

F I S BULLETIN(O)

*The Newsletter for the Division of French and Italian Studies,
University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

Celebrating the Vance Endowment for French Studies

From 1861 through 2005, a span of 145 years, the University of Washington has had no endowment designed to fund research by doctoral students specializing in French Studies. But we are pleased to announce that this is no longer true. When Gene Vance retired three years ago, a campaign was launched to honor Professor Vance and promote graduate research by establishing an endowment in his name. Over the past three years we have received numerous donations from Gene's friends, colleagues and former students all around the country. The cause has also been supported strongly by our French Studies Advisory Board under the leadership of chairs Jack Cowan, Vincent Poitout and Joan Cremin. When a member of our Board recently offered to match donations pledged through the end of June 2005, a flurry of new donations arrived and our initial goal of raising \$25,000 was accomplished. More donations are always welcome, of course! But reaching the \$25,000 mark means that the Eugene Vance Endowment for French Studies will now be a permanent budget line for FIS and that through the interest on the endowment we will now be able, *forever*, to honor Gene's distinguished career while facilitating the completion of Ph.D. dissertations in French Studies at the University of Washington.



Professor Vance (Ph.D., Cornell) joined the UW faculty in 1990, having previously taught at Yale University, the Université de Montréal, and Emory University. He has held visiting appointments at Toronto, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Johns Hopkins, Berkeley, and Duke. He has written many articles on Late Classical and Medieval literature and culture, along with five books: *Reading the Song of Roland*, *L'Archéologie du Signe (The Archeology of Signs)*, *Marvelous Signals: Poetics and Sign Theory in the Middle Ages*, *From Topic to Tale: Logic and Narrativity in the Middle Ages*, and *The Dragon and the Unicorn: The Rhetoric and Discourses of Power in Premodern Court Culture, East and West*. He has served on the editorial or advisory boards of more than a dozen professional journals. His many honors include appointments as Lockwood Professor in the Humanities from 1990-93 and Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecturer in 1998.

Spring 2005
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- 10 French Studies Advisory Board
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Support FIS

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GRADUATION GALA 2005

In honor of our GRADUATES, countless rounds of applause! We salute them in the knowledge that immeasurable amounts of energy and dedication have been put forth in earning their degrees from the University of Washington.

In our wish to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating French and Italian students we've organized the Graduation Gala which takes place annually at the Waterfront Activities Center. Family and friends of graduating seniors, along with faculty and staff, gather together to eat, drink (water, pop and university-appropriate beverages) and be merry.

Community businesses have chipped in with gift certificates for the top students, prizes for the winners of the dessert and appetizer competition and Trivia Game. We hope that each student will leave the UW with fond memories and a solid education that will serve them long and well in everything they choose to undertake in life.

Warmest regards and best wishes to one and all from Italian and French Studies!!!

-Sabrina Tatta, Academic Adviser

Bachelor of Arts Degrees Awarded

French Studies

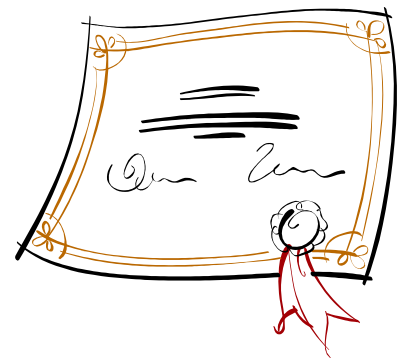
Erin Abbey
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Heather Glasgow
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April Gomez
Nathanael Hatfield

Kristen Honma
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Roxane Lewis
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Nathalie Milaskey
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Chelsea Nesvig
Amy Nowack
Angela Petlow
Jennifer Pitsch
Melissa Pitsch
Simina Popa
Emily Reedy
Steven Ropers
Jennifer Russell
Mary Sandstrom
Joel Strom
Lauren Struck
Chase Thompson
Graham Vanderzanden
Jennifer Weight
Julia Whitehead
Jennifer Wyeth

Italian Studies

Sara Bowes
*Wendy Durant
James Leong
Cynthia Swain
Jeremy Van Houten
Vicki Wilson
Elan Zephyrs

**Graduating with Honors*



GRADUATION GALA 2005

Masters Degrees awarded 2004-2005

French Studies

Andrew Estes
Melanie Knowles

Italian Studies

Jamie Kluz

Doctoral Degrees awarded in French Studies 2004-2005

Sandra Evans— "*Masters and Rebels in Raoul de Cambrai and the cycle des barons revoltes*"

