

*Tutela, Promozione e Diffusione della Cultura Italiana*



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
**Teachers of Italian**



**ACTFL 2022**  
**BOSTON**  
**NOVEMBER 18-20**



Consolato Generale d'Italia  
Boston



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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the entire Executive Council of the American Association of Teachers of Italian, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 AATI@ACTFL Annual Conference in Boston, MA. We are so excited to be back in person, being able to network, share knowledge, and celebrate our accomplishments. I would like to sincerely thank everyone present at the conference this year – from the session chairs and sponsors to the exhibitors and all the AATI participants – thanks for joining us here in Boston. We know that these events can be expensive, especially post-Covid, so your presence and participation are admired. A special thanks to all our special guests and first-time attendees; we applaud your support of the promotion of the study of Italian in North America and beyond. If you are new, or if you do not know me, please make sure to introduce yourself at some point this weekend.

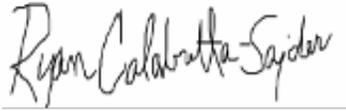
This conference was founded upon the mission and slogan of the AATI “promotion, advancement, and preservation” of the study of Italian language, literature, and culture. In fact, the annual conference represents one of the plethora of initiatives the AATI supports in order to achieve its mission. We are happy to be partnering with ACTFL, an organization dedicated to the teaching of languages as well as the preparation of language instructors. Their leadership and attention to advocacy serves as a model for our Association and many others. The AATI@ACTFL annual conference is a pivotal moment for K-12 and college/universities instructors to interact, brainstorm, network, and truly communicate with the aim for further collaboration. My predecessor, Beppe Cavatorta, was extremely dedicated to bridging the divide between these two membership bodies of the Association and I hope to take the baton from Beppe and continue to run with it. We need to tear down this barrier and work together to achieve the AATI’s mission and vision together; individually we will not succeed.

Organizing a conference of this nature is a colossal task. Much time and effort has gone into the details of each aspect. We begin planning this conference the week after it ends and thus it becomes a never-ending task. Thus, I must highlight the hard work and dedication of the conference committee: Gina Gallo, VP of K-12 and chair, Antonino Bondi, Colleen Ryan, Federico Tiberini. Your work on reviewing proposals and assisting with programming is very appreciated. Marina Melita, Alessia Defraia, and Jessica Greenfield for always helping whenever asked. I would like to thank Anthony Julian Tamburri and all involved with Bordighera Press for once again publishing our conference program. We are lucky that we can always count on you!

Both the AATI@ACTFL as well as the general ACTFL program are rich with a wealth of knowledge and innovative approaches to teaching language, literature, and

culture. The entire Executive Council wishes you an amazing conference experience. We hope you enjoy the sessions, connect with new and old colleagues, brainstorm new ideas, and most importantly “preserve, promote, and advance” the Italian language and culture. I look forward to seeing you at the sessions as well as the Business Meeting on Friday, November 18, and the reception that follows.

Buon proseguimento,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ryan Calabretta-Sajder", positioned above a horizontal line.

Ryan Calabretta-Sajder  
AATI President

## ***Messaggio dal Console Generale***

### ***Arnaldo Minuti***



Benvenuti al Convegno Annuale per la promozione dell'insegnamento delle lingue straniere negli Stati Uniti, organizzato dall'American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), che quest'anno si riunisce a Boston.

La cadenza annuale di questa iniziativa e la forte partecipazione da parte di insegnanti e docenti di lingue straniere, nonché della rete di supporto, che sostiene la promozione delle loro attività, testimoniano dell'importanza attribuita dal sistema educativo statunitense all'apprendimento di una lingua straniera.

Particolarmente in una comunità come quella statunitense, dove la lingua materna è nel contempo una lingua franca, utilizzata a livello internazionale, lo studio e la diffusione delle lingue straniere, che questa conferenza intende promuovere, rappresenta una sfida ambiziosa e cruciale, che si gioca sulla nostra capacità di trasmettere la consapevolezza che le lingue costituiscono, oltre che mezzi di comunicazione, ponti con i quali apprezzare e valorizzare le reciproche differenze sociali culturali. Le lingue straniere sono pertanto preziosi strumenti di diplomazia culturale, la cui conoscenza agevola la comprensione, il dialogo e la collaborazione.

L'italiano rimane una delle lingue straniere più studiate dagli studenti americani, grazie all'impegno degli insegnanti e agli sforzi degli Enti di promozione linguistica (Enti Gestori), a cui è stata affidata l'attuazione dei Corsi di Lingua e Cultura italiana da parte del nostro governo. Un importante fattore motivante, che spinge gli studenti a imparare la nostra lingua, è la ricchezza del patrimonio culturale e artistico dell'Italia, unita alle numerose eccellenze per le quali l'Italia è riconosciuta come leader a livello globale.

Sono fiducioso che il soft power del nostro Paese, unito alla curiosità e alla voglia di esplorare dei giovani, contribuisca a confermare l'italiano come una delle lingue straniere più apprezzate.

