



The Rutgers Libretto The Italian Department



Volume V, Issue 1
Summer 2016

INSIDE

2,3	<i>Undergraduate News</i>
4	<i>Graduate News</i>
5,6	<i>Spotlight</i>
7	<i>Italian Graduate Society</i>
8	<i>Faculty News</i>
9	<i>Rutgers Day</i>
10,11,12	<i>Catching up with Alumni</i>
13	<i>Lectures/Food for</i>
14	<i>Words of Appreciation</i>
15	<i>Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean Migration Crisis</i>

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dear Members of the Rutgers Italian Department,

During the academic year we had a full agenda of scholarly and instructional events.

In October, Rhiannon Welch co-organized a very successful conference on Migration with guests from Europe, Africa and America. Our graduate students had their conference 'Performing Revolution-Parole in Movimento' in November and we continued our informal departmental seminars entitled "Food for Thought" for faculty and graduate students to share their research. In May, we also held our (by now customary) alumni reunion.

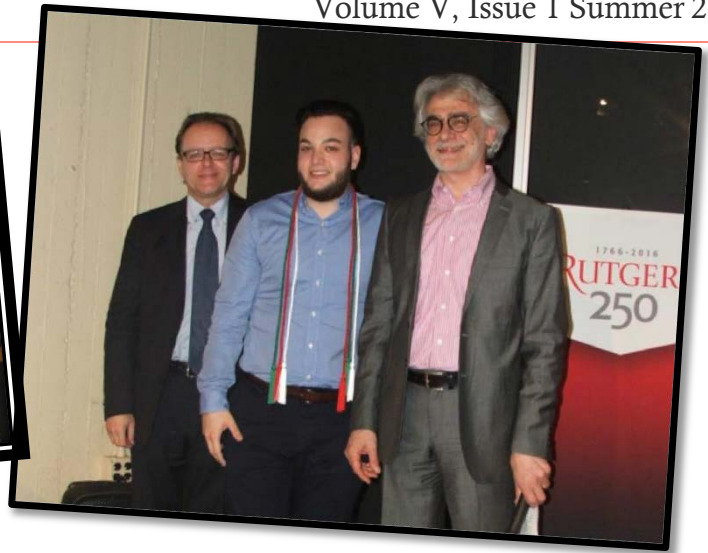
Our department has expanded its course offerings online with two new intermediate language courses and has reached out to high schools around the state for increased cooperation in teaching. Thanks to our Language Director Carmela Scala, Chris Scherer (Director of New Program Initiatives and Digital Learning in the School of Arts and Sciences), and Marena Lobosco at Point Pleasant Beach High School, for taking care of all the logistical matters and getting this new project off the ground. We also hosted Céline Frigau Manning, a Visiting Professor from Paris, France, who teaches Italian and Theater at Paris VIII and offered a graduate seminar to our Ph.D., M.A. and M.A.T. students, as well as a public lecture that was extremely well received.

Very good news: Four of our graduating Ph.D.'s have found jobs. This upcoming fall, Rossella Di Rosa will begin teaching at The University of Georgia, Arianna Fognani will be teaching at the College of Franklin and Marshall, Marino Forlino has a tenure-track assistant professor position at Scripps College in California, and Lucia Vedovi has accepted a position at Kansas State University. Congratulations to all! We also want to welcome two newly admitted graduate students in the Ph.D. Program: Caterina Agostini and Chiara Degli Esposti.

Wishing everyone a relaxing summer,

Alessandro Vettori





Undergraduate News

Italian Night & Senior Celebration

AUGURI to our
seniors who
completed their
Honors Theses!!!
Hurray!

Josemary Medrano
"Survival of the Fittest:
Foundations of
Medieval Dietetics"

Nicoletta Romano
"Exploring the
Contemporary Phenomenon of a
Postcolonizing Italian Reality
through la Letteratura
Migrante"

Teresa Arpino
"Love in Late 19th
Century Novels"

Alexa Burger
"The Strategic Use of
Irony in Boccaccio's
Decameron"

Domenico Petracca
"Did Italy Truly Unify?"



**Annual Essay
Awards
2016**

Chiara Nodari
Mariham Girges
Thomas Federowicz
Maria Di Costanza
Lindsay Barber
Jonathan Merida



Undergraduate News

Carnevale: Mask Making at its finest!!



Our Undergraduates Savored their Experience in Urbino, Italy Last Summer!



