Case Western Reserve University  
Center for International Affairs  
Faculty Seed Grants  
December 1, 2014  

Proposal Cover Sheet

Name: Denise Caterinacci  
Department: Modern Languages and Literatures

Additional Faculty/Staff involved: Mary Holmes, SAGES Presidential Fellow

Project Title: Language and Culture Immersion and Interdisciplinary Learning at CWRU through the Lens of the International Slow Food Movement

Brief Description of Project (100 words or less): Faculty and students collaborate to explore, define, and analyze the worldwide concerns of food production and sustainability and will expand and share this knowledge through research, networking, workshops, presentations, participation in the global Slow Food movement and activities with Slow Food International, CWRU Slow Food on Campus, and other chapters. Integration of skills and advanced learning in world languages and understanding of world cultures will be featured.

Total Funds Requested: $6500

Total Funds Needed: $6500

For Committee Use Only:

Total Awarded: ____________________________
Case Western Reserve University Center for International Affairs
Faculty Seed Grants
PROPOSAL ABSTRACT
Language and Culture Immersion and Interdisciplinary Learning at CWRU through the Lens of the International Slow Food Movement
Denise Caterinacci, Instructor and Section Head of Italian Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Mary Holmes, Presidential Fellow

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL
In the fall of 2012, Denise Caterinacci collaborated with Mary Holmes to offer a pilot interdisciplinary course for post-intermediate level students of Italian, ITAL 370: Special Topics - The Slow Food Movement. The course resulted in a meaningful international experience for students, who attended the biennial global Slow Food event in Turin, Italy in October 2012, “Terra Madre” (Mother Earth). The issues addressed by the worldwide Slow Food movement and the Terra Madre summit are uniquely suited to interdisciplinary research and study using anthropology, sociology, biology, nutrition, health, environmental studies, and political science, in the context of other cultures and in other languages. Several student-driven, campus-wide initiatives were launched as a result of the pilot course, and abundant further opportunities can be realized. A second edition of ITAL 370: Special Topics - The Slow Food Movement has been in progress during the fall 2014 semester.

A Center for International Affairs Faculty Seed Grant will allow greater CWRU curriculum expansion.

Goals for this seed grant:

- Develop a curriculum of key readings, films, and outside resources that introduces students to the precepts of the International Slow Food movement as an alternative approach to industrial food production and consumption. Such a course can be offered as a post-intermediate level language immersion course by any of the languages in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and can be shared with other departments such as Nutrition, Anthropology, History, Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences, or Economics, adapting the core accordingly.

- Formalize the relationship between CWRU student course participants and Slow Food International, with an ultimate goal of creating further study abroad opportunities and participation in projects around the world. This will be
accomplished through meeting in Italy with Carlo Petrini, the founder of Slow Food International, in the summer of 2015.

- Establish relationships with researchers and practitioners of Slow Food principles, to develop the eventual collaborations that yield projects, internships, and research opportunities. Contact would begin with Professor Paola Migliorini at the Università degli studi di Scienze gastronomiche in Bra, Italy and others there, and Philippe Rostain, leader of the Slow Food chapter in Gap, France, also in the summer of 2015. Both are near Turin.

Background
The Slow Food Movement began in Rome, Italy, in 1986, led by its founder, Carlo Petrini, and it has been steadily expanding worldwide, advocating “Food that is Good, Clean, and Fair.” The first Terra Madre event was held in 2004, bringing together farmers, chefs, educators, artisans, researchers, and students from around the world to learn more about indigenous foods and cultures, biodiversity, fair labor practices, sustainable farming methods, nutrition, and related health and environmental issues.

CWRU promotes “sustainable” production and consumption of food in various ways. Bon Appetit Management Company has successfully implemented more conscientious food service and educational programs, a strong student recruitment feature. The University Farm has initiated a food program in the last three years, including Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and sustainable farming methods. Garden@Case is a community garden maintained by staff and students. Volunteers split the food raised and extra is donated to a local food bank. The CWRU “Prevention Research Center (PRC) for Healthy Neighborhoods” has helped with a community garden. The Student Sustainability Council holds regular sessions on food. The Weatherhead School of Management held a forum this fall, Business as an Agent of World Benefit, with a track dedicated to Regenerative Agriculture.

Two recent CWRU alumni have achieved success in this area, one as founder of Fresh Fork Market and the other as staff in the New York office of Slow Food USA, now managing the Youth Network. In April 2013, as a direct result of the trip students took to Terra Madre, a new chapter of Slow Food on Campus at CWRU was formally established and recognized as a student organization, with Mary Holmes and Denise Caterinacci serving as advisors. In fall 2014 a current senior, who is also the president of the Slow Food on Campus chapter at CWRU, was selected as a delegate to Terra Madre and then as a presenter there of initiatives at CWRU along with his own laboratory research on Bt corn.

