Messaggio del Presidente

I hope everyone had a pleasant and productive summer, and that you are all now ready, or getting ready, for the beginning of the new academic year.

As you may remember, the membership was asked to vote on an amendment to the association bylaws regarding the positions of Secretary and Treasurer of the Association. The membership voted in favor of combining the two positions, and since the term of office for the present officers Maria Rosaria Vitti-Alexander, Treasurer and Tullio Pagano, Secretary, is expiring at the end of December you will find a ballot enclosed for the election of a new Secretary/Treasurer.

Following the recommendation of the AATI Executive Committee, this fall we will have two conferences. The first will be hosted by Arizona State University on October 14-16 in Tempe, Arizona and will focus on literature, culture, film and linguistics. The second conference, which has a focus on Pedagogy, will be held on November 19-21 in Chicago, in conjunction with ACTFL, as many of our high-school teachers and scholars who focus on pedagogy have suggested that a continued presence at ACTFL is desirable.

Upon recommendation of the same Committee, Mrs. Matilde Raffa Cuomo will be presented with the AATI Award of Merit at the Chicago meeting for her tireless efforts to promote the Advanced Placement Italian Exam, and to convince the College Board of its necessity and approval.

It was also decided to try to hold the 2006 Annual Meeting in Italy, hopefully toward the end of May.

I would like to recommend to all our members to strongly support the Advanced Placement Course and Exam in Italian language and culture which was recently approved by the College Board. This exam positions high school students of Italian for advanced studies in the language and culture, an advantage which has long been enjoyed by students of Spanish, French and German. It is up to teachers of Italian to make it a success. The AP Task Force and Development Committees are continuing their work for the preparation of the first AP Exam scheduled for 2006. The Task Force has revised the course description and it will soon be sent out to the AATI, AAIS, OSIA, UNICO and NIAF. They will be requesting feedback from AATI and AAIS on the revised Course Description and will forward their feedback to the Development Committee. You can direct any inquiries to aptalian@collegeboard.org, and the College Board will provide responses. There will also be a website very soon but it is not yet ‘live’.

Pier Raimondo Baldini

“Seminario di perfezionamento” in Italy

Thanks to the generosity of the Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università, e della Ricerca, ten AATI members were chosen to receive borse di studio to participate in the seminario di perfezionamento offered by the Università per Stranieri di Perugia (26 July–6 August 2004). The recipients of the borse and their schools are: Enza Antenos-Conforti (De La Salle College “Oaklands”), Janice DeAngelis (Smithtown High School, Smithtown, NY), Cosmo Femia (University of Toronto), Damiano Femia (University of Toronto), Francesca A. Pennisi (Southern Connecticut State University), Anna Rein (Bowdoin College), Filomena Ruggiero (Carmel High School, Carmel, NY), Laura Thurlow (York Catholic District School Board, Ontario, Canada), Maria R. Tringali (California State University- Monterey Bay), and Maria Cristina Villa (UCLA). We thank the Ministero for its generosity in sponsoring the seminario and hope that a similar course will be offered in the summer of 2005. Teachers interested in applying should check the AATI website.
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The 2004 National Summer Institute “The Art of Teaching Italian through Italian Art” was funded by a grant in the amount of $134,950 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Division of Education Programs to the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C., a non-profit cultural organization.

The first of its kind, and primarily directed to full-time teachers of Italian in elementary and secondary schools, both public and private (K-12), this exciting Institute was held in our nation’s capital on the campus of Georgetown University, over a four-week period: July 5 to July 30, 2004.

The primary purpose of the Institute was that of providing 25 teachers of Italian coming from different states of the Union, with innovative tools and techniques on how to teach Italian language and culture through the use of a content-based approach. The content chosen for this Institute was Italian art and the principal Italian artists whose outstanding works can be found in the museums and monuments of our capital.

Prof. Andreina Sgaglione and Prof. Maurizio Trifone, Senior linguists from the Italian “Università per Stranieri” of Siena and Prof. Lidia Costamagna, from the “Università per Stranieri” of Perugia, lectured on how to prepare lessons using art in the teaching of Italian as a second language as well as discussed new methodologies and specific structures in the language and recent changes in Italian. The participants were instructed and guided also by Prof. Rose de Benedetti, a scholar expert in the use of art in teaching a foreign language.

The Institute offered the participants the opportunity to interact with local art historians such as Prof. Angela Puglisi, Prof. Elizabeth Dunn and Prof. Marina Galvani, specialists in various aspects of Italian art, and received first-hand accounts by Prof. Barbara Wolanin and Prof. Marjorie Hunt on the contribution made by Italian artists, such as Brumidi, and stone carvers, to the nation’s capital. Local artisans expert in mosaic, fresco and ceramic demonstrated practical applications of their skills and guided the teachers in the production of individual works.

