A Letter from the Director
Professor Mario B. Mignone

Dear Friends,

We are pleased, once again, to announce a rich program of events on Italian culture and the Italian American experience with our lectures, conferences, film screenings, concerts, exhibits, and formal language instruction. You will note from the enclosed calendar that Fall 2016 includes a series of events and activities that are traditionally selected from our constituencies. Thanks, especially must be expressed to Advisory Board members, Cavaliere Richard Nasti and Dr. Joseph Tromba, whose generosity in establishing endowments for lecture series enable us to present a rich variety of talks by prominent speakers.

In the academic realm, we continue to be very active. In addition to the regularly issued Forum Italicum, an international journal of Italian Studies, the Center for Italian Studies has published 35 volumes on topics of Italian and Italian American interest. The special Summer 2016 Forum entitled: Lucania Within Us: Carlo Levi and Rocco Scotellaro, edited by Giulia Dell'Aquila and Franco Vitelli (Universita' di Bari), and Sebastiano Martelli (Universita' di Salerno) is the latest publication to be issued. The volume will be subdivided into two parts dedicated respectively to Carlo Levi and Rocco Scotellaro; in essence presenting two monographs that nevertheless interact with each other and deeply bind the two authors. The Summer Issue 2017 entitled Reawakening Beauty: D’Annunzio’s Seduction of the Senses will be edited by Lara Raffaelli (University of Cape Town) and Michael Subalikha (University of Oxford). Interest in D’Annunzio’s has increased significantly in the Angliphone world in recent years, as indicated by the publication of new translations and biographies.

As Director of the Center, I was especially gratified by the reaction to the publication of The Story of My People: From Rural Southern Italy to Mainstream America. It is an autobiographical narrative that deals with the immigrant issues of uprooting, integration, fear of failing, struggle to preserve customs and traditions, struggle with personal identity. The well attended presentations of this book both in our Center and at various invitation events in other cultural and institutional settings here and abroad provided excellent opportunities to exchange similar stories and to explore many interesting and different perspectives of the immigrant experience. From having it serve as a reading selection in the Humanities course I offer each semester entitled Modern Italy (a course taught in English that meets general University requirements and enrolls large numbers of students from diverse global backgrounds), I experienced much positive feedback and enjoyed rewarding reports on how meaningful and relevant the stories were to my students (regardless of their ethnicity) who cited similar family histories.

Among the International Academic Programs offered by Stony Brook, the Italian Study Abroad Program enjoys status as both the longest running and that having the highest enrollments. We just returned with 44 students from a month long academic trip to Italy where we visited Pompeii-Sorrento, Naples-Capri, Assisi-Florence-Pisa-Venice, Tivoli and Rome. This Fall, 37 students will be leaving for Florence where they will spend the entire semester at Florence University of the Arts.

We remain committed to popular community activities with annual offerings of our Concorso d’Eleganza (Italian Vehicle Show); the Film Festival, our Annual Essay Contest for Secondary School Students, and collaborative support of the American Association of Teachers of Italian Teachers-LI Chapter Annual Poetry Contest. Our outreach non-credit classes in Italian (various levels) are ongoing throughout the fall and spring semesters; and we’re very pleased to announce once again that with the assistance of the Educational Projects Foundation, we are able to offer Classes in Italian for Children.

The conference event that we usually program each semester, this term has “Remembering Justice Antonin Scalia,” as its theme. The preliminary program for this one day, September 17, conference is outlined on the back page of this newsletter. We hope you will find it possible to attend this event to hear and interact with scholars, journalists, legislators and judges who will present different perspectives and reflections on the life and legacy of this Supreme Court Justice.

In concluding these remarks, I want to extend my most sincere and fervent thanks to all of you who attend our Center events and encourage our dedication to the intellectual life of Stony Brook University and to the cultural enrichment of our communities. As our single means of funding the Center are your contributions, we are especially appreciative of your positive response to our fundraising efforts and, always, your ongoing loyal support.

Mario B. Mignone, Director
SUNY Distinguished Professor
Fall 2016 Preliminary Calendar

All are invited. Unless stated otherwise, all events are free and open to the general public.

**September 8, Thursday 2:30 p.m.**
Dr. Joseph Tromba Lecture Presentation by Professor Bernardo Picichè (Virginia Commonwealth University). Topic: *When Cinema Comments History: The Italian Case*. Location: Stony Brook University’s Javits Lecture Center, Room 102.

**September 17, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**
Conference: *Remembering Justice Antonin Scalia*. Presentations by scholars, journalists, legislators and judges who from different perspectives, will contribute to the composition of a mosaic that will reflect Justice Scalia’s life and legacy. Location: Simons Center for Geometry and Physics Building, Conference Room 102. Program as it is currently formulated may be viewed on back page. All sessions are open to the public and free except for the optional mid-day luncheon which requires advance reservations (631-632-7444) and payment of $25.00.

**September 25, Sunday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
Robert D. Cess Concorso d’Eleganza XI 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 contact josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu or call 631-632-7444.

**September 27, Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.**
Richard Nasti Lecture Series Event: Presentation by Professor Cristina Bettin (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev). Topic: *Italian Jews Before, During and After World War II*. Location: Stony Brook University’s Javits Lecture Center, Room 102.

**September 27, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.**
**Dr. Joseph Tromba Lecture Series: Presentations on Giovanni Verga: (In Italian)**
September 27, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. Topic: *I Venti di Verga: Questione Meridionale?*
September 29, Thursday, 4:00 p.m. Topic: *Giovanni Verga e il suo mondo contadino: Solo commiserazione.*
Presentations by Professor Cristina Bettin (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
Location: Stony Brook University’s Humanities Building, Room 3013.

