

CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

# *il Bollettino*

*dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America*



2013 • VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 1

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This edition of *il Bollettino* appears as we head into the middle of summer and into the dog-day afternoons of late July and August. That said, we wish you all a fun-filled and productive season of sun, sand, and sea. Our staff also deserves its moment of relaxation, as this past year has been truly most productive; as dean I revel in our overall success.

While many of our staff will enjoy some down time in the interim, they will also be working hard to get ready for the fall public programming. Some are already at work on projects that include our publications, such as *Italian American Review*, and books in our *Studies in Italian Americana* series. Others still will be working on research projects whose topics range from aging and the elderly to religious practices in the Italian-American community to demographics and humanistic studies. In addition, *Italics TV*, clearly our more public face, will air original programming this summer; visit <http://www.cuny.tv/show/italics> for more information.

The Institute has made great strides this past year in all of its activities. We produced innovative programming and cutting-edge research and had much success with our counseling programs on the various CUNY campuses. Our counselors also work diligently at high schools in the greater New York area, conducting outreach on a weekly basis during the academic year. Our annual conference "*Lingue Migranti*" offered forty-plus lectures from various countries, and we had our best attendance in seven years, as you'll read herein.

We also launched a series of graduate courses at Queens College this spring semester with a seminar on Italian-American literature. In the fall I will teach a course on Italian-American cinema. And I am happy to announce that we already have two students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program who will concentrate on Italian American Studies. Speaking of teaching, Distinguished

Professor Fred Gardaphé and I team-taught a course this spring on Italian-American literature and film at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia. We will teach the same course this fall at the Università di Calabria.

You will read in the staff news section that Fred Gardaphé and I will moderate a workshop next March. The Calandra Institute was awarded a grant to organize a four-day workshop, "Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps: Italian Americana and the University Curriculum," to be held March 4-6, 2014 at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy. Among many to thank for this success is David D'Amato, director of development in Queens College's Office of Institutional Advancement.

I would like to remind you of some of our upcoming programs. In September, the Calandra Institute will host a symposium on intercomprehension, the teaching of Italian to native speakers of other romance languages. In October and November, we will partner again with the Italian Language and Intercultural Alliance on the theme of "Italian Identity in the Third Millennium." So please mark your calendars. And, at this early juncture, I would also like to remind you of our annual conference next spring, with the provocative theme "Mafias: Realities and Representations of Organized Crime." For more information, and if you wish to submit a proposal, please visit our website at [qc.edu/calandra](http://qc.edu/calandra).

Finally, when you do go to our website, you'll see two "shout-outs" about the Institute. One is from colleague and friend Robert Viscusi, professor at Brooklyn College, CUNY. The other is from award-winning actress Annabella Sciorra, who, when thanking the New York state Italian American legislators, made it a point to underscore our work.

*Buona lettura!*

— ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, DEAN

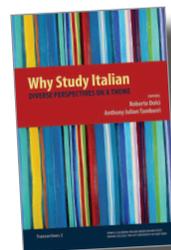
## Recently Published by the Calandra Institute!



*Italian Signs, American Politics: Current Affairs, Historical Perspectives, Empirical Analyses*  
EDITED BY OTTORINO CAPELLI  
Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 5



*New Directions in Italian-American History: Selected Essays from the Conference in Honor of Philip V. Cannistraro*  
EDITED BY ERNEST IALONGO AND WILLIAM ADAMS  
Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 6



*Why Study Italian: Diverse Perspectives on a Theme*  
EDITED BY ROBERTO DOLCI AND ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI  
Transactions, Volume 2

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*Materia Prima*, 3" in. x 1 in. x 1 in.,  
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## Italian American Studies at Queens College

Italian American Studies at Queens College is the oldest such college program in existence. Founded in 1973 by Richard Gambino, the Italian American Studies minor reflects the extraordinary ethnic diversity of New York City's population and the commitment of Queens College to a multicultural education. Italian American Studies contributes to the discourse on ethnicity as an essential element in national development and the shaping of individual identities.

Now we are delighted to announce a series of graduate level courses in Italian American Studies. The Queens College academic senate approved four courses in Italian American Studies in fall 2012; they are open to all and, most significant, constitute an option for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, and the Master of Arts in Italian. The course titles are: Problematics in Italian American Culture; Italian Americans and Ethnic Relations: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Interculturalism; Italian American Literature; and Italian American Cinema: Production and Representation.