Because of its intensive nature, the four-week Institute met five times per week from 9 to 5, and in addition to lectures and conferences included on-site visits to important monuments and museums in the Washington area as well as workshops on art and handicraft’s techniques.

As the host institution, Georgetown University issued to all participants an official university ID, which allowed use of its bus transportation and a number of on-campus facilities, including Libraries, Gym, Swimming Pool, and Tennis Courts. Through the Georgetown University School of Summer and Continuing Education (GUSSCE) 14 interested participants had also the opportunity to register and receive six graduate credits each for the course.

All participants received a $2,800 stipend, to help cover travel and living expenses.

Upon satisfactory attendance and completion of all course work, participants received an official certificate of “Institute Successful Completion” offered jointly by the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. and Georgetown University School for Summer and Continuing Education.

The Institute was directed by:
Prof. Roberto Severino, Georgetown University Italian Department
Project Director
Dr. Maria Wilmeth, Director, ILP, Italian Cultural Society of Washington
Project Co-Director
Dott.ssa Graziana Morini, Direttore
Ufficio Scolastico, Embassy of Italy
Project Co-Director

For more specific information go to our Web site: www.italianculturalsoctiy or contact: Dr. Maria Wilmeth at: Wilmeth@italianlanguageprogram.org
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Josephine A. Maietta, recipient of the NIAF teacher of the year award for 2003, is now AATI president for the Long Island Chapter. Her latest project is the coordination of a group to participate in the Columbus Parade in New York City on Monday, October 11 to promote AP Italian. She has designed a 12 foot long banner promoting AATI for AP Italian! They will distribute Italian flags and informational flyers along Fifth Avenue.

The flyers are entitled: “Why Study Italian? The participants will include a folk group from Italy, teachers, parents, students and all others interested.
Conferences

Program schedules for both the AATI conference in Tempe, Arizona and AATI with ACTFL conference in Chicago, Illinois, can be found on the AATI website:
http://www.aati-online.org

Reception at ACTFL

A reception will be hosted by Yale University Press for their Conversations with Native Speakers series, which includes Italia Contemporanea. The materials in the series consist of a videotape of interviews with native speakers on a wide range of topics and a workbook that includes verbatim transcripts of the interviews, culture and vocabulary notes, and exercises for the students. In addition to Italian, the series includes French and Spanish (both available this fall), Japanese (2005), and Arabic (2006). The author of Italia Contemporanea is AATI member Professor Ceil Lucas and she is also the general editor for the series.

The reception will be held on Saturday, November 20, from 4-6 pm, in Room 4K of the Chicago Hilton. The materials will be demonstrated in a short presentation.

Hortulus Announces Kalamazoo Session: “The Comparative Middle Ages”

Hortulus seeks abstracts for 20-minute papers from graduate students and professors to be delivered at the 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University from May 5-8, 2005.

Hortulus aims to create a venue for scholarly conversation and interdisciplinary exchange among graduate students of medieval studies. In order to bring graduate student medievalists into conversation with one another and promote conviviality, we will sponsor a session on “The Comparative Middle Ages” for the 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies.

In keeping with recent scholarly discussions regarding comparative, interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary approaches to scholarship, graduate education, and pedagogy, we seek papers dealing with the Middle Ages from a comparative stance and especially invite papers that present new approaches or perspectives to medieval studies that interact with and elaborate on the multivalent cultural production of the Middle Ages.

Papers in this session might examine issues of (re-)territorialization of disciplinary boundaries, communication of theories and methodologies, (developing) pedagogy in Medieval Studies, or simply the elucidation of material from one field through evidence in other fields.

Please address inquiries and abstracts by October 14, 2004 to:
Editor (Kalamazoo@hortulus.net)
or to
Jay Paul Gates
517 S. Randall Ave.
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 663-0807
jaypaulgates@yahoo.com

FATI Florida Association of Teachers of Italian

FATI Florida Association of Teachers of Italian

By Maria Grante Roos, President-Elect

Siamo giunti alla conclusione del nostro primo anno di attività della FATI che ha visto non solo la creazione e lo sviluppo di questa nuovissima organizzazione di insegnanti di italiano qui in Florida, ma anche il debutto di un concorso statale per studenti di italiano intitolato Chissà chi lo sa? e di un Book Club in italiano Il salotto del libro aperto a tutti coloro che siano interessati a discutere di lavori della letteratura italiana in italiano.

Informazioni più dettagliate al riguardo possono essere reperite nel nostro sito web www.fatifi.org.

Fulbright Opportunity

The Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange is currently seeking applications for the Contemporary Italy Seminar.

In July 2005 grantees will travel to Venice, Italy for four weeks of intensive language study held at the University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari.” The seminar will include:
· Introductory cultural orientation to Italy;
· Language instruction including practical exercises provided by professors of Italian at the University of Venice;
· Guidance in developing curriculum projects;
· Visits to historical monuments and museums in or near Venice.

Interested candidates must be U.S. Citizens with the following criteria:
1. full-time high school teachers of Italian language;
2. fluent in Italian;
3. at least 3 years of full-time experience by the time of departure for the seminar;
4. little recent or limited experience in Italy.

Preference will be given to candidates who teach in schools that plan on participating in the Advanced Placement Program for Italian language (please indicate your school’s plans in your application essay).

The Fulbright grant covers tuition and teaching materials; international travel; travel and accommodation for a one-day orientation; room and board in Venice; guided tours. Participants are advised to bring additional funds for personal expenses. Dependents are not allowed.

Applications are available at www.fulbrightexchanges.org or by calling 800.726.0479. Deadline for submission is October 15, 2004.

For more information please contact Ruta Chagnon, at (202) 619-4565, ChagnonRX@state.gov.
PUBLICATIONS

Hortulus Premiere Issue

Hortulus, a new online journal of medieval studies published by graduate students, invites submissions for its premiere issue, to be published in January 2005.

We seek the very best of graduate-student writing on all aspects of medieval studies and aim to bring graduate medievalists into conversation with one another and the field as a whole. The journal will also feature an extensive offering of resources like moderated message boards, calls for papers, book reviews, and lighter fare like interviews and reviews of medieval-themed films.

See http://www.hortulus.net for submission guidelines and further details. All students currently pursuing graduate work in medieval studies or allied disciplines are eligible to submit papers for publication, as are alumni/ae of master’s and doctoral programs within one year of their graduation. Those who hold doctoral degrees are eligible only if not currently employed as professors.

Papers are due no later than October 14, 2004. Authors should expect to receive feedback within eight weeks.

We welcome all questions and enquiries at publicrelations2@hortulus.net

Hortulus

Hortulus is a new, electronic journal of medieval studies, founded and published by graduate students representing some fifteen institutions including the journal’s host, Rutgers University. As we move toward our premiere issue in January 2005, we hope that you will be kind enough to forward updates such as this to interested students and/or colleagues. For more information about the journal and its editorial staff, please consult http://www.hortulus.net.

Le «muse bendate»: la poesia del Novecento contro la modernità

by Roberto Pasanisi

Ci sia permesso questo avvicinamento tra l’Umanesimo enciclopedico di Roberto Pasanisi e quello di Mircea Eliade, che abbiamo eletto per rappresentare qui questa nozione ideale di un’esperienza apparentemente irrealiszzabile. In effetti, il nostro amico Pasanisi illustra in maniera convincente la nozione di sapienza (che noi gli troviamo a furia di leggere la sua opera già impressionante...) definita da Proust il più chiaramente possibile. Dubbiamo che Proust abbia avuto presente anche un senso figurato, ma per quanto riguarda Roberto Pasanisi riteniamo che nessuno più di lui potrebbe fare questo percorso, questo grande periplo attraverso la cultura del mondo, a partire dall’antichità greco-romana alla poesia di questa fin de siècle. Un vero excursus, per non dire incursione, negli strati quasi primordiali, nel fondamento del pensiero umano: che non gli impedisce di giungere agevolmente alla veste della sapienza di tutti i tempi, impossibili per la maggior parte di noi. In primo luogo, vi diciamo che l’opera dell’autore in questione, almeno i suoi poem e i suoi saggi, è vista qui, nel Sud dell’Europa centrale, come un’opera solida, di valore sicuro, portatrice di un messaggio chiaro, che arricchisce, di cui bisognerà tenere conto nell’evoluzione ulteriore di questi generi. [...] Dobbiamo ammettere che la quotazione di quelle riviste è aumentata dall’oggi al domani, dopo la pubblicazione di questi saggi. La serietà, la documentazione di una stupefacente vasta estensione, cosa piuttosto rara ai giorni nostri, la novità delle idee avanzate, l’audacia stessa di taluni saggi inclusi in questo volume (la quale talvolta rasenta la cancellazione di tabu, vicino ad una iconoclastia nel senso positivo della parola) fanno sì che il volume si legga come una meta-narrazione ad alto livello, d’un’eleganza espressiva e d’una chiarezza / concisione d’idea che lo rendono indispensabile ad ogni ricercatore o, semplicemente, amatore di poesia o lettore di una critica solidamente ancorata nel mondo dei valori. Ecco dunque davanti ad un’opera complessa, di grande finezza esegetica, segnata dalla capacità dell’autore di affrontare con evidente competenza ed una deliziosa compiutezza filologica i grandi temi del patrimonio culturale universale, non soltanto italiano [...]. Diciamo piuttosto che l’autore è un vero enciclopedista moderno, viste le sue molteplici preoccupazioni, al punto che si potrebbe addurre che la sua interdisciplinarità è pluridisciplinare (sic!). Lo sguardo del saggista si volge verso la condizione umana e, allo stesso tempo, verso la sua complessità e profondità, proponendo il ritorno ai valori fondamentali dell’umanità, che solo l’arte e la letteratura (grazie soprattutto alla poesia...) sono all’altezza di illustrare e conservare, ovvero trasmettere alle generazioni a venire. Perfino ad avvertirle, talvolta... Giacché i testi mettono a nudo la decadenza etica e spirituale della vita quotidiana, anche quella della cultura occidentale considerata nel suo insieme. Noi, il lettore di questi saggi, abbiamo seguito da vicino quello sguardo, a volte sinuoso, a volte labirintico, e ciò che abbiamo scoperto per caso dalle nostre letture ci spinge a proporvi questo eccellente volume, non fosse altro che per incitarvi a riflettere e sull’epoca in cui viviamo, e su quella in cui ci condurrà il nuovo millennio. Fatene dunque, finché c’è tempo, il vostro pane, e ne farete alla fine le vostre delizie: che non è affatto male per un libro di saggi.

