




THE CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

A Letter From The Director: Dear Friends,

August 2018



We hope you have had a pleasant summer. Yes, we had a rainy season, sometimes frustrating when we were not able to enjoy the activities planned, but at the same time everything has been lush and green. Here in the Center, we are ready now to start the new season. As we have been doing for many years, we plan events that both meet the expectations of the mission of a research university and the cultural interests of our communities.

We will start with the annual Italian vehicle show, Concorso d' Eleganza, to celebrate the combination of Italian artistic creativity and high technology. The event is in its XIII year, attracts a great variety of Italian vehicles and is enjoyed by a public eager to see high art forms on wheels.

We have planned lectures and book presentations on different topics dealing with interesting, thought provoking issues and historic events. From history to literature, from theater to politics and food, we will present a program of cultural enrichment that we believe will please and excite everyone.

The big event of the semester is our annual conference. Since the University has a large population of students from Asia, we thought that it would be fruitful to organize a conference that would focus on Italy and East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) to examine cultural exchanges, parallels and crossings. Through interdisciplinary and intercultural research, the speakers will enlighten us on how these very distant geographic areas share cultural communalities. It's going to be a very revealing and informative three-day conference with speakers from different parts of the world. The conference is co-sponsored by the Center for Italian Studies and the University's Confucius Institute.

The Film Festival will continue to entertain our community by presenting six Italian films released in the last year. It's a weekend organized for your enjoyment and relaxation. As with all our activities, this event is free and open to the public.

In the area of publications we are always engaged with our journal, Forum Italicum. In addition to its two regular issues, every year the journal publishes an issue on a specific topic with contributions by renowned scholars in the field being examined. The special summer 2018 issue, *Il sangue di Napoli: storia, letteratura e arti visive a Napoli da "Tre operai" di Bernari a "Gomorra,"* will attract much critical attention because of the cultural issues it addresses.

Probably most of you know that our secretary, Donna Severino, after 23 years of extraordinary service to the Center retired at the end of March. We are very grateful to Donna for her passion and exceptional commitment to the mission of the Center; she made a huge difference in achieving its success. Her gracious presence and warm engaging manner of dealing with all who have come to or contacted the Center for Italian Studies will forever be favorably and fondly remembered.

We are happy, at the same time, that after a lengthy search, we were able to fill the vacancy with Annette Palazzo. Annette has been at the University for many years having worked in residential programs and most recently in HSC's School of Social Welfare. She is bilingual in Italian and English and brings with her a rich experience of office work. When you are on Campus pass by to welcome Annette to the Center and wish her success.

In concluding this message, we cannot forget our language programs for the community, which, thanks to the generous support of a friend of the Center, includes language instruction for children;

adding also, that we wish to extend thanks to all our friends
for their ongoing generous support of our activities and encouraging response to our efforts.

Grazie mille e speriamo di vedervi ai prossimi eventi...

Mario B. Mignone

Center for Italian Studies

Fall 2018 Preliminary Calendar

September 9, Sunday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Robert D. Cess Concorso d'Eleganza XIII Annual Celebration of Italian Vehicle Excellence and Beauty:

A display of "art forms on wheels" as a means of illustrating one form of Italian culture. Display vehicles will rally at Stony Brook University campus on the lawn adjacent to the Graduate Physics Building and directly across from the Sports Complex off John S. Toll Drive. Participation and viewing are free and open to the public. Owners of Italian vehicles interested in participating in this display, please call 631-632-7444.

October 9, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Tromba Series Event: Book Presentation of the Italian Publication: *The Good and the Others: Dante and An Ethic for the New Millennium (Il Bene e Gli Altri: Dante e un'etica per il nuovo millennio: Bompiani 2018)* with author/journalist, Filippo La Porta. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

October 11, 12, 13, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Conference: Italy and East Asia: Exchanges and Parallels

Following a successful conference focused on Italy and China at the University of Toronto in 2016, Stony Brook University's Center for Italian Studies and the Confucius Institute, in collaboration with the University of British Columbia, have organized a new conference centered on Italy and East Asia to take place at Stony Brook University. Many relationships exist between Italy and East Asia that have captured the attention of current English and Italian language scholarship. Through a wide ranging set of panels that will include presentations by international scholars from Asia, Canada, the United States and Western Europe, the conference will explore and assess what is at stake in the Italian-East Asian dialogue and expand existing research on issues relating to Italy and East Asia. Location: Lecture Hall Two in the Wang Center at Stony Brook University.

Consult www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies for additional information and program details.