R. John Matthies – "*Fort Apache: A Genealogy of the Banlieue Savage*"

The Division of French & Italian Studies wishes to thank the following local businesses/ individuals for their generous graduation gift donations:

A La Francaise; Bilingual Books; Buca di Beppo; College Inn Pub; Doug Collins & Hélène V.–Collins; Cranium Corporation; Jim Courrier, DDS; Jay Holcomb; Madison Park Café; Mama Melina; Mrs. Cook's; Pasta & Company; Seattle Opera House; Swoop Salon and Tutta Bella.

GRADUATE NEWS

- **Sandra Evans** has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in French Studies at the University of Puget Sound.
- **John Matthies** has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in French Studies at Brigham Young University.

Congratulations and the best of luck in your new faculty positions!

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS



The Division of French & Italian Studies would like to congratulate **Anna Maria Koch**, an undergraduate French major, who was selected to receive a \$500 Student Excel Scholarship from the Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT). Anna will be spotlighted in the next WAFLT newsletter. For more information on WAFLT, please visit <http://waflt.net>.

FACULTY NEWS

Launching the Technogym Endowment for Italian Studies



At a special reception on December 8, 2004, former Governor Albert Rosellini (Honorary Chair of our Italian Studies Advisory Board) headed a large group of faculty, students, staff and Board members who came together to celebrate the agreement by Claudio Bellini, CEO of Technogym USA, to inaugurate the Technogym Endowment for Italian Studies, which will provide UW students with travel scholarships to facilitate study on full-year programs at universities in Italy. FIS Chair John Keeler thanked Mr. Bellini on behalf of the department and saluted our colleague Giuseppe Leporace, whose extensive relations with the Italian community and organizational efforts helped make this endowment a reality. Attendees all enjoyed food catered by La Spiga and had a chance to toast Pietro Borghesi, La Spiga owner and Italian Board member, on the recent birth of his son.

Susan Gaylard Joins FIS Faculty

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Susan Gaylard, a specialist in early modern Italian literature and culture, will be joining FIS as Assistant Professor of Italian Studies in autumn 2005. A citizen of South Africa, Gaylard earned her B.A. at the University of Cape Town and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Italian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. She spent a year (2001) as a Graduate Fellow at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa. Her many honors include the Alvisio Pisano Prize from the Italian Consulate General in Cape Town (1995), an undergraduate thesis prize (1997) and the Giampiccolo Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Italian Studies at U.C.-Berkeley (2004). While at Berkeley she was also elected to the university's Graduate Council as the representative for international graduate students.



Gaylard wrote her dissertation on "Shifty Men Writing Monuments: Creating a Permanent Self in Early Modern Italy." She has presented papers at a number of major conferences; at this year's American Association of Italian Studies annual meeting in Chapel Hill she presented a paper entitled "The Rise of a National Prophet: Machiavelli in 19th Century Literary Historiography." She has also published an article on "The Crisis of Word and Deed in *Decameron* V.10" in *The Italian Novella*, edited by Gloria Allaire (Routledge, 2003).

At Berkeley, Gaylard taught courses on such topics as "Did Women Have a Renaissance?," "Power Games in the Italian Renaissance: Knights, Merchants and Whores," "Authors and Authority in the Early Modern Short Story Collection," "Idealizing Italy" and "Dressing Up: Clothes in Early Modern Italian Literature and Art." This autumn quarter at the UW, Gaylard will teach an upper-division course called "Space and Identity in Early Modern Italy" featuring the works of Tasso, Basile, Campanella, Tassoni, Goldoni, Tiepolo, Borromini, Canaletto and others.

By all accounts, our students are fortunate to have Susan Gaylard joining our faculty in the fall. In student evaluations at UC-Berkeley last year, Gaylard was described as "wonderful," "awesome," "fantastic," "extremely enthusiastic," "exceptional in every way" and "always supportive." Some categorized her as "the best TA I have ever had" or "so enthusiastic I couldn't help learning!" Finally, when asked for suggestions to improve the quality of her course, one student simply exclaimed: "More Susan!"

FACULTY NEWS

The Unsinkable Albert Sbragia

Interview conducted by Adrienne Paetzke & Jennifer Keene, article by Adrienne Paetzke



In his own domain, Associate Professor Albert J. Sbragia, head of Italian studies, is considered a force to reckon with by students and colleagues alike. But one morning, early this year, even everybody's favorite expert on Italian movies wasn't ready for what was coming next. Bicycling down 23rd Avenue on his way to work, he and his faithful bike were blindsided by a reckless driver and a car that had him outweighed by some 4,000 lbs. Sbragia has only recently returned to work, teaching and his beloved research. He talked with us and looked back on his long months of recovery and on-going rehabilitation.

We asked him how the catastrophic event and his injuries affected his life, his emotions and his family.

"It was verified early on that I had no brain damage or spinal cord damage," he said. "All I had were broken bones, so there was a feeling of thankfulness for being so lucky and to be able to look ahead to recovering fully. I had a sense of relief and, since you are in the hospital where you're basically forced to do nothing, it's a good time to step back and take a look at your life, to assess and reassess priorities. The support of my family and friends was very important. I had visits from people, my wife was there, my kids were there. I had a good supportive community."

In relating his experiences with the rehabilitation process, Sbragia praised his physician, University of Washington orthopedic surgeon Dr. Daphne Beingessner. "There too I was lucky. She is really wonderful and a wonderful surgeon," he said, "I think I had the best care I could have asked for. I also think the rehabilitation process is a question of having a goal in sight, which I did because I obviously want to walk again and engage in my physical activities, swimming and so forth. It was my goal from the beginning to get back on the bicycle." And of course the indomitable professor will do exactly that, although at his doctor's urging he is changing his route and will be using side streets to reduce the dangers of his daily run. "Once is enough for an accident like this," he explains.

According to Sbragia, one of the hard parts of his recovery was a three-week stay in a nursing home in which he was the youngest patient. Many of the others were confined to wheelchairs, had to be handfed, or required other constant help to handle basic tasks that Sbragia could still manage despite his injuries. "You think about your own old age," he said. "But of course that's a stimulus to rehabilitate and try to stay as healthy as you can. What I saw there was how easy it was to become dependent and part of a culture of dependency."

The experience wasn't all downside, Sbragia told us. "Those were also the most exciting times. I got into a wheelchair— before I'd always been laid out on a bed— and that's where I did my physical therapy to start walking on crutches so I could climb the stairs to get back into my house. I was the youngest one there' my therapists were always in awe of my wonderful progress. You know the competition wasn't much, so I had a lot of positive reinforcement," he laughed.

Did the trauma change how he approaches his work? "If anything, it's made me a little more involved with many things, my family and everything else. I feel a new kind of energy for my work. I also think it's one thing that makes you a little more sensitive to the human emotions, " Sbragia

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FACULTY NEWS

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reflected. Citing his own father, now in his 80s, who is determined not to leave his difficult-to-negotiate home perched high on a San Francisco hill, he described his own feelings of being at home in a wheelchair that he could not drag down the stairs, his sense of lost liberty, and his strong desire to be

independent. "My father had seen lots of friends and relatives in nursing homes. He had a much better idea of that than any of us had. Now, having gone through that same experience, I understand very well about his desire, so I'm certainly much more inclined to support him."

A setback in time for a few months? An unlikely gift of new insight? Luck in an odd disguise? Part of the amazing pull of life? To Albert Sbragia, his accident was all that and some other things that will no doubt surface later.

To all of us? Well, we missed him a lot and we're just glad to have him back, repairs and all. *In boca al lupo, Professore...* but ride carefully.

The Midnight Oil Recent Faculty Publications, Papers and Activities

Douglas Collins, Associate Professor, French

Essay on Deconstruction, to appear in July '05 issue of Stamen, the journal of the Department of Philosophy of Sophia University, Rome. Currently being translated into Italian.

"La raison du pauvre," awaiting publication at l'Harmattan.

Evelyne Ender, Professor, French

Architexts of Memory: Literature, Science and Autobiography, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming August 2005.

" 'Déjà Vu' or Memory-Science between Gérard de nerval and Marcel Proust." *Science in Context* (special issue on literature and science, forthcoming 2005).

"Henri-Frédéric Amiel: le philosophe et le (beau) sexe," in *Actes du colloque "La connaissance de soi au XIXième siècle, littérature et sciences humaines,"* Université de Genève), ed. Daniel Sangsue, forthcoming 2005.