New Italian Reader

Announcing a new Italian reader written in dialogue recounting month-long adventures of two students studying Italian in Perugia, Italy. Includes exercises for comprehension, grammar, conversation, writing and vocabulary. There are 10 chapters, 112-pages, soft cover with illustrations.

TITLE: Jean e Roscoe vanno a Perugia
ISBN #: 0972356215
PUBLISHER: Edizioni Farinelli
PRICE: $19.95 + shipping/handling
Consorzio di 22 Università italiane (le Università di Bari, Cassino, Catania, Firenze, Genova, Milano Statale, Padova, Parma, Pavia, Perugia per Stranieri, Pisa, Roma “La Sapienza”, Roma “Tor Vergata”, Roma Tre, Salerno, Siena per Stranieri, Teramo, Torino, Trento, Venezia, la Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione IULM di Milano, l’Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”), la Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento S.Anna di Pisa e il Consorzio Net.t.uno. che ha lo scopo di promuovere e diffondere, per via telematica, la lingua e la cultura italiana nel mondo.

Attraverso il sito www.italicon.it, ICoN mette a disposizione varie risorse culturali e didattiche per lo studio della lingua e cultura italiana: una biblioteca digitale contenente tutti i principali classici della letteratura italiana liberamente scaricabili, un archivio di immagini di opere d’arte, corsi di lingua italiana di vari livelli realizzati da specialisti delle Università per stranieri, corsi di italiano scritto professionale per aziende e banche per sostenere l’uso dell’italiano come lingua delle relazioni economiche internazionali, una sezione di news contenente attualità culturale dall’Italia. Ciò che caratterizza ICoN in quanto consorzio di università è un vero e proprio Corso di laurea in Lingua e cultura italiana, riservato a studenti residenti all’estero e interamente erogato attraverso Internet. Una iniziativa di e-learning che rilascia una laurea italiana ufficialmente riconosciuta, rilasciata congiuntamente da tutte le università del Consorzio, articolata in quattro corrispettivi: didattico-linguistico, letterario, arti-musica-spettacolo, storia: Attualmente sono pubblicati nel sito oltre 320 corsi di Letteratura, Linguistica, Storia, Geografia, Storia dell’arte, della Musica, dello Spettacolo, Filosofia e Storia della Scienza, Antichistica, ecc., tutti dotati di esercizi interattivi, per un totale di circa 100.000 pagine. Ulteriori informazioni al sito www.italicon.it

Fino al 25 settembre 2004 sono aperte le iscrizioni al Corso di laurea in Lingua e cultura italiana.

Tutti questi contenuti sono a disposizione non solo degli studenti iscritti, ma di tutte le strutture che insegnano l’italiano all’estero o sono comunque interessate alla cultura italiana, perché’ posso utilizzarli nell’ambito della loro propria didattica. Per ulteriori informazioni: abbonamenti@italicon.it

In collaborazione con la Niaf National Italian American Foundation, ICoN offre un pacchetto completo di quattro corsi on line di lingua italiana di vario livello: For Speakers of English, per principianti, intermedio, avanzato: 480 ore di lezione in autoapprendimento o con tutorato su richiesta per imparare la lingua italiana o migliorarne la conoscenza.