Con i miei migliori auguri per un proficuo svolgimento dei lavori, vorrei ringraziare tutti i partecipanti per il loro continuo sforzo e dedizione.

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Welcome to this year's Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Boston for the promotion and education of foreign languages organized by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

ACTFL's annual convention of teachers and educators of foreign languages, supported by a network focused on the promotion of their activities, is a testament to the commitment of the US education system to the teaching of a foreign language.

The study and dissemination of foreign languages represents an ambitious and important challenge. It is especially challenging to convey the advantages of learning a foreign language in the United States, where its primary language, English, is used internationally. Therefore, the importance

that language plays in communicating and enhancing our social and cultural differences depends on our ability to communicate its benefits. Foreign languages are valuable tools of cultural diplomacy, the dissemination and knowledge of which facilitate understanding, dialogue and collaboration.

The Italian language remains one of the foreign languages most studied by American students, thanks to the commitment of teachers and the efforts of the language promotion organizations (Enti Gestori), which are entrusted with the implementation of Italian language and culture courses by our government. The richness of Italy's cultural and artistic heritage, and the numerous excellences for which Italy is recognized as a global leader, are significant motivating factors for students to learn our language.

I am confident that the soft power of our country, combined with the curiosity and desire to explore of young people, will help to confirm Italian as one of the most appreciated foreign languages.

With my best wishes for a productive convention, I thank all the participants for their continuous effort and dedication.



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## *2020 Distinguished Service Award Recipients*



**Lucrezia G. Lindia**, former Language Teacher and Department Chair at Eastchester Union Free School District for 31 years, is currently an Adjunct Professor of Italian and a Foreign Language Liaison of Early College Education High School Partnerships at Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY. She was also a teacher and Supervisor of Foreign Languages at New Rochelle Academy and Montessori Grade School. Lucrezia is nationally known for her extraordinary efforts in promoting the goals and objectives of the American Association of Teachers of Italian K-14. For four decades, she cultivated a passion for learning that extended far beyond the classroom. She engaged and encouraged her students to participate in numerous educational and cultural programs in Westchester,

New York City, and in Italy. She served as President of the ITA -AATI for close to 20 years where she initiated an Annual ITA essay contest, the ITA Carnevale Celebration in February; she edited the ITA monthly newsletter, and she fostered collaborations with the Italian Cultural Institute and the Italian Consulate in New York to support Italian Language Programs in the New York Metropolitan Area and Westchester. She was a New York Public Library Mentor for the Encounter. For 18 years, she has been a Consultant to the New York State Education Department for the Italian Regents and the Proficiency Exams. She has contributed to the AATI National Italian Examination, the New York State Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English and the ACTFL's Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. Lindia served on a committee for the Italian Consulate in NYC initiating the AP Exam and she engaged in personal outreach to high schools in New York State inviting them to initiate the AP Italian Course in their schools. In addition, she was a member of the Committee that composed the AP Vertical Team Guide in World Languages, published by the College Board; she was also hired by the College Board to write the AP Italian CPPG #2, and served on the College Board's Italian AP Committee as a reader and on the SAT II Test Development Committee, chairing it the last two years. Lucrezia is the author of Edmondo DeAmici's *Cuore* "Tre racconti," Ed. Soleil; *Cultura Italiana di regione in regione*, Edizioni Farinelli; Co-author of *Italian for Communication Textbook and Workbook*, Curriculum Press; *Cinque film italiani*, Ed. Soleil; *La donna arbëreshe ieri, oggi, domani...tra sacro e profano*, Edizioni Il Coscile. Among other initiatives, Lucrezia served as President of the Westchester Association of Foreign Language Educators, an affiliate of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYS AFLT). She was also elected to serve as regional representative of NYSAFLT and regional representative for AATI for a few terms. She is the President of the National Italian Honor Society/Società Onoraria Italica, Board Member of the Italian American Committee of Education (IACE) and Board Member of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee (IHCC, Inc.); Westchester Coalition of Italian American Organizations, and Trustee of the SOI, Garibaldi Lodge. Over the years, she gave more than 200 workshops at the local, state, national and international levels, and continues to offer her professional expertise to colleagues representing secondary schools and colleges. To conclude, this description by one of her colleagues who recommended her for this award encapsulates her contributions perfectly: "Professor Lucrezia

Lindia is the ultimate professional and always a lady proud of her Italian heritage. Her amazing ability to share that love with everyone who comes in contact with her is clearly evident in the lasting impression she has on generations of students, many of whom have been inspired by her example and have even followed in her footsteps to become teachers of the Italian language and culture.”

*By Colleen Ryan*

**Dr. Ryan Calabretta-Sajder**, Associate Professor and Section Head for Italian at the University of Arkansas, was awarded the 2020 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for the College/University level. A member of AATI for 13 years, CalabrettaSajder has been involved in nearly every aspect and activity of the organization. He has held two elected positions and chaired three committees in addition to serving in the often all-encompassing and indispensable role of Director of Communications since 2014. Dr. Calabretta-Sajder



has also been a central figure in the planning of AATI’s international conferences for the past seven years. Calabretta-Sajder is an accomplished teacher and a generous colleague. His publications include a monograph on the films of Ferzan Ozpetek, *Divergenze in celluloido: Colore, migrazione e identità nei film gay di Ferzan Özpetek*. Milano: Mimesis editore, 2016, as well as three edited volumes: *Italian Americans on Screen: Challenging the Past, ReTheorizing the Future*. (co-edited with Alan Gravano). Lexington Press, May 2020; *Pasolini’s Lasting Impressions: Death, Eros, and Literary Enterprise in the Opus of Pier Paolo Pasolini*, Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2018; *Theorizing the Italian Diaspora*. (with Alan Gravano, & Courtney Ruffner Grieneisen). Dallas, PA: Italian American Studies Association, 2018. His teaching has spanned an equally impressive array of undergraduate and graduate offerings from Made in Italy to contemporary Italian film, literature, and Diaspora studies, with focuses on gender, sexuality and migration. Prof. Calabretta-Sajder’s service to the field of Italian Studies is exemplary, extending far beyond our own association, as he has held several elected national positions such as: Secretary/Treasurer of the American Association of Supervisors and Coordinators (2017-2019); President, Gamma Kappa Alpha, the Italian Honors Society for College/Universities, as well as Advertising Editor for *Italica* (2020-). He is also founding editor of the all new *Diasporic Italy: The Journal of the Italian American Studies Association*. Among the many noteworthy affirmations of his nominators, we share the following descriptions: “Beyond teaching and research, Dr. Calabretta-Sajder is highly regarded in particular for his service to the profession [...] He has proven his merit as an extremely able and creative member and leader of our academic community in numerous important volunteer positions[...], but Dr. Calabretta-Sajder’s service to the AATI has been particularly remarkable. His administrative commitments with our association continue to be significant, substantial and time-consuming. He empowers himself as well as others around him, makes all members feel welcome, recognizes potential in our junior colleagues (and seeks to help them reach their potential), is quick to lend a hand to others in need of help, shares expertise with others, is

enthusiastic about work and working with others. In sum, Dr. Calabretta-Sajder’s enthusiasm for the work he does for the AATI shines through and infects others around him.” Dr. Calabretta-Sajder appears to have infinite energy, working on many projects, traveling, teaching, and working tirelessly for the largest association of Italian studies in the world. His enthusiasm for Italian has remained undiminished through the years...” “In Ryan’s many official roles with AATI he has been a leader, in the last 7-8 years, spending countless hours engaging in K-12 and college outreach, conducting professional development workshops, doing important networking, setting up our website, administering our website, and assisting in our elections. Whether as an educator, an administrator, or in his many roles with AATI, Ryan brings passion, experience, knowledge, expertise, and positive energy to his work and continues to be a grand human presence.” “Ryan Calabretta-Sadger’s leadership talents are on display daily as he strives to maintain the viability of an organization, AATI, that has been vulnerable to the many changes that have negatively impacted the teaching of languages other than English at schools, colleges, and universities in our country over recent years. Calabretta-Sadger has been willing to put AATI above all else in his life, always sending messages, chairing committees, forming committees, and serving to fill in wherever and whenever he is needed, in addition to his official roles as Director of Communication...” “Indeed, without his work as Director of Communications, the AATI would be missing a critical link to the membership and the community.” “Ryan Calabretta-Sajder is the heart and soul of AATI.”

*By Colleen Ryan*

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### *2021 Distinguished Award Recipients*



**Dr. Teresa Picarazzi**, winner of the Distinguished Service Award in the K-12 category, is a full-time, accredited teacher of Italian at Hopkins School in New Haven, CT., where she has taught since 2005. She is a current and over 25-year member of the AATI and served as Associate Editor of the AATI Newsletter from 2015-2018. Dr. Picarazzi received the Ph.D. in Italian from Rutgers University with a dissertation on the works of Natalia Ginzburg.

Dr. Picarazzi has for over twenty-five years been an active member of the Italian Studies community and promoter of Italian language and culture. Her dedication to teaching Italian is evident in both her considerable contributions to Italian language teaching and assessment and the success of her students. She has contributed extensively to the elaboration of the Advanced Placement Italian Language and Culture Exam, serving on the College Board’s AP Italian Language and Culture Development Committee (2008-2013), as independent contractor for writing and revising sections of the exam (2013-2015), and as Item Writer on the National Italian Exam Development Committee (2018 and 2019). She has been a Reader for the AP Italian Culture and Language Exam since 2018 and is currently also Item Writer on the SAT Italian Subject Test Development Committee.

Colleagues who worked directly with her in these capacities have noted her vital contributions arising from her formation as specialist of both Italian literature and pedagogy, and her broad experience as educator; they also emphasize her “sound judgment and discretion,” “enthusiasm,” and “selfless willingness to help,” concluding that “her influence positively affected the establishment of a standardized curriculum and the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam in the United States and abroad.”

As instructor of Italian, Dr. Picarazzi has been praised for her “integrity, professionalism, and creative curriculum.” In her current position at Hopkins School, she has developed, as one colleague expressed it, “an exceptionally strong Italian Program” founded on traditional and experiential learning. Here, she increased the Italian language offerings for her students to include AP-level courses; successfully applied for grants from the IACE to help expand the school’s Italian curriculum; mentored students who then successfully applied for grants to study in Italy; and served as Language and Program Leader of the CIEE High School Study Abroad Program in Ferrara, Italy (2015-2017). Equally rewarding is the Sister City Program she established with both the Liceo Scientifico Da Procida in Salerno and the Liceo Marini-Gioia in Amalfi. As it “opens virtual doors for the students of each city and high school,” this project, as a colleague noted, “provides students with an indelible experience that is by no means a common practice.” Dr. Picarazzi’s commitment to teaching excellence and mentoring is also made evident by the success of her students, deemed by a colleague to be “all superbly prepared”: they regularly win medals at the annual Connecticut Council of Language Teachers Poetry Contest and many have continued studying Italian in college.

Dr. Picarazzi has also drawn on her wide-ranging expertise to contribute to the scholarly conversation on teaching Italian language and culture. She has presented, at both national and international conferences, lectures on language pedagogy, creating and teaching AP Italian courses, and developing workshops for language educators. In addition, for her valued reputation as educator, she was invited to co-author Wiley Publishing’s three volumes of *Italian for Dummies*, a series that extends Italian instruction beyond the traditional classroom setting to a broader and more highly diverse learning community. Dr. Picarazzi has also been an active scholar of Italian literature, publishing the monograph *Maternal Desire: Natalia Ginzburg’s Mothers, Daughters, and Sisters*, and articles on migration and Afro-Italian identity, topics that today constitute an essential component of the Italian curriculum. An early researcher in migration studies, she also co-authored a curriculum module entitled, “Sfide Globali: Diritti umani e Migrazioni e frontiere” for the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam. Dr. Picarazzi’s creative approach to the Italian curriculum and diligent service to the profession is an inspiration as we seek innovative ways to advance the study of Italian in the US. In recognition of Dr. Picarazzi’s efforts, a colleague has expressed the global and far-reaching value of her work, “Thanks to her background, she is in the perfect position to understand the needs of Italian both at the college level and in a high school environment: connecting these two ‘worlds’ is, I believe, the only way to assure the survival and the possibility of growth for the teaching of Italian in the USA, and I believe Teresa is one of the few persons who could honestly contribute to make it become a reality.”

*By Virginia Picchiotti*

**Dr. Colleen Ryan**, winner of the AATI Distinguished Service Award in the College/University category, is Professor of Italian and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of French and Italian at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Dr. Ryan has for many years worked tirelessly for the betterment of the profession and the advancement of Italian Studies in the US and abroad. Some of her important work has been done as an active member of the AATI. Since 2006, she has held numerous positions within the organization: these include her current role as Chairperson of the AATI's Centers for Excellence Exploratory Committee; and her previous positions as Vice President of the AATI (2014-2017); Chairperson of the Distinguished Service Award Committee (2014-2017); Vice President for College/University Level (2015-2018); Elected Midwest Representative (2010-2013); Co-Organizer, with Dr. Paul Colilli, and Chairperson of the Graduate Student Professional



Development and Dissertations-in-Progress Sessions (2009-2012); and principal organizer of the National College Essay Contest (2006-2009). A colleague who has worked with Dr. Ryan in the AATI noted her impressive contributions and commitment to serving colleagues, students, and the profession, “Over the years I’ve witnessed that Colleen is a colleague who never withholds her talents, insight, and ideas. She is the first to offer assistance and guidance and to contribute so as to assure that others succeed. This is as true for her service in AATI as it is for her work at the university with faculty and students alike. I have never known her to work exclusively for her own benefit. She has always been guided by a sincere mission to help others and our profession. She is consistently a key player in keeping Italian Studies alive in North America.”

In addition to her active and longstanding service to the AATI, Dr. Ryan’s dedication to Italian Studies is also evident in the numerous other leadership and administrative positions she has assumed as university professor and scholar of Italian language and culture. At present, she is Elected Representative of the MLA’s Italian American Language, Literature, and Culture Forum; Secretary of the Italian American Studies Association and Chair of the association’s Memorial Fellowship Dissertation /Graduate Travel Awards. She contributes to the continued development of scholarly excellence and conversation by serving on the editorial board and peer-review committee of several academic journals in the fields of Italian, Italian-American, and Language Studies. Previously, she was President (2016-2018) and Vice President (2014-2016) of the American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators, where from 2009-2011 she also served as founding Section Head for Italian. She has been on several committees related to the Advanced Placement Italian Language and Culture Exam, for which she was invited to be on the initial task force in 2003 and has received subsequent invitations to create testing materials and determine standards for the exam. At Indiana University, she has held several important student-focused administrative positions, including Interim Director of Graduate Studies (2017-2018), Chairperson of the General Education Committee for World Cultures (2016-2020), and Director of Italian Language Instruction (2007-2014). In addition, she served as Director of Language Programs at both Indiana University and in her former position

of Associate Professor at Notre Dame University, where from 2004-2007 she also served as the William M. Scholl Chair in Romance Languages.

Dr. Ryan is a respected scholar of 20th- and 21st-century Italian literature and cinema and has made vital contributions to the field of language pedagogy. In the field of teaching methodology, she co-edited two highly useful and inspiring volumes on the pedagogical value of theater in the language classroom and a volume on the foreign language curriculum that serves as guide to marrying the formal study of artistic genre with the study of languages, and co-authored the Italian textbook, *Caleidoscopio*. In the field of Italian cinema and literature, she published a monograph on women in the cinema of Pier Paolo Pasolini, establishing herself as an expert in the field of Pasolinian studies, and articles and book chapters in the fields of Italian Women's and Ethnicity Studies. As professor of Italian, Dr. Ryan has distinguished herself in the classroom and as a mentor. She has developed courses that implement the latest national standards in language learning and has mentored graduate students in pedagogy as they prepare to become teachers of Italian. She has also served as mentor for student scholarship, directing graduate and undergraduate theses. A colleague noted that through Dr. Ryan's vision and curricular design, "Indiana University's Program in Italian has become a true model for basic language instruction as well as professional development and mentoring of graduate teaching assistants."

As proof of the recognition of her vital contributions to language instruction and curricular design, Dr. Ryan has been invited to present keynote addresses, lectures, and workshops at numerous colleges and universities, high schools, and cultural institutes in the United States and abroad, and at professional associations, including the AATI. Reflecting on these recognitions, a colleague concluded that they are "an eloquent statement of the impact she has made nationally in this area." Of note as well, is that during the covid-19 pandemic of 2020, when teachers had to quickly reconfigure their courses for a platform that for many of them was new, Dr. Ryan gave of her time and expertise in curricular innovation to organize a scholarly, effective, and helpful online webinar on teaching remotely.

For her many accomplishments and meaningful service to colleagues and students alike, Dr. Colleen Ryan is an inspiration for current and future Italianists and instructors of language. Referring to Dr. Ryan's important contributions to the field, a colleague notes that because of her "leadership experience at the local, national, and international levels, she has become an ethical and professional model for her colleagues and an ideal mentor for junior scholars and graduate students." In sum, another concludes, she is a "national treasure" who "brings passion, experience, knowledge, expertise in many areas, and is a grand human presence" in our profession.

*By Virginia Picchiotti*

## 2022 Distinguished Service Award Recipients



**Dr. Francesca Savoia** is the 2022 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the College/University category. Dr. Savoia is Professor Emerita of Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. A member of the AATI for over thirty years, she currently serves on the association's Book Award Committee (2021-). She has also served on the AATI Constitution and By-Laws Committee (2013-2014), the AATI Executive Committee (2011-2014), and as Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative (2011-2014).

Francesca Savoia is an internationally renowned scholar of 17<sup>th</sup>-, 18<sup>th</sup>-, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Italian literature and cultural history and a leading expert on the 18<sup>th</sup>-century literary critic, poet, playwright, and lexicographer Giuseppe Baretti. Her scholarly production demonstrates the breadth and depth of her contribution to Italian Studies. She is the author of a monograph on Baretti's writings and life during his residence in England, entitled *Fra letterati e galantuomini: notizie e inediti del primo Baretti inglese* and winner of the American Association for Italian Studies 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Book Award in 2011. Other scholarly works include three annotated editions of Baretti's writings and letters; the first modern critical edition of Silvio Fiorillo's 1624 theatrical adaptation of the final cantos of Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, entitled "La cortesia di Leone e Ruggiero con la morte di Rodomonte"; a critical edition of seven 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century operatic meta-melodramas; and an edited collection of essays on the epistolary writings of 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century artists. Dr. Savoia has authored numerous other scholarly essays and book chapters on Italian literature, opera, and pedagogy; encyclopedia and dictionary entries on Italian literature; a translation of Marco Coltellini's libretto for *Priamo e Tisbe*; and book reviews. For her work in Baretti Studies, she was inducted into the *Italian National Committee for the Celebrations of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Giuseppe Baretti's Birth*, established by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities. In addition, for over thirty years, Dr. Savoia has presented on Italian literature, cultural history, and pedagogy at international conferences, including the AATI, and has been invited to lecture at institutions of higher learning and research institutes in the United States and abroad. Finally, Dr. Savoia has herself published an original collection of poetry and a short story.