October 16, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Tromba Series Event: Book Presentation: "The Alchemy of Italy." Barely larger than Arizona, Italy has exerted an outsized force on Western Civilization and the popular imagination over the millennia. Explore the special "cultural DNA" that has made Italy not only so influential but so beloved. Featuring Carla Gambescia, author of *La Dolce Vita University: An Unconventional Guide to Italian Culture from A to Z* – an entertaining lifestyle compendium of all things Italian. Books will be available for sale and signing. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340

October 18, Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

Richard Nasti Series : Presentation by Francesco Andolfi (Italian actor/playwright based in New York City) which celebrates through theatre and visuals a memorable period and anniversary in Italian history: *1948-2018 - The Italian Constitution is 70 Years Old; The Rebirth of Democracy After War, Civil War and Dictatorship*. The presentation will include a narration of events that occurred during this period to reveal how these influenced the development of the Italian Constitution and an explanation of the four most important articles contained in fundamental principles of the Charter: Article 1: The Foundation of a Republic in which Sovereignty Belongs to the People; Article 2: The Inviolable Rights of Man; Article 3: The Principle of Equality; Article 11: The Repudiation of the War. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

October 27 and 28, Saturday and Sunday, 2:00-7:30 p.m.

Film Festival: "Italy on Screen Today: Edizione III" - A two day event at Stony Brook University to promote Italian Contemporary Cinema. Screening Schedule: TBA Directed by Loredana Commonara, Cultural Association: ArtMedia (Rome). With Q & A sessions conducted by Giacomo Rocchini, New York Based Italian Actor/Director. Location: Stony Brook University's Wang Center Lecture Hall 1. For updated program information, consult the Center for Italian Studies web page: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

November 8, Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

Richard Nasti Lecture Series Event: Presentation by Nicolino Applauso (Loyola, Maryland). Topic: *Government of Change: Populism and Isolationism in Italy After the Election*. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

November 12, Monday, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Tromba Lecture Series: Across the Disciplines Presentation by Gabrielle Sims (Boston University): Topic: *Pessimism in Giacomo Leopardi's Zoological Satires: The Problem with the Evidence of the Senses*.

Abstract: The presentation looks at Giacomo Leopardi's late mock-epic poem, the *Paralipomeni della Batracomiomachia*, and another of his zoological pieces, the *1824 Dialogo di un Folletto e di uno Gnomo*, as part of the poet-philosopher's broad rejection of the optimism of his age and of the romantic ideal that art can both recover the past and see inside the processes of the present. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

November 13, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.

Richard Nasti Series: Book Presentation : *Bitter Trades: A Memoir* with author, Giovanna Miceli Jeffries (Emerita: University of Wisconsin-Madison) . Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

ITALIAN CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY 2018-2019

Classes for Adults:

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced

40 hours of instruction (Twenty/2 hour sessions); October through April for an annual fee of \$260.

Offered as follows

Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Kings Park High School: Beginner Italian

Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Kings Park High School: Intermediate Italian

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon: Stony Brook University: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.

Persons interested in enrolling in any of these classes may call (631) 632-7444 for more detailed information, schedule and registration materials or via email> josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu

Also visit>www.Stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

Italian Language Classes for Children

Fall Session 2018

Each class is organized around fun theme-based units that combine singing, movement, interactive exercises, arts & crafts and more. Expert native-speaking teacher, born and educated in Italy offers a curriculum developed and defined using "European Theories and Methods about Children Learning a Second Language (CEFRL).

September through December

Intermediate (For Former Continuing Students or New Students who have some familiarity with Italian Language)

-12 Class Meetings on **Tuesdays**—Dates to be announced

Class Hours: For Ages 3-6: 4:00-4:45 pm For Ages 7-11: 4:45-5:45 pm

Beginners Level - 12 Class Meetings on **Fridays**—Dates to be announced

Class Hours: For Ages 6 -11: 4:00-5:00 pm

Cost per 12 Class Session: \$120 + Materials Fee: \$10

Location: Setauket Elementary School - Setauket , 11733 - Room to be announced.

For additional information please call 631-632-7444 or email your inquiry to> josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu

Also visit>www.Stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

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Mario B. Mignone

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STONY BROOK
UNIVERSITY

CONFERENCE
ITALY AND EAST ASIA, EXCHANGES AND PARALLELS
OCTOBER 11-12-13
LOCATION: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY'S WANG CENTER- LECTURE HALL TWO

Preliminary Program Outline
Thursday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Welcome and Keynote Address

Friday, October 12, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Session 1, Travel Writings, Italy and China
Session 2, Travel Writings, Italy and Japan
Session 3, Italian Museums and "Oriental Arts"
Lunch Break
Session 4, Creative Arts Between Italy and East Asia 1
Session 5, Translation and Reception, Italian Mediators
Session 6, Creative Arts Between Italy and East Asia 2
Session 7, Translation and Reception: Chinese Mediators

Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 pm
Session 8, The Cold War Between Italy and East Asia
Session 9, Re-writing History—Nation Status and Identities
Session 10-Current Affairs and Policies
Session 11- Dante and China
Lunch Break
Session 12-Italy and Korea
Session 13-Religions

Concluding Remarks and Closing Reception
A more detailed program with speakers and titles of presentations will be posted on
Center for Italian Studies Web Page: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies