

ALICIA MARIA VITTI

Alicia Vitti, senior lecturer in Italian, retired effective June 1, 2019, after nine and a half years in the Department of French and Italian at Indiana University. Dr. Vitti received a doctorate of modern languages in Italian with a secondary concentration in French from Middlebury College and an M.A. in French Literature from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She joined the Department of French and Italian as lecturer in January of 2009 and was promoted to the rank of senior lecturer in 2017. Dr. Vitti brought with her extensive experience as a teacher and coordinator of Italian language and culture at institutions such as Wake Forest University, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Elon University, and Forsyth Technical Community College. For many years, she also taught and coordinated multiple Italian courses at the Middlebury Language Schools, which have one of the best full-immersion programs in North

America. At IU, Dr. Vitti regularly taught our basic language sequence (M100 through M250), including M110 Italian Language through Opera, which she revised based on her background in theatre and dance, as well as the 300-level sequence of bridge courses (M300–M301) aimed at preparing our majors and minors for upper-division courses focusing on Italian literature and culture. She also taught several iterations of M491 and M492, our courses for graduate reading knowledge of Italian.

Dr. Vitti combined rock-solid pedagogy, extensive experience, impeccable command of the subject, and dedication to students. She also cared deeply about the intellectual and cultural value of language instruction. She was especially skilled at structuring her classes along activities of increasing grammatical complexity, while never losing sight of the fact that language and culture, even at the elementary level, are inseparably

interweaved. While her students never found her courses easy, and indeed many described them as tough and based on high expectations, they emphasized how she was always prepared to respond to the unique needs of each of them and how she was always available for extra help.

Throughout her career, Dr. Vitti was active in the area of pedagogical development and scholarship, as testified by her participation in numerous workshops and online seminars on topics ranging from concept mapping to instructional technology; by her reviews of pedagogical publications; by her service as reader, editor, and consultant for Italian language textbooks; and by her ongoing collaboration on a new high-intermediate-level textbook focused on cinema.

During her time at Indiana University, Dr. Vitti was not only an authoritative teacher but also a valued team player who was always willing to share ideas and suggestions with her colleagues and was actively present in the program's co- and extra-curricular initiatives. Dr. Vitti is a known and respected member of the professional community of teachers of Italian and she is held in high esteem by her colleagues from other institutions in North America and Italy.

On behalf of the department, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Dr. Vitti's important contributions, as a teacher and mentor, to the Italian program and wish her all the best for the future.

Massimo Scalabrini