Of her many scholarly achievements, a colleague notes, "*Francesca's deep and broad connections to the Italian academic world through various projects and publications have made her a valued interlocutor in both American and Italian academic environments. [...] Taken as a whole, [...] this body of work gives ample evidence of her importance in the field as a Settecentista (and not only), but also show her incredible versatility as a scholar and thinker.*"

As professor of Italian, Dr. Savoia has had a long and distinguished career at the University of Pittsburgh, where she held leading positions in the Department of French and Italian and during which she mentored students and colleagues alike. Here, she contributed to the development of a rigorous Italian program and created and directed the department's summer study abroad in Genova. She mentored undergraduate students both through these programs and as founding moderator of the university's Gamma Kappa Alpha chapter and moderator of the Italian Club. As director of the university's M.A. in Italian from 1986 to 2010, she mentored countless graduate students who went on to build successful careers in Italian: some became K-12 teachers, including in four local area schools where, as a result, Italian continues to thrive; and many others gained admission to Ph.D. programs across the US. During her tenure at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Savoia also directed fifteen Master's theses and served on twelve dissertation committees in different fields. Of her mentorship, a colleague emphasized her "generosity and support [...] and wisdom," while also recognizing her enthusiasm for "collaborating with colleagues at all stages."

Dr. Savoia's service to the profession has proven equally vital. She has been on the editorial boards of American and Italian journals, organized the AAIS Annual Conference held at the University of Pittsburgh in 2011, and organized sessions, roundtables, and seminars at numerous national and international conferences. Through her service to the AATI, she has been a strong promoter of Italian at the community level, prompting a colleague to conclude, "In her role as Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative, she was particularly dedicated to promoting Italian language and culture and establishing a bridge with high schools, advocating for the inclusion and maintenance of quality Italian programs, encouraging networking among the constituents of her region, and helping teachers meet professional development requirements." In sum, the colleague's recognition of "her talents as a scholar, her skills and nurturing qualities as an educator, and her generosity as a human being," also conveys the esteem the Italian Studies community has for Dr. Savoia's work in scholarship, teaching, and service to the profession.

*By Virginia Picchiotti*

**Professor Ida Giampietro Wilder** is the 2022 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the K-12 category. Prof. Giampietro Wilder, a full-time, fully accredited teacher of Italian with an M.A. in Education, has taught Italian at Athena High School, Greece Central School District in Greece, NY, since 1978, and is currently also an adjunct professor of Italian at SUNY Brockport, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Nazareth College of Rochester. She is a long-time member of the AATI and has served on the association's Executive Board and Distinguished Service Award Committee, and as a New York State Regional Representative. She has also served as President and Vice President of the Italian Teachers Association of Central New York.



For the past four decades, Ida Giampietro Wilder has dedicated her career to the promotion of Italian language and culture, both inside and outside the classroom. Her commitment to mentoring students and teachers alike and tireless advocacy for the development of a rigorous Italian curriculum are evident in the service she has contributed to the field of language education. She has served on numerous committees and boards devoted to teaching Italian, and for many years presented at workshops to mentor teachers of Italian. Of particular note is her participation in the development of the standardized Italian exam: she served on committees for the development of both the New York State Regents Exam and AP Italian. She was co-Chair of the ACTFLT National Standards Task Force for Italian (1997-1999); a member of the task force for the creation of the AP Italian Course and Exam (2003-2006); a member of the AP Development Committee (2006-2009); reader, table leader, and question leader for AP Italian (2006-2016); reader for the exam (2022); and, since 2006, a College Board consultant. In addition, as a form of mentorship and guidance, she has shared her expertise with other language teachers through her presentations on teaching and AP strategies at ACTFL conferences; taught methods classes in workshops organized in New York State and Florida; and served as instructor at the Italian AP Summer Institute, including at Manhattan College (2005 to the present), Fordham University (2006-2018), Montgomery College (2016), SUNY Purchase (2007), and Rutgers University (2017). She has also participated in community outreach programs to encourage high school students from the Greater Rochester area to continue pursuing their education in Italian. To this end, she co-created, co-organized, and co-chaired the outreach workshop on Italian culture, *Italianissimo*, held at Nazareth College, supported by the NIAF, and with an average yearly participation of 300 high school students. For her "outstanding achievement in teaching," contribution to curriculum development, and promotion of Italian, Professor Giampietro Wilder was awarded the NYSAFLT President's Award (2016); the Woman of

the Year in Education Award from the Italian American Community Center (2002); and the NYSAFLT Ruth E. Wasley Distinguished Teacher Award, K-12 division (1994).