"Geneva School" (revised and updated) in The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Criticism and Theory, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University press, second revised edition, 2005.

John Keeler, Chair of FIS

"Mapping EU Studies: The Evolution from boutique to Boom Field 1960-2001," Journal of Common Market Studies 43:3 (September 2005).

Chaired panel on "European Security and Defense Policy Post-Iraq" at the Ninth Biennial Conference of the European Union Studies Association, Austin, Texas, March 30-April 2, 2005.

Giuseppe Leporace, Senior Lecturer, Italian

Translation of Mark Strand's works, Dark Harbor; Blizzard of One; and The Continuous Life (in progress).

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Translation of Collected Works of Amelia Rosselli, Chelsea Poetry Review, New York, forthcoming.

Louisa Mackenzie, Assistant Professor, French

"The 'Pestilentially Ambitious' Figure of Julius Caesar in the *Essais* of Michel de Montaigne." Forthcoming in *The Caesar Papers: Julius Caesar in Western Culture*, edited by Maria Wyke (Oxford: Blackwell, c. December 2005).

"Environmental Toxicity as Metaphor: An Ecocritical Approach to Reading Don De Lillo's *White Noise*." Forthcoming in *Approaches to Teaching De Lillo's 'White Noise'* (New York: MLA Publications, c. December 2005).

"Traduire le Sumatra en français: Le *discourse de la navigation de Jean Parmentier* (1529)." Accepted for publication in *Seuils et Traverses III: Actes du Colloque de Saint-Quentin en Yvelines, 10-13 juillet, 2003*. (New York: Peter Lang, c. 2005).

"Towards a Study of Literature and Landscape in the French sixteenth century." Presented at the Renaissance Society of America conference, Cambridge, U.K., 6-9 April, 2005. Also organized panel in which paper was presented, "Reading Landscapes in sixteenth-Century French Literature."

Invited keynote speaker. "Jacques Cartier's Impressions of Canada (1534-1541)." Presented at the University of Washington Canadian Studies Center, Graduate Student Conference, "Québec in Question," March 4, 2005.

Hedwige Meyer, Senior Lecturer, French

Adaptation of Rond-Point textbook (Prentice Hall) for North American market (forthcoming).

Web-based intermediate-level French exercises for McGraw Hill (Summer 2005).

Albert Sbragia, Associate Professor, Italian

"Toga caput obvolvit: The idea of Rome in C.E. Gadda," *The Edinburgh Journal of Gadda Studies* (in press): www.arts.edu.ac.uk/italian/gadda

"Berlusconi bis," *European Weekly* (June 2005)

Co-director with Maxine Nelson, LICSW of Luminous Psyche, "Selected Films of Bernardo Bertolucci," Seattle Art Museum, January 21- February 26, 2005.
Co-editor of Fellini's Cultural Legacy, and author of "Fellini and the Auteurs," chapter (in progress).

Book Project, Modernity in Rome (in progress).

Vinay Swamy, Assistant Professor, French

"Rêves en France? La Famille, le PaCS et la filiation au nouveau millénaire," forthcoming -Conference Proceedings of AFECCA-2004, Eds. Geneviève Sellier and Jean-Pierre Bertin-Maghit.

"Gallic Dreams? The Family, PaCS and Kinship Relations in Millennial France," forthcoming in Studies in French Cinema, Eds. Susan Hayward and Phil Powrie.

**F I S
BULLETIN(O)**

Editor:
Jennifer Keene

Contributors:
Adrienne Paetzke
Sabrina Tatta

We encourage you to submit notices of your events to the Division of French and Italian Studies by email: frenital@u.washington.edu or fax: 206-616-3302

Division of French & Italian Studies

Chair:
John T.S. Keeler

University of Washington
C-256 Padelford Hall
Box 354361
Seattle, WA 98195

Ph: 206-685-1450
Fax: 206-616-3302

frenital@u.washington.edu

<http://depts.washington.edu/frenital>

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STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES

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"Society of Spectacle: Race, Nation and Post 9-11 France in Benmiloud's *Allah Superstar*," 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, Gainesville, Florida (March 2005).

Chair and Organizer of mini-series, "Immigration and Visual Media in Contemporary France," UW (February 2005).

Sabrina Tatta, Lecturer, Italian

Editor, *Italian in 10 Minutes a Day* workbook and audio cd; Bilingual Books by Kristine Kershul (in progress).

Special Awards

John Keeler, Chair, French & Italian Studies

- Elected Chair of European Union Studies Association (EUSA) for 2005-2007.

Albert Sbragia, Associate Professor, Italian

-UW Simpson Center for the Humanities Associate Professor Initiative grant, Winter 2005

Vinay Swamy, Assistant Professor, Italian

-*Society of Scholars* research grant from the Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW, (2004-05)



Congratulations to **Claudio Mazzola**, who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies!

A letter from Versailles

Yuqui Meng, Graduate Student in French Studies

For the academic year 2004-05 I've been on exchange at Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ). As someone who had never been to France, I had my "tourist phase" for the first couple weeks, inevitably running around the city with a map, a camera and a funny look on my face. I got to know the city quite well during the next phase, that of apartment hunting. I took the subway so much that one day I got the idea of writing down station names by memory. I remembered 94 of them, but

there are a total of 297! I ended up not with an apartment, but rather a 12m² servant's quarters on top of a *Hausmannian*-style building. Since then, whenever I see a similar building, my eyes go right to the top and I can't help but wonder: "Who's living there? How big? How much? Heating included or not? Toilet in or out...?" I smile at the person if I can catch a glimpse of their face, or at least their silhouette. If I can't see anyone, the view of flowers or the window itself is enough to make me feel a

special connection with whoever lives there.

UVSQ was founded in 1991, combining the sciences of Paris 6 and the humanities of Paris 10. Its location is 40 minutes by train from the center of Paris. According to a recent report from the Ministry of Education, the vast majority of undergrads who begin their study at UVSQ successfully complete their degrees there. Regarding English study, students take courses in British phonetics with instructors from the UK, and take conversation courses with instructors from the US.

STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES

Because of, or in spite of this confusion, most of the students retain their distinctive French accent. I teach two days every week, with back-to-back classes that add up to 7 hours a day. Class size is anywhere from 6 to 20 students. Pre-set syllabi were supposed to be followed closely, and the students more or less enjoyed classes depending on the topic of discussion. A month before the end of the semester I began reserving 20 minutes of every class period to help students prepare for their final class presentations; I'm glad I did so. The last day was miraculous. What my students ended up producing were short theatrical performances. Each and every presentation was beautiful and perfect. It was through the roles they played that my students came to life. On this late spring day, I sat there in ecstasy, as butterflies broke free of their cocoons. Every class ran longer than normal, followed by rounds of picture-taking. We sensed that something special happened between us, finally. I know I'll miss them.

Humanities faculty at UVSQ have a very active academic network, and relative courses and colloquia happening in and around Paris are often posted in the department. I went to one



Yuqi Meng, fourth from the left, with students at UVSQ.

event, it led me to another, and it keeps going. I've also enjoyed auditing dissertation defenses at UVSQ, on all topics. It never fails to be an edifying and inspiring experience. My favorite so far was on a one-hundred-year study of the Tour de France. I also spend a good deal of time in FNAC's Montparnasse store. To my dismay it opens as late as 10am; when it approaches 7:30pm, closing time, I feel cramp-like pains in my stomach, so dreadful the prospect of having to leave in the middle of a reading.

A Chinese proverb says "What a pleasure to run into old acquaintances when one is away from home." I did see old faces: Prof. Hua Meng, my French teacher when I was an undergrad at Peking University, Prof.

Béatrice Didier that I got to know years ago, also in Beijing, Prof. Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen, my general exam committee member, and Sabine Teboul and Claire Guillemet, former exchange students in French Studies at UW, among others. Each reunion gave me an occasion to relive a certain past, near or far, and to be surprised at the realization of how much I had evolved. In this cosmopolitan city of Paris questions about my identity have been raised by a number of first-time interlocutors, and for some time "Where are you from?" became a question that I would rather not hear. It didn't take me too long to figure out the most direct and truthful answer: "I'm from University of Washington." *Génial!*

SPECIAL THANKS

**We would like to thank the French and Italian Studies
Advisory Boards for your continued hard work!**

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Joan Cremin– <i>Chair</i>	Henri-Jean Bardon	Nicole Brodeur	Kathleen Brunner
Stephan Coonrod	Jack Cowan	Monica Howell	Bernard Liebes
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Italian Studies

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**French & Italian Studies
University of Washington
Box 354361
Seattle, WA 98195-43651**

**Questions? Email
frenital@u.washington.edu**