Messaggio del Presidente

This is my second and last year as President of our Association. Next January, Paolo Giordano will step into the position. By next September, therefore, we will need to elect a new Vice President. I would like to encourage all of you to take an active role in the process and to nominate potential candidates for the position. Nominations should be sent to Prof. Theodore Cachey, Chair of the Nominating Committee (email: Theodore.Cachey.1@nd.edu). The person elected will automatically become President after two years, and all nominees should therefore be individuals capable of and dedicated to moving the Association forward as well as maintaining and cultivating our relationships with the Ministries in Rome and the Italian Embassy in Washington.

Last October, the annual AATT conference was hosted by Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. The keynote speaker was Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky who gave a lecture on "Real Life and the Inferno." We also had a presence at the ACTFL conference in Chicago where the keynote speaker was Professor Balboni from the University of Venice, Ca' Foscari.

This coming Fall the annual conference will take place in Washington, DC, on October 13-15, and we are very grateful to the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) for their sponsorship of this event. Participants will also be able to attend some of the activities of NIAF's yearly Gala event which will take place at that same time.

As in the past, we will also have a presence at the ACTFL Conference in Baltimore in November. Our presence will focus on the area of pedagogy and on workshops for teachers on the recently approved Advanced Placement Italian exam.

The Italian Government has informed us that there will not be any scholarships available next summer to send a group of high school teachers to Italy for the two week seminario di perfezionamento per docenti d'italiano sponsored by the Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca. I hope that this will be reinstated for the summer of 2006.

We are considering publishing our newsletter exclusively on-line at AATT's website (AATT-online.org) rather than by paper mailing. This is not only a fiscally wise decision but would also enable us to disseminate information more often to our members. If you are opposed to this, please write to tognazzi@humnet.ucla.edu and let her know.

Pier Raimondo Baldini

AATT in Washington, DC

Within the next few weeks, I will be sending registration forms and hotel information via e-mail and will post everything on the AATT website.

Registration fees
- Regular, $85 ($100 after 9/1/05)
- Retired, $75 ($90 after 9/1/05)
- Student, $50 ($65 after 9/1/05)

This year, we are planning on reviving the publication of the selected proceedings of the conference. Proceedings were last published in the late 1980's. This publication will be mailed free to all registered participants.

Attached is the call for papers. Deadline for proposals is May 31, 2005.

Thank you and I hope to see you all in Washington.

Paolo Giordano
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Distinguished Service Award for 2004 to Rosa Bellino-Giordano by Albert N. Mancini

On behalf of the AATI Awards Committee (Edoardo A. Lebano, chair; Joseph Tusiani, and myself) I have the distinct pleasure to announce the selection of our colleague Rosa Bellino Giordano as this year’s recipient of the AATI Distinguished Service Award. As most of you already know, she has recently brought to a close (June 2003) a very successful career as a foreign language high-school teacher.

During her teaching career she has been a devoted and untiring supporter of the mission of the AATI through a number of extra-curricular duties and nation-wide professional assignments that could put most of us to shame.

Rosa Bellino Giordano has distinguished herself in many ways. She received the Outstanding Teachers Award presented by the University of Chicago in 1984, was granted a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Perugia in 1985, was recognized as the Outstanding Italian Teacher in the State of Illinois for 1986 by the Illinois Foreign Language Teachers Association, served as Vice-President of the Illinois chapter of the AATI (1987-1988), was appointed by the State Board of Education to serve on one of the Content Advisory Committees for the Illinois Certification Testing System (1986-2003).

Of particular importance was also Rosa Bellino Giordano’s ability to connect Italian culture with the interests of a broader urban community such as Chicago, and to serve as liaison between Italian governmental agencies and the School Partnership Committee of the National Association of Secondary School Principals to establish cultural exchanges between American High Schools and high schools throughout Italy.

Moreover, Rosa Bellino Giordano’s career has never been limited to the already very challenging domain of secondary school language instruction and administration. She has often taught at the college-level in programs such as those of the Arizona State University Summer Program in Florence, the Italian School of Middlebury College, and the Loyola University in Rome.

The list of the papers read and the pedagogy sessions organized by her at professional conferences, among others the AATI and the Illinois Foreign Language Teachers Association, offers ample evidence of her broad interests and the wide influence on all of those who had the privilege of working with her. I like to quote one of her nominators: “Most of my interactions with Rosa have occurred in sessions and meetings at regional and national conferences where we both presented techniques and/or innovative ideas to teachers of Italian studies in the high school environment. Rosa’s presentations were always very impressive. She presented her students’ work with enthusiasm, pride, and passion. It was evident that her students were inspired and enriched by her creative and innovative approaches to education.”

This perceptive assessment comes as no surprise to those who are familiar with her excellent work of providing materials for work books and test banks, reading manuscripts of Italian textbooks, and revising exercises in new editions of manuals already in print. In short, she is a highly cooperative instructor, anxious to share and supplement her own ideas of classroom methods and techniques with those of her colleagues.

