

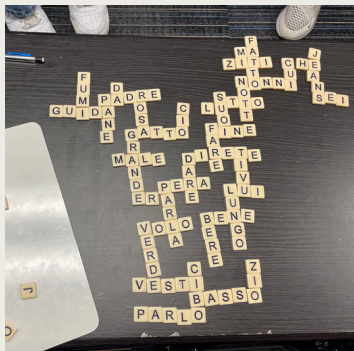


La Tavola Italian Club

created by La Tavola
Executive Board

LE ORE DI CONVERSAZIONE

WRITTEN BY NICO EDWARDS-TESTOLIN



This semester, La Tavola Italian Club hosted two conversation hours a week, Tuesdays at 2pm and Wednesdays at 12pm. Italian students and other members of the club gathered to play Italian themed games, paint, read short stories and poems, learn music lyrics, and most importantly practice and study their Italian! We even took a short field trip to the art galleries where we went on an art scavenger hunt *in italiano*. We value our tight-knit groups at conversation hour, and we look forward to more fun, themed conversation hours next semester!





SERATE DI CINEMA

WRITTEN BY NICO EDWARDS-TESTOLIN

La Tavola hosted three Italian film nights this semester, with the goal of broadening Italian students' perspectives on classic and modern genres of Italian television and film. Our first and third movie nights showed two episodes from each of the first two seasons of *L'amica geniale*, a story based in 20th century Naples of two girls navigating through life in a world that seems against them. Our second movie night showed *Divorzio all'italiana*, a dark comedy highlighting relationships and honor in Italy before 1970. While only registered Italian students can attend these movie nights, we will continue showing Italian movies next semester, so stay tuned for the names and dates!



SERATA DI PASTA

WRITTEN BY NICO EDWARDS-TESTOLIN

Following tradition, La Tavola hosted another pasta night this past November! With the help of Dr. Edwards, her husband Giovanni, Dr. Ferrari, and the Italian club executive board, members of the Italian club as well as Italian students had the opportunity to learn how pasta dough is made from scratch, how to roll it out, cut it, and prepare it to eat. Students first read outloud the recipe in Italian, detailing the ingredients and technique, then learned how to use the pasta machine to roll out the dough, attach the pasta cutter, and how to cook it. The evening concluded with homemade cannoli for dessert. It was a fun, informative cultural night with a delicious result.





SERATA DI PITTURA

WRITTEN BY SOFIA LINK

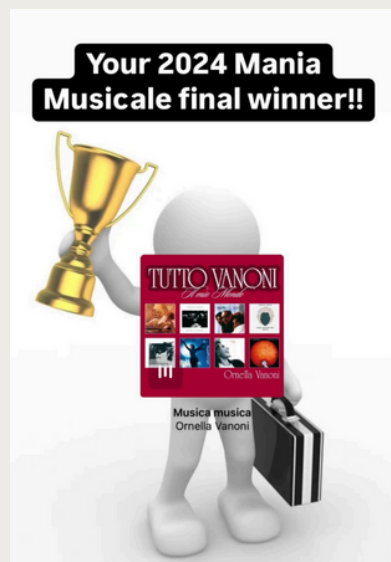
"Serata di Pittura" was an evening hosted by La Tavola Italian club, where Italian students gathered to enjoy both camaraderie and creativity. Students participated by painting art sheets inspired by the Renaissance period, a time of great influence in Italian culture. Alongside the painting, students had the opportunity to connect, share experiences from their classes, and enjoy snacks. It was a wonderful night to relax, celebrate Italian culture, and bond with other Italian students!



WHY SHOULD YOU DO AN ITALIAN MINOR?

WRITTEN BY ROSA BAKER

Choosing an Italian Studies Minor offers a unique opportunity to learn about Italian language, culture, history, and literature. Through coursework and extracurricular activity in this minor, you gain understanding about the importance of cultural appreciation and are able to broaden your global communication skills. Students learn about important times in Italian history from the Renaissance to contemporary society, gain an appreciation for both traditional and modern Italian art and literature, and learn an entirely new language that boosts your cognitive and literary skills. The Italian Studies Minor not only enriches your personal life, but also sets students apart in the professional setting and opens doors to exciting opportunities across all career fields. I chose this minor because I'm an Italian American and wanted to learn more about my culture. It has taught me so much about my background and has brought me closer to my family!



MANIA MUSICALE

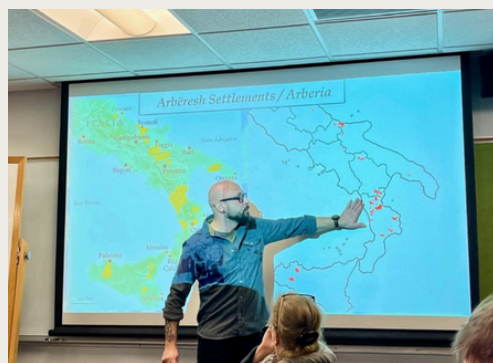
WRITTEN BY ROSIE CHAPPELL

Mania Musicale is a March Madness style bracket containing a multitude of news songs from different Italian artists. This semester La Tavola gathered songs from the Suzuki Music Party Festival which was hosted in Milan this past September. Italian students listened to songs in class from the likes of Ornella Vanoni to Tananai during the Sweet 16 phase of the bracket. Students then, every Monday through Thursday throughout Mania Musicale, voted for their favorite song. Each winning song advanced until both sides of the bracket each had one song that competed against the other in the final two. It was a pretty close battle between Lazza's "Male Da Vendere" and Ornella Vanoni's "Musica Musica." In the end, La Tavola's Mania Musicale crowned Ornella Vanoni's "Musica Musica" as its Fall 2024 winner!

'IN ITALY FOR 550 YEARS: LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND TRADITIONS OF THE ARBËRESH MINORITY:' A REVIEW

WRITTEN BY LUKE FAULKNER

This semester Dr. Ferrari, one of our Italian professors, along with Dr. Derhemi (UIUC), professor of Italian and a linguist who has researched extensively Arbëresh, a language that combines Albanian with Italian and local dialects, gave a presentation titled "In Italy for 550 years. Language, culture and traditions of the Arbëresh minority." Dr. Ferrari, being Arbëresh himself, informed a group of many students and faculty on this culture. The Arbëresh are the descendants of Albanian refugees after the Ottoman Empire's expansion. The key theme of the presentation was "Preservation and Transformation." The Arbëresh people have maintained this language of Albanian and Italian for centuries, and have preserved various aspects of their culture while integrating into modern society over time. Dr. Ferrari discussed the history and migration patterns of Albanians over multiple centuries, and the communities that exist today. Dr. Derhemi elaborated on Albanian migration and also discussed language vitality and extinction. Dr. Ferrari addressed traditions such as the clothing that is worn by the Arbëresh, the dances they perform, and their music. Additionally, he showcased Arbëresh bands that have adapted to modern music while preserving the language. Dr. Derhemi and Dr. Ferrari's presentation showed listeners the importance of preserving their culture, and to be proud of it.



ITA 111 COURSE REVIEW

WRITTEN BY LUKE FAULKNER

Italian 111 is an introductory course in Italian language and culture. The class covers the basics of speaking Italian which continue to be built upon in the next level classes. Throughout ITA 111 you learn to read, translate, and speak Italian at a beginning level. We start out with grammar and everyday vocabulary, then move on to learning different verbs that are applicable in any conversation you may have in Italian. You also learn important concepts like telling time, describing yourself, your likes and dislikes, discussing weather and the seasons, and identifying various family members in Italian. The greatest takeaway I have gotten from this course is learning more about Italian culture. Coming from a background without Italian heritage, it is a great opportunity to learn more and hear from people with that background.

We learn about different Italian foods, the Italian family, Italy's history, and the geography of the country. In my first four months of taking Italian I have gained many conversational skills. I am able to hold basic conversations with people in my class and in the Italian club. Aside from all that I have learned in my first semester taking Italian, I have formed many great friendships through a tight knit class, and through the Italian club. I would recommend taking Italian if you are interested in learning another language. You won't regret it!