## Italian Identity in the Third Millennium

The conference "Italian Identity in the Third Millennium" was held in Rome on May 28, 2013, sponsored by the Italian Language Intercultural Alliance (ILICA). Dean Tamburri moderated the event, and others from New York were part of a panel of eight speakers. The conference hosted more than one hundred and fifty participants and offered a venue for each speaker to express his or her expertise on the subject of Italian identity. ILICA chef Andrea Tiberi and his staff prepared a buffet reception, followed by a gala awards dinner in honor of Stefano Maria Zappalà. The event, in tribute to Italian excellence in business and life, was attended by ILICA board members, sponsors, and members of the media including RAI's Giancarlo Gojelli.



Conference panelists Donna Chirico, Robert Viscusi, Louisa Ermelino, and Fred Gardaphé.

## 2013 Annual Conference Examined Language and Migration

*Rosangela Briscece*

On April 25–27, 2013, the Calandra Institute hosted its sixth annual academic conference. This year's theme "*Lingue Migranti: The Global Languages of Italy and the Diaspora*," brought together more than forty scholars from the United States, Belgium, Canada, and Italy who delivered insightful presentations on critical topics related to the Italian language and its inevitably changing nature, as people move from one locale to another.

The conference opened with a Thursday-night reception and welcoming comments from Calandra Institute Dean Anthony Julian Tamburri, Queens College President James Muyskens, and Italy's Vice Consul Lucia Pasqualini, and continued with panel presentations Friday and Saturday.

An unprecedented number of attendees, more than one

hundred each day, packed both conference rooms for the diverse paper presentations and initiated rigorous discourse.

Paper topics ranged from "Evolving Linguistic Identities among Second-Generation Italian-American Youths," to "Postcolonial Italian Writers in Tripoli and Benghazi," to "Dialect in Peer Interaction in a Sicilian Elementary School." Presenters vividly illustrated dynamics of languages and dialects, including Cocoliche, Cymbrian, Ladino and Judezmo, Sicilian, and Venetian.

As a CUNY-wide research institute under the aegis of Queens College, the Calandra Institute continues to engage in innovative ways through which we can examine, analyze, and interrogate the many issues—from the local to the international—that affect Italians in America.

## ITALICS: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MONTHLY PROGRAMS ON CUNY TV

Highlights of the *Italics* spring season included discussions with local professors regarding Italian American Studies in New York state, the nation, and Italy; and coverage of the annual Day of Recollection, or *Giorno del Ricordo*, a solemn commemoration of the victims of the *foibe* massacres and exodus of more than three hundred thousand Italians from the Istria-Dalmatian region of Yugoslavia during the last phase of World War II and the years immediately following. Then, in a two-part sequence *Italics* highlighted the twenty-ninth annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, which focused this year on the Italian region of Maremma and the *butteri* culture. *Buttero*, the singular form, translates to “leader of oxen.” *Italics* journeyed out west to encounter the works of award-winning poets and interview prominent Nevada ranching families who are Italian immigrants or their descendants and have been established in the region for many years. Tune in to *Italics* at the start of the new season in September!



*Italian-American cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski.*

## What Is Italian America?: A Report on the 2012 Italian American Studies Association Conference

George Guida

The forty-fifth annual Italian American Studies Association conference, “E Pluribus: What Is Italian America?” opened at Hofstra University on Thursday, November 29, 2012. The conference was dedicated to recently deceased executive council member Paul Giaimo. Opening-day events included a meeting of IASA’s executive council, two sets of concurrent scholarly and creative sessions, and an evening reception. The reception honored IASA’s founders, one of whom, Salvatore LaGumina, delivered remarks on the association’s founding and first years of life as the American Italian Historical Association. IASA presented LaGumina with an award commemorating his decades of dedicated service.

The second day of the conference featured four sets of concurrent sessions, two plenary sessions, and the annual banquet, all held at Hofstra’s Student Center and Axinn Library. Among the concurrent sessions were such offerings as “Italian American Women’s Lives,” “Robert Viscusi: A Life in Italian American Studies,” “Lavender Paesans: Italian American Gay and Lesbian Identities,” “What is an Italian American Poet?,” “Taboo Topics in Italian American Culture,” “Eternally Remembered: Death and Mourning Amongst Italian Americans,” and a screening and discussion of the documentary film *All That Lies Between Us: Maria Mazziotti Gillan*. Following the concurrent sessions, playwright, screenwriter, novelist, poet, and featured presenter Richard Vetere addressed the question “What is an Italian American writer?” The day concluded with Donna Gabaccia’s provocative talk, “Italian American Studies: A Little History,” which analyzed the disciplinary content of the sessions and argued for an increase in the number of interdisciplinary sessions.

This year’s banquet featured remarks by the conference’s co-directors, Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor

Stanislao Pugliese of Hofstra University, and IASA President George Guida, professor at New York City College of Technology, CUNY; along with remarks by Queensboro UNICO President Frank Maccio. In addition, IASA dissertation awards and travel stipends were presented by Scholarship Committee Chair Roseanne Giannini Quinn to several deserving graduate students.

The third and final day of the conference included another four sets of concurrent sessions. Among the sessions were “Icons in the Public Eye,” “What Do We Look for in Italian American Identity?” and “Not Just Sunday Gravy: Italian Americanization of Authors and Creative Writing.” The itinerary also included presentations of the anthology *Italoamericana* (Mondadori 2011) and the volume *Essays on Italian American Literature and Culture* (Bordighera 2011), as well as a screening and discussion of the documentary film *La Mia Strada*. The day concluded with IASA’s annual business meeting and nominations for IASA offices and executive council seats.

The 2012 conference comprised more than forty sessions and ninety participants and brought its mission of sharing, enriching, and promulgating Italian-American history and culture to an area with one of the largest Italian-American populations in the nation. The success of the conference was achieved with great thanks to its participants as well as dynamic co-director Stanislao Pugliese, the support staff of Hofstra University—Athelene Collins, Natalie Datlof, Deborah Lom, Carol Mallison, and Jeannine Rinaldi—and its sponsors: Hofstra University, Hofstra Cultural Italian American Organization, Salvatore Mendoglia, Queensboro UNICO, Il Villaggio Restaurant of Malverne, and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.

# Italian American Faculty and Staff Advisory Council

Donna Chirico

The goal of the council is to bring the mission of the Calandra Institute to the campuses, but it also provides the opportunity for delegates to come together as colleagues who have a shared concern about this mission, thus helping to bring a deepened sense of *Italianità* to CUNY. Last year when the new delegate arrived from Medgar Evers, the delegate from Queens College greeted her warmly. It turned out that Janice

Zummo and Diane Forte were already dear friends who had, unknown to each other, agreed to serve on the council because of their interest in Italian-American issues, which they now share with the campuses they represent.

To learn more about the IAFSAC or to express interest in becoming a campus delegate, contact council Chair Donna Chirico at [dchirico@york.cuny.edu](mailto:dchirico@york.cuny.edu).

## COUNCIL CLOSE UP

DIANE FORTE, Queens College, was raised in a typical Italian family with her grandparents living a few doors away. She learned how to cook Italian cuisine by watching her mother and grandmother argue in the kitchen over the recipes; she learned the Sicilian dialect spoken by her grandparents but responded in English. Diane was the only child of three who attended college, earning a BA in psychology followed by an MA in human relations psychology.

Diane began her CUNY career eighteen years ago as director of a CUNY-wide grant-funded opportunity program at BMCC and then moving on to Queens College where she currently serves as assistant director of the SEEK program. She is an active member of the Queens College community working with students, organizing events, and serving on campus-wide committees. CUNY-wide, Diane was appointed as a delegate to the council and is now vice chair of its executive committee. She participates in conferences and events hosted by the Calandra Institute and resurrected the long dormant Italian-American committee at her home campus where she serves as its chair. Diane is currently learning the Italian language and plans to take her niece Josephine, who is named after Diane's mother, to Italy to keep their Italian heritage alive for the next generation of the Forte family.



Janice Zummo (left) and Diane Forte.

JANICE ZUMMO, Medgar Evers College, was the first person in her family to go to college and recently completed a doctorate in education at Walden University. When she began her undergraduate education, Janice had no idea that she would complete it, let alone continue on to the doctoral level and forge a career in higher education. She received a CUNY BA in psychology and an MA in organizational psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University. During her undergraduate years, Janice coordinated the writing center at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and, upon completion of her master's degree, taught basic writing skills and the freshmen seminar while also working as a SEEK counselor. For the past eleven years, she has served as SEEK director and chair of the special programs department.

Last year, when Janice was appointed to the council, she was reminded of her heritage and of the writing award she received at John Jay for an essay, "Reflections on Sunday Dinner at Grandma's House," in which she wrote about her Italian grandmother whose Old World values gave Janice the freedom and security to pursue and achieve her dreams.

## STAFF NEWS

Distinguished Professor FRED GARDAPHÉ and Dean ANTHONY TAMBURRI taught a course this past spring on Italian American literature and film at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia. Gardaphé taught a similar course in late May at the Università di Palermo. Professors GARDAPHÉ and TAMBURRI will moderate a four-day workshop in March 2014 entitled "Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps: Italian Americana and the University Curriculum." The program, which will take place at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy, is sponsored by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

LUCIA GRILLO starred in Dino Buzzati's *The Clock* at Cherry Lane Theatre and in the antiwar play *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, winner of Best Overall Play at the Midnight Madness Theatre Festival. She acted in numerous staged readings, including a benefit performance of *Vatican Falls*. Lucia played a police chief in the feature film *Elegant Clockwork of the Universe* and appeared as a basketball fan in a national television commercial. As filmmaker, Lucia produced, shot, and directed *Testardi*, a documentary on people of Calabrian descent in New York, for the occasion of Calabria Day USA, and directed and acted in the music video "Casse Tete" for the band Kings Destroy, produced by Calabrisella Films.

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI completed a book, *Re-reading Italian Americana: Generalities and Specificities on Literature and Criticism*, which will be published this fall by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. Dean Tamburri also spent three weeks this summer teaching a graduate course on Italian literature in the United States at Middlebury College's Scuola Italiana.

## Julie Van Peteghem, Ph.D., Joins Department of Romance Languages, Hunter College, CUNY



Julie Van Peteghem was recently appointed to the Italian Studies faculty at Hunter College. Van Peteghem, a Dante and Ovid scholar, earned a Licentiate degree from Ghent University in Latin and Greek with a specialization in Italian linguistics and literature and a Master of Arts in literary studies from the University of Leuven. She immigrated to New York and served as a faculty fellow in the Italian department at Columbia University, completing her doctoral

degree in Italian and comparative literature. A Dutch native, Van Peteghem is fluent in Italian and reads Latin, Greek, French, and German. She has received numerous awards including the Dante Society's prestigious Charles Hall Grandgent Award and is a member of the Modern Language Association, where she recently presented her scholarship "Reflections on Ovid and Ovidian Characters: From the Origins to Dante."

The Calandra Institute joins the Hunter community in welcoming Professor Van Peteghem. *Tanti Auguri!*

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS CELEBRATE ITALIAN CULTURE CUNY-WIDE

During the fall 2012 semester, student leaders of Italian and Italian American clubs in consultation with Calandra Institute counselors organized an array of events to celebrate Italian language, culture, and history. Clubs with a rich historical legacy as well as those newly chartered demonstrate a collective enthusiasm in offering programs to celebrate Italian Heritage and Culture Month in October. Events included participation in the Columbus Day Parade, educational outreach to high-school students, film screenings, lectures, music and dance programs, and proclamation ceremonies. Participants from diverse multicultural backgrounds attended in large numbers to meet new friends and demonstrate their respect for and interest in Italian and Italian American studies.



*Members of the Italian American Association at Baruch College with Anton Evangelista (center) at the screening of Umberto E, a documentary film Anton made in memory of his father.*



*The Italian American Club of Queens College celebrates Italian Heritage and Culture Month on the campus quadrangle.*



*The Italian Club of Hunter College hosts a chocolate sampling presented by Professor Monica Calabritto.*



*Students participate in International Day at Lehman College with Maria Grazia Di Paolo, professor of Italian Studies.*



*At Brooklyn College, Louis Barrella and Anita Sanseverino give a presentation on the Neapolitan Presepio.*

## LO STUDIO DEI NIPOTI

Lo Studio dei Nipoti (“The Studio of the Grandchildren”) is a collective of southern Italian-American and native southern Italian visual artists. The collaborative group was founded in 2009, initially as an online community, by Rose Michelle Taverniti. In 2012 Lo Studio conducted its first residency program in Taverniti’s ancestral homeland, the eleventh century hilltown of Monasterace, Calabria.

Taverniti reflects on the residency program: “The idea of *concadenza*—or the coming together of cadences—was a guiding principle in my existence in Calabria as well as my means of creating art. My motivation for *concadence* is to address the need for healing a hundred years of dislocation within the family—on both sides of the ocean. Our country is largely made up of immigrants and descendants who are often unconsciously affected by severed families. *Concadence* is a way of managing our energy to make repairs today, letting us follow our own paths and also be admitted into our ancient families.”

As the residency program develops, the collective is actively pursuing funding and other forms of support. The potential for positive interchange across communities makes the program an important cultural project with wide appeal. For more information, visit <http://lostudiodeinipoti.com>.

From September 13, 2013, through January 10, 2014, the Calandra Institute will host an exhibition of work by Lo Studio dei Nipoti artists Nancy Agati, Cianne Fragione, Rose Michelle Taverniti, and Marisa Tesaura.



Ciavoli birds have returned after 50 years, graphite on drafting film, 66 x 36 inches, ©2008, Rose Michelle Taverniti.

## AD MEMORIUM



MARIANNE DIPALERMO MCCAULEY passed away on November 2, 2012, at the age of 85. She is survived by her husband, sister, five children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Marianne served as librarian and archivist at the Calandra Institute for more than two decades until she retired at age 82. At the Institute she created many educational programs, including exhibits on the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and the Black Madonna. Marianne earned a Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Purchase and continued her

education with two master’s degrees through Bank Street College and the City University of New York. She presented papers in Turkey, coordinated a student exchange program in Trento, and spent a semester in Florence. In the 1970s she traveled to Denmark as a cultural ambassador and was a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University. Marianne served for many years as human rights commissioner for the city of Mt. Vernon and was an early pioneer of celebrating cultural heritage and diversity. The Marianne DiPalermo McCauley Visiting Scholar Fellowship has been established in her honor.



GIUSEPPE CARLO DISCIPIO passed away on June 15, 2013, at the age of 66. He is survived by his three children and grandson. Giuseppe was born in 1946, in the town of Crecchio, Chieti, in Abruzzo, Italy. As a child, he was educated by the Paulist Fathers where he apprenticed as a typesetter. His experience there sparked his lifelong passion for literature. In 1963, he emigrated to the United States. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Hunter College and a doctorate in comparative literature at the Graduate Center, CUNY. He taught at New York University, Fordham University, and Hunter College

where he became full professor and served as chairperson of the department of romance languages until 2011. A scholar of Dante Alighieri, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, Giuseppe had many passions and a voracious thirst for knowledge. He authored myriad articles and reviews, authored and edited several books, and lectured internationally. In addition to being an avid scholar, Giuseppe had many other interests. He was a loyal sports fan. As a young man, he played soccer for local athletic clubs. He had a fervent appreciation of nature. He enjoyed gardening, cooking for his family, stargazing, and cycling near his home in the Catskills. His life was a testament to the arts and humanities.



## ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW

The *Italian American Review (IAR)* features scholarly articles about Italian-American history and culture, as well as other aspects of the Italian diaspora. The journal embraces a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations in the social sciences and cultural studies. The *IAR* publishes book, film, and digital media reviews, and is currently accepting article submissions.

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1 includes:

- “A Social Space in Constant Reshaping: Umbrian Migrants in the Atlantic Economies (1900–1914)” by Thierry Rinaldetti
- Food, Frenzy, and the Italian-American Family in Anne Bancroft’s *Fatso*” by Nancy Caronia

For more information, go to [qc.edu/calandra](http://qc.edu/calandra). Under the publications menu, click on *Italian American Review*.

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TO SUBSCRIBE BY MAIL, send a note including your postal address and check made payable to “Queens College/Italian American Review” to: Italian American Review Subscriptions, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, New York, NY 10036.

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS FALL 2013

#### PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

**Thursday, October 10, 2013, at 6 pm**  
Paese Mio Bello: An Exploration of Early  
Italian-American Music  
TODD CAMBIO, Fraulini Guitar Company

**Monday, November 4, 2013, at 6 pm**  
The Legacy of Lena Spencer and Her Caffè Lena  
JOCELYN AREM, Caffè Lena History Project

#### WRITERS READ SERIES

**Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 6 pm**  
DOMENICA RUTA reads from *With or Without  
You: A Memoir* (Spiegel & Grau, 2013)

**Monday, October 21, 2013, at 6 pm**  
CHRISTOPHER CASTELLANI reads from *All This  
Talk of Love*  
(Algonquin Books, 2013)

#### DOCUMENTED ITALIANS

**Tuesday, October 29, 2013, at 6 pm**  
[s]comparsa (2011), 62 min.  
ANTONIO TIBALDI, director

**Thursday, December 5, 2013, at 6 pm**  
Rehearsal for a Sicilian Tragedy (2009), 77 min.  
ROMAN PASKA, director

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Film screening and book launch: **Thursday, November 14, 2013, at 6 pm**  
*All That Lies Between Us* (2013), 55 min., KEVIN CAREY and MARK HILLRINGHOUSE, directors  
*Ancestor's Song* by Maria Mazziotti Gillan (Bordighera Press 2013)

All events are free and open to the public.

All events are held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan.  
RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094. Please note that seating is limited and seats cannot be reserved in advance.

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