As a teacher of Italian, Professor Giampietro Wilder is recognized as an inspirational mentor. In this regard, a colleague notes, “Ida is an exceptional educator whose contributions in the field enrich and inspire many young people and educators.” Not only has she taught Italian language courses for over forty years, but she has also led over forty student trips to Italy; organized student exchanges with high schools in Bologna, Brescia, Pescara, and Torino; and co-authored the student workbook *Seguimi*. Just as significant, Professor Giampietro Wilder has endeavored to create an inclusive learning environment reflective of the socially progressive classroom, for which a colleague praised “her deep understanding of teaching with respect to diversity and including all students, helping to build for them a more equitable scenario.” Recognized as a role model in language education and community engagement, another colleague concluded, “She is an outstanding educator, a leader in her field, and someone who has helped lay the foundation for World Languages in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

*By Virginia Picchiotti*

***The AATI would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of Dr. Enza Antenos (Montclair State University) and Dr. Michael Lettieri (University of Toronto Mississauga). We are so grateful for your years of service and commitment to the American Association of Teachers of Italian.***



*Dr. Antenos, Secretary/Treasurer 2014-2021*



*Dr. Lettieri, Editor of Italica 2014-2021*

# *AATI Affiliated Sessions at ACTFL 2022*

## **Thursday, November 17, 2022**

*AATI Annual Executive Council Meeting*

*6:00 pm via Zoom*

*AATI-EC Dinner to follow*

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## **Friday, November 18, 2022**

**11:30 AM – 12:15 PM:** (Room 153C) ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY FOODWAYS

- Lead Presenter: *Ryan Calabretta-Sajder*, University of Arkansas
- Co-Presenter(s): *Claudia Devich*, University of Arkansas, *David Fredrick*, University of Arkansas

**1:30 – 2:15 PM:** (Room 153C) INCLUSIVE ITALIAN GUIDELINES

- *Carmela Merolla*, Tufts University

**2:30 – 3:15 PM:** (Room 153C) ENGAGING STUDENTS IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CHANGE IN ITALY

- *Morena Svaldi*, Mount Holyoke College

**3:30 – 4:15 PM:** (Exhibitor Workshop Room 5, Exhibit Hall A & B1) E20 TEACHING WITH JUNTOS: ITALIAN FOR SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH AND SPANISH!

- *Brian Rak*, Hackett Publishing
- *Clorinda Donato*, California State University, Long Beach
- *Cedric Joseph Oliva*, Bryant University

**3:30 – 4:15 PM:** (Room 153C) TEACHING BLACK ITALY IN THE U.S. SECONDARY (SUB)URBAN CONTEXT

- Session Presenter: *Valentina Cella*, Winchester High School
- Co-Presenter(s): *Marialuisa Di Stefano*, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, *Professor Cara Takakjian*, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

**4:30 – 5:15 PM:** (Room 153C) CINEMATIC PRODUCTIONS APPLIED IN THE THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

- *Anna Iacovella*, Yale University

**5:30 – 6:15 PM:** (Room 153C) HOW CAN TESTS OF ITALIAN IN EUROPE BE USEFUL FOR TEACHING IN THE US?

- *Patrizia Calanchini Monti*, Consulate General of Italy - Philadelphia

**6:45 PM - 9 PM**  
**Room 258B**  
**AATI General Membership Annual Meeting**  
*Annual Reception & Awards Ceremony Immediately Following*

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**Saturday, November 19, 2022**

**11:15 – 11:37 AM:** (Room 153C) “NON SONO UN IMMIGRATO” THE CITIZEN DEBATE IN THE ITALIAN CLASSROOM

- *Sara Mattavelli*, Chapman University

**11:38 AM –12:00 PM:** (Room 153C) FIGHT SOCIAL BIAS IN ITALIAN CLASS: REFLECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- *Sara Galli*, University of Toronto
- *Mohammad Jamali*, University of Toronto

**1:30 – 2:15 PM:** (Exhibitor Workshop Room #1, Exhibit Hall A & B1) E41 "OUR STORY" IS YOUR STORY WITH VOCES DIGITAL!

- *Erin Almeranti*, Voces Digital
- *Bryan Kandel*, Voces Digital
- *Erica Peplinski-Burge*, Ann Arbor Public Schools

**1:30 – 1:52 PM:** (Room 153C) ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS AND SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ITALIAN CLASSROOM

- *Luigia Maiellaro*, Northeastern University

**1:53 – 2:15 PM:** (Room 153C) SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ITALIAN CLASSROOM: ITALIANO IN VERDE

- *Chiara Trebaiocchi*, Harvard University

**2:30 – 3:15 PM:** (Room 153C) È STATA LA MANO DI DIO” NEAPOLITAN CULTURE, ART, AND MYTH IN CLASSES OF ITALIAN AS FL/SL

- *Francesca Memoli*, Accademia Italiana Salerno

**3:30 – 4:15 PM:** (Exhibitor Workshop Room #4, Exhibit Hall A & B1) E54 INTRODUCING DAVVERO, A GROUNDBREAKING NEW ITALIAN PROGRAM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

- *Elena Caselli*, Klett World Languages

**4:30 – 5:15 PM:** (153C) BRIDGING CULTURES ACROSS BORDERS: A VIRTUAL EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

- *Silvia Giorgini-Althoen*, Wayne State University

**5:30 – 6:15 PM:** (153C) DANTE AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY IN THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

- *Daniela D'Eugenio*, University of Arkansas
- 

## **Sunday, November 20, 2022**

**8:00 – 8:22 AM:** (Room 153C) LEVEL UP YOUR TECHNOLOGY USE: FOCUS ON STUDENT CENTERED LEARNING AND PROFICIENCY

- *Karen Murano*, City of Stamford, Stamford Public Schools

**8:23 – 8:45 AM:** (Room 153C) ITALIAN THROUGH TPS STORYTELLING WITH THE AID OF ART AND LITERATURE

- *Rossella Pescatori*, El Camino College

**10:00 – 10:45 AM:** (Room 153C) VENICE IS A FISH: CELEBRATION OF THE SOLE STRETCHED OUT AGAINST THE DEEP

- *Daniela Cunico Dal Pra*, University of North Carolina Charlotte

## Virtual Sessions

These sessions are available on the virtual platform.

