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Digging Through the Directory: Dr. Claire Marrone

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BY MORGAN DEBELLE DUPLAN

Staff Reporter

Dr. Marrone is a Professor and Coordinator of French and Italian at Sacred Heart.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Near Philadelphia.

Q: Where did you attend college? What did you study?

A: B.A., University of Delaware; M.A., University of Pennsylvania; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania. I've studied French, Italian, and English, and my Ph.D. is in French and Italian.

Q: Did you always want to be a professor?

A: I have always been interested in education. Once I began teaching in graduate school, I knew that I wanted to pursue academics.

Q: What would you say are your biggest successes?

A: It is difficult to say. There are professional and personal successes. Professionally, I'm pleased to have been able to offer a variety of courses in language, literature, and culture at various institutions. Personally, I hope that my husband and I have raised our son well. However, he is only 13, so we're still in the midst of it.

Q: What challenges have you faced in getting to this point in your career?

A: I have had many opportunities to study and teach at excellent schools, take students abroad, pursue research interests, etc. However, it has been challenging that foreign language study does not play a more prominent role at SHU. For example, Sacred Heart does not have a foreign language requirement whereas many peer institutions, such as Fairfield University, Iona College, and Manhattan College do.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your career?

A: I enjoy the contact with students. I also love bringing my research - on women writers and on the revolutionary periods in France and Italy - into my classes. Academics allow for great variety and creativity, and I have found the profession very rewarding.

Q: Why did you choose to teach French and Italian?

A: I've spent many years abroad living in France, Italy, and Canada. My first year as a student in Paris was a transformational experience. I knew I wanted to continue to spend time abroad and learn about other cultures and literatures. I think I fell in love with Europe at that time and have always felt at home there. This led me to deepen my work in French and Italian.

Q: Why did you choose to teach at Sacred Heart University?

A: When I interviewed at Sacred Heart, the community and the language professors, in particular, were very welcoming. I liked the location and the fact that Sacred Heart was growing.

Q: Why do you think students choose to study your discipline?

A: Many of our students are interested in study abroad or international careers (in politics, business, etc.). Others wish to pursue teaching at different levels. Still others feel that language study complements their majors (in History, Global Studies, Political Science and English) or other passions (such as music).