Per ulteriori informazioni: http://www.italicon.it/(corsi/offertaniaf)

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**An Italian Renaissance Sextet**

Since the approach to history by way of fiction cannot involve historical analysis of a conventional sort, the reader of the essays should expect no measured movement through time, no reliance on chronologies or on major events as guideposts. Instead, the analysis will touch upon marriage, ritual, age, gender, sexuality, love, family, ideals, clerical misconduct, personal social identities, small groups, links between town and country, and the invasiveness of the public face of neighbourhood and urban space. Professional historians will recognize that the foregoing themes belong to the most searching and novel historical work of the past twenty years: scholarship with a combined demographic, anthropological, and cultural slant. An Italian Renaissance Sextet can thus claim to be an introduction to current historical practice.
Italian Pushed for Mississippi Classrooms
By Andy Kanengiser, Clarion-Ledger

“Arrivederci” means goodbye in Italian and the expression could be heard often in some Mississippi classrooms in a couple of years.

Leaders with the Italian government began talks this week with Mississippi officials to discuss teaching Italian in the state’s public schools.

At a Capitol news conference on Friday, the Hon. Gianfranco Colognato, the consul general of Italy, who is based in Miami, said he hopes Mississippi can join states like Florida that offer Italian. He says his government is interested in helping supply the dollars to get a pilot program started. For thousands of American children, “knowing a second language is of very keen importance — they improve themselves,” Colognato said. “It gives the kids the possibility to open their minds to a different culture.”

The Italian Ministry of Education provides grants to establish Italian education programs in U.S. schools. A pilot program that began a little more than a year ago in Florida has enrolled 4,000 students, he said. “It’s incredible how easy it is for kids to learn languages.” Colognato said he could not say how much money his government would be able to supply until officials know how many Mississippi schools would be interested in signing up for a pilot program. Money would be spent to support training courses for teachers, among other things.

While money will be tight again at the Capitol in 2005, Rep. Lee Jarrell Davis of Hattiesburg said he will see if the Legislature can find some funds to get the program off the ground. He said he’s checking with Petal, Lamar County and Hattiesburg public schools to gauge their interest. Colognato met Friday with Gov. Haley Barbour, Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck and key lawmakers after discussions Thursday with members of the state Board of Education.

Mississippi public schools already teach about a half dozen languages, including French, Spanish, Japanese and German. Davis said it would make sense to teach Italian, too, because Italy is one of America’s allies and the world’s fifth-leading economy.

“We’re always interested in expanding our course offerings,” said Jackson County Schools Superintendent Rucks Robinson. But he said there’s a perennial shortage of foreign language, math and science teachers now and money is inadequate for key education programs. If the state’s schools are fully funded next year, Robinson said he would consider Italian classes. But it would take new money to pay for it, he said.

Hattiesburg businessman David M. Gratta, who has cousins living in Italy, pointed out that schools such as the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi teach Italian, but they don’t offer a major in it. He sees interest in Mississippi, though, since census reports showing there are now 40,000 people of Italian descent living in the Magnolia State.

John Jordan, an assistant superintendent with the Department of Education, said officials will now try to identify schools interested and help expand horizons for students.

Campus Honors Faculty for Excellence in Teaching
By Barbara Wolff

AATI’s past president Professor Christopher Kleinhenz was recipient of the 2004 Chancellor’s award for excellence in teaching at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Poet Dante Alighieri, one of Kleinhenz’s scholarly specialties, advised in “The Divine Comedy” to follow your star — your destiny — to reach a “glorious haven.”

Kleinhenz’s star clearly pointed to medieval Italian literature and culture. Universally described as a teacher who can hold learners’ attention, he uses an interdisciplinary pedagogical technique to catch and hold interest.

“I have a particular interest in the relationship between literature and art. My participation in study-abroad programs, and Wisconsin Alumni Association tours in Italy and elsewhere, has allowed me to develop on-site teaching strategies that rely not only on the reading of literary works but also on direct observation of their historical and material contexts,” he says.
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The AATI Newsletter publishes information about new publications, forthcoming conferences, events, contests, and awards. It also provides a forum for discussion on pedagogy and teaching strategies. Short articles (3-4 pages) or brief notes (1-2 paragraphs) dealing with direct classroom experience, teaching tips, and successful application of linguistic theories are welcome.

Information about your school or local organization, and other items of interest, should be sent to the Editor by February 15, 2005 for inclusion in the Winter-Spring issue.

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