

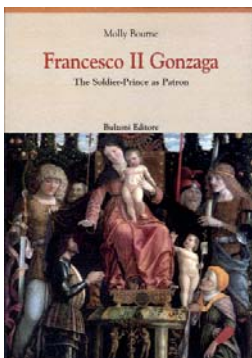
Faculty Watch

Antonella Battaglia and Loredana Tarini



In the Summer of 2008 Antonella Battaglia and Loredana Tarini published two Italian language books. *Praticamente dimmi* (a workbook of exercise and activities) and *Dimmi* (a manuale for communication), both geared toward elementary level students. While the former is an activity book with grammar charts, *Dimmi* is a textbook that offers students the opportunity to apply language skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations through a communicative approach. Activities foster interaction among the students where they assume an active role in their language development. The two books stemmed from the unconditional dedication and cooperation of students and the authors. Students in fact posed as characters in the book, providing the authors with their photographs and their input. The authors wish to thank all those who helped them with this project.

Molly Bourne



Molly Bourne's book, *Francesco II Gonzaga: The Soldier-Prince as Patron* was recently published by Bulzoni Editore (2008). In this text, Molly provides the first comprehensive study of the artistic patronage of Francesco II Gonzaga, Fourth Marquis of Mantua from 1484 to 1519. Although it was during his reign that the Gonzaga court confirmed its position as one of the great cultural centers of Renaissance Italy, Francesco's celebrated consort, Isabella d'Este, has received virtually full credit for this achievement. Obscured by the long cultural shadow cast by his wife, Mantua's fourth marquis has traditionally been portrayed as a professional soldier and avid breeder of horses who was uninterested in the arts. Bourne challenges this profile, using archival evidence to reconstruct Francesco's numerous commissions for sacred and secular works of art, few of which survive today, but that included religious and residential architecture, paintings, sculpture, and the decorative arts, demonstrating that artistic patronage in Renaissance Mantua was, in fact, an enterprise shared between both rulers.

Barbara Deimling



SUF Director Barbara Deimling is on research leave this semester, having been awarded the prestigious Craig Hugh Smyth Research Fellowship at the Villa I Tatti, the Harvard Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence, Italy. The Craig Hugh Smyth Research Fellowship is designed for scholars in any field of Italian Renaissance studies whose full-time occupations do not allow them the research time that is normally enjoyed by university academics. Fellows are selected on the basis of a record of distinction and an application to carry out a project of advanced research in Renaissance art history, literature, history, or musicology. Deimling's research will have as its focus Mary Magdalene as represented in a fourteenth-century fresco cycle in a small, rural church near Bolzano, Italy.

Faculty Watch

Marco Fallani

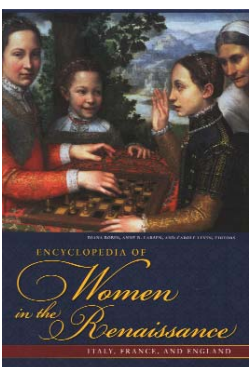


This past June Marco Fallani showed his work, *Le Gioconde*, in the exhibit “Re-Thinking Mona Lisa” held at the Stazione Leopolda in Florence. The exhibit focused on the *Mona Lisa* for the Gherardini handbag company, inspired by a theory that *Mona Lisa* was a member of the Gherardini family. Proceeds from the exhibit and sales from the works of art will go towards restoration of artwork at the Uffizi.

Antonella Francini

Antonella Francini was a fellow in residence for six weeks at the John F. Kennedy Institute at the Freie Universitat of Berlin last summer as a recipient of one of their research grants. There, she developed a project on the relationship between text and image and the role of collective memory in the formation of cultural patterns. Prior to this, in May she gave a lecture on translation entitled “Tradurre traduzioni. Dall’originale all’italiano” at the Università Statale in Milan.

Sara Matthews Grieco

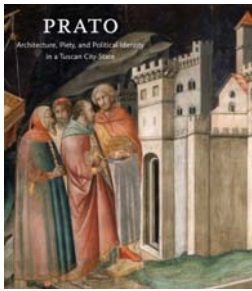


In the second of a three year appointment on the Awards Committee of the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women (SSEMW), Sara Matthews-Grieco acted on the committee for collaborative books. The award for the best collaborative project published in 2007 has been given to the *Encyclopedia of Women in the Renaissance: Italy, France and England* edited by Diana Robin, Anne R. Larsen and Carole Levin [Santa Barbara (CA), Denver (CO), Oxford (UK): ABC-CLIO, 2007], while an honorable mention has been awarded to the volume *Teaching Other Voices: Women and Religion in Early Modern Europe*, edited by Margaret L. King and Albert Rabil Jr. [Chicago (IL): University of Chicago Press, 2007].

The Society for the Study of Early Modern Women is a network of scholars who meet annually, sponsor sessions at conferences, maintain a listserv and website, and give awards for outstanding scholarship. SSEMW welcomes scholars and teachers from any discipline who study women and their contributions to the cultural, political, economic, or social spheres of the early modern period, or whose work on this era includes attention to gender and representations of women.

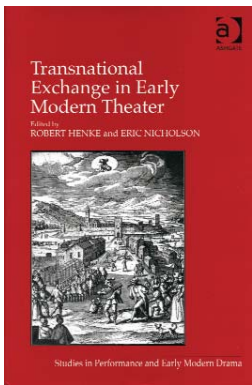
Faculty Watch

Alick McLean



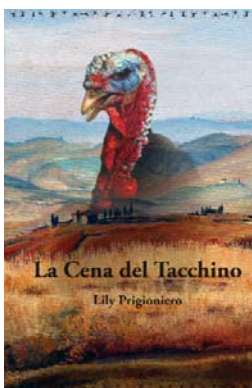
Alick McLean's book on Prato, *Architecture, Piety, and Political Identity in a Tuscan City-State*, has been recently published by Yale University Press and will be available in December. The book recounts the historical developments of the Italian commune of Prato during the period between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries. In telling the story of Prato's origins, Alick McLean considers the planning, art, architecture, politics, faith, and daily life of Prato and its citizens, showing how major historical events and trends in the Italian middle ages were experienced within the architecture and streetscapes of this particular place. Along with the text, the book contains 32 color and 102 black-and-white photographs and illustrations, many of which were shot or drawn by the author.

Eric Nicholson



In collaboration with composer Elizabeth Luttinger and the creative team of the opera production, Eric Nicholson is currently making final revisions to the libretto of *The Enchanted Dragon*. This children's opera-ballet will have its world premiere this coming April, at the Teatro della Pergola Salonicino, as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of Syracuse University in Florence. Aided by SUF colleagues Barbara Deimling and Vittoria Tettamanti, Eric is also completing a children's book version of the opera, which will be illustrated by Syracuse VPA professor (and director of *The Enchanted Dragon*) Alex Koziara. This past June, Ashgate Press released *Transnational Exchange in Early Modern Theater*. The volume, that includes Eric's chapter on Italian actresses and Shakespeare's Ophelia, was co-edited by Nicholson with Robert Henke. In the same month, Eric attended an international conference on "Theatre Between East and West" in Telç, Czech Republic, where he gave a paper on pastoral comedy entitled "Et in Arcadia the Dirty Brides." With this semester's SUF acting company *i Giullari di Syracuse*, Eric is starting rehearsals and production work on *The Mandragola*, the classic Renaissance comedy by Niccolò Machiavelli. The play will be performed on 11 December, as part of the SUF Student Day events.

Lily Prigioniero



La Cena del Tacchino, a novel by Lily Prigioniero, was awarded publication by the *Università degli Studi di Siena's* department of Letters and Philosophy for their post-graduate program "L'Arte di Scrivere" (Manni Editori, 2007). The story's protagonist, an artist from the U.S. raising a family in Italy, crosses the modern histories of two continents by glancing into the anthropological transformation of the old world into the new. The three connecting time-lines interact with irony and touch upon cultural differences, immigration, xenophobia, the effects of war, the Chernobyl disaster and the importance of viewing life's simplicity while walking in mortality's path.

The novel is written directly in the author's second language as a linguistic experiment combining American narrative with a unique Italian voice. It was a finalist for the literary award *Penna d'Autore* (Torino), and has won the *Premio Selezione* for fiction of the "Premio Letterario Internazionale Archè" in Rome.

Debora Spini



September was a busy month for Debora Spini. On September 2, in Trento, Debora gave a lecture to a mixed audience of students coming from all over Europe in the framework of the IX International Jean Monnet Summer School 2008. The lecture was a brief summary of her research on the topic of post national civil society.

September 17-19 Spini participated in the annual conference of Garnet in Bordeaux, France. Garnet is a “Network of Excellence” promoted by the seventh framework program of the European Union. The objective of such networks is to provide European scholars with a forum to meet and profit from each others’ research and work. Spini presented a paper in a panel organized by the Jointly Research Group on non-state actors in global governance, entitled “Global Civil Society: Power and Legitimacy.”

The volume *Il sogno e la politica: da Roosevelt a Obama* edited by Spini and Margherita Fontanella has just come out as of October 7. This book features a selection of speeches of democrat leaders in the post bellum period, with two introductory essays by the editors.

Debora’s *Parole per un mondo globale*, edited with Andrea Giuntini and Piero Meucci, was released in June of this year.

Kirsten Stromberg



Kirsten Stromberg recently facilitated a graduate workshop for the “Visible Memories Conference” in Syracuse, NY. The conference, interdisciplinary in nature, brought together artists, public memories scholars, historians, architects, philosophers and social scientists to explore the intersections between visual, culture and memory studies with particular focus on the ways in which memories are manifested and experienced in visible, material, or spatial form. For more information: <http://publicmemories.syr.edu/>

Vittoria Tettamanti

This past September the Florentine *Circolo Didattico XV* invited Vittoria Tettamanti to facilitate a seminar for local elementary school English language teachers. During the seminar, entitled “Storytelling: metodologia e sue applicazioni pratiche,” Vittoria presented models and techniques she developed to train SUF volunteers who visit the Florentine elementary school English classes. This opportunity was important for Vittoria, in that it allowed her to share with other Italian colleagues her methods and research on storytelling and its use in language courses for children.

SUF Faculty Leave Program Approved

Syracuse University Vice Chancellor Eric Spina has approved a faculty leave program to provide full-time SUF faculty members the opportunity to pursue academic projects that will enhance their teaching at SUF. The length of the leave will be one semester, with one faculty member on leave in any specific semester.

The proposal, in the works for some time, had been approved by the Academic Council, was then forwarded to the Faculty Affairs Committee for its consideration, and was then approved by Vice Chancellor and Provost Eric Spina.

Says SUF Director Barbara Deimling, “Enabling full time SUF faculty to take a leave to pursue academic projects that will enhance their teaching at SUF contributes to the University’s Scholarship in Action in the areas of Faculty Excellence and Scholarly Distinction, as well as Engagement with the World.”

Deimling continues, “I wish to thank Jon Booth and Don Saleh for all their efforts in making this a reality. This is an important step in acknowledging the crucial role that SUF faculty plays in delivering a program of the highest academic level within an international setting, and it shows the dedication of SU towards its colleagues abroad.”