for more beauty, more awareness, more empathy, more openness and understanding. Thank you, professors, for your devotion in sharing your passion for the French and Italian languages.

Marie-Thérèse Pent

Il sorgere

il fascio
principi

fioco

bip minuscolo

splendente

baluginando, appena oltre l'occhio;
non possiamo vedere.

la luce

magnifica

terrifica

i calori possiamo spiegare, ma lo sbalordimento
indescrivibili. l'energia splendida e agghiacciante,
la massa infernale sia visibile. brucia senza
tanto quanto serve. senza di esso,
meravigliosa, terrificante, ardente;



del sole

di luce

piccoli

lontano

arancio caldo

radioso

luminosità eterna

non è per gli occhi

magica

scientifica

sentiamo... esclusivamente sentimenti
 cresce senza fermarsi prima che tutta
 essere visto, tira senza essere sentito, e dà
 congeliamo; con esso, bruciamo. radiazione
 cambiamento caldo, sempre eterno.

Matthew Huang

Monsieur la Gargouille

Que vois-tu
 d'un tel niveau,
 Portant le ciel
 Comme un si grand chapeau ?
 Taillé en pierre,
 T'as la tête d'un taureau ;
 Et au bout de tes jambes, il y a
 Les sabots d'un agneau.

À tes côtés, deux ailes (assez lourdes)
 T'empêchent de t'envoler;
 Et tu pleures et tu pleures,
 Et tu ne seras pas consolé.
 Tu t'accroches à la cathédrale :
 Complètement isolé.
 Loin de la terre,
 Tu deviens une bête affolée.

Le dimanche, le son des cloches
 Interrompt tes rêves.
 Au-dessous, un troupeau de fidèles
 –quelques descendants d'Adam et d'Ève –
 S'approche de ton nid,
 En priant pour une messe très brève.
 Et tu vois tout ça, de ton perchoir là-haut :
 si l'église est un arbre
 Monsieur, tu en es la sève.

Lindsey Smith T



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN FRENCH

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN FRENCH

Maddy Bornstein

Third Year Language
"Art Interdit"

Emefa Dzodzomenyo

Third Year Literature
"Colette, sa relation envers ses lecteurs, et sa validité"

Molly Braun

Fourth Year Language
"L'artiste de notre génération"

Ingrid Falls

Fourth Year Literature
"Les voix de la révolution : Marat, Hébert et le pouvoir de la presse"

Jordan Hickey

Business French
"L'Efficacité des Systèmes de Santé : La Belgique et Haïti"

Emefa Dzodzomenyo

Distinguished Essay in English on a French Subject
"Body Transcendence and Misogyny in the Early Modern Period"

Hope McKnight

Tilde Sankovitch Distinguished Essay in French
"Foucault et Deleuze et le pouvoir des réseaux sociaux"

AATF OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Eric Powers

AATF EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH AWARD

Evan Vlahandreas

PHI BETA KAPPA

Molly Braun and Evan Vlahandreas

FRENCH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER

Kydie Al Moutaa, Clara Asseily, Hannah Christensen, Merlin Gouesse, Pavi Sridhar, and Riana Tadonki





OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ITALIAN

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN ITALIAN

Anna Cleary

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 101

Jenny Aguilar

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 102

Daigo Moriwake

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 133/134

Maddie Friedman

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in Italian)
"Levi, Vanadio e il Potere della Perfezione"

Bryn Kelly

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in English)
"Fire at Sea: A Documentary Experiment in the Neorealist Tradition"

Ann Lamptey

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in English)
"Scriba Dei: Dante's transformation into a Representative of God"

Sophia DeLuca

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 300 (in English)
"Don Peppino Diana: Unsung Martyr of Camorra Injustice"

Olivia Murane

Outstanding Achievement in Italian 300 (in English)
"A constant and repeated apocalypse:
Biblical Allusions in Saviano's Gomorrah"

ITALIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER

Lizzie Wilkerson

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 GRADUATES!

Aayushya Agarwal

Agustin Bayer

Molly Braun

Hannah Christensen

William Clark

Adonis Clemente

Sophie D'Amato

Lucy Dai

Allegra Dugan

Emefa Dzodzomenyo

Kevin Foley

Alexa Goldstein

Anna Grejtak

Sydney Hogan

Alice Hurley

Hannah Jiang

Hope McKnight

Jorge Melendez

Sean Pascoe

Eric Powers

Alexandra Romo

Rachel Ruddy

Evan Vlahandreas



Department Administration

Christopher Bush
Department Chair

Doris Garraway
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 Italian
Language Program

Department Staff

Elizabeth Murray
Business Administrator

Leon Hedstrom
Program Assistant

Lisa Byrnes
Graduate Program Assistant

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