

Welleslitalia!

2020 - 2021

Dear Majors & Minors,

It has always been a pleasure for me to write to you with updates about the life and times of the Department of Italian Studies. As you may have noticed, the format of these communications has changed. Now, thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of Jael Matos, our Academic Administrator, we have this wonderful newsletter (instead of the rather anonymous collective email of times gone by). As you read through it, you will find updates about faculty and staff and what a selection of our majors and minors have been up to recently.

Although we continue to face the challenges in enrollments that all humanities departments across the US face, we have made every effort to maintain high levels of excellence in all aspects of our program: in language teaching, we are pioneers in both remote study and in language teaching pedagogy; in our culture courses, we offer as broad a range of options as possible that introduce students to the major authors, works and themes from a variety of genres that form but also contest Italy's literary traditions and cultural heritage; and in the options we offer for study abroad for either a semester or a year in Bologna on the Eastern College Consortium (ECCO) or for a three week intensive Italian language Winter Session program in Rome or through the internships qualified students can undertake in Italy with the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice, Liberal!, an anti-mafia association, or Kitchen Film, a women run film production company in Rome.

As faculty, we all have visible research profiles and publish regularly (we are a department that has one of the strongest publication records at Wellesley).

As a reminder, here are a few links: Our department, where you can peruse and/or download copies of *Ciao! Wellesley*, our student-run magazine: <https://www.wellesley.edu/italian> & Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wellesley-ITAS/>

You will notice on the web site a section devoted to you: "[For Alumnae](#)." We would love to add a few more stories to this section. Please feel free to send me a paragraph or two about your "Italian" experience at Wellesley and what you have been doing in the meantime, plus a photo, and soon you will see your name in stars!

Lastly, if any of you are active in local Wellesley alumnae groups, please consider for us for guest lectures. We would be happy and honored to be invited.

We have come through this Covid-19 inflected world of the last 15 months relatively unscathed—sani e salvi; we now look forward to restoring some kind of normalcy and seeing our students in carne e ossa, and senza maschera.

David Ward, Chair
2020-21



Faculty/Staff Updates

During the past academic year, **Daniela Bartalesi-Graf** has continued developing her online courses on the edX platform. In summer 2020, a new edition of the AP® Italian Language and Culture was published with new video interviews with Italian-Algerian writer Amara Lakhous and Italian fashion designers Fratelli Attolini. The course has been adopted by more than 20 high schools to prepare students for the Italian AP exam. In addition, in February 2021, Daniela published on edX the third edition of the online courses Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced with new activities that employs voice recognition, a special software for learners to practice their pronunciation and sentence formation with a virtual tutor. Here is the [link](#) to register for free on edX.

Since our campus was closed in March 2021, Daniela has taught remotely. While this has presented many challenges, it has also brought new opportunities to develop “blended learning”, i.e. the use of technology to enhance teaching: Kahoot to gamify learning, Extempore to promote oral production outside the classroom, and Jamboard to initiate collaborative online learning, are some of the tools used by Daniela to engage students online.



In summer and fall 2020, Daniela published two articles that present and analyze data on the effectiveness of teaching online during the COVID-19 pandemic: one in the journal TILCA, written in collaboration with Giusy Di Filippo, Elena Gnudi, Valentina Giovannini, and one in the journal Italica, written in collaboration with Camilla Zamboni.

Daniela and her husband Mike love to hike in the White Mountains, New Hampshire: luckily, this activity was still permitted during the pandemic. Here you can see Daniela by a giant granite boulder near Mt. Washington, and Daniela and Mike on a recent hike on Mount Welch. Daniela and Mike hope to be able to visit soon their daughters, Chiara and Livia, who now live in Scotland and Canada respectively.

The next academic year already feels full of potential: resuming travelling, teaching in person, and seeing our beautiful campus populated again with students, faculty and staff!



Laura Ingallinella, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow of the Italian Studies Department and the English & Creative Studies department, has been primarily working on her book, a critical edition of Giovanni Cherichi's *Libro tratto dalla "Storia aurea"* (forthcoming in the ETS series "Biblioteca dei volgarizzamenti").

