

CMLL NEWS & VIEWS

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MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL & MODERN
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

CMLL PROFS AWARDED GEER GRANT TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE TEACHING

By Carly Bahler

As the state, country, and the world at large starts to cautiously turn its sights toward a post-COVID reality, the longing for an eventual return to some kind of normal may be coupled for many of us with a desire to forget most of what we have been living for the past year. Still, whether the beginning of 2021 sees us feeling optimistic, fatigued, or both, we also know that we must emerge from this pandemic wiser and better equipped for future. To this end, Associate Profs. Kelly Moser and Sol Pelaez and Assistant Prof. Karina Zelaya in Spanish are spearheading an important effort to ensure that the hard-learned pedagogical lessons of this past year can positively shape the future of K-12 education in World Languages (WL) and potentially English as a Second Language (ESL) in the State of Mississippi.

In December 2020, Moser, Pelaez, and Zelaya were awarded a grant of \$104,683 from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to create MSU Support for Online Language Teaching, a fully online professional development workshop for 50 of Mississippi's K-12 WL and ESL teachers. This 40-hour workshop, which will take place June 14-25, 2021, will guide educators through best practices in online language teaching including finding, evaluating, and creating resources for use in fully online, blended, or technology-integrated in-person classes. Furthermore, the materials created throughout the experience will contribute to a public repository of resources for virtual language teaching, which will benefit teachers across the state. Thanks to the GEER Fund the teachers will receive \$1500 for full participation. While this is an MSU event for Mississippi teachers, participants will also benefit from the expertise of four specialists from across the country: Dr. Leanna Archambault (Arizona State University), Dr. Florencia Henshaw (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Dr. Maria Coady (University of Florida), and Dr. Erica Saldivar García (New York University).

This summer workshop cannot come too soon! Even as we look forward to a post-COVID future, there still remains considerable uncertainty as to what that future will hold. Additionally, while the global pandemic continues to change the educational context, it is also crucial to consider how online language teaching might be used to respond to other potential events that could interrupt academic continuity. The workshop will thus address this critical issue by training educators in best practices in online and emergency remote instruction.

Support for Mississippi's K-12 language teachers is more critical than ever. Recent research has revealed that on the whole, K-12 WL teachers specifically may be less prepared to teach online than teachers of other subjects, which likely translates to ineffective instruction when extenuating circumstances require them to deliver content remotely. Because approximately 14% of the K-12 student population is enrolled in a WL,

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this project has the potential to address the needs of many learners across the state. Furthermore, when student learning suffers, so does satisfaction among WL educators, and the profession risks attrition beyond the present difficulties of attracting and retaining qualified WL educators in the State of Mississippi. Without such support, the future of second (or other) language instruction in Mississippi is precarious. Not least important, then, is the network for ongoing support and mentorship that this summer workshop therefore provides to educators, who typically teach in isolation. One need only ask Prof. Moser, who, within hours of the workshop flyer's advertisement, had received over 20 emails from individuals interested in participating (nearly half of the 50-instructor space limitation). By all indications, then, MSU Support for Online Language Teaching promises to be a great success and the life preserver that so many language instructors in Mississippi have undoubtedly needed for quite some time.

PAUL KINSEY ESTABLISHES A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR CMLL STUDENTS

By Ania Debicka-Dyer

In 2020 CMLL received two new contributions for scholarships for language students. The Paul Kinsey & Gavin Thompson Annual Scholarship and Endowed Scholarship are designated for CMLL students and will begin in the 2021-2022 academic year. Paul Kinsey talked to us about his connection to MSU and his studies at CMLL.

You received degrees in Spanish and International Business from MSU. What impact did these programs have on your career?

The degrees in Spanish and International Business provided a leg up on other applicants in obtaining my first position after graduate school. I secured a position with a textile firm headquartered in North Carolina. That position afforded me the opportunity to extensively travel around the world (Europe, South America, and Asia). Additionally, my ability to speak Spanish allowed me to work directly with frontline workers at various manufacturers in Miami and South America.