**October 1, Saturday 9:00 a.m-4 p.m.**
Conference to recognize the Centennial of Italian Poet, Guido Gozzano’s death (1883-1916). Offered collaboratively by the Gradiva International Poetry Society and the Center for Italian Studies. Program to be announced. Location: Stony Brook University’s Center for Italian Studies Meeting Hall in the Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

**October 4, Tuesday, 1 p.m.**
Richard Nasti Lecture Series Event: Presentation by Aniello De Santo (Linguistics, Stony Brook University) on the topic: *What the Dialects Can Teach Us About Italian: The Case of Irpino*. Location: Stony Brook University’s Center for Italian Studies Meeting Hall in the Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

**October 6, Thursday, 2:30 p.m.**

**October 20, Thursday, Hour to be announced.**
Award Ceremonies to recognize the 2016 *GRADIVA*, International Journal of Italian Poetry Prize. Location: Stony Brook University’s Center for Italian Studies, Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.
October 29 and 30, Saturday and Sunday
Annual Film Festival:
This year, the Center’s Film Festival will present the “Italy on Screen Today, Project: A two day event at Stony Brook University to promote Italian Contemporary Cinema. Screening Schedule:

October 29, Saturday, 3-9 p.m. October 30, Sunday, 2-8 p.m.
Remarks and Q&A sessions will be conducted by Loredana Commonara, Director, Cultural Association: ArtMedia (Rome). Location: Stony Brook University’s Wang Center Theater. For additional and updated program information, consult the Center for Italian Studies web page: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

November 6, Sunday 2:30 p.m.
Dr. Joseph Tromba Series Event: Book Presentation: An Unlikely Union: The Love-Hate Story of New York’s Irish and Italians with author, Paul Moses, Professor of Journalism at Brooklyn College and former Newsday reporter and editor. Location: Stony Brook University’s Center for Italian Studies, Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

Author's Note: “When Italian immigrants first began arriving in large numbers in New York late in the 19th century, they soon found that their local police officer, pastor, teacher, foreman and elected official were most likely all Irish. Decades of animosity followed. And then, in the decades after World War II, the Irish and Italians married each other on a large scale, turning rivalry into romance.”

Center for Italian Studies continues to collaborate with Local Craftsman to preserve Tradition of Bespoke Tailoring.
The Center became engaged in this effort when it presented a program proposed by Stony Brook Graduate Student, Fabio Montella, to celebrate his father, Sebastiano Montella’s, 50 years in the old-world “Arte Sartoriale Italiana” as a Neapolitan Custom Tailor. The interest generated by this event in this craft and the artisan’s cultural experience in developing it, has inspired the Center’s collaboration with Montella in his desire to share his experience and knowledge in a class setting as a way of promoting and keeping bespoke tailoring skills alive.
The Non-Credit/Informal Studies program to promote this effort is structured as follows:
10 classes: Fall Session Mondays: 6:30 p.m.
September 19; 26; October 3; 17; 24; November 7; 14; 21; December 5; 12.
Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University’s Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.
Cost: $100 per 10 class session. Prerequisites for Participating in this Program: None

ITALIAN CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY 2016-2017
40 hours of instruction (Twenty/2 hour sessions); Beginning October through April 1 for an annual fee of $260.

Kings Park High School:
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Beginner Italian-Instructor, Christen Visceglie.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Intermediate Italian-Instructor, Anna Maria D’Agostino

Stony Brook University on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Instructors: Beginner Italian-Rosalia Sinatra; Intermediate-Anna-Maria D’Agostino; Advanced -Donna Di Natale.

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> Donna.Severino@stonybrook.edu.
Also visit> www.Stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

Classes in Italian Language for Children
Fall 2016 - 10 Class Meetings on Tuesdays, 9/20-12/6
Winter 2017 - 10 Class Meetings on Tuesdays, 1/17-3/28
Spring 2017 - 10 Class Meetings on Tuesdays, 4/4-6/13
Hours: for Ages 3-5, 4-4:45 p.m.;
for Ages 6-11, Former Continuing Students. 5-5:50 pm
for Ages 6-12, New Students, 6-6:50 p.m.
Cost per each 10 Class Session: $100.
Location: Setauket Elementary School, Main Street, Setauket.
Please call 631-632-7444 for additional information or email josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu
with your inquiry.
Conference:
Remembering Justice Antonin Scalia
Saturday, September 17, 2016  8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Stony Brook University's
Simons Center for Geometry and Physics.

Program
8:30 Registration Breakfast Coffee
9:00 a.m.– Noon
Welcome followed by Morning Sessions I and 2.
Lunch Break with optional lunch available in the Simons Cafe
Required: Advance reservations (631-632-7444) and payment of $25.
1:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Afternoon Sessions and Closing Remarks.
Farewell Reception in the Center for Italian Studies, Library E4340.

Participants who will be making presentations currently include:
Stefano Dambruoso, Italian Magistrate, Current Member of the Italian Parliament;
Vito De Simone, Interpreter, New York State Supreme Court;
Brian Fitzpatrick, Professor of Law, Vanderbilt University, Former Clerk for Justice Scalia;
John G. Ingram, Justice of Kings County Supreme Court;
Scott P. Martin, Partner: Gibson, Dunn & Crutchler, Washington, DC, Clerk for Justice Scalia, October 2005;
Gail Prudenti, Former Chief Administrative Judge, NY State; Faculty, Hofstra University Law School;
Ian Samuel, Climenko Fellow at Harvard University. Former Clerk for Justice Scalia, October 2012;
Jeffrey Segal, Chairperson, Political Science Department, Stony Brook University;
Giannicola Sinisi, Italian Magistrate; Current President, Italian Parliamentary Delegation to EU;

Consult the Center for Italian Studies Web Page: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies
Or call 631-632-7444 for updated information.