The Department of Italian at Rutgers University offers an undergraduate summer program in Italy in the beautiful Renaissance town of Urbino to provide students at various levels with an opportunity to study Italian in its natural environment.



Graduate News



JAMISON STANDRIDGE

He was a panel organizer, chair, and moderator at NeMLA 2016: Representations of Trauma in Italian Literature, Theater, and Film. He was invited to a conference at St. Joseph's University to present a paper called, "La donna italiana: affrontare lezioni di genere usando letteratura, cultura e cinema." [Italian Culture and Language from Beginning to End: Towards Curricular Revision Professional Development]. He was also a panel moderator ('Women in Revolution') for the conference at Rutgers University, called: Performing Revolution/Parole in movimento.

ELEONORA SARTONI

This year, her article "(Mamma) Roma between Archaic and Modern Italy" was published in *Senses of Cinema*, 77 (Dec. 2015). Another article on the pastiche in Pasolini and Boccaccio is forthcoming in an Italian book edited by U. Perolino and A. Cedola. She also translated F. Pacini's book on Santa Maria della Scala. She was invited to two guest lectures (at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, and in the Italian Senior Seminar at Rutgers). She presented a paper at NEMLA on Pasolini, Boccaccio and Cavalca.

ALBERTO IOZZIA

In May 2016, Alberto organized a panel entitled 'Italian Apocalypse' at the 2016 Canadian Society for Italian Studies in Toronto, where he also presented his own paper, "Grayed Out - Apocalypse of language in Antonioni's *Il deserto rosso* and McCarthy's *The Road*," which is a part of one of his dissertation chapters. For his active participation in this conference, the Cinema Studies Program at Rutgers awarded him with the Cinema Studies Small Grant Award.

MARY ANN MASTROLIA

She defended her PhD dissertation on Dario Fo and Eduardo De Filippo and has a tenured position teaching Italian at the Upper Freehold Regional School District.

The Spotlight's on Them!

ARIANNA FOGNANI

In April 2016 Arianna successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Sensuous Wandering: Urban Spaces in the Literary Imagination of Italian Writers in Alexandria, Egypt" and she

has recently received a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. She has also been the recipient of a professional development fund to attend the 62nd Northeast Conference of the Teaching of Foreign Languages in New York City.



MARINO FORLINO

The academic year 2015-2016 has been a very productive and generous year, an *annus mirabilis*! In September 2015 Marino successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation and while working as Multi-Area Lecturer at California State University Fullerton, he received a Tenure Track position as Assistant Professor in Italian at Scripps College.

ANDREW ROBBINS

This year Andrew received a summer fellowship to study at the Universität Konstanz in Konstanz, Germany. In their Department of History and Sociology, he plans on further specializing in the History of Science, with a focus on the early social sciences in Italy and Europe. Coincidentally, it will provide him an apt opportunity to improve his Deutsch.

IDA MARINZOLI

was the proud recipient of a Ph.D. in Italian and was named the oldest student to reach this milestone this year. Congratulations, Ida! You are truly inspiring!

TENNELLE NORMAN-VARGAS

This year Tennelle was fortunate to attend Rutgers University and to receive the Paragano Award. She is currently a Spanish teacher at Atlantic City High School, and hopes to receive her certification in

Italian and to complete a Master's Degree in the subject. Upon receiving her certification, she plans to teach Italian in the school district where she currently works. "The Italian department and its members have become like a second family to me. They have guided me every step of the way supporting all my decisions to further my education. I am truly blessed and grateful to them," she says.



The Spotlight's Still on Them!!

GIUDITTA CIRNIGLIARO

This year she received the Mellon Summer Study Fellowship that will allow her to conduct site-specific dissertation research on Leonardo's manuscripts at the Windsor Collection in Berkshire, as well as the British Library and the Warburg Institute in London. She was also awarded a Graduate Fellowship at the Center for Cultural Analysis for 2016-17, to participate in the annual research seminar on "Arts and Aesthetics." The seminar gathers scholars and students from various disciplines and American universities to explore the divergences and convergences of different concepts concerning the arts and aesthetics, approaching them from the perspectives of philosophy, literary history, art history, the fine arts, the history of science, and political and cultural theory. Finally, she was the recipient for the 2016 Best Paper Award for her essay "Collecting through Filmic Reels: From Gianikian and Ricci Lucchi's *Dal polo to the Armenian Diary*" in Prof. Welch's course '(Post)colonial Italian Cinema.' She is extremely grateful to the Italian Department for the encouragement and support during the application processes, and throughout her exciting academic year.



TIZIANO CHERUBINI

At the 2016 NeMLA conference, Tiziano presented a paper titled "Growing Down: Coming-of-age Narratives in Saba and Moravia." At the 2016 AAIS Conference, he organized and chaired the panel on "Narratives of Formation in Italian Literature and Cinema", and was a panelist for "'If I see myself in him, I am content': Saba's *Ernesto* between Experiment and Confession." Lastly, he was awarded the Laggini Memorial Endowed Graduate Scholarship for 2016, for which he is very grateful to both the Laggini family for their generosity and to the Italian Department at Rutgers for their help and support.

Congratulations Everyone!!!

LUCIA VEDOVI

She was awarded by the School of Arts and Sciences one of the Awards for Distinguished Contribution to Undergraduate Education



Italian Graduate Society News

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cari Amici,

In November 2015, it was a great honor for me to open the bi-annual graduate conference of the Italian Graduate Society as its President. After many months of hard work, my fellow-IGS members and I successfully organized an event that enriched a rainy weekend with productive discussions, challenging ideas, and unexpected singing. When we came up with the conference's title, "Performing Revolution - Parole in Movimento," our intention was to broaden the spectrum of participation: we wanted to hear voices not only from our beloved Italian academia, but also from politics, social sciences, and performing arts. Our speakers, coming from at least seven different institutions, brought an extended range of perspectives - from political philosophy to musicology.

We are happy to let everybody know that many of the papers presented at the conference will soon be published in the upcoming issue of the IGS online journal *La Fusta*.

Alberto Iozzia



Faculty News

Andrea Baldi served as Acting Undergraduate Director in the Spring semester 2016. He presented two papers: "Beyond the Literary Text: Expanding the Boundaries of Literature Classes" (Teaching Italian Culture Conference, Georgetown University, October 2015), and "Screening Calvino's *L'avventura di due sposi*" (NeMLA 2016 Convention). He was also invited to give a talk on "Anna Maria Ortese: Writing and Empathy," at the Conference on Literature and Emotions, held at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York, April 7, 2016. His article "Trame intertestuali in *Renzo e Luciana*: da Calvino a Monicelli," is forthcoming with *L'avventura, the International Journal of Italian Film and Media Landscapes*.

Paola Gamarota spent the academic year at the American Academy in Rome, continuing her research on "American Naples" in various archives in Rome, Milan, Florence, and London. She was invited to present her research at Villa la Pietra in Florence (NYU), at the Academy, at the American Embassy in Rome, and at the convention of the Young Leaders of the Council of US and Italy. She published her article "The Fall of Naples" in the journal *Meridione: Sud e Nord del mondo*.

David Marsh has published "Leon Battista Alberti and Spartan Ideals" in *Albertiana*, "Petrarch's Adversaries: The Invectives" in *The Cambridge Companion to Petrarch*, and "Italy" in *The Oxford Handbook of Neo-Latin*. This spring he gave talks at the University of Pennsylvania and Bryn Mawr. His lectures on Erasmus' *Adagia*, delivered at conferences in Vienna and Boston, will appear in a volume forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press.

Rhiannon Noel Welch co-organized an international symposium with colleagues from the Center for African Studies and the Center for European Studies titled *Africa, Europe, and the Mediterranean Migration Crisis*. The standing-room-only symposium featured scholars and artists from Senegal, Eritrea, Turkey, Italy, the US, and beyond. Her book, *Vital Subjects: Race and Biopolitics in Italy*, was published with Liverpool University Press. She also published two articles: "Time Out of Joint: Larsen's End of Dreams and Italy's 'Colonial Unconscious'" and "States of Immersion: Nikolaj Larsen's End of Dreams."

Laura Sanguineti White's new book *Seduzione e Privazione: Il cibo nel Decameron*, January 2016, Pacini Fazzi Editore, was presented by Lina Bolzoni, Scuola Normale di Pisa at the Real Collegio in Lucca on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Collana di Studi e Testi Rinascimentali "Morgana." She continued to serve as Commissioner of the Italian Heritage Commission; as Vice President of IACE and as a member of the Advisory Council for the Department of French and Italian at Princeton University.

Carmela Scala created and taught the 'Online professional development certificate course', developed three new syllabi for the Italian curriculum and developed new versions of our 131 and 132 online courses.

Completed an article "Blogging Pinocchio: Reworking Culture in the Italian Classroom" (on which she worked with a colleague) that has been accepted for publication and will appear in the *NEMLA Italian Studies* Volume XXXIX, *The Italian Digital Classroom*.

Alessandro Vettori completed two articles, an introduction, and a book review. He was appointed Member of the Jury for AAIS Book Award 2016, Chair of the MLA Jury for the Marrano Prize Book Award 2016, and he was asked to sit on the Board of Editors of *Cultural and Religious Studies*. He was invited to give a talk at Columbia University, one at CUNY Graduate Center, and to be one of the respondents for the Global Dante Project (NYU and Columbia University). He also gave two papers at professional conferences (Renaissance Society of America and American Association for Italian Studies).

RUTGERS DAY: PASTA 250



Rutgers Day

A record number of visitors attended Rutgers Day in April. The Department of Italian entertained them with an array of crafts, games, and light Italian lessons. Guests improved their language skills while learning about 250 pasta shapes! Families reveled in the opportunity to create colorful pasta jewelry. Adults and children alike enjoyed engaging activities.



Rutgers Day
The Department of Italian invites you to play with your food.
Saturday, April 30th
10am - 4pm

Pasta 250

Come learn Italian language and history as we explore 250 pasta shapes and make carbo creations.

Find us on the Voorhees Mall

Alumni News

Catching up with Alumni! Where Are They Now?

RICHARD BONANNO continues to serve as director of the program in Italian Studies at Assumption College and as Rome Campus Coordinator, overseeing the College's facility and academic programs in Italy. In December 2015 he delivered a lecture on immigration entitled, "Italia, Paese di Migranti," at the Biblioteca Malatestiana. He has recently translated two books, *Treccani: 90 Anni di Cultura Italiana* (Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana: Loreto, 2015) and *Daesh and the Terrorist Threat: from the Middle East to Europe* (Fondazione Italianeuropei/Foundation for European Progressive Studies: Brussels, 2015). He also participated in a roundtable discussion on study abroad at the annual AAIS meeting. He is currently completing an essay on the representation of female monasticism in the *Decameron*.

SAMANTHA COSTANZO BURRIER has spent the year teaching Italian at Cliffside Park High School. Currently, she is the Co-President of the Pirandello Society of America and is always happy to have new members. She presented a paper at NeMLA this past March entitled, "The Influence of Theosophy, Spiritualism and Parapsychology on Luigi Pirandello's oeuvre." Her son Rocco will be two in October.

DAVID DEL PRINCIPE, Associate Professor of Italian at Montclair State University, published two articles in 2015-2016, "(M)eating Dracula: Cibo e morte nel romanzo di Bram Stoker" and "Vampiri e vegani: Linguaggio, ecopedagogia e prassi," in the Italian journal *Liberazioni Associazione Culturale Antispecista*, Vicenza, Italy. In Spring 2016 he taught an Honors Seminar in Critical Animal Studies in which students undertook activist projects and held a teach-in on campus on a variety of issues related to antispeciesism and factory farming.

TOMMASINA GABRIELE has just published "Dacia Maraini's Narratives of Survival: (Re)Constructed" (Fairleigh Dickinson UP/Copublished with The Rowman Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc: 2016).

STEPHANIE LAGGINI FIORE moved into a new position in September 2015 as Senior Director of the Teaching and Learning Center and the Instructional Support Center at Temple University.

DEENA LEVY completed her M.Ed. in Learning, Design and Technology. She has enjoyed applying these studies to the design of residential and online learning experiences for her students, and sharing related insights with her colleagues at Pennsylvania State University and national conferences. On a more personal note, she came up with some new jewelry designs and even has some pieces in a local shop. She sends a warm hello to the Rutgers Italian community!

Alumni News

Continued...

ANNACHIARA MARIANI is Senior Lecturer at The University of Tennessee. She recently published an article: "New Existentialism: The Literary Inept As A Reemerging Prototype in Twenty-First Century Cinema" in *Journal and Literature Art Studies*, and a book chapter: "The Empty Heterotopic (Non-)Space of Sorrentino's Female Characters in *The Great Beauty* and *The Consequences of Love*" is forthcoming with Cambridge Publishing. She also presented an article at the 2016 AAIS conference: "The Antithetical Coherence in Sorrentino's *Youth*: Visual (Ab)use and Male Dominance." She was invited to a local conference to present on "Teaching Through Role Play and Theatre." In May 2015, she organized and directed a play where the students performed an original one-act play as well as extracts from Goldoni, Pirandello and Ginzburg. She has been nominated for several teaching awards during her teaching years.

IDA MARINZOLI

It was an exciting academic year for her. In July 2015, she presented a paper on the psychological development of the Istrian-Triestino writer Fulvio Tomizza at the Canadian Society for Italian Studies in Sorrento. On December 8th, 2015 she defended her dissertation and in Spring 2016 she gave two presentations at the Canal Walk Club (Franklin, NJ). She is grateful to her professors – thank you and thank you Rutgers!

MARY ANNA MASTROLIA successfully defended her PhD in April. She has been teaching high school Italian at Upper Freehold Regional School District for four years and recently got engaged.

MICHELE MONSERRATI has published an article titled "Psicologia e religione: una lettura di «Passeri a sera» di Giovanni Pascoli". *Studi Italiani*, n. 55 (May-June, 2016). A second article is forthcoming: "The Atomic Fear: Translating (Post)Marxist Phantasies About the End of Times", *Italian Cultural Studies* (Oct-Nov, 2016).

SIMONA WRIGHT

In 2016 Simona Wright published "Palace of Desire: Neocolonial Reterritorializations in Bertolucci's *Besieged*" in *L'avventura* (Bologna: Il Mulino, 2016), edited by Christian Uva. With Philip Balma, she edited Volume XXXVII of *NeMLA Italian Studies*, 'The Jewish Experience in Contemporary Italy'. She is currently editing volume XXXVIII, 'The Renaissance Dialogue,' with Roberta Ricci. The volume *Attraversamenti Culturali, Cinema, Letteratura, Musica e Arti Visuali nell'Italia Contemporanea*, co-edited with Fulvio Orsitto, is forthcoming with Cesati Editore. Recently, she wrote the introduction to Ilaria Boffa's poetic collection, *Periferie, The Bliss of Hush and Wires* (Pordenone: Samuele Editore, 2016). In progress is the volume *Mapping Leopardi: Poetic and Philosophical Intersections*, co-edited with Emanuela Cervato, Mark Epstein and Giulia Santi.

Alumni News

Alumni Night



Jo-Ana Rivera,
Clementina & Joseph
Coccia Sr. Memorial
Scholarship

Tiziano Cherubini,
Joseph E. & Marie E.
Laggini Memorial Endowed
Graduate Scholarship 2016

Giuditta Cirnigliaro, Richard
Bonanno Award for best essay in a
Graduate Seminar

**Tennelle Normal-
Vargas,** Paragano
Family Scholarship

Thank you for your participation
We hope to see you next year
2017

Guest Lecturers and Food for Thought

Guest Lecturers

Céline Frigau Manning

(Visiting scholar, Université Paris 8 Saint Denis) “Medicalizing Talent. Theatre, Opera and the Medical Sciences in the 19th Century” (September 21, 2015)

Samuel Ghelli, “Il Caso *Gomorra* Roberto Saviano” (October 26, 2015)

Niccolò Ammaniti, Presentation of his new novel *Anna* (November 9, 2015)

Pier Mattia Tommasino (Assistant Professor at Columbia University) “Muhammad the Lawgiver Before and After Machiavelli” (March 3, 2016)

Fred Kuwornu, activist-producer-writer-director of *BLAXPLOITALIAN 100 Years of Blackness in the Italian Cinema*. (March 8, 2016)



Food for Thought

Giuditta Cirnigliaro,
“Spiderwebs and
Natural Powers:
Leonardo’s Scientific
and Literary Analogies”
(March 29, 2016)

Eleonora Sartoni,
“Insomma tuta la Storia l’è
una storia di fascismi: Repression,
Segregation, and Homogenization in
the Roman Outskirts and Borgate
(December 1, 2015)

Carmela Scala,
“*Il Pentanerone* di G.B. Basile”
(September 22, 2015)

Laura S. White, “Prospettive
trecentesche su Venezia”
(February 16, 2016)

Grazie

Words of Appreciation

Visiting Scholar: Céline Frigau-Manning

I had the opportunity to spend close to a month at Rutgers as an invited scholar last September as part of an international exchange program with my French institution, the University of Paris 8. I received a wonderfully warm welcome from everybody at the Italian House. My seminar, entitled *Issues of Nineteenth-Century Italian Theater and Opera*, was open mainly to graduate students (as well as one interested undergraduate), who turned out to be enthusiastic, perceptive and inventive. Our very stimulating discussions contributed to my own research, and I really hope to be able to come back and teach again at Rutgers one day.



Former Study Abroad Student: Noelle Marchetta

As an Italian major and alumna of both the Urbino summer program and the academic year program at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, I have relied heavily on the language and life skills I developed at Rutgers in my current position as the Associate Director of Summer and Study Abroad at NYU's College of Arts and Science. At NYU, I am responsible for a portfolio of 11 faculty-led summer abroad programs, which requires frequent collaboration with faculty, university administrators and site staff to plan and promote varied academic experiences. Throughout the year, I work with colleagues at NYU Florence's academic center, Villa La Pietra, and to give just a few examples, I've relied on my knowledge of Italian to review planning correspondence, guide graduate students in Rome and Sicily as a program assistant, and advise undergraduate scholars on academic visits to Florence. In many ways, it was my study of Italian at Rutgers and my participation in study abroad that helped me find a career in international education; I am certain that I would not be working in this field without these skills and experiences, and I have Rutgers to thank for much of it.



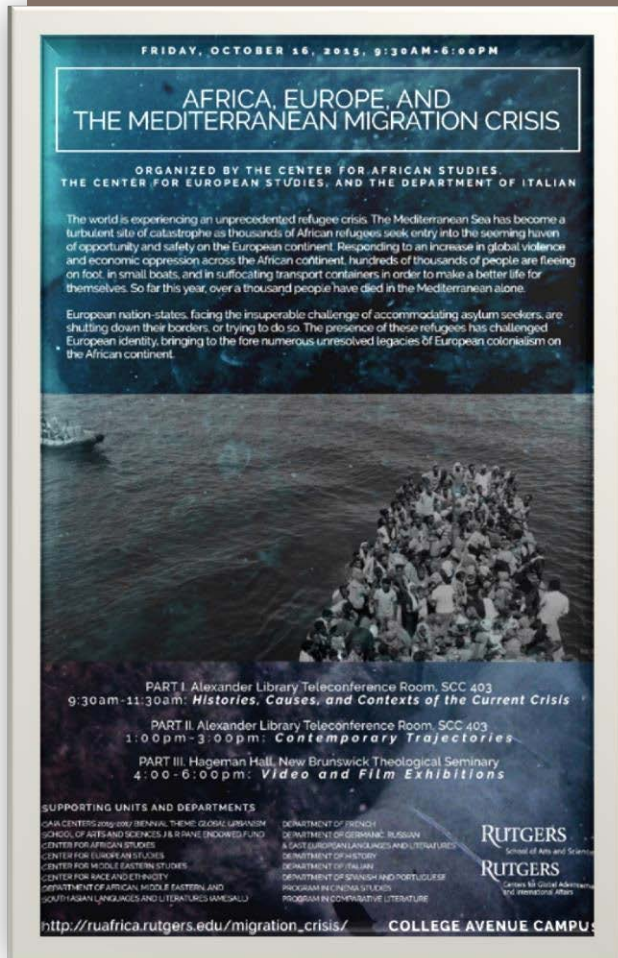
SPECIAL THANKS: Professor Giampiero Biagioli

We were pleased to welcome Prof. Biagioli, the new Italian Government Lecturer, into our department.



Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean Migration Crisis

A BIG thank you to Rhiannon for her efforts!



In October of 2015, the Department of Italian collaborated with the Center for African Studies and the Center for European Studies to host an international symposium titled *Africa, Europe, and the Mediterranean Migration Crisis*. Artists, scholars, and public intellectuals from across the Mediterranean shared historical contexts and insights from the front lines of the migration phenomenon. We were thrilled with the standing-room-only turnout, and with the marvelous collaboration from nearly every humanities department in the School of Arts and Sciences. It was a rich and informative day, and hopefully just the beginning of a series of campus discussions about the ever-evolving global migration situation.



The symposium caught the attention of *The Daily Targum*:

“It was important to host a symposium to raise awareness of the migration situation's global impact to the Rutgers community,” said Rhiannon Welch, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Italian.

“Given Italy’s positioning on the symbolic and political borders between Europe and Africa, contemporary Italians are deeply affected each day by the ongoing arrival of asylum seekers and refugees from the African continent” – Sophie Nieto-Munoz





Grazie Mille
to our family
of donors

Joseph E. and Marie E.
Laggini Scholarship Fund

Paragano Family Foundation

Coccia Foundation

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Department of Italian

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

84 College Avenue

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**PLEASE VISIT US
this Fall 2016**

at our NEW

ADDRESS:

15 Seminary Place,
#5050, New
Brunswick, NJ

<http://italian.rutgers.edu>

