For BIS, the students interviewed entrepreneurs and creators in the fields of Italian design, fashion, food and art ranging from renowned designer Gaetano Pesce to Alberto Milani (CEO of Buccellati Americas), Highline Art director Cecilia Alemani, and Eolo and Pastai Restaurant owner Melissa Daka, among others. As a result of targeted workshops led by the professor for the class, Dr. Enza Antenos, and Maurita Cardone, deputy editor of the daily online Italian language newspaper, La Voce di New York, students produced four subtitled video interviews and related articles. Since their publication in February 2015, the articles have received more than 60,000 views.

“The immediacy of the delivery mode and the wide online dissemination among an ever-broadening audience made the project so much more meaningful,” says Antenos, Assistant Professor of Italian and an expert in foreign language learning and technology. “Besides researching key ‘Made-in-Italy’ sectors with a particular focus on their relationship with the U.S. market, students refined their language skills through subtitling and translating the interviews and articles, which are replete with technical terminology.” Students have also been in direct contact with established professionals such as Fashion designer Tiziano Zorzan, Federico Materazzi, the vice president of Poltrona Frau Americas, and Center of Modern Italian Art director Laura Mattioli.

“For me, the biggest benefit of this project was getting involved with businesses that spread and believe in the ‘Made in Italy’ brand, which stands for quality, creativity, artisanship, style and innovation,” says Italian major and Milan, Italy, native Serena Pederiali, who, like all her classmates, also received a useful introduction to journalism and video making. Thanks to this experience among many others in the Italian Program, 2015 graduate Emilia D’Albero immediately found a position as a Junior Education and Events Coordinator at La Scuola di Eataly in New York City.

**Translating Voices across Continents**

TVAC (the T stands alternately for translating and titling) is an innovative pedagogical experiment that transcends national and cultural boundaries by making the classroom permeable. As part of ad hoc Cooperative Education classes, three advanced students in the Italian program under the guidance of Dr. Marisa Trubiano, Associate Professor of Italian, and Mauro Conti, director of Prescott Studio, have produced the subtleties for complex texts such as the epic *Lehman Trilogy* written by acclaimed playwright Stefano Massini and directed by the late totemic figure of Italian theater Luca Ronconi; Nobel Prize-winner Dario Fo’s script for *La Storia di Qu*; and Enzo Moscato's Neapolitan version of Bizet's *Carmen*, directed by award-winning Mario Martone.
“The project really sensitized us to the issues involved in translating and adapting texts of remarkable cultural diversity for the variety of genres and the use of dialect next to or instead of standard Italian,” states Dr. Marisa Trubiano. “Students had the opportunity to test out a specific sector in the translating field, surtitling, by honing their linguistic, cultural and translating competencies in English and Italian, as well as highly-valued universal skills like team collaboration, decision-making, creativity and problem-solving, planning, and communication.”

Running from May to October 2015, TVAC has made it possible for international audiences in Milan to enjoy the EXPO 2015 season at the Piccolo Teatro through English surtitles that appear above the stage during the performances. “TVAC has been a wonderful opportunity to combine the study of Italian language and the specifics of the performing arts,” explains Marta Russoniello, a student in Linguistics with a minor in Italian. In linking translation to issues of aesthetics and rhythm, TVAC reflects the kind of effective interdisciplinary synergies that can prepare students for life after graduation.

Upon completion of the titling of the Lehman Trilogy, Italian major Angelene Agresta has decided to pursue a MA in Translation Studies.

Through targeted presentations and meetings, both BIS and TVAC are functioning as pathways to reach out to the high school system, local businesses for student internships, as well as artists and translators for talks. “As faculty of Italian at Montclair State, we intend to continue to build on these fruitful exchanges since they enrich our ongoing exploration of curricular changes designed to provide incentives for the study of Italian in the third millennium,” concludes Fiore.

See full articles:
BIS: tinyurl.com/BISATMSU (see related videos and articles inside the page)
TVAC: tinyurl.com/TVACATMSU (see the related video inside the page)

To learn more about the Italian Program and the Inserra Chair visit: montclair.edu/italian montclair.edu/inserra

* This article was adapted and expanded from a piece by Amy Wagner.