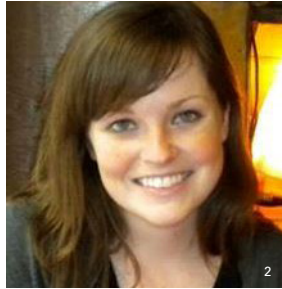


ITALIAN PROGRAM



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



JULIANNE VANWAGENEN ^[1]
BA in Italian and English Literature, 2006

Through the DePaul Italian Program, Julianne applied for a position as an au pair in Rome, won the post and moved to Rome that spring.

After a year as an au pair and some biology courses at Università Roma Tre, she was offered a job as an English teacher at a small Irish-Italian Cultural Association. Over the next four years, she became the head of the English section in the association, developed curricula for all ages, hosted monthly language workshops, film screenings, poetry readings, and end-of-year class productions. Through the school, she became a sommelier. She also translated for their culinary and wine courses, and spent every July with her students in Dublin, Ireland.

After nearly five years abroad, she is now a Ph.D. candidate in Italian at Harvard where she is writing a dissertation on Fabrizio DeAndré and the cantautore as a modern-day poet. She is also the head librarian for the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dudley Library and a core member of the Berkman Center's metaLAB.

CAITLIN SCHAER ^[2]
BA in Italian and Anthropology, 2010

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Caitlin studied in Florence, Italy through New York University's Villa la Pietra master's program.

Following the completion of her master's degree in Italian Studies, she decided to continue her education in a doctorate program. In September 2013, she began a Ph.D. program in Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently, she is completing her course work and teaching introductory language courses to undergraduate students.

Her research interests include cultural linguistics, Italian politics, media studies and Italian cinema. After the completion of her Ph.D., she plans to teach Italian at the university level.

CAITLIN FARRELL ^[3]
BA in Italian, 2011

Caitlin is currently attending George Washington University Law School and will be graduating in the spring of 2015. She has maintained her language skills through reading Italian news and attending Italian cultural events sponsored by the Italian Embassy.

She will be working for a firm in DC after graduation, and she is listed as an Italian contact in case any language need arises. As Caitlin puts it, "My Italian background was a big part of my personal statement when applying to law school. I also believe that it may have played a role in setting me apart as an applicant—one with a somewhat non-traditional background. I also know that it was a big talking point when applying to law firms. Many were very interested in my study abroad experience in particular."

MONICA FREIBAND ^[4]
BA in History of Art and Architecture, Italian Minor, 2013

Monica was the 2013 Italian Program candidate for the SITE Program in Brescia, Italy where she was an English teaching assistant in a local high school for six months. She is currently a private English instructor to 8 to 12-year-old students at a school in Lincoln Park.

This picture was taken in Brescia, where the Giro d'Italia (one of the three major European professional cycling stage races) ended in 2013.



INTERNSHIPS



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KEVIN TRACEY ^[5]

[BS in Finance and Italian minor, 2012](#)

Kevin works for Deloitte’s global office (DTTL) in NYC since graduation. Kevin helps to manage a network of roughly 40 Deloitte Member Firm Governance Centers around the world, including Italy. Kevin speaks Italian sometimes to Deloitte’s team in Italy and helps with the organization of events. Through his role, he also has met a few directors on the boards of Italian companies like FIAT and Pirelli.

In addition, Kevin conducts research and has helped to write important publications on Deloitte’s website, including on the topic of women in the boardroom. This is a research area of topical interest after the recent implementation of gender quota legislation in Italy.

ERIC RADER ^[7]

[BA in Italian and Political Science, 2008](#)

Currently, Eric is the director of an Italian language school for adults called Sentieri Italiani. He began as a part-time employee in 2005 and became director in 2009. He communicates daily with staff and students in Italian.

He thinks the small business world is an exciting adventure and being immersed in the Italian language in Chicago is a joy. He says, “A definite perk is that Sentieri regularly organizes tours in Italy of different cities and regions, some popular and others off the beaten path. This year, I will make my fifth visit to Italy with Sentieri (and eighth overall)!”

BART PASCOLI ^[8]

[BA in International Studies and International Marketing with an Italian minor, 1991](#)

Bart currently works as the North American Project Coordinator for the Italian Trade Agency’s machinery and technology initiatives. His past experiences include working as a journalist for the Associated Press Rome, Italy Bureau; Trade Analyst for the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy; Manufacturing Management/Restructuring Consultant in the NAFTA market with George S. May Company, Park Ridge, Illinois; and Project Specialist for the Mutual Trading Corporation in Chicago where he conducted trade relationships in Asia, Africa and South America.

The Italian Program thanks Bart for being one of the wonderful ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge) mentors at DePaul.

ANNIE SHAPERO ^[6]

[BA in Theater and Italian minor, 2001](#)

Annie moved to New York after working as a food and travel writer and consultant in Italy. While in Rome she launched her own wine column in the Rome publication of WHERE magazine, and continues to write about food, wine and vineyards for a number of publications including Zagat, Insight Guides, Draft magazine, The American and Haute Life Press.

Trained at the Italian National Sommelier Association, she sells wine as a representative/consultant for OMNI Wine importers in NYC. She routinely uses her Italian skills to manage her own consulting/communications/events company called DiVino, through which she also offers translation services.



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KATIE PLAKAS ^[9]

[BS in Elementary Education and Italian minor, 2012](#)

Katie writes, “I have been using my Italian since I graduated from DePaul. A couple of months after graduating I moved to Cremona, Italy where I worked as an English teacher in elementary and middle schools through a competitive internship offered through the DePaul Italian Program. The experience was truly life changing. I was able to continue improving my Italian language skills as well as immerse myself in Italian culture. Through that experience I met so many wonderful people, who I now consider my closest friends and family. In the year since my internship has finished I have already been back to visit Cremona twice!

I am extraordinarily happy to say that I am again using my Italian while working in Chicago Public Schools as an Italian teacher for kindergarten through eighth grade classes. My Italian minor in combination with my BS in Elementary Education has truly paved the path for my post-grad life. I am so happy with the experience at DePaul and how much my studies have helped make my dreams come true, that I hope to go back to DePaul for a master’s degree in Italian someday soon!”