



SOTTO VOCE

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

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT Dominick Carielli, PhD

This past year has been an active and productive one for the Center. I am especially pleased to have worked closely with the Italian Culture Club (ICC) to sponsor several educational and cultural events throughout the past academic year. The ICC received a grant of \$1,100.00 from the Academic Club Association, and they have just received another grant of \$1,300.00 for this year. Two of the executive officers of the ICC also received Senator Martin J. Golden Awards (see p. 3). Under the leadership of President Jack DeLorenzo, the ICC has redefined its mission, and has been infused with renewed vitality and vigor. The club provides a forum for students to meet, form friendships, and to work together. The club also affords students the opportunity to develop organizational and leadership skills. Through the ICC, Italian American students can take pride in their heritage, and students from other ethnic backgrounds can learn about Italian and Italian American history and culture.

In addition to sponsoring lectures, symposia, and other events, part of the mission of the Center is to conduct and sponsor research on the Italian American population. To this end, I have embarked on a quest to make the Center a hub of scholarly research activity. All of this began with my being selected to chair a conference on Italian American Mental Health and Wellness, sponsored by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College. As a counselor with the Institute, I worked with my Calandra counseling colleagues to put together this unique and historic conference. The two and one-half day conference took place this past October, and was a great success. Organizing this conference gave me the opportunity to connect with new colleagues, to reconnect with some others, and to form new friendships. As a direct result of this conference, I am now part of a research team that will be looking at Italian American college students' attitudes toward seeking professional psychological help. I am also working closely with Provost William A. Tramantono, PhD to secure funding to sponsor psychosocial research on Italian Americans.

Each year that I have served as Director of the Center there have been new challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working on the projects that I have outlined for this year, and to new ones in the coming academic year.

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Saving Our Lady of Loreto Church



Dr. Marilyn Verna, Flavia Alaya, and Mario Toglia.

Our Lady of Loreto church, located in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, has been slated for demolition to make way for low-income housing. Italian immigrants built the church in the early 1900s, and a number of community activists are trying to save this beautiful and historic church from the wrecking ball.

Three of these activists, **Flavia Alaya**, **Mario Toglia**, and **Dr. Marilyn Verna**, gave a presentation at Brooklyn College in April 2010 on the church's history and their efforts to have the church converted into an arts pavilion and community center.

For more information visit: www.saveourladyofloreto.org.

Teaching Italian American Literature, Film, and Popular Culture



Drs. Aleandri, Gardaphé, Viscusi, and Giunta address a large group of students.

In 2010, the Modern Language Association released *Teaching Italian American Literature, Film, and Popular Culture*, edited by Drs. **Edvige Giunta** and **Kathleen Zamboni McCormick**.

In this volume, more than thirty scholars and teachers present innovative ways to teach Italian American texts and to integrate them with other texts in a wide range of courses.

In April 2010, Drs. **Emelise Aleandri**, **Fred Gardaphé**, **Edvige Giunta**, and **Robert Viscusi** spoke to a class of Italian American Studies students about their unique contributions to the Volume.

The Right Thing To Do



Dr. Josephine Gattuso Hendin, English Professor and Tiro A Segno Professor of Italian American Studies at NYU, visited Brooklyn college during Women's History Month (March 2010) to read from her book, *The Right Thing To Do* (Feminist Press at CUNY, 1999). The book is a coming-of-age novel that explores the father-daughter relationship in an Italian American family.

Dr. Hendin addresses a class of Italian American literature students, as Dr. Geraldine DeLuca takes notes.

THIRD ANNUAL SENATOR MARTIN J. GOLDEN STUDENT AWARDS



Provost William A. Tramontano, PhD, Jack Edward DeLorenzo, Roseanne Caggiano, and Dr. Dominick Carielli.

On May 4, 2010, the Center for Italian American Studies honored two outstanding undergraduate students with the annual Senator Martin J. Golden Awards for Academic Excellence and Leadership. The recipients were **Roseanne Caggiano** (Academic Excellence) and **Jack Edward DeLorenzo** (Leadership).

Roseanne Caggiano is a Business, Management and Finance major and a Business Law minor. She has a 3.8 GPA, and has been on the Dean's List since her first semester here in the fall of 2007. Ms. Caggiano is the recipient of a Peter Vallone Scholarship, and an Associazione Caggianesi D'America Award winner. She has served as Vice President of the Italian Culture Club at Brooklyn College, and is currently the club's Treasurer. She is also a member of the Professional Development Institute at the Magner Center, and a member of the Business Leadership Society at Brooklyn College. Upon graduation, Ms. Caggiano hopes to work at a financial organization or a marketing firm.

Jack Edward DeLorenzo is a Health and Nutrition Sciences major, a Business minor, and has a 3.27 GPA. He is a Golden Key Member, has been on the Dean's List, and is a Presidential Scholarship winner. Mr. DeLorenzo is President of the Italian Culture Club, a founding father of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and a youth mentor at Universal Church. He has helped raise thousands of dollars for Haitian earthquake victims and starving families, and is also involved with St. Baldrick's, a charity dedicated to curing pediatric cancer. Following graduation, he plans to obtain his Master's Degree in Community Health, while working toward a career as a public health educator.

Study in Italy



In March 2010, The Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Center for Italian American Studies held a Study in Italy Fair. **Stefania Migliori**, Liaison Officer from Lorenzo de' Medici in Italy, spoke to students about the various study abroad opportunities available at her institution. **Tracey Rojas** (Undergraduate Studies) was also on hand to talk to students. An unusually warm March day brought students onto the Quad for pizza and information.

Stefania Migliori and Tracey Rojas (l. to r. behind table) talk to interested students.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Provost William A. Tramontano, PhD for all of his support of the Center and its many activities, and for generously funding our student awards for academic excellence and leadership, which were given to two outstanding undergraduate students in the spring of 2010.

Join the *Italian Culture Club* on Facebook:

BC Italian Culture Club.

Follow the *Italian Culture Club* on Twitter:

Twitter.com/BCItalCulture.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations and best wishes to **Jack Edward DeLorenzo**, President of the Italian Culture Club, who will be receiving his degree in January 2011.

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