



Dear Friends of the Center,

February 2022



New variants of old viruses notwithstanding, here at the Center for Italian Studies we are as active as ever, as we are getting ready for the big event of the year: the dedication of our spaces to the founder of the Center, Mario Mignone.

The fully renovated Mario B. Mignone Center for Italian Studies will host a naming ceremony, and a conference aimed at celebrating its Director's many talents, on September 8-10 of this year; mark your calendars, because you are cordially invited to participate in the festivities. We intend to demonstrate, once more, that *il mondo è bello perché è Mario*.

Planning for the big event does not mean that we are neglecting the line-up for this Spring: as usual, conferences, film screenings, and book presentations are planned by keeping in mind that we need to meet both the needs of a community of students and researchers, and the desire for cultural enrichment of the constituency that underpins us. You will find a detailed calendar inside, but notice that the program may be subject to change, or we may add events later in the season: I recommend you keep an eye on the Center's website and on our monthly webzine.

The strength of the Center lies in the generosity of its benefactors: it is thanks to them, thanks to you, that we can offer such an array of events, and provide a substantial support to the students in the Italian and Italian American Studies programs. The **Dr. Vito and Carolyn De Simone Endowment** established a Visiting Lectureship in Italian and Italian American Studies that supplements our course offerings with topics of interest, like "The Italian American Experience in Literature" and "Images of Italian Americans in Film." Similarly, the recently established **UNICO – Roy S. Dragotta Endowment** strengthens the teaching capabilities of the Italian Program at Stony Brook in a crucial moment, when many U.S. institutions of higher education are reducing their commitment to language courses. The **Dr. Michael De Luca Endowed Student Excellence Fund for Italian Studies** rewards exceptional Majors and Minors in the program in Italian Studies; recipients in 2021 were two students of remarkable capability and talent (and with a 4.0 GPA): Alisa (Alice) Fomina and Anita Rescia. The **Richard Nasti Lecture Series in Italian and Italian American Studies** funds, among other events, an annual encounter with renown Italian intellectuals: recent guests of the series were the film director and ethno-musicologist Gianfranco Cabiddu, and the Hong-Kong based author Valentina Giannella. You can find the recordings of our stimulating conversations on the Center's website. The **Joseph Tromba Lecture Series** established a fund for an ongoing lecture series: this semester the Center will host Anthony J. Tamburri, Dean of the Calandra Institute, to discuss with our students and the community his recent book *The Columbus Affair: Imperatives for an Italian/American Agenda*. The **Francesco P. and Dina D'Alto Malgeri Endowment in Italian Culture** has funded, in 2021, the Dante Series, and this semester it allows us to bring to campus two scholars interested in Italian sculpture, Grégoire Extermann and Carolina Mangone, in March. The **Roberto and Palmira Mignone Endowed Fellowship**, and the **Josephine Fusco Endowed Fellowship in Italian and Italian American Studies** generously support the Graduate students in the Italian program. The **John F. Lauro, P.A. Fund** will stimulate interdisciplinary research and educational and community events that focus on the Italian cultural heritage and on the Italian American contribution to our country. The anonymous donor who established the **Italian Language Instruction Fund** allows us to offer Italian classes at a subsidized rate: check the information within if you want to take advantage of this opportunity to study Italian in a relaxed setting.

We are forever grateful to all our donors, big and small, who allow the Center to function and return events of added value to the community, such as the Italian club, the various film series, the annual high school essay contest, and the Concorso d'Eleganza (if you've missed it, check the videos on our website from the 2021 edition, the most attended ever).

On related news -- It's time for a homecoming; if you are an alumnus or an alumna of the Program in Italian Studies, and you would be available for a networking event at the Center, send me an email: [giuseppe.gazzola@stonybrook.edu](mailto:giuseppe.gazzola@stonybrook.edu).

Lastly, please join us in congratulating Annette Palazzo, former secretary of the Center, on her retirement. Onwards!

*Ci vediamo al Center,*  
Giuseppe Gazzola

**Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook**  
**Preliminary Winter / Spring Calendar of Events, 2022**  
**All are invited. Free and Open to the Public**

## **February**

**Announcement:** Center for Italian Studies Annual Essay Contest for Secondary School Students.

Theme: Book Report on a Publication (fiction or non-fiction) by an Italian American author.

Call 631-632-7444 for guidelines and additional details for participating in this contest.

### **28, Monday, 5:00 p.m.**

**In Presence Event.** Homage to Monica Vitti: *L'avventura di una vita*. A tribute to the life and career of Italian film icon, Monica Vitti (1931-2022) presented by Professors Loredana Polezzi and Giuseppe Gazzola (Stony Brook University) with screening of three films: *That's How We Women Are*; *The Eclipse*; *The Girl with the Pistol*; (Films are in Italian with subtitles.)  
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook.

## **March**

### **1, Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.**

**In Presence Event.** Carolina Mangone (Princeton University) on *Relief by Design*. Abstract: Michelangelo's *Pitti tondo* and *Taddei tondo*, carved in Florence around 1504, flout conventions of finish and polish in Renaissance marble sculpting. This presentation considers the reliefs as discrete artifacts in the long and heterogeneous history of Michelangelo's unfinished (*non finito*) sculpture and argues that they mark the repercussions of Michelangelo's encounter with Leonardo—particularly his transformative use preparatory drawings. Co-organized with the Department of Art (Stony Brook).  
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook.

### **3, Thursday, 6:00 p.m.**

**In Presence Event.** Gregoire Extermann (University of Madrid) on the topic: *Carrara Marble in Renaissance Spain: Catholic Hegemony, Universal Monarch, and Genoese Network*. Co-organized with the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature (Stony Brook University) Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook University.

### **9, Wednesday, 2:40 p.m.**

#### **RICHARD NASTI LECTURE SERIES EVENT**

**On line event.** Riccardo Illy, Former Chairman of Gruppo Illy, presents his book, *The Art of Excellent Products*. The author will share with students at Stony Brook some proven business principles that world-renowned Italian brands have employed for generations. Details for joining this zoom meeting will follow.

## **April**

### **6, Wednesday. 6:00 p.m.**

**In Presence Event.** Award winning Italian author Claudia Durastanti will discuss her novel *La straniera* (2019), which has just been published in English as *Strangers I Know* (2022). The book, shortlisted for the prestigious *Premio Strega*, narrates a largely autobiographical coming-of-age story set between Italy, New York and London.  
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook University.

### **11, April, Monday, 5:30 p.m.**

**In Presence Event.** The first in the series of film screenings of Alice Rorwacher movies, introduced and discussed by Graduate Fellow, Antonio Fideleo. See insert below for additional information about this series.  
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook University.

**19, Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.**

**DR. JOSEPH TROMBA LECTURE SERIES**

**In Presence Event:** Professor Anthony Tamburri (CUNY/Calandra Institute) discusses his book: *The Columbus Affair: Imperatives for an Italian American Agenda*; in conversation with Professor Giuseppe Gazzola.  
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook University.

**29, Friday, Time to be announced**

**In Presence Event.** Event celebrating Pietro di Donato, author of the 1939 Bestseller, *Christ in Concrete*, in commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of his death. Organized by Professors Loredana Polezzi (D'Amato Chair in Italian American and Italian Studies) and Simone Brioni (Department of English).  
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Room E-4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook University.

**Fund Raiser Event at Harmony Vineyard, St. James.**

**In Presence Event.** A Fund Raiser for the Center for Italian Studies is being planned at Harmony Vineyards, St. James, in collaboration with Stony Brook University's Alumni Association. The Center's Director, Giuseppe Gazzola, will present a talk on Italian wines entitled, *Ecology of Aging*. Dates and additional information to be announced.

**READING GROUP – SPRING 2022**

**Italiany - Gruppo di Lettura**



We are happy to announce the start of the Spring 2022 Reading group. The group will meet once a month in Melville E-4340 to discuss recent Italian books. To start, in preparation for the author's visit on April 6, we will be discussing "La Straniera" by Claudia Durastanti.

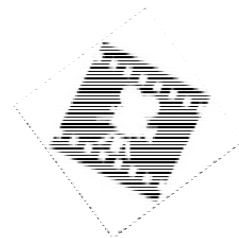
**The first meeting is on March 21st, Monday, at 5:00 pm—  
Center for Italian Studies; Melville E-4340, Stony Brook University**

Books can be purchased, in Italian or English, on Amazon or any other bookstore. Prof. Loredana Polezzi will moderate the discussion.

**ITALIAN CINE CLUB SCHEDULE - SPRING 2022**

**Focus on the Director  
Alice Rohrwacher**

April 11 - *Corpo Celeste* (2011)  
April 18 - *Le Meraviglie* (2014)  
April 28 - *Lazzaro Felice* (2018)  
May 2— *Omelia Contadina* (2020)  
-Short Film & Discussion



**Melville E-4340 at 5:00 p.m.**

**For additional info view [www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies](http://www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies)**

**The Italian Transcultural Society:**

Stony Brook's Italian/Italian American Student Organization  
A Roman Forum where you can learn more about and take part in Italian Culture.

Activities: films, games, past-times,

*Tavola Italiana*: Tutoring Assistance with Italian Language Students.

**All are welcome!**

Meetings are on Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.  
in the Center for Italian Studies, E4340, Melville Library, Stony Brook University

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**For the most current and additional information  
regarding the Center for Italian Studies events and activities, please consult our web site:  
[www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies](http://www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies)**

To receive the monthly webzine  
contact: [josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu](mailto:josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu)

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CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES  
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We are pleased to announce that the Center for Italian Studies will be hosting the Department of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures Graduation Ceremonies on the occasion of Stony Brook's Commencement— May 20, 2022.

At these exercises we will have the pleasure of presenting The Center's Dr. Michael De Luca Awards to those graduates who are being recognized for outstanding achievement and excellence in Italian Studies

**The Center for Italian Studies is a community supported entity.**  
**We are happy to say that we have earned the trust and affection of our followers,**  
**Who, individually and collectively, have made it possible to carry out our mission.**  
*Thank You For Your Ongoing Support.*

**Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3358**  
 Phone (631) 632-7444 Website: [www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies](http://www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies)

Please complete and return this form with your contribution to the address noted above.

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