



SOTTO VOCE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE CENTER FOR ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT Dominick Carielli, Ph.D.

I have been a counselor with the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College for more than 25 years. Although my present position as Director of the Center for Italian American Studies is largely an administrative one, I have provided direct counseling services to students on several CUNY campuses, in high schools, and in our former Calandra Institute Career Counseling Center. I work with four other Calandra counselors who provide outreach counseling services on CUNY campuses, as well as at public and parochial high schools.

The Calandra Institute is a unique entity in CUNY in being a service provider, as well as an academic/research institute. The Institute was in the forefront of the multicultural counseling movement during the late 1970s, having professionally trained counselors who were sensitive to culture and its impact on the psychosocial development and functioning of individuals. Today, the counselors continue with that pioneering work.

Unfortunately, many professionals in the field of multicultural counseling have tended to view Italian Americans and other Europeans as one homogeneous group. This, along with some other factors, has led to a dearth of research on the Italian American population. I know from firsthand experience that some of my colleagues were actively discouraged by their departments from pursuing dissertation research on Italian Americans. It is past due that Italian Americans had a place at the multicultural table.

Recently, I was selected to chair a conference on Italian American mental health and wellness, which is being sponsored by the Calandra Institute. This experience has put me in touch with many professionals who are conducting research on Italian Americans and/or are actively working with the population. The response to the call for presentations has been very gratifying. I know that this conference will be an exciting and historic event.

The conference will take place October 7-9, 2010 at the Calandra Institute in Manhattan. The Calandra Institute will host a reception on the evening of October 7th. Richard Gambino, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Queens College, will deliver the keynote address. Conference sessions will be held on October 8th and 9th. At the end of the conference, we will have a special film screening of *Canvas*. This film chronicles the relationship between a young boy and his father, as the mother in the film struggles with schizophrenia. The characters in the family are Italian American, and the film is based on the early childhood of writer/director Joseph Greco. Mr. Greco will be on hand to discuss the film, and to answer questions from the audience. We also hope that Joe Pantoliano, the lead actor from the film, will be available to join us.

Italian Heritage and Culture Month Events Fall 2009

(pages 2 & 3)



Professor Paul Moses.

The Saint and the Sultan: The Crusades, Islam and Francis of Assisi's Mission of Peace

Paul Moses, Ph.D., Professor of journalism at Brooklyn College, as well as the CUNY Graduate School, delivered a lecture from his latest book, *The Saint and the Sultan: The Crusades, Islam and Francis of Assisi's Mission of Peace* (Doubleday, 2009).

Dr. Moses is a former city editor and religion writer at Newsday, and was awarded a Wolfe Institute Faculty Fellowship for the academic year 2007-2008.

Study in Italy

Professor Roberto Dolci, University for Foreigners in Perugia, **Joan Migliori**, Study Abroad Coordinator at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, and **Tracey Rojas**, Study Abroad Advisor at Brooklyn College spoke to students about study abroad opportunities in Italy. Students can choose from a wide variety of programs in various disciplines. There are programs that span an entire academic year, one semester, a summer, or programs that run during the winter inter-session. While many programs require a strong command of the Italian language, there are those that are taught in English. A study abroad experience can enrich a student's life, and provide him or her with the skills necessary to work in a global marketplace.



Students, faculty, and staff listen to information from the presenters.



Professor Roberto Dolci, Joan Migliori, and Tracey Rojas.

Center Hosts Open House In October 2009



Students, faculty, staff, and members of the community enjoy coffee, cookies, and conversation, as they learn more about the center.



Students from the Italian Culture Club hold a brief meeting during the Open House.

On Tuesday, October 13, 2009, the Center for Italian American Studies hosted its first formal Open House since its rededication in 2007. Faculty, staff, students, and members of the community dropped by to have a cup of espresso and some Italian cookies, and to learn more about the Center and its programs. For those who didn't already have them, the Center gave away tee shirts and backpacks with the Center logo.

Irish and Italian/Sicilian Cultural Connections

In November of 2009, **Enzo Farinella** and **Frank Polizzi** gave a multimedia presentation that explored the similarities between Celtic and Italian/Sicilian cultures.

Enzo Farinella, a journalist, was born in Gangi, Sicily and has been living in Ireland for 30 years. From 1979 to 1999 he served as the Cultural Attaché of the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin and is currently the Director of Casa Italia Cultural Centre (Dublin), as well as Editor of the journal, *Casa Italia*. He is the author of several books. His latest book, *Ireland and Italy: Culture and Values* (Bonamo Editore) was launched on March 17, 2009 in Szonbathely, Hungary.

Frank Polizzi's poems and stories have appeared in *The Archer*, *Bitterroot*, *City Legacy*, *Electric Acorn* (Dublin Writers), *la bella figura*, *Mudfish*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Urban Spaghetti*, *Wired Art* and others. Frank has completed his first novel, *A Pity Beyond All Telling*, and is currently working on a second novel. He is also the Editor of *Feile-Festa*, a literary arts journal.



Frank Polizzi, Dr. Dominick Carielli, and Enzo Farinella.

Italian American Mental Health and Wellness **October 7-9, 2010**

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College will be hosting an historic conference on mental health issues in the Italian American Community at the Institute's office in Manhattan this fall.

The conference will kick off with an evening reception on Thursday, October 7, 2010. The keynote speaker will be **Richard Gambino, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus, Queens College.

On Saturday, October 9, 2010, writer/director **Joseph Greco** will join us for a special screening of his film, *Canvas*.

Please join us for this very special event.

Events For Fall 2010

An Operatic Tour of Italy
Louis Barrella, M.A.
Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Prisoners in Paradise
Camilla Calamandrei
Tuesday, October 26, 2010

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Dominick Carielli, Ph.D.
Center Director & Newsletter Editor

Fabio Girelli-Carasi, Ph.D.
Chairperson
Italian American Studies Program

1212 Boylan Hall
Brooklyn College
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210

(718) 951-5000, Ext. 6264
iacenter@brooklyn.cuny.edu
<http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/iacenter>