Do you have any memories of your studies at MSU that you'd like to share? Any favorite classes or teachers?

The chance to study in Madrid and Quebec City were opportunities I'll never forget. Being able to immerse oneself is a great way to learn.

When it comes to influential professors, two professors come to mind - Dr. George Buehler, the Foreign Language department head at the time and Dr. Ana Maria Lopez. Dr. Buehler was the one who convinced me that taking more foreign language classes was better than simply applying my high school Spanish classes to cover my required 4 semester of foreign language and introduced me to and counseled me through the International Business program.

Dr. Lopez was the one who showed a great deal of patience with me as I improved my Spanish. Not only would she require our conversations be fully in Spanish she always helped me get to the point I was trying to make. There were times when I didn't have all the right words, but by the end of the conversation, I was (usually) able to articulate my point.

You recently set up a scholarship that includes CMLL students at MSU. Why did you decide to support CMLL?

In the past we've provided scholarship support in a more general manner. But as we started planning more long term, we felt it important to move forward in a more targeted and impactful manner. As a result, Gavin and I looked at the programs that made a difference in our careers. CMLL allowed me to learn an invaluable skill, grow as a person, and leave Mississippi State prepared for life outside college.

What role do you think languages play in today's business world?

It's cliché to say the world is getting smaller. People said that when I graduated in 1987 and continue to do so today. But it's true. As companies grow, consolidate, and increase their footprints around the world, the ability to communicate in another language is even more important and allows one to communicate with colleagues in different locations. One never knows when their foreign language will come in handy.

Based on your career with American Airlines and other international companies, what advice can you give to current language and IB students?

Make the most of every opportunity given. There are many times [where] the class assignment, project, or job position may not be exactly to your liking, but each gives you a chance to grow, learn, impact, and impress others. Remember, many consider past performance an indicator of future performance. You never know who's watching and forming opinions, so giving it your all is always better than giving limited effort.

Anything else you would like to share with us?

Mississippi State is a very special place. The people (past, present, and future) one encounters and who make up the University community will forever impact one's life.

HOLY WEEK TRADITIONS OBSERVED BY CMLL FACULTY

By Martha Roskelley

Holy Week, culminating with Easter Sunday, is the holiest time on the Christian calendar, and cultures and nations around the world commemorate it in different ways, both religious and secular.

The Easter bunny in the United States for instance, is an old tradition celebrated by American families. It arrived in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called *Osterhase*.

Many other traditions and practices are more dramatic and full of symbolism, especially in countries with Catholic presence. In Spain, religious brotherhoods and fraternities that perform processions on the streets of almost every Spanish city and town are all well known, especially in the Andalusia region. On the other hand, in Latin America everything revolves around Jesus during these days: towns, churches and people in their homes make altars and processions, and they fast and pray. Usually, Catholics eliminate meat or pork from their diets and eat special dishes prepared for the occasion, especially on Fridays between Ash Wednesday and the end of Holy Week.

Some of our colleagues here at CMLL are from different countries or have traveled around the world and witnessed these celebrations, including the gastronomic aspect of it.

Panades, *crepsells*, and *rubiols* are traditional recipes prepared during Holy Week in the Balearic Islands, especially in the Mallorca area, according to Chris Little, a Spanish online Instructor currently teaching and living in Mallorca. Families get together to cook these Holy Week snacks. *Panades* are made with peas or lamb. *Crespells* are a type of sugar cookie usually in the shape of moons or stars, sometimes covered with powdered sugar. And *rubiols* are a type of pastry stuffed with either apricot jam or cottage cheese.

In Great Britain, according to Dr. Robert Harland, an Associate Professor in our Department, people also celebrate Holy Week with chocolate Easter eggs, Easter egg hunts, and even egg rolling competitions in some places. Hot cross buns, light buns made with brown sugar, raisins or currants, butter, and cinnamon, have a long tradition dating back to the 12th century. They can be sold for a month or more either preceding or following Easter in supermarkets.

How about Latin America? Dr. Karina Zelaya, Assistant Professor and a native of El Salvador, referring to Holy Week says, "culturally it is a celebration that expands beyond its roots in Catholicism and one where Salvadorans take as an opportunity to enjoy its culinary traditions, thus merging Holy Week festivities with popular gastronomy." Fish is very typical and *conservas*, made with fruit in season, raw sugar cane, and cinnamon, are a must.

And last but not least, our neighbor to the south, Mexico. Pilar Martínez, one of our Spanish language Lecturers, born in Oaxaca, says that her state is rich in culture, gastronomy, arts, crafts, music, and archaeological sites. On the fourth Lent Friday, "people in Oaxaca recreate the Bible scene of the Samaritan. In every church, business, office, and school, and in

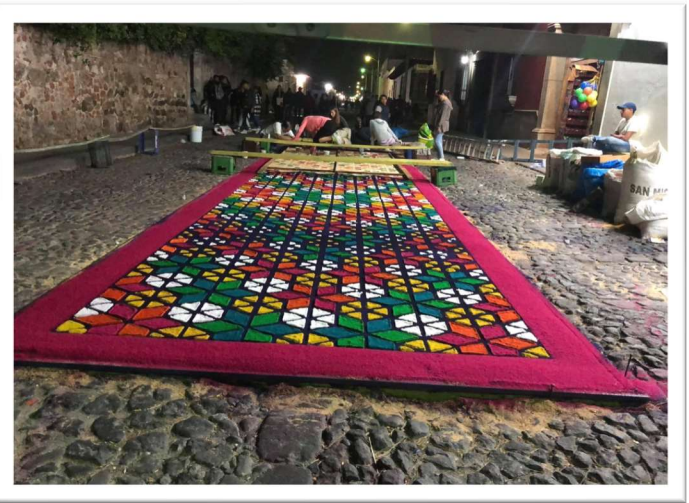
many houses, flavored water with fresh-squeezed fruit is offered to every person that passes by.” Usually, every *pozo* has a variety of flavors that pedestrians can choose from: *Agua de Chilacayota*, a local variety of pumpkin; *Agua de Horchata*, made from rice, cinnamon, and flower essences; *Agua de Mamey* and *Agua de Zapote*, made from local fruits, and *Jamaica*, a popular drink made from Hibiscus flower. The *pozos*, or water wells, are decorated with red bugambilia flowers and the “Good Samaritans” offering *Las Aguas* are dressed in colorful regional dresses. Seafood and vegetarian diets are obligatory on Holy Thursday and Holy Friday: *tlacoyos*, *tamales*, *nopales*, *chapulines*, *atole*, and *capirotada* are the most popular dishes during this time.

For all of these different ways to commemorate this Christian tradition, there is no doubt that Holy Week can be one of the best times of the year to travel and experience these amazing traditions.

THROUGH THE LENS: ROSA VOZZO SHOWS THE BEAUTY OF HOLY WEEK IN GUATEMALA

By Magda Hernandez

Dr. Rosa Vozzo is a Spanish Instructor here at MSU. We asked her about her experience during the photography workshop that took place in Antigua, Guatemala during the celebration of *Semana Santa*.



Tell us a little about yourself and how you decided to visit Guatemala for Holy Week?

I was born in the Dominican Republic, and although I have been in MS for 30 years, I remember vividly the Holy Week’s celebrations from my Catholic faith. The parades, the stations of the cross, the visit to all churches to see the *monumentos*, the streets decorated with flowers, all are part of my earlier memories. My hobby is photography, and when I saw that Raul

Touzon, one of the photographers from National Geographic, was offering a photography workshop during Holy Week in Antigua, Guatemala, I could not pass the opportunity to experience what has been considered the world's most beautiful celebration of these solemn festivities.