A link will be sent from ACTFL, and all attendees will be emailed login information.

Virtual Session	<b>Take Action! Effective Practises to Advocate for our Language Programs</b>	<i>Luisa Canuto</i> , University of British Columbia Co-Presenter(s) <i>Carmela Scala</i> , Rutgers University <i>Tiziana Serafini</i> , University of Notre Dame <i>Angela Zagarella</i> , Portland State University
Virtual Session	<b>Immagini di un'Italia che cambia – Bringing Diversity To The Italian Classroom</b>	<i>Maria Borsa</i> , Bellaire High School, HISD
Virtual Session	<b>Italian in Wonderland. An Open Education Digital Platform for Italian 102</b>	Session Presenter <i>Maria Letizia Bellocchio</i> , University of Arizona Co-Presenter(s) <i>Giuseppe Cavatorta</i> , University of Arizona <i>Federico Fabbri</i> , University of Arizona <i>Borbala Gaspar</i> , The University of Arizona
Virtual Session	<b>Centering Learners' Identities in the Italian Language Classroom</b>	<i>Raffaella Fusco</i> , Rutgers University

**Don't Forget to Check Out the Exhibitor Hall!**

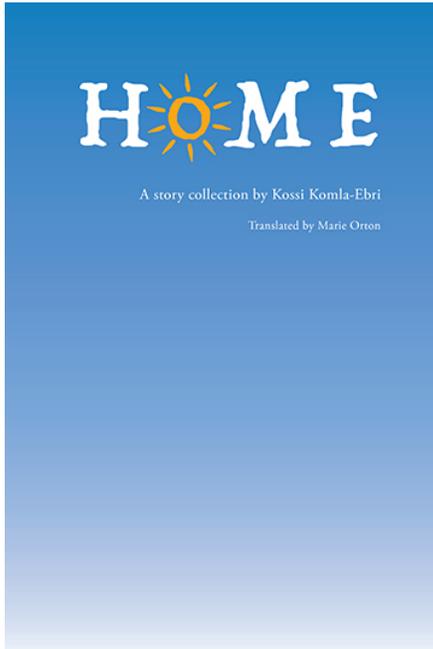
**Visit the AATI Booth: #1022**

**And those of our Italian Colleagues:**

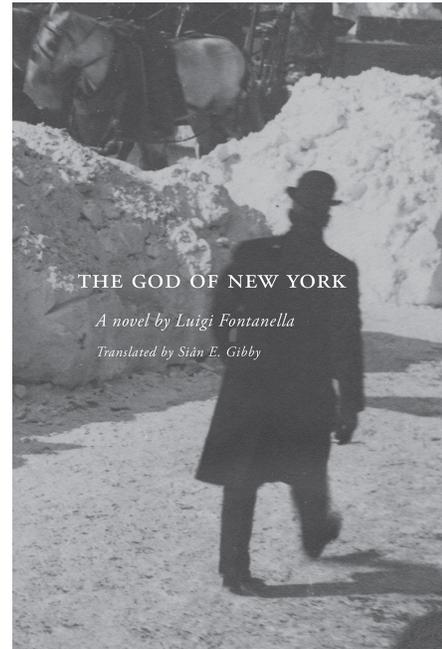
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- ❖ American Association of Teachers of Italian #1022
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- ❖ Accademia Italiana Salerno #1024
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- ❖ Alma Edizione #1121
- ❖ Consulate General of Italy, Boston #1122

## NOTES

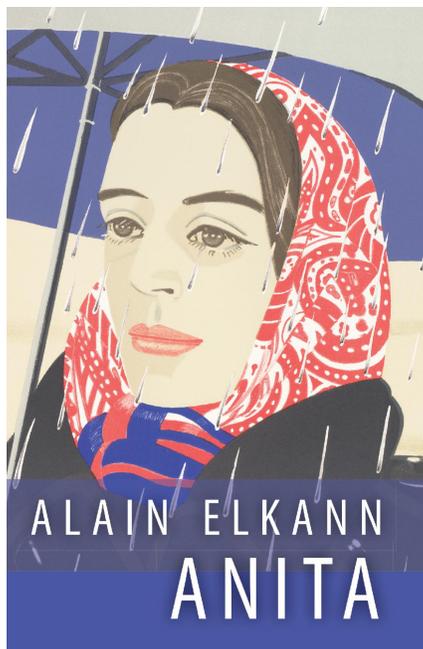
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