Not only did Rosa Bellino Giordano lead in endeavors in language teaching and international education in her region, she also served the profession as a whole, for example as member of the AP Italian Task Force, the AATI Committee charged with the preparation of the AP proposal for the College Board, the Task Force for National Standards for Learning Italian K-12, the College Board Committee charged with the development of the Italian Achievement Test for the Admission Testing Program. Again, allow me to turn to testimonials by some of her nominators:

“This past year—writes one of them— I had the opportunity to work with Rosa on the AP Italian Task Force Committee. The expert knowledge and insight that Rosa provided to the committee was invaluable. She has a keen ability to listen to the concerns and viewpoints of others and expresses herself eloquently.”

During the meetings of the AP Italian Task Force Committee -states another nominator- she had many opportunities “to hear Rosa speak about the current state of affairs in teaching Italian at the secondary school level, to share her wisdom about secondary vs. post-secondary programs... and to enjoy her broad national perspective on assessment, as opposed to a local or personal set of experiences alone.”

It is our good fortune that she has chosen to continue serving even in her retirement. The problems of teaching Italian language and culture in North American secondary schools and colleges have been of ongoing interest to the AATI since its founding in 1923. Rosa’s voice will be needed.

HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE AWARDED TO MARILYN MIGIEL

The Modern Language Association of America presented its eighteenth Howard R. Marraro Prize to Marilyn Migiel, of Cornell University, for her book A Rhetoric of the Decameron, published by the University of Toronto Press. Honorable mention was also given to Robert Henke, of Washington University, for Performance and Literature in the Commedia dell’Arte, published by Cambridge University Press. The Howard R. Marraro Prize is awarded biennially and alternately with the Scaglione Prize, for an outstanding book in the field of Italian literature or comparative literature involving Italian. Migiel received a check in the amount of $1,000 and a certificate. Henke received a certificate.
Historical Meeting of Italian Educators in Florida
By Maria Rosa Roos

The first symposium on Italian Studies in the Southeast and on the Italian AP program took place Dec. 10 to 12, 2004 in Boca Raton, Fla. This unique event was organized and hosted by the Consulate General of Italy in Miami and Florida Atlantic University’s Italian Studies program in cooperation with the Florida Association of Teachers of Italian (FATI) and the Organizzazione per la Diffusione della Lingua Italiana (ODLI).

The symposium was the brainchild of Prof. Giuseppe Tiradritti, the Italian Consulate’s education director, in collaboration with Prof. Myriam Runthenberg and Prof. Anthony Tamburri of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. The event succeeded in its aim of bringing Florida’s K-12 Italian educators together as well as professors from public Florida universities and representatives from universities in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia in order to gain a better understanding of the state of Italian teaching at different levels in the Southeast.

The Italian General Consul in Miami, Hon. Gianfranco Colognato, thanked the audience in his opening remarks and highlighted the tremendous growth Italian programs in Florida have experienced. Himself a teacher prior to embarking on his career in diplomacy, Hon. Colognato praised the attending educators for their enthusiasm, and declared his deep commitment to the expansion of Italian courses in the Southeast.

Gloria Baez, director of Multicultural Student Language Education at the Florida Department of Education, Paolo Giordano, president-elect of AATI, Maria Rosa Roos, President of FATI and College Board delegate and Patrizia Coco, president of ODLI, also made opening remarks. Maria Rosa Roos spoke about the Italian AP exam, its evolution and future benefits.

Several workshops followed, including one discussing linguistic and methodological aspects of Italian presented by Matteo Santipolo of the Università di Venezia and Università di Bari, and one on the history of Italians in Florida presented by Gary Mormino of the University of South Florida.

The second day of the symposium consisted of a number of presentations on the state of Italian in schools and universities in the Southeast by the following instructors: Mark Pietralunga, Florida State University; Maria Grazia Spina and Luigi Ferri, University of Central Florida; Mary Watt and Joe Paden, University of Florida; from Georgia, Lynn Fedeli, Kennesaw State University, and Gregory Ewing, Cobb County School District; from Alabama, Viena Katainen and Giovanna Summerfield, Auburn University; from Mississippi, Lynn Johnson-Zaninelli. Giuseppe Tiradritti and Patrizia Coco also spoke on the topic. A workshop on the Italian AP course and exam was held by Maria Rosa Roos and Rosa Bellino Giordano, both members of the original College Board 2003-2004 Task Force Committee who wrote the guidelines for the Italian AP program.

The following Florida K-12 Italian teachers also had the opportunity to give presentations on their personal class experiences and methodologies: Katherine Grazier Pescante, St. Petersburg Catholic High School; Laura Colussi, Phillip Shore Elementary, Tampa; Antonietta Di Pietro, G.W. Carver Elementary, Miami; Luz Miliani, Felix Varela Senior High, Miami; and Flora Costanzo, Pines Middle School, Pembroke Pines.

Of great interest was a lecture by Marcel Danesi of the University of Toronto on “teaching to think in Italian.”

The third and final day of the symposium focused on the necessity of creating a task force committee that fully represents the southeastern states and will be entrusted with organizing strategies for the further improvement of Italian studies in the Southeast.
PUBLICATIONS

Dante, Cinema & Television
Edited by Amilcare A. Iannucci

The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) is one of the seminal works of Western literature. The poem has had an enormous impact on modern culture, nourishing a plethora of twentieth-century authors from Joyce and Borges to Kenzaburo Ōe. Although Dante’s influence in the literary sphere is well documented, little has been written on his role in the evolution of the visual media unique to our times, namely cinema and television. Dante, Cinema, and Television connects this oversight.

The essays in this volume, written by scholars from a broad range of disciplines, examine the impact of the Divine Comedy on film and television, focusing on specific directors, writers, producers, and actors, from cinema’s silent era to the present. The essays also consider individual productions and the different modes of appropriation used in cinema and television. Dante, Cinema, and Television demonstrated the many ways, both subtle and bold, in which Dante’s Divine Comedy has been given new life by cinema and television, and underscores Dante’s vast legacy to modern culture.

University of Toronto Press
ISBN 0-8020-8601

The Woman Outlaw
Angela M. Jeannet’s
Translation of La briganta
by Maria Rosa Cutrufo

A young woman of the Sicilian upper-class in the 1860s makes a tragic gesture that causes the utter dislocation of her life, but also fosters a sort of rebirth. She spends a few dramatic months hiding in the mountains as a member of a band of outlaws. After being caught and imprisoned she looks back on the events of her life. The theme at the core of Margherita’s story is a woman’s construction of her own identity. History and fiction mingle in this novella that is appropriate reading for a general public and for students in History, Italian Studies, and Women’s Studies courses.

Orders should be sent to LEGAS, PO Box 149, Mineola, NY 11501.

Anna Marilena’s Four Sorrows
By Irene Musillo Mitchell

Visiting the southern Italian city of her birth, Chiara Gabrieli is dazzled by the brilliance of the Mediterranean sun and the haunting antiquity of the landscape, where gods and ancients once walked. Inspired by her surroundings and ghosts of her own, she is compelled to write the story of her grandmother Anna Marilena and her four sorrows.

Set in the picturesque hilltop city of Monteseviano, Chiara’s story spans the years 1900-1944, during which Anna Marilena’s family is caught up in the turmoil of emigrations to America, Fascism, and World War II. The shattering of Italy and the portrayal of America as the “Home Front,” are among the absorbing themes of the story.

The vivid descriptions of daily life in Monteseviano impart a palpable sense of the landscape, architecture, foods, and culture of Southern Italy. Anna Marilena’s Four Sorrows is a novel of grand scope, recreating the first decades of the twentieth century in Italy and America.
**Authentik in italiano**
Editors: Silvia Bertoni, Francesca Lorenzi

_**Authentik in italiano**_ has been specifically designed to develop Italian in a stimulating and structured way. Each of the 14 units has, as its core, articles selected from a range of sources in the Italian speaking world, including newspapers, magazines and literature. The articles are selected on the basis of their interest to students of Italian and many of them explore different aspects of Italian culture and lifestyles. Each unit also contains a series of activities written to aid students in their learning of Italian. The activities are written to give practice in reading, writing, listening, and oral skills, to expand vocabulary and to develop awareness of Italian grammar. This publication can be ordered by calling Delta Systems at (800) 323-8270, or register online at www.authentikdigital.com.

**Translation Prize to Luigi Bonaffini**

In September, 2004, Luigi Bonaffini was awarded the Translation Prize of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for his translation of Dino Campana’s Canti Orfici (Orphic Songs).

**Alfieri Beyond Italy**

Alfieri Beyond Italy, Atti del Convegno Internazionale di Studi (Madison, WI, 27-28 settembre 2002), a cura di Stefania Buccini, Edizioni dell’Orso, Alessandria, Italy has been published. The symposium, organized in 2002 by Stefania Buccini, Professor of Italian at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, was the only international symposium to take place in the United States, although commemorative symposia took place everywhere to celebrate Alfieri’s life (1749-1804).

**Roberto Pasanisi, Gli angeli, Salerno, Edizioni Ripostes, 2004 (pp. 112; € 10)**

by Giuliana Stefanzani

Al n. 41 della collana _Biblioteca_ dell’editore Ripostes, che ospita le opere di Alfonso Gatto, esce il primo, fulminante romanzo del giovane scrittore napoletano. Roberto Pasanisi, italiano, scrittore, editore e psicoterapeuta, è nato a Napoli nel 1962.

Docente universitario di Lingua e letteratura italiana in Italia e all’estero, è direttore dell’Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Napoli (del quale dirige anche le Edizioni omonime ed il Corso di Scrittura Creativa), della rivista “Nuove Lettere” e del CISAT (Centro Italiano Studi Arte-Terapia, dove è analista didatta, direttore dei corsi di Formazione e del “Giornale Italiano di ArteTerapia”).

_Gli angeli_ è un romanzo metafisico sulla modernità: varie storie si intrecciano e si intrecciano inamorevole e parallele intorno all’Io narrante, costruzioni simbolistiche di un fluire ininterrotto che è onirico e musicale, poetico e lirico insieme, sul filo squisito dell’immaginazione e della follia. I tempi e i luoghi della narrazione, situati su piani diversi, innescano un complesso gioco di richiami e di nitzscheiani ‘ritorni’, di parallelismi e dissonanze, di algide armonie e di misteriose simmetrie: le storie degli eroi del West, da Geronimo a Billy the Kid, o di romantici cavalieri post-moderni alla Humphrey Bogart, sono rielaborate nella prospettiva leggendaria di una moderna mitologia neo-romantica, trasognati e strutturati mitemi al cuore della modernità.