How is the Holy Week celebrated in Antigua Guatemala based on your experience?

In Antigua, *Las hermandades y cofradías* 'fraternities and guilds' organize the celebrations of Holy Week. Holy Week Activities start with Ash Wednesday and keep building up until Holy Week. The celebrations are mainly a combination of masses and processions. The processions consist of wooden floats called *andas*, carried by porters. For the porters, carrying the *andas* is an honor and a way to purge their sins. The *andas* are spectacular, weighting up to 7000 pounds and carried by up to 100 porters. These wooden platforms are very ornated with carvings and inlays, and they carry figures representing the different stages of the crucifixion. There are also smaller *andas* with figures of the Virgin Mary (*La Dolorosa*) carried by women. The porters must follow a dress code according to their organization. The men's dress code includes mainly a hooded robe and black shoes. The women dress in black and white, and black mantillas embroidered in gold. During the procession, the carriers change at specific intervals, and at the moment of the changes, a priest blesses the new set of carriers and abundant incense is spread around. Parts of the streets where the *andas* go by are covered with sawdust carpets created by the townspeople. The smell and smoke of the incense, the faces of the carriers, sometimes in agony from the weight of their loads, the realism of the figures, the thousands of candles carried by the people following the procession, and the solemnity of all, make this celebration unique.

What are some highlights of your trip to Antigua that you would like to share with us?

I absolutely love the city of Antigua, the cobblestone streets, the view of the volcano, the churches, the colonial buildings, but my most memorable moments were all related to my interactions with and observations of the townspeople. Seeing the native women dressed in their traditional dresses, strolling around town after midnight, seeing the families working with amazing artistry and patience creating with sawdust and other organic materials, seeing the carpets that covered long parts of the streets. Walking inside a cloud of incense and seeing in front of me an *anda* being carried by so many dressed in medieval attire. The solemnity of walking with a crowd and not hearing a noise other than the somber music played by the bands, and the sound of the steps of the porters. Seeing how the mood changed after midnight on Saturday, when Resurrection was celebrated, the music was loud, and people who were dressed in their most colorful dresses sang and danced as they followed the procession. All these are among many more great memories from my trip.

What is an activity or place that you would recommend other to visit or try if they ever get the chance to visit Guatemala?

Sadly, my stay in Guatemala was very short, and limited to Antigua. I would love to return and visit the Mayan Ruins of Tikal, The Lake of Atitlan, and spend time strolling in the artisans' markets.

LEAVING HIS LEGACY IN THE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES: DR. BOB WOLVERTON RETIRES

By Julia Kraker

70 years is a long time to do anything, but a particularly long time to dedicate to education, which is exactly what Dr. Bob Wolverton has accomplished. From Professor to Department Head to University Vice President, Dr. Wolverton has pretty much done it all and with great success, which is reflected in the numerous awards he has won over the years, including the John Grisham Master Teacher Award. Dr. Peter Corrigan, current CMLL Department Head, said that "The greatest difficulty in extolling Bob Wolverton is that nothing remains that hasn't already been exhausted. Every *bon mot* has been beggared. The honor of working with Bob for three years will be a cherished part of my career." Dr. Lynn Holt, a former CMLL Department Head and colleague of Dr.



Photo by Megan Bean

Wolverton, shared what he learned during their time working together: “I had the extraordinarily good fortune to have Bob as a resource during my three years in CMLL. Though I’m a loner by nature, I found myself seeking Bob’s advice on departmental challenges and opportunities. His experience encompassed every problem I faced: he had, quite literally, seen it all. Being young(-er than Bob) and willful, I didn’t follow his advice all the time...and that usually meant that I learned a lesson, and in hindsight wished I had followed it! I also had a comforting feeling that the Department was never adrift, always anchored, so long as Bob was around. I shall miss his *gravitas*.”

Due to COVID, I could not sit down with him in person; however, his willingness to allow me to interview him over the phone provided great insight into his impressive career and the wisdom he can share with each of us along with his tenacity to continue his work.

What has CMLL meant to you over the years?

Well...it’s a tremendous group of intellectuals...very loving people. As Department Head for six years, I remember how we have had to fight for our existence, over and over, and now we are in the best situation we have ever been in. The congeniality is tremendous given that we have so many different areas represented.

Would you discuss some changes you have witnessed as a professor in this department for so many years?

We’ve had good success in the Department. We’ve had one or two times we’ve had to work with particular professors to give them some help. The Center for Teaching and Learning was established while I was Vice President because we wanted to have professors look at themselves to get help and learn to give better lectures and notes. It has been very successful and has grown. We now have a steady stream of confident people in the department.

What is the main thing you have learned from your students/faculty?

The main thing is their enthusiasm and energy, and I think too is the way students approach their learning now. It’s very different than when I started. Students don’t have to be as dependent on professors, but on the other hand, nothing can take the place of interaction between professors and students. Every class is different. The dynamics I mean. I’ve had terrific students over the years.

Can you describe a favorite moment or memory from your teaching experience?

I had a young man from Starkville who was very bright and majoring in Physics and wanted to double major in Classics. We didn’t have [the major] at the time, so we did work enough Greek and Latin in for him to have a solid major. He was the first major, which was very exciting, and he went on to become quite a professor in North Carolina where he was awarded teacher of the year on his campus.

What do you want your legacy to be for CMLL or MSU in general?

Looking back, I’ve been here since 1977 and served as [University] Vice-President, [CMLL] Department Head, and President of the Faculty Senate [...] Over the years, one thing we were all striving for was to get Phi Beta Kappa to campus. It took 40 years. We set a goal in 1978, and we got it in 2018. Also, I want to be remembered for teaching.

What will you be doing now that you are officially retired?

I’m writing. I just finished my autobiography for my grandkids to tell them about what my career was like. Then, I’m working on another book about what the Bible says about the Bible. Around the turn of the century, I gave around 50 talks on the subject of angels, and I’d like to put that into a book because I really enjoyed doing that. Then, maybe I’ll put together some podcasts. I have about 3 or 4 in the can, so one of these days I’ll get started on these.

What advice do you have for new as well as experienced teachers in the language field?

The main thing I did was not unusual. I try to get to know my students in the classroom. The students appreciate it, and over and over in my reviews mentioned that I had a concern for the student [...] Mainly, having an honest, respectful, and ongoing relationship with students; otherwise, human characteristics get lost.

Do you have any additional comments you would like to share?

Thank you. I'm just hopeful that the Department continues to do what it's doing with the symposium and solidifying our role in the University. We've had to fight for our existence. If we can get our library resources built up as they should be and a master's degree in Classics, we can keep moving ahead and looking ahead.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FANNY BONILLA

By Julia Kraker

Native to Nicaragua, Fanny has made Mississippi her home for the past 10 years. Having completed her undergraduate degree in Foreign Languages with a concentration in Spanish at MSU in 2019, she is currently studying Spanish literature in the master's program. Due to her academic success, she is a member of the Spanish honor society, Sigma Delta Pi (Epsilon Gamma chapter). When asked to share a favorite memory from a language or literature course while at MSU, she replied:



“My favorite part about being part of the foreign language department is that I felt welcomed by all my teachers, especially Dr. Rosa Vozzo and Dr. Brian Davidson. I took their classes while I was an undergrad and I took interest in Dr. Vozzo's method of teaching her conversation classes. She did an amazing job by addressing her students with *mi familia*, which translates to ‘my family’. This little detail of her class made the class go by so smoothly that it made me look forward to all her classes. Dr. Davidson's class was also a highlight to why I became interested in the master's program. His abundant knowledge about my home country, Nicaragua, made me nostalgic about what I missed as a student while I was living in the USA, and his classes sparked curiosity about history that shaped my country and me!”