Since 2006, Presidential Fellow Mary Holmes has offered a SAGES seminar on The Future of Food, exploring the industrialization of food production in the U.S. since World War II. Students who took ITAL 370: Special Topics in Italian – The Slow Food Movement have benefitted from her collaboration in the course as well as that of other guest contributors who are local leaders in the sustainable food movement and who have attended Terra Madre in past years. The global nature of the Slow Food movement is reflected in Terra Madre as all proceedings are simultaneously translated into major languages. The
presenters and participants represent languages and cultures of the 152 countries where Slow Food has chapters. Approximately 16,000 attendees pack over 65 workshops and lectures, affording enormous opportunity for education and networking.

OUTCOMES EXPECTED BY THE PROJECT:

1) Development of a flexible, cross-disciplinary curriculum, adaptable to any of the languages offered within the DMLL and to other departments such as Nutrition, Anthropology, Political Science, Economics, Public Health, Biology, and Biochemistry.

2) Implementation of Special Topics - The Slow Food Movement in Italian, taught by Denise Caterinacci, and in French, taught by Cheryl Toman, by the fall of 2016. These courses will include the option to attend Terra Madre as well as side trips to the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Bra, Italy, and the Slow Food chapter in Gap, France. Other languages and departments may decide to launch simultaneously or subsequently.

3) Presentations by CWRU students about their visit to Turin for the CWRU community with support of Slow Food on Campus, and for the larger Cleveland community and beyond, through collaboration with Slow Food Northern Ohio, Slow Food USA, and Slow Food International.

4) Initial launch of global opportunities for student internships, international education, and research projects.

METRICS TO MEASURE SUCCESS
Four metrics will measure the success of the project:
1) A signed Memorandum of Understanding with at least two international collaborators who will provide an experiential learning opportunity to CWRU students.
2) At least ten enrollees in the fall 2016 semester courses of Special Topics: The Slow Food Movement, in French and in Italian, and in other languages taught in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, as well as parallel courses in other departments.
3) At least five student travelers to Terra Madre in October 2016.
4) Positive review of the Slow Food core curriculum for use by at least two departments at CWRU in addition to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.
5) Positive course evaluations and subsequent offerings in 2017 and thereafter.

PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY
Special Topics: The Slow Food Movement and parallel courses that have adapted the core curriculum will continue into the future, with more languages and disciplines added. The CWRU chapter of Slow Food on Campus will strengthen collaboration with the Slow Food Northern Ohio chapter and other campus chapters, Slow Food USA, and Slow Food International. Slow Food International has sustainable food projects in many parts of the world which offer numerous opportunities for student engagement. The City of Cleveland’s Plan for Sustainability 2019 designated 2012 as the year of local food, and there is already strong commitment to urban farms, farmers’ markets, and community-supported agriculture which offer local opportunities for students as well. The primary purpose of the travel in 2015 is to establish a formal relationship with Slow Food International.
chapters in Europe and elsewhere, beginning with the Università degli studi di Scienze gastronomiche (The University of Gastronomic Sciences) in Bra, Italy and the Slow Food chapter in Gap, France, that will pioneer the effort to expand international experiences for CWRU students.

**EXPLANATION OF HOW THIS PROJECT BENEFITS CWRU AS A WHOLE**

Engaging the CWRU campus in the precepts of the worldwide Slow Food movement and the international summit in Turin, Italy can greatly expand internationalization at CWRU and provide a highly positive public image. Studying the Slow Food precepts readily sustains cross-disciplinary curricula, integrating study of world languages and cultures, nutrition, sociology, anthropology, environmental studies, health sciences, and more. Current research at CWRU already involves causes and solutions for health issues related to the western diet, such as obesity, diabetes, and many others. Local, sustainable food initiatives are underway all around the world, in conjunction with Slow Food chapters. Cleveland, Ohio, which had a Slow Food Chapter even before Slow Food USA was founded, is a recognized leader. A formal relationship with Slow Food International will give CWRU access to thought leaders and practitioners around the world, and offers CWRU students unprecedented opportunities to learn and become leaders in this important area of investigation. Networks of alumni who have benefitted from these experiences will continue to expand.
PROJECT BUDGET

To support necessary travel (for two instructors, Caterinacci and Holmes) during May/June 2015:

Roundtrip AIRFARE from Cleveland to Turin, Italy
$2400.00 (United fare quote)

LODGING for 21 days
$2000.00 (Double occupancy; locations in Turin and Bra, Italy and Gap, France)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION
$800.00

MEALS:
$1300.00

TOTAL:  $6,500
PROJECT TIMELINE

I. Accomplishments of the Pilot Project Year and beyond (2012-14):

**August to December 2012: (Prologue)** Pilot effort in collaboration between the SAGES course USNA 252: The Future of Food and ITAL 370: Special Topics in Italian - The Slow Food Movement. Initial contacts and visits with local experts such as chefs, producers, representatives from Slow Food, etc., to establish fundamental groundwork.