Sei sono i nuclei tematici principali che possono essere individuati nel ribollente magma narrativo del romanzo, intorno ai quali si aggregano tutti gli altri: il contrasto marmoreo fra vita borghese e senso dell’arte scoperto come definitivamente incolmabile; il mito dannunziano della bellezza; il rapporto fra l’uomo e quel luogo tipico della modernità che è la città; la scelta dell’attraversamento della volgarità e dell’orrore della società moderna (in quanto l’artista, appunto, deve attraversarne fino in fondo l’inferno, e farsene lucido testimone); la critica intellettuale e filosofica, di ascendenza pasoliniiana e francofortese, della volgarità del mercificatorio mondo governato dal capitale; e il corollario elitistico che ne deriva, l’impossibilità ivi perpetuantesi dell’amore, ridotto a puro sesso dopo che si è inaridita ogni trepidazione sentimentale.

Come dice nella _Prefazione_ Romolo Runcini, professore di Sociologia della letteratura all’Università di Napoli “L’Oriente”, «Di qui la ricerca di Pasanisi di un punto di rotura delle barriere imposte alla libera scelta dell’esistere, individuato nel viaggio di una favola tormentata e felice verso gli spazi aperti dell’immaginazione. Così la storia di questi _Angeli_ adolescenti, tutta pervasa da una scrittura onirica, abbagliata dalla velocità delle sequenze e dal rapido fluire delle immagini, manifesta a ritroso la volontà di mantenere viva la memoria di sé, di conservare il ricordo della propria individualità attiva e indipendente, ma lo fa con un linguaggio fortemente moderno e insinuante come quello proposto dal montaggio cinematografico e dalle cesure televisive che, frammentando il discorso narrativo in folgoranti o delicate suggestioni iconiche, coinvolgono il lettore / spettatore a partecipare più intensamente all’avventura estetica del nostro tempo.»

**Avant-Garde Publishers**

Libri italiani (nuovi e usati, rari o comuni) disponibili da ordinare per professori d’italiano e le loro rispettive biblioteche. Chiunque interessato possa richiedere il catalogo mandando un email a: agarde@earthlink.net
Figuring Women
A Thematic Study of
Giovanni Verga's
Female Characters
By Susan Amatangelo

Verga’s heroines in the social
and cultural context of nineteenth-century
Italy. In particular, the work highlights
the ways in which social reality and
cultural fantasy clash with women's individuality.

This approach allows comparisons among
characters in dramatically different
circumstances and brings to light the
experiences that unite them. The fact that
Verga’s most rebellious heroines die
violently at the hands of men has led to
accusations of misogyny or, at the very
least, of excessive social and artistic
conventionality. Yet it is precisely Verga’s
awareness of convention that enriches his
portrayal of women. The reaction of his
female characters to social custom at a
particular moment in their lives defines
them as individuals. With rare insight,
Verga depicts the female experience as both
personal and universal, showing that
different kinds of women are linked by
the experience of being female in a male-
centered culture. At the same time,
however, he reveals the isolation in which
women grow and live, separated from men
and other women by social and cultural
barriers.

Susan Amatangelo is an
Associate Professor of Italian at the
College of the Holy Cross in Worcester,
Massachusetts, where she has taught
since 1998.

Poet Revives Classic
Cookery
by Meg Sullivan

Last month the University of California
Press released yet another historical
cookbook edited by Professor Luigi
Modern Cookery Book” presents 50
recipes written in the late 15th century
by Maestro Martino, who has been called the
first celebrity chef. The private chef of a
prominent cardinal and gourmet, Martino
is remembered for his mastery of
sumptuous, convivial dinners for small
groups of people at a time when the
prevailing custom was showy banquets.

“This is the first evidence we have of
the dinner party,” Ballerini said.

Ballerini maintains he would much rather
be known for his eight books of poetry
than for pushing 500-year-old recipes of
eel torre or kid with garlic — to cite a few
examples from his latest book. But he
credits his success to approaching the
discipline with the same care as an art
historian or scholar in literary studies.

“Food has been a show of social and
political power through the ages, so if you
follow that trail, you’re fleshing out
history, particularly the history of social
classes,” he said.

The formula appears to be a winning one.
In 2002 the prominent Italian publishing
house Tommasi Editore hired Ballerini to
develop a series of books in Italian
dedicated to historic gastronomy. For the
next and seventh volume of “Cum Grano
Salis” (“With A Grain of Salt”), Ballerini
recruited UCLA French professor Jean-
Claude Carron to translate and introduce
the early 17th century classic “Le Cuisinier
Francois,” considered the cornerstone of
French cuisine.

Ballerini manages to pull out the stops for
his book launches. In 2003 he enlisted
celebrity chef Mauro Maffrinci from the
New York restaurant Trulli to demonstrate
the wonders of Artusi. Sal Marino, the
chef at Santa Monica’s Il Grano, followed
suit in the spring. Buon appetito!

Il sottile piacere
dell’istante
di Jacqueline Samperi

L’infelicità dell’essere umano non sta tanto
nel perdere i beni terreni, quanto nell’avere
smanito la chiave di comunicazione con
l’universo e tutte le sue cose. È ciò che
Simonetta Sgroi sottolinea in questa sua
opera prima, “L’invito dell’Essere”. E,
dalla lettura, appare anche evidente come
l’autrice sia riuscita a allacciare,
attraverso l’introspezione, un dialogo con
il mondo dell’interiorità. In questi tempi
di pessimismo e di cinico rifiuto verso la
vita e tutti i temi fondamentali ad essa
correlati, ecco che in Simonetta Sgroi
prende forma e si manifesta una nuova
consapevolezza sotto forma di scrittura.

È la poesia il mezzo che viene in aiuto
all’autrice, e tramite i versi ben si evince il
suo tracciato personale: rapportarsi con il
mondo attraverso la parola scritta e per
mezzo di essa, soddisfare la propria
esigenza di visione dell’universo così
come è, e non come gli altri vorrebbero che
fosse.

Per l’autrice non è facile accettare
passivamente la decadenza di quei valori
che oggi hanno perso tutto il loro peso
poiché, così svuotati, sono diventati
sentimenti banali, di cui spesso si dice che
non vale più nemmeno la pena di
combattere. Ma, per Simonetta Sgroi,
rendere concreta la propria solidità
personale significa guardarla dentro.

Meglio ancora, percorrere - senza indulgio
- la strada a ritroso per ricucire man mano
le trame della vita, laddove si erano
spazzate. Solo così l’autrice, protesa alla
riflessione, all’indagine, all’analisi, sa che
questo è l’unico mezzo per ricondurre
l’Essere verso una nuova consapevolezza
più distaccata del quotidiano vivere.

D’altra parte solo la purezza e l’autenticità
dei sentimenti sono in grado di regalare, a
chi sa coglierli, quella straordinaria visione
del sapere guardare lontano. Ed è qui che
nasce la poesia di Simonetta, ovvero il
vedere e rendere “poetico” il modo di
concepire se stessi, in una nuova veste.

Mediante l’”involuzione” iniziare a
guardare la propria quotidianità con
doveroso distacco, riscoprendo quell'anelito di leggerezza dato dall'animo. www.akkuaria.org/simonettasgroi
Jacqueline Samperi Mangan, Ph.D graduated from McGill University, is a Professor at Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada and Visiting Professor at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Italian Americans in Sport

Monterey Institute of International Studies
Preparing to travel to “Italia” or simply want to strengthen your language skills?
Study Italian this summer at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in beautiful Monterey, California. The Monterey Institute offers an eight-week intensive Italian language program at the beginning levels.
Additionally we offer beginning, intermediate and some advanced level instruction in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. We offer success in language study by bringing together motivated students and skilled native-level instructors in an intensive, small class environment. Four to five hours of classroom instruction along with out-of-class reinforcement, prove to be quite rigorous and demanding, yet most effective for language acquisition in a compressed time period.

Corsi di lingua italiana in Italia
Le scuole di Italiano Domus Aurea di Roma e Apulia di Lecce, invitano studenti e richiesta, e cura dello studente. Tale impegno viene premiato dalla collaborazione costante con importanti universita’ statunitensi come Wellesley College, Vassar College, Wesleyan University, University of Tampa, University of Utah, e Merrimack College; oltre che istituzioni internazionali come St. Columbs College, St. Bernard College e Santa Maria College e Melbourne, Brunswick College a Sydney in Australia; Oekista groups a Vienna in Austria; e CLCI a Parigi in Francia.

Nei Centri Domus Aurea e Apulia l’apprendimento della lingua italiana avviene in un contesto di “studio, cultura e vacanza”, tale formula permette di prediligere lo studio, senza sottovalutare l’aspetto culturale e vacanziero, legato fondamentalmente alla conoscenza del territorio.

Ai fini di una crescita linguistica appropriata, i programmi didattici sono in continuo aggiornamento, gli insegnanti vengono adeguatamente preparati e viene richiesto loro periodicamente di partecipare ai nostri corsi di aggiornamento.

Per una completa informazione sui nostri centri consigliamo di consultare le pagine www.apuliaromos.com. Inoltre ci preghiamo della costante collaborazione della Prof.ssa Flavia Laviosa alla quale possono essere inviate e-mail di richiesta al seguente indirizzo:

ICoN Consortium Announces First Five Degrees in Italian Language and Culture

The first Degree in Italian Language and Culture of the ICoN Consortium for five students was given on October 14, 2004. Five students were enrolled in the course of Italian Language and Culture for Foreigners that is administered through the ICoN consortium including twenty-two of the most important Italian Universities. It is a course held via the Internet open to all foreign citizens and to Italian residents abroad.

The degree was awarded to these new graduates, is fully the equivalent to a three-year Italian degree. The website www.italicon.it represents the first example of an online university degree course in Humanities. The President of the Italian Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi expressed his esteem for this project by awarding the Degree Course his High Patronage upon its inauguration in 2002.

The background of ICoN’s students is extremely varied. It is not composed merely of young students: a considerable portion of the enrollees are already established on career paths and form part of a working environment. They include professionals involved in various sectors, but above all teachers of Italian abroad, interested in pursuing a university diploma of direct use for their chosen career or considered as an important factor in their further education and professional training.

In addition to the degree course, the portal www.italicon.it offers foreign citizens, Italian citizens and the new generation of Italians resident abroad a series of important cultural resources. The course materials, subdivided into teaching modules, are enriched by the Italian language courses and three extensive collections of materials on Italian culture: the Library, the Museum and the Encyclopaedia. In almost five years of activity, thanks to the work of about 400 authors and editors, ICoN’s teaching portal has put together more than 90,000 pages that can be consulted through an original and highly sophisticated teaching platform. Monthly visits to the website number roughly 600,000.

The idea of a degree course held by electronic means was conceived at the University of Pisa, but it immediately gained the support of the major Italian Universities.
AATI Long Island Chapter
by Josephine A. Maietta, President

AATI Long Island Chapter has been very busy promoting the Italian language and culture by interacting continuously with other professional communities to maintain our mission and influence. They are demanding activities but are successful because of the hard work, efforts, and enthusiasm of the members of the chapter.

My first year as President began with the 2004-2005 academic year and enjoyed overwhelming participation of teachers of Italian at the Commission of Social Justice & AATI Seventh Annual Breakfast at Hofstra University. This was held in conjunction with the Italian Experience Festival, celebrating Italy’s gifts of culture, education and commerce to America.

For the first time, AATI long Island Chapter members marched in the Columbus Day Parade on Fifth Avenue, NYC, lending their support to AP Italian Language & Culture. A special banner for the occasion was designed and AATI members held it throughout the march. K-16 students enthusiastically gave out AATI leaflets describing the many reasons to study Italian. Also collaborating was ITA (Italian Teachers Association of New York and Westchester) President Lucrezia Lindia. Also there to celebrate Italian Heritage and pride was the Gruppo Folklorico Calabrese, Cristoforo Colombo and Amerigo Vespucci. We were accompanied by two Lamborghini cars. The response of the spectators was overwhelming. We were on television, and coverage was done by The New York Times and many local newspapers.

Our first professional meeting was attended by over 70 members and friends. We had a “Swap Shop k-16” of exciting LOTE activities. Professor Irene Marchegiani of Stony Brook University, gave an update on the AP Italian Exam, with special emphasis on the AP training courses for teachers.

Many participated at the Center for Italian Studies Annual Symposium, “The Art of Translations” at SUNY Stony Brook.

Our Festa Natalizia was another success. Delicious Italian dishes were the highlight of the evening, not to mention the improvised play of The Nativity. Many actors were discovered that evening!

Some AATI members volunteered to translate for Italian artists and artisans from Italy who were here for the event “All Splendor Of Florence” held in New York City.

AATI is also supporting the making of the movie, BEYOND WISEGUYS: ITALIAN AMERICANS AND THE MOVIE, Executive Producer, John Turturro and Rosanne De Luca Braun, Executive Producer.

Another project the AATI members are involved in is the translation of many interviews of Italian American women for the photo exhibit entitled, “Something Borrowed, Something New-Italian Women’s Immigration” which will be shown in March in New York City.

Friday, April 8, 2005, the 21st Annual Secondary School Poetry Contest will take place at Stony Brook University. Dr. Joseph A. Tursi is the coordinator of this event. Special thanks to Dr. Eli Seifman: Director, Center for Excellence and Innovation at Stony Brook University for his donation to purchase the medals for the students.

Our next Professional Meeting will be on April 15. Instead the Award/Scholarship Annual Luncheon will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2005.

Congratulations to Joseph Tursi, Jr. our treasurer, on his election as Long Island Director to the Board of NYSAFLT. He replaces Isabella Cocentino who just completed an outstanding two-year term as regional director from Long Island.

In closing, I am honored to serve as AATI LI President, and I am delighted to work with such outstanding and dedicated individuals who have the power to inspire change and make a true difference in our commitment.

Please visit our new website, www.aatili.org, created by our webmaster Dr. Annamaria Monaco Hernandez. If you have any suggestions for additional information to be posted on the website, please let us know.

Da New York: ITA, capitolo dell’AATI di Lucrezia Lindia

Dopo la splendida sfilata del Columbus Day Parade con il gruppo Folklorico della Pro Loco del Pollino di Castrovilli, accompagnati dall’Assessore al turismo della Provincia di Cosenza, Rosetta Console, e degli spettacoli nel teatro della Eastchester High School, l’associazione dell’ITA di New York e Westchester ha continuato ad offrire ai suoi membri delle workshop insieme alle altre associazioni della grande meta.

L’ultimo evento è stato quello di venerdì 4 febbraio al Consolato Italiano di Park Avenue. La professoressa Lucrezia Lindia, presidente dell’associazione ITA, è riuscita a riunire i membri dell’AATI per celebrare il Carnevale con uno spettacolo di italianoità. Alla festa hanno partecipato il console Antonio Bandini; i vice-consoli, Bosio e Munzio; il direttore dell’Ufficio didattico del consolato d’Italia, preside Alfio Russo; ex prima donna dello stato di New York, la signora Matilda Cuomo con la figlia Margaret e la nipote Marianna. C’era anche la presenza dei Comites, dei dirigenti di IACE e di AURORA. Ad illustrate la serata con sceneggiate e canti sono stati alcuni bambini che, insieme a dei ragazzi della scuola media e del liceo, hanno rilevato la bravura delle loro insegnanti e che la nostra lingua cresce a colpi d’occhio grazie al loro impegno e talento.
Programma Fulbright-Università Ca’ Foscari
di Robert D. Martino

Il corso si è concluso con un esame finale scritto. A conclusione di questo, abbiamo avuto l’onore di conoscere il Preside, Prof. Paolo Balboni, in occasione della consegna dell’attestato di frequenza.

Per quanto riguarda lo svolgimento del corso, questo prevedeva lezioni sui concetti della didattica dell’italiano, sull’arricchimento della cultura e su varie altre tecniche didattiche per facilitare l’apprendimento da parte degli allievi. Comunque, lo scopo di queste lezioni era unico, cioè quello di esprimere metodologie di insegnamento che siano in grado di dare all’insegnante il giusto supporto per far sì che gli allievi siano pronti ad affrontare il livello avanzato della lingua italiana, ossia AP (Advanced Placement).

Il soggiorno è stato inoltre un’occasione per tutti noi di vivere in prima persona esperienze tipiche della cultura veneziana. Ognuno di noi è stato colpito dalla bellezza di un evento come La Festa del Redentore, o ancora, la visita guidata alla Galleria dell’Accademia. Nonostante i duri orari del corso accademico, non sono mancate le opportunità per scoprire piccoli dettagli suggestivi tipici della vita quotidiana di questa incantevole città. In particolare abbiamo avuto modo di apprezzare il cosiddetto “Spritz” e il rinomato Prosecco.

Come unico maschio del gruppo, devo aggiungere che non sono stato un po’ privilegiato e viziato dalle attenzioni delle mie compagne! Scherzi a parte, di sicuro nessuno di noi dimenticherà mai questa straordinaria esperienza di cui abbiamo avuto l’onore di eserse ne parte.

Partecipanti al Seminario:

- Arline Amoroso: Philadelphia High School for Girls, Philadelphia, PA
- Judith Branzburg: Lowell High School, San Francisco, CA
- Leslie Crill: Clarkstown North High School, New City, NY
- Denise DePaolo: East Hill High School, West Chester, PA
- Roberto DiMartino: Byram Hills High School, Armonk, NY
- Lisa Ecke: Ridge High School, Basking Ridge, NJ
- Rosa Iannone: Arthur Johnson High School, Clark, NJ
- Rosa Manzo: Mepham High School, N. Bellmore, NY
- Phyllis Pizzolato: Passaic Valley Regional High School, Little Falls, NJ
- Soraya Ray: Pine Ridge High School, Deltona FL
- Adriana Santaniello: West Springfield High School, W. Springfield, MA
- Dorina Spiering: Lyons Township High School, La Grange, IL

Durante l’estate del 2004 ho avuto l’onore di partecipare al primo Seminario Estivo sull’approfondimento della metodologia per l’insegnamento della Lingua Italiana quale lingua straniera.

Il progetto, sponsorizzato dallo US Department of State-Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program in collaborazione con l’Ambasciata Italiana a Washington, è stato realizzato nell’ambito degli scambi culturali tra l’Italia e gli Stati Uniti per la promozione dell’insegnamento della lingua italiana quale seconda lingua nelle scuole ed istituti di istruzione secondaria negli Stati Uniti d’America.

Il programma, che si è svolto dal 5 al 31 luglio, prevedeva inoltre un’accoglienza che si è sentita fin dal primo giorno. Per l’appunto la Dr.ssa Laura Miele, in veste di direttore del programma Fulbright si è incaricata personalmente a riceverci a Roma in albergo. Tutti noi borsisti ci siamo subito resi conto del tempo che è stato dedicato ai fini di un’organizzazione che definirei straordinaria. Oltre alla Dr.ssa Miele, c’erano ad accoglierci direttamente da Venezia, il Dott. Roberto Dolci, coordinatore del Laboratorio ITALS dell’Università Ca’ Foscari, la Dr.ssa Elisabetta Pavan, responsabile organizzativa del corso, e infine la nostra “tutor d’aula” Rossella Beraldo. Quest’ultima è stata un sostegno ineccepibile non solo ai fini del corso, ma anche per le più svariate situazioni che si sono presentate durante l’intero soggiorno.

Per la prima fase del corso siamo stati ospitati nell’ex Convento di San Francesco (Coneggiano Veneto), una struttura che ci ha colpito profondamente per la coesistenza di antichità e modernità in un quadro di perfetto equilibrio.

La seconda e ultima parte si è svolta invece all’isola di San Servolo (sede della Venice International University), una delle tante piccole isole della laguna veneziana.
Italian Going Strong at the University of Colorado

Over the past few years, the Italian program at the University of Colorado in Boulder has been experiencing a revival. As the University committed to keeping the degree program viable, the stability provided by the new faculty hires and their willingness to extend their teaching range have allowed the program and its numbers to grow considerably. Our yearly enrollments have steadily increased from 552 students in 1997 to almost its double (1,068 in 2004 (1,024 in 2003, 966 in 2002). Whereas many schools are experiencing shrinking or stable enrollments, ours have boomed. We can now count on an average of 20 majors and 35 minors per cycle, with 6-8 graduating seniors each year.

The reasons for this success are attributable to the willingness of the new faculty (Valerio Ferme and Suzanne Magnanini) to devise and offer large, core courses to the student body. Among the new offerings are a course titled “Introduction to the Stereotypes of Italian Culture,” which this past fall enrolled 104 students, and a course on Medieval and Renaissance Women that also enrolls upward of 70 students. Additionally, in the transition to an Italian Studies curriculum, the faculty has cross-listed traditional core courses on Dante and Boccaccio, so that they have been taught in English and drawn more interest from the student body (the heights of enrollment for our Dante and Boccaccio courses have been 80 and 98 students respectively). The use of a French faculty member (Vittorio Trionfi) to teach Italian Cinema has also helped shore up our offerings in that popular area of Italian Studies. Finally, some of our lecturers have developed content-based language courses—ranging from Priscilla Craven’s Art History course to Chiara Torriani’s Theater Performance and Donatella Marchetti-Hunter’s Business Italian courses— that have made the learning of language much more exciting and interesting for our undergraduates.

While the new tenured or tenure-track faculty has greatly enhanced our visibility on campus, much of the credit for recruiting and retaining our majors is attributable to our dedicated language faculty. Everybody in the country is familiar with the doyenne of our department, Graziana Lazzarino, whose grammar Prego is still the standard by which others are measured. Just as important is the work of our Language Coordinator, Pamela Marcantonio, who for the past few years has been receiving grants from the university for her Outreach Program with Colorado High Schools. As a yearly tradition, Mrs. Marcantonio, with the support of Professor Lazzarino and the other language faculty, has organized “Italian Days at CU” where high school students enrolled in Italian language classes in the state of Colorado come to the university, sit in on Italian classes and get to talk with faculty and administrators about the possibility of continuing their studies at the University of Colorado. Our own majors have also helped these outreach efforts by teaching in local high schools (Boulder High School and New Vista High School) as a senior-year practicum. We know that this grassroots recruiting process is bearing its fruits and undoubtedly will continue to do so in years to come.

The end result of everybody’s commitment is that the program has never been healthier. Even the recent Program Review has confirmed these findings, suggesting the addition of another tenured or tenure-track member to our faculty, either in the areas of culture or Medieval Studies. Our success would have never been achieved, however, without the dedication and the collegiality of everybody involved. We are happy to stand as an example of what planning and adaptability can do to strengthen and support the teaching of Italian literature and culture in this country.

New Major at Miami University

A new Major in Italian Studies was recently approved at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio. It is an interdisciplinary program that includes courses in the departments of History, Art, Classics, Architecture, and Music, in addition to Italian courses. The University continues to offer a long-standing Minor in Italian, which consists exclusively of Italian courses.

Italian enrollments have more than quadrupled over the past 5 or 6 years, from c. 150 per year to c. 700 this year and last. Italian has suddenly become the most demanded language at the first-year level. Last fall, even after raising our class size to an unprecedented limit of 30 in six sections of ITL 101, we still had to turn students away, while all the other languages had trouble filling up their 101 classes, even though they had lower limits.

The 33rd Annual Miami University Summer Language Institute in Italy will take place in Urbino next summer, under the direction of the Institute’s founder, Peter N. Pedroni. It is an intensive program that allows students to study a full year of Italian (8 credits) in 8 weeks. For more information contact: pedronpn@muohio.edu, 513-529-7528.

AATTI Listserve

Please be sure to notify Piero Baldini if your email address has changed. If you are not receiving AATTI emails from Piero Baldini it means that your name is not on the electronic listserve or he has the wrong address. Please send your email address to him at: pbaldini@asu.edu.
AP ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The main AP Central page for AP Italian Language and Culture is called the Course Home Page. On this page, you can access the most recent course and exam information, as well as learn about upcoming professional development opportunities for Italian teachers.

As the resources for AP Italian become more fully developed, teachers will find links to articles about teaching strategies, course and exam information, and other useful material. The AP Central Web site and its AP Italian Course Home Page serve as the College Board’s pipeline to the latest and most accurate information about AP Italian.

AP Central® periodically sends e-newsletters to members who have elected to receive news about recent developments in AP Italian Language and Culture. If you have not yet registered on AP Central, please visit: http://apps.apcentral.collegeboard.com/RegWiz1.jsp

We encourage you to register and select the e-newsletter option. As the AP Italian Language and Culture course begins its first academic year in 2005-2006, email updates will be sent solely via AP Central e-newsletters. The Personalization section on the Registration site allows you to get what you want most from AP Central: information about the specific courses you teach or areas in which you are interested. In the courses section, highlight Italian Language and Culture. In the section below that, you can select either text e-mail or HTML e-mail newsletter formats.

Listings of AP Italian professional development opportunities sponsored by the College Board are now available on AP Central. While viewing the AP Italian listings, visit the AP Central Institutes & Workshops catalog to get contact and registration information for a particular workshop or summer institute. In addition to the workshops and summer institutes now scheduled for the northeastern U.S., the AP Program has planned spring and summer 2005 professional development opportunities for AP Italian Language and Culture in California, Florida, and Illinois. These latest additions to the professional development offerings include workshops in Orange, California; Miami (specific location to be determined); and River Grove, Illinois. Summer institute sites include Fort Lauderdale, both Belmont and Santa Barbara in California, and Chicago.

For background on the development of AP Italian and tips for promoting the course, read Ida Giampietro Wilder’s article, “AP Italian: A New Era.” Wilder is an Italian teacher at Greece Athena High School in Rochester, New York. She is a member of the AP Italian Development Committee and was a member of the AP Italian Task Force.

(Taken from the AP Italian website with College Board permission.)

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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 September 1, 2005 for inclusion in the Summer-Fall issue.

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