ITA 115 COURSE REVIEW

WRITTEN BY SOFIA LINK

ITA 115 is a third-level Italian course that builds on what students have previously learned while also introducing new verb tenses and grammar concepts such as: *il condizionale*, *il si impersonale e il si passivante*, *futuro semplice*, *l'imperativo informale e formale*, and more. In this class my classmates and I have grown immensely. We have learned to talk about our futures, describe our regrets, make comparisons, give commands, provide directions, and write complex sentences! Through this, we continue to learn new vocabulary and cultural information as well. At the end of semester students conclude the course by creating an Italian film of their choosing (soap operas, songs, skits, etc.). It's a fun way to recognize the progress you've made, and utilize the skills you've learned in a creative way. This class has been a challenging, yet rewarding experience, and I recommend it to any student eager to grow their knowledge of Italian language and culture!



ITA 222 COURSE REVIEW

WRITTEN BY ROSA BAKER

ITA 222 (Introduction To Modern Italian Literature & Film) is an engaging and interesting class that takes students through Italy's literary and cinematic treasures. In this class, students immerse themselves into Italian culture through reading a diverse selection of poems and short stories and watching multiple films. Each piece of media studied comes with a unique theme and underlying message. These themes are analyzed and interpreted through individual work and class discussion. Not only does this class create a deeper appreciation for Italian literature and film classics, but it allows students to improve their knowledge and comprehension of the Italian language.





ISU IN BOLOGNA STUDY ABROAD: A REVIEW

WRITTEN BY BELLA MITCHELL

Studying abroad in Bologna was a life-changing experience. I highly recommend it to anyone who can go on this trip. You not only learn about Bologna but also yourself. I never thought I would study abroad. I did not know the area well, but once we got to Bologna I felt right at home. Bologna feels like a small city while also being quiet and relaxing. The locals are kind and welcoming. Being abroad took my Italian skills to the next level. We spoke in Italian every day with our teachers and locals. This strengthened my confidence to have a full conversation in Italian. While also having amazing citizens, Bologna has a beautiful history and culture. The apartment that we stay at is right in the center circle of Bologna. Piazza Maggiore is only a 10-minute walk and you can see the tower Asinelli from the terrace of the apartment. The city is overflowing with a rich history that you will get to explore every day you are there. The courses that you take while in Bologna are an Italian food culture, art, literature, and cinema course taught by Dr. Sciubba and a history course in Bologna taught by Dr. Edwards. These courses enhance your understanding of the culture and language while totaling up to 6 credit hours, which is helpful if you need more. While in Bologna we were free to take trips to other parts of Italy or just immerse ourselves further into the history of the city. During our stay, the soccer team won the championships for their league. Our group went to Piazza Maggiore and we celebrated and enjoyed the night with all of the Bolognese. This trip was an unforgettable experience I truly cherish. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I encourage everyone to at least try once.

CELEBRATING ITALIAN AMERICAN MONTH

WRITTEN BY DR. EDWARDS

In October, exec board member Sofia researched and designed this informational, fun, and meaningful post celebrating Italian American month. Students of all backgrounds designated on the map where their Italian ancestors were from, they also shared Italian traditions their family celebrates and what being Italian means to them. Finally, students of Italian heritage and not shared their favorite Italian dish!



LA TAVOLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

WRITTEN BY COURTNEY CAIRO

The 2024-2025 academic year executive board includes:

Co-Presidents Leah Brecheisen (Art History/Spanish double major and Italian Studies minor) and **Nico Edwards-Testolin** (Music Major, Pre-Health Pathway, and Italian Studies minor)

Co-Social Media Chairs Courtney Cairo (Public Relations major and Italian Studies minor) and **Rosie Chappell** (Mass Media major and Italian Studies minor)

Co-Treasurers Bella Mitchell (Horticulture major and Italian Studies minor) and **Rosa Baker** (Financial Accounting major and Italian Studies minor)

Co-Secretaries Luke Faulkner (History major and Political Science and Italian Studies minors) and **Sofia Link** (Psychology major and Italian Studies and Sociology minors)

We all come together once a month to discuss and plan for the club, contributing a variety of ideas for successful events. It has been an honor to work with everyone this past semester and we are looking forward to the new year with many fun and exciting new events planned!

Advisors: Dr. Edwards and Dr. Ferrari

If you are interested in joining La Tavola Italian Club, find us on Instagram @latavola_isu and become an official member at Redbird Life!

If you have interest in adding the Italian Studies minor, reach out to Dr. Edwards at Lcedwar@ilstu.edu to talk about how it fits into your schedule



Pictured above: Exec Board dinner at Filippo's in Monticello!