

Priority #4: French & Italian for the community

For many years, French & Italian has been a hub for stimulating public lectures, reading groups, film showings, and interdisciplinary artistic events. From our Folwell Saturday Alumni and Friends day of mini-seminars to our annual Poetry Night, French & Italian occupies a flagship role amid all the French, Francophone, and Italian culture organizations in our area.

Your gifts will help increase accessibility to the University and general public by funding a regular series of “salons,” public, curated events featuring movies, talks, and creative forums responding to current events in French & Italian politics, arts, media, and culture.

French & Italian is an active participant in the College in the Schools program, training teachers in 20+ area high schools to teach over 650 students college-level French, increasing their college readiness and advancing the understanding of French & Italian culture, history and ideas in high-school curricula. Your gifts will **create a new outreach research assistantship position** to help expand these efforts.

Priority #5: Your Northern Star

Alumni identify beautiful Folwell Hall as the location that most inspired them—through classes, professors, and interactions with fellow students. We seek to honor this legacy by creating opportunities for friends and alumni to continue to see Folwell Hall as their intellectual home.

A signature giving opportunity includes creating the **Folwell Film and Media Room**, providing a new space for regular, open-to-the-public film and media screenings.

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS The Campaign for Liberal Arts

DEPARTMENT of FRENCH & ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



When undergraduates study French or Italian, they don't just learn a language: they learn a set of cultural competencies and communication strategies to think more creatively, empathetically, and with greater complexity.

French is the third most-spoken language in the world, and Italy is the most popular foreign destination for college students. From Europe to Africa, through Asia and the Americas, the languages and cultures that the Department of French & Italian explores enrich our world.

Our work addresses the complexities of global citizenship; today's rich media landscape; the role of art, culture and history in everyday lives; and our evolving understanding of human rights, migration and immigration, and media studies.

Our students choose to take our classes not only because they love studying culture, philosophy, and history, but also because French & Italian adds to their career readiness.

Our research-driven language instruction teaches analytic and critical thinking alongside oral and written communication, while emphasizing creative strategies for international citizenship and ethical cross-cultural approaches to decision-making and negotiation. Whether our students choose careers in medical fields, international relations, teaching, or research, their French & Italian studies prepare them to be dynamic cross-cultural communicators, collaborators, and innovators.

You can help further the mission of our department and create positive outcomes for students and our communities by investing in four key priorities.



Priority #1: Increased opportunities for study abroad

Multinational experience transforms students. Immersion in another culture expands students' cultural literacy and is a significant factor in determining whether students attain advanced proficiency in a foreign language. Not surprisingly, multinational experience is among the top criteria international employers seek.

Our goal is to send abroad every one of our major, minor, or graduate students—approximately 75 students a year. Your gifts for **learning abroad scholarships** will help ensure this dream becomes a reality, especially for those students who need financial support the most.



“I wanted students to have the opportunity to see Italy as a living, modern, breathing country that is full of people—real people.”

—Kathleen Rider, senior teaching specialist

Kathleen Rider, senior teaching specialist for Italian, has this goal in mind for the undergraduate students who travel with her on a biannual global seminar focused on urban renewal in Rome. She created the program in 2014 to help students see beyond the country's rich history and better experience it as a diverse, 21st-century place.

“I don't want people to think of Italy as a museum,” she says. “Yes, it's beautiful; but it's not dead. It's real, and what makes it real is the people.”

Students study Rome's urban transformation and examine how each neighborhood's unique history has been shaped by influences such as public housing, gentrification, urban policy, and tourism.

“I need them to see that Italy is not the sum of its parts. There is no such thing as 'Italian culture.' There are Italian cultures, and even within the city of Rome there are subcultures.”

Priority #2: Human Rights Initiative

France is the birthplace of European human rights thought, while the postcolonial legacy of French and Italian culture remains a defining force in some of the most intractable human conflicts today.

French & Italian is poised to be a leader in this area, with undergraduate and graduate courses in issues concerning refugees and migrants, as well as the history and theory of human rights. We maintain relationships with human rights organizations invested in working with Francophone and Italian-language countries throughout the world.

Your gifts will **strengthen our fellowship program** with non-profit organizations here in the Twin Cities like the Center for Victims of Torture, or in new international initiatives.

You can also **endow a faculty position** with a commitment to Franco- or Franco-Italian theories and histories of human rights.

Priority #3: Human Rights Initiative

Our research-driven undergraduate curriculum, our public engagement endeavors, and our faculty's top reputation all depend on and are enriched by our highly regarded doctoral program in French and graduate opportunities in Italian Studies and French-Italian Studies. Our graduate students engage in research that takes them to study sites, archives, and hands-on conferences all over the world, including Senegal, Martinique, Haiti, France, and Canada.

Your gifts will strengthen our ability to fund high-quality research in the following ways:

- Gifts for the **World Research Fellowship** will foster the innovative research and high-standard pedagogical training our graduate researchers undertake. Your gifts will help underwrite travel to undertake and share cutting-edge research.
- Gifts for the **North Star Fellowship** will be used to foster innovative research and high-standard pedagogical training. Leveraging the resources of Minnesota—the only state with a French motto (L'Étoile du Nord)—we will create a fellowship for graduate students whose research links to either French-speaking communities, French arts and culture resources, or French faculty at other institutions, all within the state of Minnesota.
- The best predictor of graduate students securing a research position is publications. Your gifts to establish a new **Publication Award** will give top students greater visibility and help them secure top teaching positions at leading universities.