In her free time, Fanny loves to exercise and walk her dog, Benji. She also enjoys writing poetry and short stories as well as painting and listening to music. After graduation, she plans to pursue her doctorate so that she can reach a larger audience and “make an impact on other future students as my professors have done with me.”

LANGUAGE LINKS: ITALIAN

By Rosy Nigro

The Italian language program was created at Mississippi State University 13 years ago as one pilot course (Italian I) that I taught in the Fall of 2008 in the MSU Honor's College. This class was a considerable hit. After several semesters, thanks to the support of the late Dr. Jack Jordan, I was able to fully implement our program by adding four more Italian courses: the Italian I-IV series and our new addition ‘Italy: Culture and Contexts’.

The number of students enrolled in the Italian program has also grown over the years. It began, in fact, with 20 students in 2008 and has increased to an average of 90 students per year since 2018. This program attracts students from diverse majors like Music, Education, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, and other Liberal Arts majors.

Since 2018, CMLL has successfully applied for a grant for the promotion of Italian language and culture from the Italian government. This support is very important to sustain a plan to establish a broader and more comprehensive curriculum in Italian. It is essential, we believe, to build on the existing program and structure to create a language environment that allows students to enrich their own cultural and linguistic understandings through exposure to the language and culture of Italy. Another priority of this program is to establish and support study abroad programs, such as the MSU study abroad programs in Catania and Rome.

Other important activities the Italian program undertakes include establishing a heightened profile on campus by bringing in guest speakers (including native Italian speakers), and by holding seminars on various aspects of the Italian language and culture.

In 2018 CMLL hosted a conference on the importance of Italian studies in the southern regions of the United States and on the establishment of partnerships of the Italian program at the MSU. The guest of honor at this conference was the Honorable Fucsia Nissoli, member of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, representing North and Central America. As an official member of the Italian Government, Fucsia Nissoli met with the highest officials of the administration and promised further initiatives that will support the growth of Italian culture in Mississippi, a traditionally underrepresented state. Furthermore, Luca Vullo, who is an expert in Italian non-verbal communication, gave a very lively and well-attended lecture that also drew interest from the greater Starkville community. Another prestigious event for the Italian program at MSU was a presentation by Dr. Paul Canonici on the history of Italian emigrants in the Mississippi River Delta region. Dr. Canonici, an expert on the topic and the author of several books, has lectured on the influence of Italian culture in Mississippi. As a result, a very high interest was shown among students, faculty, staff, and Starkville community members. We are planning more events to highlight the Italian culture in the future, including inviting guest speakers to campus, and holding seminars on various aspects of the Italian language.

There is a growing interest at the national level toward the Italian language. This trend fully reflects what MSU Italian language students experience. MSU students want us to make the Italian language more visible and therefore more important. Ideally, a broader and more coherent curriculum would cover the culture, language, and literature in collaboration with other interdisciplinary courses. We also should focus on establishing and supporting a study abroad program, such as the one we are working on in Rome and Catania.

The demand for Italian is growing in our region and nationwide, as is the competition with our neighboring universities. CMLL believes that now is the ideal time to build on the core program and to expand the existing curriculum to support the development of advanced Italian Studies courses and finalize the establishment of a minor in Italian that is currently in development.

Finally, I would like to conclude by quoting R. Brecht with a phrase that particularly impressed me because it truly reflects the sentiments among MSU Italian program students: 'It is not that people do not think language education is important. It's that they do not think it's possible' (in Brecht Richard Friedman, 2015, 32). In the light of this trend, we need to keep providing for our students the resources and the necessary instruments to change this way of thinking.

Fun Facts about Italy

Italy is at the top of so many travelers' bucket lists. This may not come as a surprise, with some of the world's most impressive and well-known art, architecture, food, and scenery. However, perhaps, not everybody knows a few interesting and entertaining facts about *il bel Paese* 'the beautiful country'. For this reason, I have dug up some fun facts about Italy for you from the following sources: Wikipedia; www.trafalgar.com; www.italianbureau.com.au.

All three of Europe's active volcanoes are in Italy

All three of Europe's active volcanoes, Etna, Vesuvius, and Stromboli are located in Italy. Mount Etna is located on the island of Sicily, and for thousands of years has inspired poetry and philosophy. Furthermore, proudly showing a column of white steam rising from the peak, Etna often empowers (and I am not being sarcastic) the population below with a spectacular rain of ash. This breathtaking event has, in fact, a positive impact on the environment; the volcanic ashes contain minerals, providing nutrients to the surrounding soil. Mount Stromboli is currently active, located on its own island off the coast of Sicily. Finally, the notorious Mount Vesuvius is located in Napoli and has been 'silent' since 1944 when it caused major destruction. Vesuvius is also responsible for one of the most catastrophic eruptions in history in 79 B.C., which destroyed Pompeii as well as several other Roman cities.



Italians invented pizza

I am sure everyone knows this but just in case...The first modern pizza, with a tomato base, was made in the Campania region, in the city of Napoli, in 1860 and named after the Queen of Italy at the time, Margherita. Since then, pizza has become one of the most beloved foods on the planet. Almost anywhere in Italy, you find delicious pizza; just remember, never ask for pineapple on your pizza!



Italians have eaten pasta since the 4th century B.C.

Like pizza, or perhaps even more, pasta is a crucial part of Italian culture, with many of the world's best pasta dishes created in Italy. Evidence indicates that pasta dishes in Italy date back as far as the 4th century B.C., historians having found paintings in a pre-Roman Italian tomb thought to represent pasta-making equipment. Today you can enjoy a hefty *carbonara* or a stylish and simple *penne alla Norma*. I guarantee you will eat the world's top-quality pasta in Italy. Just do not expect spaghetti and meatballs because it is not going to happen in Italy!

Italians have over 2,500 types of cheese

In Italy you can find the greatest variety of cheeses in the world, with over 2,500 traditional cheeses. Some of the most popular include parmesan, mozzarella, ricotta, provolone, and gorgonzola. The country is the third-largest cheese producer in the European Union, behind France and Germany.



Italy is the world's largest wine producer

With cheese goes wine! A hectoliter is the equivalent of 100 liters, and Italy produces on average 54,000 hectoliters of wine per year. It is also one of the world's largest exporters of wine. Italians export on average a staggering \$7 billion worth of wine every year, with the majority going to the US, the UK, and Germany. *Salute!*

Italians consume 14 billion espresso coffee each year

Did you know that Italians enjoy 14 billion *espressi* each year? That's impressive for a country with a population of just over 60 million. Most Italians enjoy their daily coffee in local cafés (called *bar*). Many people also get their fix at home, with the average household consuming 37 kg (over 80 lbs) of coffee each year. Remember: there is no X in *espresso*!



Although Rome is over 2,000 years old, Italy is one of Europe's youngest countries

Italy is less than 200 years old. However, the capital city of Rome is ancient. The city was founded in 753 BC and has a history dating back 28 centuries. The Roman Empire began in 27 BC and ruled over much of Europe and North Africa until 395 AD. The region was then divided into separate states, which did not unify until 1861. That is when the Kingdom of Italy was founded. This painting portrays the meeting between Giuseppe Garibaldi and the Italian king Vittorio Emanuele II in Teano, on October 26, 1860, representing the unification of the country.



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The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at MSU, consisting of faculty members in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish, offers Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees in Foreign Languages with concentrations in Classics, French, German, and Spanish.

East meets West, Classical languages converge with Modern languages, giving our students the experience that will allow them to embrace diversity, while maintaining a solid sense of their own historical identity.

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