

CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

i Bollettino

dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America

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GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Calandra Institute's newsletter, *il Bollettino*! The past fifteen months have been challenging, and an overall gratifying experience. Together with the Calandra staff and various members of our Italian and Italian-American communities, we have been able to accomplish many things.

The Italian-American community of the greater New York metropolitan area has proven to be most welcoming during this initial period. Some, in fact, also opened their coffers at this early stage. A long-time supporter of the Institute, Senator Serphin Maltese has procured yet another grant for the Institute's Joseph Grosso in order to continue publication of Queens College's *il Giornalino*, our student publication. In turn, we are delighted to be able to thank also the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit and its president Justice Dominic Massaro. Equally generous at the outset was the National Italian American Foundation, which allowed the Calandra Institute to benefit from a previously awarded grant. All of this has enabled us to bring forth numerous events that help lay the foundation for a sustained objective of (1) studying further our culture in all

of its numerous manifestations and (2) re-examining in a more rigorous manner the history of Italian Americans.

Italian-American state legislators have also extended their warmest of welcomes, and we at the Institute are delighted to have worked with them this past June on their annual conference. We look forward to a future collaboration under the leadership of their president, Assemblyman William Magnarelli.

The Institute has done much significant work over these past two-plus decades. To be sure, much still needs to be done, and our future activities will continue to explore the multifarious sectors of our extended community as we move forward. Some of our staff are stationed on CUNY campuses, while others work out of the Institute's home in Manhattan, all contributing to our overall mission and goals.

With regard to research and scholarship done by Institute staff and affiliated scholars, we will ensure that it appears in venues such as journals and books as well as being available in pdf format on our website. We have three projects in the works: one, a volume of collected socio-psychological studies

conducted by Institute personnel and affiliate scholars, edited and with an introduction by our colleague Dr. Nancy Ziehler; the second, the English edition of a collection of essays from last June's Pesaro Film Festival; the third, a collection of essays from the Fifth Italo-American Social Science Conference (a morning session was hosted at Calandra), edited by Dr. William Parrillo of William Patterson University. Finally, in the near future we look forward to the continuation of *The Italian American Review*. We will make an announcement in the spring with more specific information.

Information on our other events of this past year are included in this issue of *il Bollettino*. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of any assistance. Also, be sure to join our list-serve and mailing list. Our contact information is at the bottom of this page.

Dulcis in fundo: All of what we have been able to accomplish could not be done without unyielding support from both Chancellor Matthew Goldstein's Office of CUNY and President James Muysken's Office of Queens College. They and their staff have cleared many a path throughout these first fifteen months. •



SENATOR JOHN D. CALANDRA served his local and state-wide community with distinction and compassion from 1965 until his death in 1986. Senator Calandra believed that all individuals, rich and poor, should have equal opportunity and access to higher education. He committed much of his life to insuring a quality public education for all.

Never forgetting his ethnic heritage, Senator Calandra was a staunch advocate for the rights of Italian Americans, making sure they did not suffer the discrimination their ancestors did on a regular basis.

Senator Calandra's 1978 report, "A History of Italian-American Discrimination at CUNY," was instrumental in securing CUNY's declaration of "protected class" status for all Italian Americans within the CUNY system, which led to the founding of the Institute. In fact, as chairman of the Italian American Legislative Caucus, the Senator worked with elected representatives in the New York State Senate and Assembly to establish the Italian American Institute to Foster Higher Education in 1979.

Because of the Senator's years of service to the Institute's birth and development, in 1987 Governor Mario M. Cuomo signed a bill into law renaming the Institute in the Senator's honor, thus preserving the memory of his many efforts as a champion for social justice.

Italics: The Italian American TV Magazine

CHANNEL 75

Last Wednesday of the month
10 am, 3 pm, 8:30 pm

Repeats
Saturday 8 pm
Sunday 10 am

Contact the Institute to be included on the newsletter mailing list. Provide your email address to receive the newsletter via email or your mailing address to receive a printed copy.

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RHYME AND REASON

CALANDRA CELEBRATES POETRY MONTH

In 1996, the Academy of American Poets established April as National Poetry Month. It is a time set apart to increase attention to the country's lyrical heritage: to the art of poetry, the poets themselves, and, especially, to their poetry books, magazines, and journals. Over the years, it has become our nation's largest literary celebration spilling over to other countries worldwide.

On April 14, 2007, the Calandra Institute celebrated many of our Italian-American poets. More than thirty poets participated in this event, its only precursor being the decade-long reading series at the Cornelia Street Café sponsored by the Italian American Writers Association. While most of the poetry was in English, this first poetry fest also celebrated our local Italian-language poets who, while living in the United States, continue to express themselves in Italian. This bilingual aspect of the fest reminded us, of course, of our collective origins, harking back, at times, both to an Italy that no longer exists juxtaposed to one, instead, that is very much alive in our collective consciousness.

Two individuals were recognized for their special contributions over the years, and both, ironically, are poets who, born and raised in Italy, have lived in this country for more than a half century each. Daniela Gioseffi introduced Alfredo de Palchi, an Italian-language poet living in the United

States since the early 1950s. De Palchi is truly a modern-day "renaissance man": he has consistently worn the hats of poet, translator, editor, publisher, and cultural philanthropist. An author of numerous books of his own, for just about fifty years he has also published the prestigious literary journal *Chelsea*. In mid-century he was among those who introduced to the United States, through translations, the poetry of Eugenio Montale, Salvatore Quasimodo, and Lucio Piccolo. In the past two decades especially, he has enabled many poets and presses to bring to the fore the works of many United States and Italian poets through prizes, grants, and special editions.

The bilingual aspect of the fest reminded us of our collective origins, harking back to an Italy that no longer exists juxtaposed to one that is very much alive in our collective consciousness.

While each poet read for approximately ten minutes throughout the day, this marathon was accompanied in mid-afternoon by a combination of reading and lecture by Joseph Tusiani. Entitled "Perspectives in Prismatic Writing," Tusiani spoke about his influences and favorite poets and then proceeded to read from his own work. A unique writer indeed, Tusiani writes in four different languages: Italian, his native Apulian dialect, English, and Latin. In addition to his poetry, Tusiani has also written a three-volume

autobiography that details the challenges he faced during his initial trip to the US and the subsequent years as an Italian in America. Poet, critic, and novelist, Tusiani is Professor Emeritus of Italian at Lehman College, CUNY.

The first poet read at 10:00 a.m. and the last line was uttered at 5:00 p.m., reading from both their published poetry and new works in progress. They came from as far away as Vermont to the north and Philadelphia to the south, with the majority of those present from the greater New York tri-state area. In all, those present were treated to an array of different lyrical voices. Family, biculturalism, bilingualism, social roles and stereotypes, gender, sexuality, immigration, relationships, and, overall, the constant negotiation of much of these and other themes served as the various backdrops for the aesthetic creation of the poets present. They included Mary Jo Bona, Rosette Capotorto, Rosemary Cappello, Peter Carravetta, Michael Cirelli, Paola Corso, Peter Covino, VinniMarie D'Ambrosio, Rachel Guido deVries, Gil Fagiani, Maria Famà, Emily Ferrara, Diana Festa, Luigi Fontanella, Fred Gardaphé, Daniela Gioseffi, Edi Giunta, George Guida, Annie Lanzillotto, Julia Lisella, Maria Lisella, Irene Marchegiani, Michael Palma, Vittoria Repetto, AnnaLisa Saccà, Al Tacconelli, Angelo Verga, and Robert Viscusi.

The day was met with great attention and excitement. We hope to present another poetry festival in 2008. ●

ITALICS

THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN MAGAZINE

With the assistance of RAI (Radio-televisione Italiana, Italy's television network) and CUNY TV, the Calandra Institute was able to produce a pilot in June 1986 for an Italian-American TV magazine show, *Italics*. Subsequent reviews and interest generated by *Italics*, from the Italian-American as well as the community-at-large, provided the impetus to continue production. Over the years, *Italics* has become the *de facto* cable television presence for Italian Americans.

In 1991, *Italics* was designated an "Official Quincentenary Project" by the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission in Washington DC. In 1994-95, *Italics* began a long-time collaboration with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF).

Originally hosted and produced by co-founders Drs. Emelise Aleandri and Joseph Scelsa, *Italics* is currently staffed by Lucia Grillo, Assistant Producer/Correspondent, William D. Schempp, Producer/Director, and Anthony Julian Tamburri, Executive Producer/Host. *Italics* airs on CUNY TV, channel 75 and other New York City cable TV stations.

Highlights of 2007 include: Dean Tamburri's discussion of the award-winning new film *Golden Door* with its director Emanuele Crialesi, and leading actor Vincenzo Amato; a conversation with Calandra staff members Dr. Vincenzo Milione and Dr. Joseph Sciorra on the Institute's recent research and cultural activities; the launching of the web portal *i-Italy*; extensive coverage of the 32nd annual NIAF Gala; and a conversation with distinguished sociologist Dr. Richard Alba.

In October 2007, CUNY TV allotted *Italics* four extra hours of air time for the celebration of Italian culture and heritage. On the first four Mondays, *Italics* aired the following programs: the 2007 New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators; Italian Heritage and Culture Month 2007 preview and interview with Angelo Gimondo, Founder and Chairman, and Cav. Joseph Sciamè, President, of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc.; the 200th Birthday of Constantino Brumidi at the US Capitol; and the NIAF special symposium on the "Italian-American Vote." In December, an additional hour featured many of the activities that took place during October's Italian Heritage and Culture Month.

This year *Italics: The Italian American Magazine* will celebrate its twentieth year of programming on CUNY TV.