**January to August 2013:** Undergraduate student collaborators develop educational video and have public screenings at CWRU. Students meet with leaders of Slow Food Northern Ohio and establish a CWRU chapter of Slow Food on Campus. Professor Caterinacci presents course outcomes at the April 2013 Research ShowCASE: “Project-Oriented Foreign Language Immersion at the Post-Intermediate Level of Proficiency in an Interdisciplinary Course Structure”.

**August to December 2013:** Workshops held on the CWRU campus and at the University Farm, to enlist greater participation. Student leaders of Slow Food on Campus hold regular meetings and develop activities and projects.

**January to December 2014:** Workshops held on the CWRU campus. Slow Food on Campus meetings and events. SAGES course on The Future of Food in spring semester 2014. New edition of Special Topics in Italian: The Slow Food Movement in fall semester 2014. Student travel to Terra Madre in October 2014.

Activities to be funded by Center for International Affairs Faculty Seed Grant:

**May/June 2015:** Faculty collaborators Caterinacci and Holmes travel to solidify relationships and organize collaborative projects with Slow Food leaders at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Bra, Italy and Gap, France.

**June to August 2015:** Faculty refine curricula and syllabi for future course collaboration among languages in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at CWRU and other relevant disciplines, modeled after the Italian pilot course and suitably adapted for use with any of the languages taught in the department.

II. Subsequent continuation of project efforts:

**January 2015 to May 2015:** At least three workshops and presentations of outcomes of these efforts. Continued activities with Slow Food on Campus. Support for more editions of the Special Topics course, eventually taught in more languages. Contacts with other relevant CWRU departments.

**Fall 2015 and Spring 2016:** Implementation of new curricula in Modern Languages and Literatures and other departments. Initial research collaboration efforts.

**Fall 2016:** Planning for attendance at Terra Madre 2016 and evaluation of outcomes. Plan updates.
LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR: Separate cover
November 28, 2014

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter in strong support of Denise Caterinacci’s application for a Faculty Seed Grant to support her proposal entitled the *Slow Food Movement*. According to Slow Food International, The Slow Food Movement is a worldwide, organization that believes that food is tied to many other aspects of life, including culture, politics, agriculture and the environment. The movement has a global following that promotes food that is defined by three interconnected principles: good, in terms of quality, flavorsome, and heath benefit; clean, in terms of production that does not harm the environment; and fair, in terms of accessible price for consumers and fair conditions for producers.

Therefore, as Ms. Caterinacci argues in her proposal, “The issues addressed by the worldwide Slow Food Movement … are uniquely suited to interdisciplinary research and study using anthropology, sociology, biology, nutrition, health, environmental studies, and political science, in the context of other cultures and in other languages.”

The goals of Ms. Caterinacci’s proposals are to:

- Develop an interdisciplinary course that introduces students to the philosophy and precepts of the International Slow Food movement as an alternative approach to industrial food production and consumption. Such a course would be offered as a post-intermediate level language immersion course by any of the languages in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, with contributions from faculty in other departments such as Nutrition, Anthropology, History, Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences, or Economics, adapting the core accordingly.

- Formalize the relationship between CWRU student course participants and Slow Food International, with an ultimate goal of creating further study abroad opportunities and participation in projects around the world. This will be accomplished through meeting in Italy with Carlo Petrini, the founder of Slow Food International, in the summer of 2015.
- Establish relationships with researchers and practitioners of Slow Food principles to develop the eventual collaborations that yield projects, internships, and research opportunities. Contact would begin with Professor Paola Migliorini at the Università degli studi di Scienze gastronomiche in Bra, Italy and others there, and Philippe Rostain, leader of the Slow Food chapter in Gap, France, also in the summer of 2015. Both are near Turin.

Ms. Caterinacci has already successfully established a variety of educational components relating to this proposal including an undergraduate SAGES course, a variety of instructional materials that can be used in other courses, and working relationships with European Universities that offer similar programs on the Slow Food Movement. Having established a strong foundation and commitment to the success of this program, Ms. Caterinacci now seeks a Faculty Seed Grant to support travel to Italy and France for her and her collaborator, Mary Holmes, during the summer of 2015 in order to establish the various relationships described within the proposal that are critical to implementing collaborative international and interdisciplinary educational opportunities relating to this topic.

The goals of Ms Caterinacci’s proposal are consistent with the stated objectives of this year’s Seed Grant Program calling for proposals that focus on internationalizing the curriculum, and development of new international and cross-discipline curricula. Furthermore, Ms. Caterinacci has experience with study abroad in Italy for CWRU students, making her well qualified for managing the travel components of her proposal, the collaborations with institutions abroad, and implementation of cross-disciplinary course contents. There is no question about her commitment to bringing her plans to fruition, as well as moving forward with the eventual expansions of the project and future resulting collaborations.

I strongly support Ms. Caterinacci’s application and ask that you give it strong consideration for financial support.

Best regards,

Stephen Hayneworth, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor, Department of Biology
and Interim Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures