Dear Friends:

It was truly a very satisfying and fruitful 2014-15 academic year. Our rich program of cultural activities continues to attract the loyal interest of our audience and most assuredly assists in maintaining the genuine presence of Italian culture on Long Island.

With the presentation on the Marche region, we discovered that interest in Italian regions remains very strong. Companilismo has indeed been carried onto this other side of the Ocean. Italians still respond to the ringing of the bells coming from the campanile--bell tower. Even after two and three generations away from Italy, the enduring devotion for one’s region, city, village or even quartiere inspires a sense of identity and pride of belonging to one’s place of birth. We say "sono romagnolo" or "veneziano. siciliano, napoletano," probably before saying, "sono italiano." We shall continue to address this ongoing interest by planning more programs representing and promoting the various regions of Italy.

Book presentations are still an important part of our program, as they should be at a research University such as Stony Brook. New books bring to the public forum new knowledge and are the medium for disseminating new ideas. Such presentations not only offer authors the opportunity to reveal the fruits of many years of hard work and to share the excitement of their scholarly findings, they also provide the audience with the opportunity to interact with the writers and enter directly in the process of molding new ideas.

This coming Fall, one of the books that we will present will be my own volume: 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. Immigrants have similar stories to present their experiences, but each has a different way of narrating them because of the relationship with the territory in which the immigrants were born and the land to which they moved. An emigrant usually goes through three births: (1) The normal natural birth; (2) Emigration-a rebirth; a restart of life from ground zero at an adult age which can be traumatic; (3) Return to the place of birth which might be just as traumatic as both he/she and the places he/she had left will have changed. The exchange with the audience on this exploration of the immigrant experience should provide interesting different perspectives on this theme.

This Fall we will also have an important international conference which should be of great interest to everyone: THE IDEA OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. This extraordinary three day conference (November 12-14) will explore what the Mediterranean region represented in the Age of Progress and what it may represent in the Era of Geopolitical Realignments and Globalization. More than ever the Mediterranean has become an area of fermentation for emerging political and ideological configurations. As the cradle of civilizations, it has given birth to all the western cultures, to three worldwide religions and has opened the pathways to the Orient. An organic and autonomous Mediterranean identity may not exist as such today, but it does exist in the collective imagination of the people of the world. Scholars, diplomats and experts in world affairs will analyze the cultural tapestry of Mediterranean history to understand today’s complex conflicts and to shed light on prospects for the near future. I promise that this will be an event you should not miss.

(Continued inside)
Our scholarly publications continue to attract worldwide attention. FORUM ITALICUM, our journal of Italian studies has been given “Classe A” by ANVUR (Agenzia nazionale di valutazione del sistema universitario e della ricerca) an Italian national agency which convalidates the high scholarly prestige of the journal. The 2015 Summer issue, Music and Society in Italy, edited by Professor Alessandro Carrera (University of Houston) will present a comprehensive overview of current scholarly focusing on the role of music in Italian society from the 17th to the 21st century. The Summer 2016 issue will focus on Economy and Literature and will be edited by Giulia Dell’Aquila (Università di Bari), Sebastiano Martelli (Università di Salerno), and Franco Vitelli (Università di Bari). The special issue of Summer 2017, Reawakening Beauty: D’Annunzio’s Seduction of the Senses, is also in preparation and will be edited by Lara Raffaelli (University of Cape Town) and Michael Subialka (University of Oxford). The objective of this special issue is to complement recent attention given to Gabriele D’Annunzio’s political persona by highlighting the aspects of his artistic production that helped to make him the towering cultural figure at the beginning of the twentieth century.

In addition to this scholarly production and activity, we are very happy to report the high achievement in the creative literary field of our colleague, Luigi Fontanella, who was among the winners of the prestigious literary prize, “Premio Viareggio” for his poetry volume, L’adolescenza e la notte. We congratulate him for this extraordinary recognition.

Stony Brook’s Academic Programs in Italy continue to do well and create impressive ambassadors of Italian culture. This Summer, 65 students will be spending a month in Rome enrolled in various courses and visiting Pompeii, Sorrento, Naples, Capri, Assisi, Florence, Pisa, Venice and Tivoli. In the Fall semester over 70 students will be studying at Florence University of the Arts and inevitably will come back “’innamorati” with Italy.

Our outreach non-credit classes in Italian (various levels) are ongoing throughout the entire year; and we are pleased to have added an Italian Language program for children, ages 3-10, with the help of the Educational Projects Foundation.

All our activities are free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of our community. As the Center does not receive any support from the state or any public agency, we are grateful to all of you. We wish to express special gratitude to Commendatore Peter Kalikow for his love of Italian culture which has been expressed with great generosity for the Center for Italian Studies activities and Cavaliere Rick Nasti and Dr. Joseph Tromba for the creation of their lecture series in Italian and Italian American Studies.

In concluding these remarks, I also would like to thank all of you who attend our events, support the Center for Italian Studies and encourage our intellectual and creative endeavor. Grazie. Grazie. Grazie, Mario B. Mignone

Center for Italian Studies Fall 2015 Preliminary Calendar
Events and activities are free and open to the public. All are invited.

**September 24, Thursday, 11:30 a.m.**

**Dr. Joseph Tromba Lecture Series Event**

Book Presentation: Filippo Tommaso Marinetti: The Artist and His Politics with author, Ernest Ialongo. In his exploration of the politics of Marinetti as the creator and leader of the transformative Futurist art movement emerging in early 20th Century Italy, Ialongo traces the political evolution of this one-time radical to the fervent Fascist he ultimately became. Location: Stony Brook University’s Center for Italian Studies in the Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

**September 27, Sunday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m**

**Robert D. Cess Concorso d’Eleganza 10th Anniversary 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 Center for Italian Studies, 631-632-7444 or email josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu.
**October 4, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.**
Book Presentation: *The Story of My People: From Rural Southern Italy to Mainstream America*, with author Mario B. Mignone (Stony Brook University.). Location: Stony Brook University's Center for Italian Studies, Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. Books will be available for purchase and autographing by the author.

**October 13, Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.**
**Richard Nasti Lecture Series Event**
Presentation by Alessandro Del Ponte (Political Science, Stony Brook University) on the topic: *The Challenges of the Economic Crisis in Italy and the EU: The Role of European Identity*. Location: Stony Brook University's Harriman Hall, Room 137.

**October 22, Thursday, 4:00 p.m.**

**October 23 and 24, Friday and Saturday**
Twelfth Annual *Center for Italian Studies Festival of New Italian Cinema*. Screening of recently produced Italian films (English sub-titles). Program will be available as details are finalized and will be posted on the Center for Italian Studies web page (www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies). All screenings will be free and open to the public.

**November 12-14: An International Conference: The Idea of the Mediterranean**

**Thursday, November 12, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday, November 13 & 14: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
Location: Stony Brook University's Wang Center, Lecture Hall 2

The Mediterranean has been the cradle of civilizations with a unique history of having given birth to all the Western cultures, to three world-wide religions, and to opening pathways to the Orient. An organic and autonomous Mediterranean identity may not exist as such today; but in the collective imagination of the people of the world and especially in the last two centuries with migrations from the Mediterranean area settling throughout the entire world, there exists a “popolo mediterraneo.” Globalization has made evident the importance of preserving culture and the development of a consciousness that especially constitutes a matchless resource for the nations of the Mediterranean, and which the new Europe cannot do without. These are the reasons that justify an attempt to recognize the value of the Mediterranean basin as a region having an original culture capable of connecting many other fragmented cultures. The Conference Program will include presentations by International Scholars, Government Officials, and UN Ambassadors connected to states of the Mediterranean. A detailed program is currently being formulated and will be posted on the Center for Italian Studies web site (www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies). You may also contact the Center for Italian Studies (631-632-7444) for conference updates and developments.

**November 24, Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.**
**Dr. Joseph Tromba Lecture Series Event**
ITALIAN CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY 2015-2016
The Center for Italian Studies will be sponsoring Italian classes for the community:

For Adults:
40 hours of instruction (Twenty/2 hour sessions) beginning October 13 through April 1, For an annual fee of $260.

Classes are available as follows:
At John Glenn HS, Elwood Rd., Elwood
Tuesday: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Intermediate
Wednesday: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Beginning

At Stony Brook University
Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 Noon
Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced

For Children:

Fall 2015: 10 Class Meetings on Tuesdays, September 29-December 15
Spring 2016: 10 Class Meetings on Tuesdays January-April. (Dates to be announced)
Class Time for Children, Ages 3-5: 4-4:45 p.m.
Class Time for Children, Ages 6-10: 5-6 p.m.
Fee for each 10 class session: $100
Location: Setauket Elementary School, 134 Main Street, Setauket,

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.