NOSTOS

THE RETURN OF NEW ITALIAN-AMERICAN CINEMA

It was a first-class ticket that brought back to the homeland the filmmakers and scholars who descended from Italian immigrants. They were warmly welcomed last June to the 43rd Festival of New Cinema in Pesaro, Italy. The Festival can flaunt an important story: Pier Paolo Pasolini announced his theory on the Cinema of Poetry to this public a few decades ago. The newest generation of Italian Americans showcased its film production because—as the coordinator of the Festival, Giuliana Muscio, Professor at the University of Padua, stated—“American cinema has seen a turn-around: show business seems now mainly peopled by Italian Americans.” The organization of this Festival was also Italian-American, thanks to the successful collaboration between Festival director Giovanni Spagnoletti and coordinator Giuliana Muscio, and the Calandra Institute represented in Pesaro by Dean Anthony Tamburri and Associate Director for Academic and Cultural Programs Joseph Sciorra.

Two days of the Festival were dedicated to an Italian-American conference that brought together important scholars from both sides of the ocean. The first day was dedicated to the writer John Fante, and the second to Italian-American cinema per se. Fante is a beloved author in Italy, less so in the United States, and he was quoted, analyzed, thrashed and defended by a cohort of Italian scholars: Martino Marazzi of the University of Milan, Franco La Polla of the University of Rome, Emanuele Pettener of Florida Atlantic University, Francesco Durante, author of the monumental anthology *Italoamericana*, and the popular writer Lidia Ravera. The documentary *John Fante, Profile of a Writer*, by Giovanna Di Lello, opened the discussion.

We can be proud of the success of Italian-American cinema at its first grand Italian opening: Michael Corrente's movie, *Brooklyn Rules* (2007), won the Prize of the Audience, an important recognition coming from the numerous public of Pesaro who crowded the piazza in the suggestive nights of shows *al fresco*. Corrente was present at the Festival with a second movie, *Federal Hill* (1994), entirely shot in black and white.

Possibly with the exception of John Turturro, with his *Mac* (1992) and *Romance and Cigarettes* (2005), the majority of the filmmakers were relatively unknown to Italian audiences. Screenings included actor/director Steve Buscemi's bleak *Trees Lounge* (1996),

Raymond De Felitta's sweet adventure of 1956 Staten Island, *Two Family House* (2000), and Tom Di Cillo's meta-cinematic *Living in Oblivion* (1995). Vincent Gallo's imaginative and autobiographical *Buffalo '66* (1997) piqued the public's interest, and Nick Stagliano's barflys came to life in his *The Florentine* (1999). The young Kevin Jordan was present with *Brooklyn Lobster* (2006), the story of his family's lobster farm. Two women were present with feature-length films and answered the audience's questions after their shows: Nancy Savoca with her anti-romantic *True Love* (1989) and Mary Lou Bongiorno with her irreverent *Little Kings* (2006).

What is an Italian-American film language? What are the components of its style, its recurrent visual motifs, the poetic of its images? And how does Italian-American cinema find its place among the other hyphenated American cinema? What are its specific and shared themes?

The choice of documentaries was intriguing because most of the films were directed by women, who were like delicate hunters of pearls from private and public history. In addition to Giovanna Di Lello, Camilla Calamandrei showed her *Prisoners in Paradise* (2001), the surprising never-told story of Italian prisoners who were taken to the United States during World War II and decided to settle here. Susan Caperna Lloyd presented her *The Baggage* (2001), a most private and intense confession of her dysfunctional Italian-American family, an emotional touchstone for an appreciative audience. Twenty-five year old Veronica Diaferia captured the last painful days of the Italian-American store Ernesto Rossi & Co., filled to the brim with unbelievable merchandise and recently closed after a century of activity on Mulberry Street, in *Closing Time* (2006). With her husband Jerome, Mary Lou Bongiorno also presented two of their documentaries: *Mother Tongue* (1999), an interview with Italian-American mothers and sons, and the recent *Revolutions '67* (2007) on the 1967 Newark riot that solicited the intervention of Italian-American policemen. Finally, Paul Reitano and Terrence Sacchi immortalized the Christmas decorations of an Italian-American Brooklyn neighborhood in *Dyker Lights* (2001).

Two gems of film history were uncovered in Pesaro: *Santa Lucia Luntana*, a 1931

tear-jerking movie by Harold Godsoe about an Italian-American family, and *The Movie Actor* by Bruno Vallety (1932), an exceptional and exhilarating apparition of the histrionic Eduardo Migliaccio, the famous Farfariello of Italian-American theater. Both films seem to have disappeared from regular movie circuits. Fortunately for aficionados at the Festival, the films enjoyed a momentary rebirth.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to Italian-American cinema and saw a parade of experts and scholars, many of whom contributed essays to the festival's volume, *Quei bravi ragazzi: il cinema italoamericano contemporaneo* (Marsilio, 2007). This Festival publication will soon be available in English, to be published by the Calandra Institute. The themes of the discussion were numerous and went from ethnic prejudice and stereotype to the representation of women, family and Italian-American masculinity, to the “flesh and soul” of this cinema, a rich symphony of voices that culminated in a round table chaired by Anthony Tamburri. At the conclusion, many hot topics were still burning and calling for a definite answer: what is an Italian-American film language? What are the components of its style, its recurrent visual motifs, the poetic of its images? And how does Italian-American cinema find its place among the other hyphenated American cinema? What are its specific and shared themes?

This 43rd Festival was an important event. It finally made public in Italy the work of the grandchildren of immigrants who have now become producers of high culture, a culture that is completely other from today's Italy. Such a meeting was necessary and long-awaited. As the title of Valerio Bisturi's accompanying photography exhibit reminded us: it is time to go “Back to Little Italy.” ●

—ILARIA SERRA, *Florida Atlantic University*

GRANTS RECEIVED

The National Italian American Foundation (www.niaf.org) awarded a \$4,000 grant towards our “Documented Italians” film and video series, and a \$4,500 grant towards our symposium “Critical Histories: Towards a New Perspective on Italian Americans.”

The American Society for the Italian Legions of Merit awarded the Institute \$4,000 to support our conferences and publications.

The office of Serphin Maltese awarded a grant of \$1,200 for publication of *il Giornalino*.

CRITICAL HISTORIES

TOWARDS A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON ITALIAN AMERICANS

The emergence of Italian-American studies during the late 1960s and early 1970s was dominated to a large degree by social scientists and in particular historians. Over the last quarter of the twentieth century, literary and cultural studies scholars became an ever present intellectual force within the field. In recent years, a new generation of historians exploring the Italian-American subject has come to the fore. On September 22, 2007, the Calandra Institute sponsored, with funding from the National Italian American Foundation and the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, an all-day symposium entitled "Critical Histories: Towards a New Perspective on Italian Americans" featuring this stimulating new research.

The morning panel began with Marcella Bencivenni of Hostos Community College, CUNY, who spoke about the cultural dimensions of Italian-American radicalism. She looked at the ways literature, poetry, theater, and visual arts fused with and sustained the political work of anarchists, socialists, and other leftist activists in the first half of the twentieth century. Bencivenni spoke of the need to move away from class as the central paradigm of radical politics and address the emotions and ethical views of industrial workers and radical leaders.

In keeping with this reappraisal of the past, Peter Vellon of Queens College, CUNY, focused on New York City's early Italian-language press, both mainstream and radical, to explore how race and civilization were constructed vis-à-vis people of color. Vellon's analysis scrutinized the press not only for the information it contained but also as a form of cultural representation that engendered, negotiated, and reproduced a public dialogue on race.

Liz Zanoni, a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota, also examined the Italian-language press for the "gendered

representations of consumption" found within the pages of *Il Progresso Italo-Americano* during the 1920s and 1930s. Her presentation considered the ways fashionable clothing and food products positioned Italian-American women's consumerism as neither completely American nor entirely Italian. Zanoni concluded her paper by comparing representations of Italian-American women to their counterparts in fascist Italy in an effort to explore transnational exchanges of gender ideologies, political culture, and visions of female consumption.

New research about Italian-Americans and other members of the diaspora by scholars in Italy was the subject of keynote speaker Maddalena Tirabassi, director of the Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli's Centro Altretalie sulle Migrazioni Italiane in Turin. She began her presentation by summarizing how representations of Italian migrations have changed over the last decades, referencing recent creative works like Melania Mazzucco's novel *Vita* (2003) and Emanuele Crialesè's film "Nuovomondo" (2006). The heart of Tirabassi's paper was the work of young Italian scholars presented at the July 2007 conference "Con gli occhi della globalizzazione: I nuovi studiosi e la ricerca sulle migrazioni italiane." As Tirabassi explained, these junior scholars are part of a generation of "new mobiles," academics who operate within global networks of intellectual pursuit and university employment who are, by default, sensitized to migratory issues.

Jennifer Guglielmo of Smith College began the afternoon panel by discussing her research on Italian-American women and what she called the "politics of power." Her talk challenged reigning historiographies that characterized Italian immigrant women as passive and subservient, dominated by excessively patriarchal males, and ultimately apolitical. She asked, "How does our sense of history change when we look at the world through women's eyes?" Guglielmo's response was the inclusion of third-world/women of color feminist historical methodologies

in analyzing power and the production of knowledge in Italian-American history.

Nancy Carnevale of Montclair State University also challenged traditional immigration history, which has taken the forms of either community studies in relative isolation or the relationship between immigrants/ethnics and the larger American society. Carnevale's paper called for greater attention to inter-ethnic relations in understanding how Italian Americans were constructed in specifically historical moments, cautioning against the essentialization of Italian Americans and other ethnic and racial groups.

David Aliano of the College of Mount Saint Vincent discussed new approaches and recent comparative works in the study of Italian social, political, and cultural identities in Latin America. His presentation was mindful of situating this research within the context of the larger Italian diaspora and in relationship to Italian experiences in North America.

Rounding out the day's presentations was the event's second keynote speaker Donna Gabaccia, director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, who asked the provocative question "Do we still need Italian-American studies?" If, as Gabaccia suggested, research on Italian immigration has entered the mainstream in the past forty years, with a proliferation of endowed professorships, degree programs, and professional societies, has the scholarly field become irrelevant as it achieves success? Gabaccia raised further questions for young historians about the directions, possibilities, and responsibilities as they move forward with new perspectives and pursuits on the Italian-American subject.

This exciting work by recent scholars of Italian-American history will make itself known increasingly as dissertations are rewritten for publication and essays are included in academic journals and anthologies. Such reexaminations of the past, especially in the form of additional conferences and symposiums, are imperative as we move into the future. ●

i-ITALY / ITALIAN AMERICAN DIGITAL PROJECT

i-Italy/Italian American Digital Project is a web-based, multimedia, open access portal that provides a means of conversation between Italians and Italian Americans worldwide. Developed by a group of journalists, academics, and "public intellectuals" determined to create an authoritative point of encounter, *i-Italy* offers our community the necessary instruments for the creation of a bilingual project on the web. It focuses on three major fields: **information and discussion** on current, social and cultural events, with "Magazine" and "Multimedia"

areas in which articles, movies, images and audio files are published; **in-depth examination** and cultural debate, with "Op-eds" and "Specials" areas in which opinions, comments, columns, analyses, and reviews are hosted; **community building/social networking**, with "Blog" and "Community" areas where readers can present their own experiences and opinions with personal pages, forums, discussion groups, and mailing lists.

i-Italy addresses three major segments of a large potential audience: **Americans of Italian descent**,

Italians living and working in the U.S., and **Americans with no Italian ancestry**, but who have an interest in Italy and Italian lifestyle and culture. It addresses three main topics: **Italian America**: social, political and cultural events related to the Italian/American community; **Italy in the U.S.**: Italian events in America, including artistic, cultural, and business events; **Italy in Italy**: Italian current events in politics, society, culture and lifestyle. The project is bilingual, with English as its main language. Visit www.i-italy.org to explore and contribute to this new web space.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

On October 25, 2007, the Institute-sponsored symposium "Recent Scholarship on Contemporary Italian-American Youth" was presented on the campus of Queens College. This symposium brought together seven scholars from diverse disciplines investigating various aspects of contemporary Italian-American youth. They looked at ways in which Italian-American adolescents and young adults negotiate the social and cultural landscapes that involve educational achievement, employment opportunities, and patterns of stress, as well as mass media, popular music, consumption, and cultural style.

The program was greeted by Queens College President James L. Muyskens, and Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean of the Calandra Institute. The first session addressed educational challenges and achievements and was chaired by Dr. Joseph Sciorra of the Calandra Institute. Dr. Donna Chirco of York College, CUNY, presented her paper "Transcendent Imagination and the Struggle for Educational Attainment Among Italian-American Women"; Dr. Vincenzo Milione of the Calandra Institute presented research findings on "Italian-American Educational Achievements in the Twenty-First Century and the Impact of Negative Stereotypes"; Pierre Tribaudi, also of the Calandra Institute, delivered his research paper "Stress Patterns in Adolescents: A Multicultural Perspective." The session was commented on by discussant Dr. Dawn Esposito of St. John's University.

The second session focused on topics of identity and culture, chaired by Dr. Peter Vellon of Queens College. Dr. John Mitrano of Central Connecticut State University was unable to present his paper "Italian-American Identity Today (But Will There Be a Tomorrow?): The Fragility of Ethnic Identity in the Twenty-First Century" (we look forward to his visiting us at another time). Dr. Donald Tricarico of Queensborough Community College, CUNY, delivered his paper "Youth Culture, Ethnic Choices, and the Identity Politics of Guido." Dr. Sciorra presented "The Ethnoscape of Hip Wop: Translocal Migrations of Italian-American Hip Hop." This session was remarked on by discussant Dr. Peter Carravetta of Queens College. •

WHO WE ARE—THE STAFF AT CALANDRA

• DR. DOMINICK CARIELLI serves as Director of the Center for Italian American Studies at Brooklyn College where he is responsible for directing the Center's activities and developing counseling initiatives, and cultural and educational programs for students, faculty, and staff. He has been a Calandra Institute counselor since 1985. Dr. Carielli received his B.A. in psychology and his M.A. in College Counseling and Student Development from Hunter College. He earned his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Fordham University and is a National Certified Counselor and Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor. Dr. Carielli has served as President of the New York Mental Health Counselors Association, is a NYS Licensed Mental Health Counselor and is license eligible as a psychologist in NYS. He specializes in assessing and treating depression and anxiety, and has an extensive background in career development. He conducts individual and group sessions on deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, and guided imagery. Dr. Carielli has taught at the undergraduate and graduate level, authored book chapters and articles, and presented at numerous local, state, and national conferences.

• LUCIA GRILLO is the Media and Performing Arts Assistant for *Italics*, the Institute's monthly cable television program. She brings her background as an actress and award-winning filmmaker to her role as assistant producer, camerawoman, correspondent and editor. Ms. Grillo received her B.F.A. in Acting from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and minored in Italian Literature at NYU's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, where she was an Assistant Fellow. She has worked in theatre, television, and cinema, with directors such as Spike Lee and others. She was Professor of Devised Performance at LAMDA Rome/University of Malta, lecturer on cinema, member of various juries, and honorary awards presenter at international film festivals. Under the banner of Calabrisella Films, she has written, produced, and directed commercials, television programs, music videos and short films, including the award winning *A pena do pana (The Cost of Bread)*. Ms. Grillo is honored to be a part of *Italics* and looks forward to working with the Italian-American community.

• JOSEPH GROSSO is the Coordinator of the Perugia Summer Program in the Education Abroad Office at Queens College. In this role, he facilitates the study of Italian language and culture at the Università per Stranieri. Mr. Grosso is one of the original members of the Calandra Institute, joining the staff when it was initially established in 1980. He received his B.A. in Psychology from Brooklyn College and M.Ed. in Educational Psychology from Columbia University's Teachers College. He publishes a yearly journal, *il Giornalino*, which features the writings of college and high school students studying Italian. Mr. Grosso also publishes a monthly newsletter entitled *ciao—queens college* which highlights activities and events of interest to the Queens College community. In addition, he is Assistant Coordinator of ARIA, the Italian American faculty and staff organization, and an Advisor to the Italian-American Club, a student organization at the college.

• RACHEL HOYLE is an Office Assistant whose responsibilities include assisting the Dean and the Assistant Director of Administration. She conducts administrative duties such as record-keeping, filing, office mailings, and word-processing and proofreading

research documents. Ms. Hoyle's previous employment was at the CUNY Graduate Center Registrar's Office where she provided students with information regarding special programs. Ms. Hoyle brings her knowledge of student registration issues and office administration to her position as a support staff person for the Institute.

• DR. MARIA LA RUSSO is an Assistant for Specialized Counseling who provides counseling services at Hunter College, CUNY and Holy Cross High School, Bayside Queens. Dr. La Russo was a pioneering member of the Institute, joining the organization in 1980 during its early creation. She earned a B.A. in Education from Kean University and as an elementary school teacher became interested in issues of academic underachievement. Dr. La Russo earned her M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her interest in Italian ethnicity and family systems emerged during her work as a guidance counselor. She attended Farleigh Dickinson University, one of the few institutions in the 1970s to offer course work in Italian culture and history. Her dissertation is entitled "Portraits of Third Generation Italian American Family Life." Dr. La Russo has an extensive background in parent education and holds certifications as a school psychologist and family therapist.

• MARIANNE DIPALERMO-McCAULEY joined the staff of the Institute in 1986 as a teacher at the Columbus International High School. She serves as the Institute's Curator-Archivist. Ms. Di Palermo-McCauley received her B.A. in Anthropology from SUNY Purchase and her M.S. in Counseling from Bank Street College of Education. In addition, she attended the CUNY Graduate Center where she studied Environmental Psychology. Ms. Di Palermo-McCauley was the recipient of a graduate fellowship to study at the University of Trento, Italy in 1997, where she consulted with faculty in the departments of Sociology, Psychology, and Anthropology regarding American students and their academic integration into study abroad programs. She holds certifications from the National Board for Certified Counselors and The Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research, and is a neuro-linguistic programming practitioner. She has presented her research findings at the Environmental Design Research Association Conference in Ankara, Turkey, CUNY Graduate Center, and Youngstown State University.

• JOAN MIGLIORI is the Coordinator of the Institute's CUNY/Italy Exchange and Study Abroad Program, a CUNY-wide student exchange program in collaboration with several Italian universities. She received her B.A. in International Studies from the College of Staten Island, CUNY. She became an Assistant for Specialized Counseling at the Institute in 1985. In 1995, Ms. Migliori received the rank of Cavaliere of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy in recognition of her outstanding contribution to fostering relations between Italy and the United States. She also received the College of Staten Island's "Dolphin Award" for bringing Italian cultural events to the college and community. Cavaliere Migliori currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Italian Heritage and Culture Month Committee, NIAF of Greater New York, and the Associazione Internazionale Magna Grecia. Cavaliere Migliori is the daughter of Maria Luisa Marchi and New York State Senator John J. Marchi. Her two daughters, Stefania Barsuglia and Francesca Dell' Aversano, and her grandson Giuseppe, live in Lucca, Italy.

• DR. VINCENZO MILIONE is the Director of Demographic Studies. Dr. Milione is responsible for social science research on Italian Americans, as well as conducting institutional research on CUNY faculty, administrative staff, and students for civil rights and affirmative action purposes. His research has included: the educational and occupational achievement of Italian Americans; Italian language studies at the elementary and secondary levels; high school non-completion rates; negative media portrayals of ethnic populations; and Italy/U.S. student exchange programs. Dr. Milione is a technical civil rights expert designated by Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley for affirmative action. Dr. Milione received his Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo in Civil Engineering, specializing in socio-engineering systems. He also earned his B.S. in Physics and M.S. in Earth and Space Sciences from SUNY Stony Brook. Dr. Milione was conferred Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Education by the Consejo Iberoamericano de Latin American Universities, and Doctor Honoris Causa by both Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizan and La Universidad Nacional de Tumbes, in Peru.

• ROSARIA MUSCO is the Assistant Director of Administration, responsible for oversight of the day-to-day administrative tasks and supervision of clerical staff at the Institute. Ms. Musco serves as a resource to local, regional, and private sector agencies regarding the array of programs and services at the Institute. She also edits and disseminates the online "New York's Italian American Community Calendar" of events. Ms. Musco earned her B.A. degree in Liberal Arts from Queens College prior to joining the Calandra staff in 1997.

• OLGA PAPPAS is a College Assistant responsible for general reception duties. Ms. Pappas also assists with special requests in relation to the implementation of seminars, Italian language classes, and Institute programs, and is currently helping with research exploring the availability of microfilm archives of Italian and Italian-American newspapers.

• ITALA PELIZZOLI completed her B.A. and M.A. degrees magna cum laude in Statistics from Baruch College, CUNY. She has been employed at the Institute since 1996 and presently holds the title of Coordinator of Research and Demographics. In this role she works under the aegis of the Director of Demographics assisting in analyses of demographic trends based on census data including education attainment of Italian American youth, diaspora of Italians in the Americas, and utilization analysis of Italian Americans at CUNY. Ms. Pelizzoli also serves as a valuable resource to colleagues with methodological and statistical questions. Since the birth of her daughter Chiara in 1999, she works part-time at the Institute, and has a new addition to her family, her son Antonio born in 2004.

• CARMINE PIZZIRUSSO earned his B.E. in Electrical Engineering from City College, CUNY. He was elected to student government as representative of the School of Engineering and has served in student organizations from treasurer to president. He was cofounder of the non-profit Friends of Lebanon Organization and served as the first Vice President. Mr. Pizzirusso has worked with many departments in the City University of New York as manager of the Central Office computer service department. He has also been a manager of information and technical services outside the university. Mr. Pizzirusso has vast experience and knowledge of

operating systems and computer software. He serves as the Institute's Research and Technical Coordinator.

• MARIANNA PRESTIGIACOMO is the Assistant to Dean Tamburri. She is responsible for providing technical and administrative support as well as maintaining confidential correspondence, editing and proofreading special reports, and maintaining database programs. Ms. Prestigiaco is responsible for the data entry, proofreading and editing of the Calandra Institute's online "Community Calendar of Events," a bi-weekly email newsletter which promotes and publicizes community events. She also collates the events for inclusion in the annual Italian Heritage and Culture Month booklet and catalogues the Institute's Italian and Italian-American periodicals and press clippings.

• WILLIAM "BILL" D. SCHEMP is the Producer and Director of *Italics: The Italian American Magazine*, the Institute's cable television program. He has served in these roles for both the Institute and CUNY TV since the program's inaugural episode in 1987. Along with *Italics*, Mr. Schempp currently has documentary projects in production, including *Ralph Fasanella's America*, *Vito Marcantonio, Radical Congressman*, and *A Silent Revolution, Craft Beer Culture in America*. Mr. Schempp earned his M.F.A. Degree in Television Production from Brooklyn College, CUNY in 1986. His master's thesis work, "A Well Founded Fear . . . Discussions on the Sanctuary Movement," was included in two episodes of Paper Tiger Television's *A Deep Dish of Central America*. Among his personal pursuits are music, craft beer/brewing, New Orleans culture, the soccer team AS Roma, and travel.

• DR. JOSEPH SCIORRA is the Associate Director of Academic and Cultural Programs. He conducts social science research and organizes the Institute's "Philip V. Cannistraro Seminar Series in Italian American Studies," the "Writers Read" series, and the "Documented Italians" film series. Dr. Sciorra curated the Institute's exhibitions "Sacred Emblems, Community Signs: Historic Flags and Religious Banners from Italian Williamsburg, Brooklyn" and "Evviva La Madonna Nera!": Italian-American Devotion to the Black Madonna." He successfully nominated the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Grotto on Staten Island and the Lisanti Chapel in the Bronx to the National and New York State Registers of Historical Places. Dr. Sciorra received his Ph.D. in 1996 from the University of Pennsylvania. As a folklorist he has published extensively on religious practices and vernacular spaces in New York City. He co-edited a bilingual edition of verse by the Sicilian-American poet Vincenzo Ancona, *Malidittu la lingua/Damned Language*, and is the author of *R.I.P.: Memorial Wall Art*, a collection of photographs documenting memorial graffiti. Dr. Sciorra maintains a website about Italian hip hop and Italian-American identity at www.italianrap.com.

• DR. ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Dean of the Calandra Institute, is Professor of Italian and Italian/American Studies. His publications on Italian Americana include: *To Hyphenate or not to Hyphenate: the Italian/American Writer* (1991); *A Semiotic of Ethnicity: In (Re)cognition of the Italian/American Writer* (1998); *Italian/American Short Films & Videos* (2002); and the co-edited collections, *From The Margin: Writings in Italian Americana* (1991; 2000) and *Scene italoamericana: la rappresentazione degli Italiani d'America* (2002). With Paolo A. Giordano and Fred L. Gardaphé, he is co-founder of Bordighera Press, publisher of *Voices in Italian Americana, Italiana*,

and *VIA Folios*, Crossings, and The Bordighera Poetry Prize. Dr. Tamburri is past president of the American Italian Historical Association, and past vice-president of the American Association of Teachers of Italian, now president for 2008-2009.

• PHYLLIS TESORIERO is an Office Assistant whose primary responsibility is to assist the Director of Demographic Studies in the maintenance of the scholarship database. She is also responsible for administrative duties for demographics and research projects, general correspondence, and office mailings. Ms. Tesoriero brings her experience in office administration and customer service in the insurance industry to her position as a support staff person for the Institute.

• PIERRE TRIBAUDI is an Assistant for Specialized Counseling who provides personal, academic, and career counseling to students enrolled in the Center for Worker Education at Queens College and to students in two Brooklyn high schools. Mr. Tribaudi has been a counselor with the Institute since 1986, offering psychoeducational services to several CUNY campuses and high schools. He graduated from Long Island University with a B.A. in Psychology and Fordham University with a M.S.W. Mr. Tribaudi holds a license as a Clinical Social Worker, and maintains a part-time private psychotherapy practice with special interests in stress management and spirituality. His research interests include exploring stress patterns from a multicultural perspective.

• DR. NANCY ZIEHLER is a psychological counselor at Baruch College where she provides individual, group, and couples counseling to students. She also serves as advisor to the Italian American club on campus and delivers outreach services to high school students on Staten Island. Dr. Ziehler joined the Institute's outreach counseling staff in 1985. She served as Counseling Coordinator from 1987 to 1995 and was then promoted to Associate Director of Counseling. In that capacity, she oversaw the Institute's counseling and mentor programs, conducted student research, implemented programs, and presented papers at local, state and national counseling meetings. Dr. Ziehler received an M.S. in School and Community Counseling from the College of Staten Island and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from New York University. She is a licensed mental health counselor in New York and New Jersey and is license eligible as a psychologist in New York State. Dr. Ziehler is a Nationally Certified Counselor and a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor, as well as adjunct professor of counselor education at NYU and Kean University. •

CALENDAR OF EVENTS


PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES

Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"Il Fuoco di Minonga": The 1907 Mine
Disaster and the Making of Transnational
Identity in West Virginia"
JOAN SAVERINO, Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"Gramsci, Migration, and the
Representation of Women at Work"
LAURA RUBERTO, Berkeley City College

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"The American Myth Through Architecture:
Modernism and Anti-Modernism"
GIULIA GUARNIERI, Bronx Community College, CUNY

Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"Italian in Florida: Shifting Identities in
the Wake of Assimilation"
DENISE SCANNELL, NYC College of Technology, CUNY

 SEMINARS take place at:
Calandra Italian American Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan

All events are free and open to the public.
Pre-registration required/Info: 212.642.2094.
Photo ID requested by building concierge.

WRITERS READ SERIES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 6 p.m.
ANNE MARIE MACARI reads from
Gloryland

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 6 p.m.
EMANUEL DI PASQUALE reads from
Writing Anew: New and Selected Poems

Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 6 p.m.
DANIELLE TRUSSONI reads from
Falling Through the Earth: A Memoir

Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 6 p.m.
RICHARD VETERE reads from
Machiavelli and Caravaggio

 READINGS take place at:
Calandra Italian American Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan
All events are free and open to the public.
Pre-registration required/Info: 212.642.2094.
Photo ID requested by building concierge.


DOCUMENTED ITALIANS FILM SERIES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"Nine Good Teeth" (2003), 80 min.
ALEX HALPERN, director

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"Watch the Pallino" (2007), 42 min.
STEPHANIE FOERSTER, director

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"Louis Prima: The Wildest!" (2000), 82 min.
DON MCGLYNN, director

Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 6 p.m.
"My Brother, My Sister, Sold for a Fistful
of Lire," (1998), 90 min.
BASILE SALLUSTIO, director

 FILMS screened at:
Graduate School of Journalism
230 West 41st Street, Room 308, Manhattan
All events are free and open to the public.
Pre-registration required/Info: 212.642.2094.
Photo ID requested by building concierge.

UPCOMING

CALANDRA INSTITUTE EVENTS:
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Symposium, "Pensare Auschwitz"
in collaboration with the Primo Levi Center

BOOK PRESENTATIONS:
April 2, 2008 at 6 p.m.
Mario Mignone, *Italy Today: Facing the
Changes of the New Millennium* (2008)

May 5, 2008 at 6 p.m.
Elise Magistro, translator of Maria
Messina's *Behind Closed Doors: Her Father's
House and Other Stories of Sicily* (2007)

ANNUAL CONFERENCES:
April 24-26, 2008: "Italians in America"
Spring 2009: "The Land of Our Return"

OTHER EVENTS:

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Homage to Mario Fratti
Hunter College, Manhattan, NY
For more info: 212-772-5093

November 6-8, 2008
AIHA Annual Conference, New Haven, CT
For more info: www.aihaweb.org