In the fall, Dr. Ingallinella's essay on a collection of saints' lives written in Naples around 1485 now preserved at the Houghton Library at Harvard University ("Lo scrittoio volgare d'un agiografo umanista: il Catalogo de li santi del ms. Houghton, Typ. 142") was published in an edited collection. Over the course of this academic year, two other essays by Dr. Ingallinella have been accepted by peer-reviewed journals. The first one, entitled "The Canonization of Piccarda Donati," will appear in a special issue of *Forum Italicum* (2021) celebrating the anniversary of Dante Alighieri's death, edited by Rachel Jacoff and Lino Pertile. This article talks about legends that flourished around the mysterious figure of Piccarda Donati, the first character Dante meets in *Paradiso*. Soon after the release of the *Commedia*, readers speculated about Piccarda's fate after her abduction from the convent of Monticelli, creating a story about a miraculous illness that reconfigured her as a Franciscan martyr.



Her second forthcoming article, "Lost and Bound: A Thirteenth-Century Manuscript of the *Vie d'Isabelle de France* by Agnes of Harcourt," will appear in *Revue Mabillon* in the fall and will document the discovery of the only extant medieval copy—albeit fragmentary—of the *Life of Isabelle of France* (d. 1272), sister of Saint Louis IX and one of the first women to promote Franciscanism in France. Written by one of her former ladies in waiting, Agnes of Harcourt, her *Life* is one of the few biographies of women written by women in the Middle Ages. Dr. Ingallinella has presented and will present her work at a number of conferences (Medieval Academy of America, Modern Language Association, Renaissance Society of America, Early Book Society, Medieval Translator, New England Medieval Consortium), and she has participated as a team leader in a number of virtual transcription events that have taken place online, such as [La Sfera Challenge](#).



This year, Dr. Ingallinella's students enrolled in the "Dante's Divine Comedy" course have celebrated the 700th anniversary of Dante's death with a digital humanities project in partnership with Wikimedia Education (see page XXX). Be on the lookout for more! As part of the anniversary celebrations, Dr. Ingallinella talked about *Paradiso* 32 as part of the Canto per canto series led by the Dante Society of America. The video will be released in June, but you can already browse a wonderful list of videos on other canti by other scholars [HERE](#). Finally, Dr. Ingallinella will release "A World of Our Own," a virtual exhibit curated by the students of her course, "Writing Medieval Women (500-1500)," which will take you on a journey dedicated to women who made the history of literature in medieval Europe. The exhibit will be available on June 7 [HERE](#).

FOCUS: WELLESLEY STUDENT CELEBRATE DANTE'S 700TH ANNIVERSARY

2021 has been a special year for the Italian Studies Department. Dante Alighieri, one of the most important authors in Italian and world literature, died exactly seven hundred years ago. Just before his death, Dante had completed his masterpiece, the *Divine Comedy*—a poem telling the story of a journey through the three different realms of the Christian afterlife: hell, purgatory, and heaven. Unthwarted by the pandemic, scholars and lovers of the *Divine Comedy* have been celebrating this anniversary with virtual exhibits, performances, lectures, conferences, and many initiatives on social media.

Wellesley students have celebrated this centennial by undertaking an initiative of public digital humanities, writing the women of the *Divine Comedy* back into history. Dante created an all-encompassing masterpiece that has challenged readers for centuries with questions regarding freedom, love and desire, justice, and identity. Importantly, Dante featured a lot of historical figures in his work of fiction—many of them medieval women about whom we would not know much if not for the testimony provided by Dante or his medieval commentators. In official partnership with Wikimedia Education, students enrolled in “Dante’s *Divine Comedy*,” taught by Dr. Ingallinella, have engaged in producing well-researched, openly accessible entries for all the historical women and LGBTQ+ figures included by Dante in his monumental work.

Founded exactly twenty years ago, Wikipedia is the world’s largest source of free knowledge on the internet. This repository is built by

thousands of users that contribute to Wikipedia by working on its entries through strict rules regarding content, bias, and citational practices. Unsurprisingly, Wikipedia is also plagued by a significant gender gap: only a very small percentage of Wikipedia contributors identify as women, and entries about men surpass by far those about women.

With their work, Wellesley students have contributed to closing both gaps and writing women back into our shared history. Save for very few notable characters, such as Francesca da Rimini or Beatrice Portinari, none of the historical women included by Dante in his work had an independent Wikipedia entry. In many cases, this meant that students had to create completely new entries on historical figures who were marginalized in their own time. Some of these women are mostly known in medieval documents and by contemporary scholars of the Middle Ages because they were wives, mothers, or daughters of prominent male protagonists of medieval Italy, which was essentially a patriarchal society ([Alagia Fieschi](#), [Nella Donati](#)). Some of these women were victims of violence and domestic abuse ([Ghisolabella Caccianemico](#), [Pia de’ Tolomei](#)). Some were rulers ([Joanna of Gallura](#)) and philanthropists ([Sapia Salvani](#)). Others were soon turned into exceptional myths to be either celebrated as paragons of gendered virtue ([Gualdrada Berti](#)) or disparaged as cautionary tales ([Chianghella della Tosa](#)).

To engage with these women and give justice to their historical experience and presence in the world, the students of ITAS 263 had to come to grips with the lack of archival sources on marginalized groups and with the need to critically approach the representation of women in works of literature. In most cases, ITAS 263 students created the first and only online resource on these women in English. Their entries, which are now available online to every user of Wikipedia and were published last March, at the end of Women’s History Month, provide unbiased, well-rounded, up-to-date descriptions of these women’s lives and their contribution to the history of their time and beyond. Less than a month after the publication of the entries made or edited by Wellesley students, their entries have been viewed by over 150k users, and will undoubtedly contribute to many more readers of the *Divine Comedy* for years to come, well beyond the anniversary we are celebrating this year.



Left: Dante and Beatrice in a late fourteenth-century manuscript of the *Divine Comedy* (Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, MS It. IX 276)

Flavia Laviosa, the Editor of the Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the special issue of the journal on the history of the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome 1935-2020 in spring 2021.

Flavia Laviosa, the Editor of the book series Trajectories is pleased to announce the publication of the edited volume on Paolo Sorrentino edited by Annachiara Mariani.

Paolo Sorrentino's Cinema and Television (2021), Edited by [Annachiara Mariani](#)

The Naples-born director and screenwriter Paolo Sorrentino has, to date, written and directed nine films, winning an Oscar, a Bafta and a Golden Globe for *The Great Beauty* in 2013. In 2016, he created and directed his first TV series, *The Young Pope*, which starred Jude Law. John Malkovich joined the cast in 2020 for the follow-up series. He has established himself as a world-leading auteur with a list of critically acclaimed and award-winning films.

This is an invaluable contribution to the existing literature on Sorrentino and is the first English language collection dedicated to this prolific director, who has emerged as one of the most compelling figures in twenty-first-century European film.

From the beginning of the pandemic, everyone had to adapt to a new way of living, everything went online and zoom became our best friend. Our Language Assistant, **Melania Notarrigo**, and the Italian Society too had to adjust to this new system. At first it was very complicated, not only because the majority of events usually involved food, but also because the time difference could be an issue sometimes (since she worked remotely from Italy).

Nevertheless, resilience and persistence are never lacking at Wellesley, so Melania and the whole Italian Society found new ways to share time and experiences with Wellesley students. They organized several events online: film nights (using Netflix Party), cooking events (where they cooked pasta al pesto), interdepartmental game nights in collaboration with the Spanish and French Departments, and last but not least, they kept alive the tradition of having Italian Table once a week, even if it wasn't always exactly lunch time for everybody.

In sum, it has been a very challenging year from any point of view, but Melania and the Italian Society have tried to bond with students (even if through a screen) and to create some fun and fond memories with and for them.



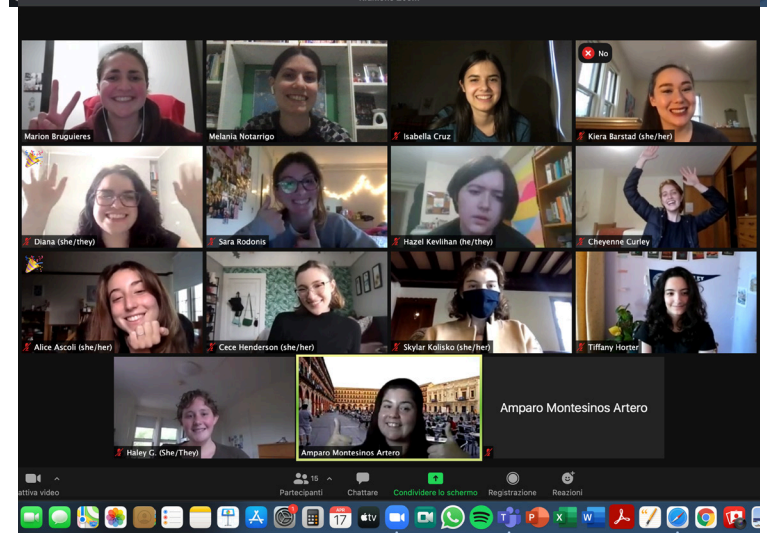
Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies

Volume 9 Number 2



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Special issue on the history of the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome 1935-2020.



Working from home when the pandemic hit for **Jael Matos** was an adjustment, just like everybody else in the world. Not being able to see faculty, students and other colleagues was hard. But just like everyone had to do, she adjusted and settled into the new normal. Several trips which included Portugal, visiting family in North Carolina and Puerto Rico came to a halt. But she tried to keep a daily routine in place to feel somewhat normal. Eating a healthy breakfast, making her bed every morning, and getting dressed (which always included yoga pants and a nice top especially on Zoom meeting days).

As the temperature got warm, Jael and her sister, Mara would sit outside and enjoy Tinto de Verano (a drink well known in Córdoba, Spain) and a small charcuterie board with flamenco music in the background. That is something that they would do on warm spring/summer nights. One night as they sat there, her sister came up with an amazing idea. She said, “We can make up our own little restaurant right here in our patio and we could call it Jara’s.” Jara’s is a mix of their names Jael and Mara. Little by little they added garden lights, upgraded the patio umbrella, added an outdoor rug, new colorful cushions, a water fountain for ambiance, created a simple (fake) menu, and of course a restaurant sign. If some of you know Jael, this was right up her alley. Little by little it was all coming together. After some time, we invited a few friends at a time who were comfortable enough to join us for a night at Jara’s. They truly enjoyed it just as much as we did. One friend truly appreciated the invite and said to Jael, “My wife and I truly had a great time. The time we spent with you and Mara that evening, I had completely forgotten that we were in the middle of a pandemic just for a moment.” That remark made Jael very happy especially because that was her ultimate goal for Jara’s. To create a space where one could sit back and enjoy time with friends and good food too! Like we used to do before the pandemic hit. Jael is looking forward to seeing family, friends, and colleagues to give them all great big hugs!



In May 2021, **Sergio Parussa** gave two Teams lectures. The first lecture, entitled *In the Garden of Beauty and Truth*, was a presentation on the inter-textual references to Emily Dickinson's poetry in the works of twentieth-century Italian writer Giorgio Bassani, and it was part of a comparative literature graduate seminar held on the Teams Platform of the University of Bologna on May 5th.

The subject of the second lecture, *Non de me fabula narratur*, dedicated to the genesis of Giorgio Bassani's novel *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, was also held on the Teams Platform, on May 26th.



Laboratorio Bassani 3

Verso il "Giardino"

Bologna, 26-27 maggio 2021

26 MAGGIO h. 15.00 modera Giulio Ferroni

15.00 SALUTI Mirna Bonazza (Biblioteca Ariostea di Ferrara);
Paola Bassani (Presidente Fondazione Giorgio Bassani)
15.15 SERGIO PARUSSA *Non de me fabula narratur: la
genes del "Giardino"*
15.45 VALTER LEONARDO PUCCEITI Il "Giardino" in
intervista
16.15 ENZO NEPPI Bruno Lattes, o l'identità divisa

PAUSA

17.00 DOMENICO SCARPA *La sala disabitata. Prefazione
inedita a sé stesso*
17.30 ANGELA SICILIANO *Frammenti di realtà nel
"Giardino": appunti, postille e progetti*
18.00 PRESENTAZIONE DEI VOLUMI (con Esme Howard e
Giulio Ferroni)
L. Dennett, *La principessa americana*, Torino, Allemandi,
2020.
Cento anni di Giorgio Bassani, a cura di G. Ferroni, C.
Gurrieri, Roma, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2019.

27 MAGGIO h. 9.30 modera Cristina Montagnani

10.00 ROSY CUPO *In limine al "Giardino": il carteggio
Bassani-Banti*
10.30 BEATRICE PECCHIARI *La poetica del "Giardino" nelle
interviste*

PAUSA

11.15 CRISTIANO SPILA *Segni della storia e coscienza
ambientalista nel "Giardino"*
11.45 SIMONE ZOPPELLARO *La Shoah nel "Giardino"*
12.15 BRIGITTA LOCONTE *La notte veneziana di Roger
Court: i nuclei cinematografici del "Giardino"*

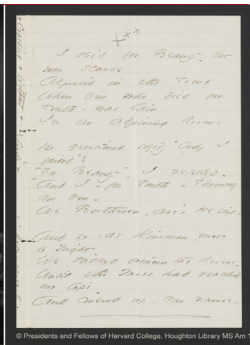
12.45 DISCUSSIONE

IL CONVEGNO SI TERRA' SU PIATTAFORMA [TEAMS](#)

Comitato scientifico

Paola Bassani, Paola Italia
Cristina Montagnani
Sergio Parussa

Organizzazione scientifica
Rosy Cupo, Gaia Litrico



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DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOLOGIA CLASSICA E ITALIANISTICA

SERGIO PARUSSA

(Wellesley College)

Nel giardino del Bello e del Vero:
Emily Dickinson, Giorgio Bassani
e Micòl Finzi-Contini

Bologna, 5 maggio 2021, h. 15.00 su
piattaforma Teams



Seminari di
Filologia Moderna
2020-2021



DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOLOGIA CLASSICA E ITALIANISTICA

On Sunday, January 31st, **David Ward** had the pleasure of giving a presentation on “Fascist Monuments in Italy Today: What to do with them - Revere, Remove, Rewrite?” to the Wellesley Club of Central New Jersey. The event was organized by one of our majors Catherine Marchetta, Wellesley Class of 2010. More than thirty alumnae zoomed into the talk, and not just from New Jersey. David thanks all and sundry who attended for an enjoyable and hopefully interesting and stimulating event.

In her notice advertising the event, Catherine wrote some very beautiful words and thoughts about her time at Wellesley. With her permission, I am sharing them here below:

I reached out to David last month to see if he might be able to speak with our club because the turbulent times reminded me a lot of critical discussions we had in his classroom and the lessons I learned from many of my experiences studying at Wellesley and abroad at the University of Bologna during my junior year.

It has been a very tough year for all of us in so many ways. I am currently in my second year of my Pediatric Residency training at Nemours/Al duPont Hospital for Children down in Wilmington, DE. Fortunately, children have not been flooding our children's hospitals across the nations at the alarming rates we have seen in the adult patient population. However, children are still falling ill with COVID-19 and facing severe complications of the virus that you may have heard about in the news (Multisystem Inflammatory System in Children, MIS-C). The repercussions of this virus have been immense and the loss of life devastating. In the midst of this global pandemic, we have seen our country struggling with such intense anger, violence, racism, discrimination, isolation, intolerance, and once again, loss of life.

When I reflect on the pain our country is enduring, I remember and feel incredibly grateful for how Wellesley taught me how to think critically and listen to my classmates, auditors from the community, professors, and family/friends/educators/neighbors from my home community and abroad!

I wish that everyone around the world could experience the kind of incredible, thoughtful, supportive, and inspiring education we received at Wellesley College. I hope that we can all find ways to help ourselves and those around us heal, grow, and advocate for positive change in the weeks, months, and years ahead of us.

Circling back to our upcoming Wellesley event, I credit many of my Wellesley professors for helping me to develop my own voice as a Wellesley student and now in my life and career beyond Wellesley. David Ward is a prime example of someone who has had such a meaningful impact on my life in this way. I enrolled in one of his Italian seminars entitled, The Function of Narrative. This course truly made me think hard about where stories come from, how they are delivered, and the impact they can have on our everyday lives and our futures. During the preparation of my senior honors thesis, Professor Ward and I discussed the horrible history of Fascism in Italy and Europe at large. I learned all about the Italian Resistance and the efforts by individuals and communities who defied Mussolini and Hitler's atrocious rhetoric and actions. The Renaissance was certainly a more peaceful and happier part of my research, but I do believe that there were innumerable lessons to learn from each of these phases of history both within Italy and across the world.

Alumnae Updates



Angelina Del Balzo '11 (left) - I'm finishing up my second year as an Assistant Professor of Humanities at a university in another Mediterranean country, Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. Unfortunately it means that I'm not practicing Italian as much as I desperately try to learn Turkish, which is very different and very hard! Hopefully though when covid abates more it will be easy to visit Italy more often. There's a direct flight from Ankara to Rome!



Laura Bruno '14 (right) - I have been working for BlackRock, a company that was co-founded by a Wellesley alumna. I am very proud to be working in the field of sustainable investing, partnering with colleagues across the firm to help achieve the goal of net zero emissions targets). I have also been volunteering virtually with some great organizations: UPchieve, which is an online education platform for middle and high school students (Math tutoring); Odyssey, which is a professional mentoring program for first generation college students. I have been happy to connect with any alums who are interested in volunteering at those orgs or who want to know about opportunities at BlackRock.



Caterina Castellano - I will be starting an MBA this fall at the MIT Sloan School of Management as a Dean's Fellow and Forté Fellow. I hope to explore opportunities at the intersection of technology and social impact, especially in education. My passion for education stems from my volunteering with Citizen Schools and the Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF). Most recently I was Co-Chair of the CSF Young Leader Committee and together we raised over \$100,000 for scholarships and programmatic aid for thousands of low-income students in the Boston area.

I have been working at State Street Corporation in Boston since graduation and am currently an Assistant Vice President in Enterprise Data Services. This past year I was Co-Chair of the Seven Sisters Alumnae Network, recently leading a keynote event along with Abigail Katz '20 featuring the Lead Independent Director of State Street's Board, Dame Amelia Fawcett '78.

Over the past year I was also a Ward Captain for the City of Medford's "Are You OK?" Program, mobilizing a team of volunteers to contact over 1,200 elderly residents for food and medication needs and to prevent social isolation. I was involved with the vaccination rollout and was recognized by the program director for my leadership and driving the success of the program.

In April I competed in the State Street "Da Dante a Voce" Italian Poetry Competition with several other colleagues from Italy, Poland, and Boston, winning first place for my presentation of "I pastori" by Gabriele D'Annunzio. I also won first place last year with "Il lamento per il sud" by Salvatore Quasimodo.



Above: Alex Solimano '10 and I with Professor David Ward after attending his lecture at the Center for European Studies at Harvard in November 2019. Right: Great Dome at MIT

Kathryn Cooperman '15. I have been enjoying my life in New York and frequently find opportunities to practice my Italian. This past September, I moved into an apartment in Manhattan, and have been enjoying New York's cultural and scenic offerings as we slowly start to come out of Covid. I currently work at Christie's Auction House as a Bids and Client Service Representative, and love being surrounded by art every day while using my Italian skills on the job. I always look forward to my weekly tutoring sessions with Alice Ascoli '23, who helps me greatly with Italian conversation and updates me on life at Wellesley. I even had the chance to attend a couple of virtual Italian Tables this semester; it was great to connect with students and alums! I hope to come back to campus soon and reconnect in person.

Catherine Marchetta '10. Carissimi Saluti a Tutti! The past couple years have felt like a whirlwind to me as I started my Pediatric Residency training in June 2019. I transitioned from wearing a fancy outfit everyday with my clean and bright white coat on my newborn nursery rotation, to the more casual and comfy look of scrubs and stethoscope during my neonatal intensive care unit, delivery room, and overnight shift rotations. Little did we all know that this pandemic would hit our world with such sudden, shocking, and intense force. My life of working in the hospital at all hours of the day and night continued, but masks became a seemingly permanent new accessory during my work day and I have never had my temperature checked more often in my entire life. I kept on chugging along with life though. Sometimes it felt like I was dragging myself out the door each day but I was lucky to have my very comfy pair of Italian-made Calzuro shoes to support me and my tired feet, legs, and back on those long, long days. Of course, I seemed to become more reliant on that daily dose of caffeinated espresso in my morning lattes. I often try to boost my energy in the early morning by greeting the friendly baristas with a "Buongiorno" or "Buenos Días!" I'm trying to learn as much Spanish as they can teach me during our morning conversations. Whenever I can incorporate Italian into my daily life, it always makes me smile! One of our beloved Wellesley auditors drew a picture of me to capture this seemingly relentless moment in our lives. She also sent me some lovely Italian novels to serve as a distraction from the chaos all around us. È una carissima amica.



Things have finally started to settle down around us and yet more children are being afflicted with this virus and subsequently developing complications as our adult population is increasingly gaining protection through widespread vaccination efforts. I pray everyday this horrible pandemic is behind us as soon as possible. In the meantime, I keep showing up for work and searching for that sunshine in my day, whether it's in a friendly greeting to a colleague or "una bella passeggiata" around the beautiful estate across the street from the hospital where I work. Children brighten my life everyday as a Pediatric doctor, for which I feel so incredibly grateful. Keeping in touch with friends and family around the world reminds me of the importance of creating long lasting bonds and memories. I remember my time living abroad in Bologna, Italy so fondly. My love for the Italian language and culture will always have a special place in my heart. Missing my days at Wellesley and those memorable walks around the magnificent Lake Waban!



Alexandra Solimano '10. Ciao!!! I'm excited to share that I just celebrated my one year anniversary at Notarize! It's hard to believe that it's been a year and I haven't met any of my colleagues in person yet but we've spent some quality time together via Zoom. Since I'm excited about my job for the first time in a long time, here goes: Notarize is the first on demand notary service allowing users to legally notarize a document online, 24x7. It's really cool, innovative, make-your-life-easier tech: buy and sell real estate or a car online, notarize a power of attorney, you name it. I'm a senior customer success manager and I work with some of our biggest strategic partners - lenders/banks and title agents - to help them digitize the mortgage process. I've loved being in a new industry (after 9 years in financial services) and working with colleagues who share a similar drive and passion for their work and solving interesting problems.



On a personal note, running is still my favorite hobby! I've been fortunate to spend most of the pandemic at my home in Falmouth, with my mom and the great outdoors. I've found some gorgeous running routes, a place that has a special connection to Italy and all the tributes to our very own Katherine Lee Bates! (She was born here). Background on the bench photo: I learned that Alfredo and Rita were both born in Italy but met in the US. Their families lived on the same street in Falmouth and they made this bench and plaque to honor their memory, and I happily discovered it on a run one day.

I hope to see our beautiful campus and amazing Italian Department professors very soon - a presto!



Ciao from San Francisco!

My name is **Jordan Stephens-Moseley '16** and I am a proud major from the Italian Studies department. After I graduated from Wellesley, I attended Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans. I graduated with an MPH in Maternal and Child health and I currently work as a public health researcher and evaluator. During the pandemic, I have been working virtually full-time and taking online courses to continue pursuing a career as a doctor.

Becoming a major in Italian Studies and studying abroad in the Bologna ECCO program has given me a forever love for Italian culture. My life and classroom experiences in Italian have given me work ethic and life skills that have made me a better professional in my field and helped shape the doctor I hope to become. I was able to go back to Italy after 4 years of studying in Bologna and was pleasantly surprised at the comfort and lack of fear I had in using my Italian. I don't get to use the language enough, so recently I have been enjoying streaming shows in Italian (occasionally with English/Italian subtitles) to maintain my proficiency and build on my word bank (Summertime on Netflix is a personal favorite). I am still holding onto my dream of being a practicing doctor living in Italy and informing global policy on Maternal and Child health laws.



Hanae Yaskawa '17. I am currently taking fashion classes to become a technical apparel designer in Vancouver, Canada.

Photo: working on a pair of climbing pants I designed.

Congratulations
CLASS OF 2021
ITALIAN STUDIES MAJORS & MINORS



Rachel Beaton
Anthropology &
Italian Studies



Megan D'Alessandro
Sociology &
Italian Studies



Veda Donthireddy
Neuroscience &
Italian Studies



Carolyn Johnson
Art History &
Italian Studies



Tatum Kawabata
International Relations-
Political Science &
Italian Studies



Francelis Morillo Suarez
Environmental Studies &
Italian Studies



Department of Italian Studies Essay Prize
Winner has been awarded to
Tatum Kawabata '21

CONGRATULAZIONI!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook at Wellesley College Italian Studies & Cultural Society.

If you'd like to be featured in our next edition under "Alumnae Updates", please send an email to Jael Matos at jmatos@wellesley.edu.

