

Innovation in Language Education: Linking High School, University and Pre-Professional Experiences through Italian

Thursday, November 15, 2018 – 4-6pm
Lecture Hall 101 – Feliciano School of Business

- Introductory Remarks (and moderator): **Teresa Fiore** (Inserra Chair, Italian Program, MSU)
- Greetings: **Robert Friedman** (Dean, CHSS)
- Introductory Speech: **Paula Krebs** (Executive Director, MLA, Modern Language Association)
- Roundtable:
 - **Patricia Grunther** (Italian teacher at Watchung Hills Regional High School and MSU summer course coordinator)
 - **Guido Morsella** (Italian teacher at Elizabeth High School, NJ)
 - **Cristina Latino** (MSU student - 2017 summer course before her first year on campus - Major: Italian and Minor: Business)
 - **Carolina Herrera** (student at Elizabeth High School, NJ - 2018 summer course)
 - **Berardo Paradiso** (President, IACE - The Italian American Committee on Education, NY)
 - **Frank Sedita** (Supervisor of World Languages & ESL, K-12, Montclair Public Schools)
 - **Robert DiBiase** (Chair, NJIHC - New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission)
 - **James Hart** (Interim Dean of Liberal Arts, County College of Morris, NJ)
 - **Ferdinando Gueli** (Head of Information, Investment and Start Up, Italian Trade Agency, New York)
 - **Eric Perkins** (International Trade Committee, Choose New Jersey, Princeton)
 - **Talia Antonacci** (MSU student intern at Italian Trade Agency 2018 – Major: Italian and Minor: Business)
 - **Oscar Guevara-Perez** (MSU student intern for opera translation in Macerata, 2018/Double major: Italian and Spanish)
- Q&A will follow

Presented by the Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies in collaboration with the Italian Program (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures) at Montclair State University

BIOS

Paula Krebs is the Executive director of the Modern Language Association since 2017, where she administers the programs, governance, and business affairs of the association and is general editor of the association's publishing and research programs, as well as editor of two association publications. Krebs previously served as the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bridgewater State University, where she worked closely with the college's faculty members on strategic planning and increased connections between the campus and the community. She organized a regional consortium of employers, public humanities representatives, and higher education leaders to develop strategies for defining and measuring the postgraduation success of humanities majors. She has also been a regular contributor to higher education publications, including the Chronicle of Higher Education's blog Vitae. A former professor of English at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, Krebs earned a PhD in English from Indiana University, with a specialization in Victorian literature and culture.

Patricia Grunther is an Italian teacher at Watchung Hills Regional High School, where she has offered the AP in Italian course. She is the coordinator of the summer intensive pre-PA course at Montclair State University, developed in collaboration with Dr. Fiore and Dr. Trubiano. She serves as Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative for the Association of American Teachers of Italian. An interview with her about the relevance of the pre-AP summer course for HS programs of Italian was published on Oct. 10, 2018 in the NJ Education Association online news.

Guido Morsella is an Italian teacher at Elizabeth High School, NJ, where he also offers the AP in Italian course. He holds a BA in Italian (St. Peter's University), and a MA in Curriculum and Instruction (Walden University). He has taken courses at LUISS in Rome and is completing administration courses with NJPSA (New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association). He is advisor of the Società Onoraria Italiana and a Board Member of ITANJ (Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey).

Berardo Paradiso is the President of IACE, The Italian American Committee on Education, NY, a New York based non-profit organization founded in 1975 for the purpose of promoting the study of the Italian language and culture within the Tri-State area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut). The IACE program is made possible primarily through an Italian Government grant and operates under the supervision of the Consulate General of Italy in New York. IACE is an official supporter of the summer intensive pre-AP course at Montclair State University. Paradiso received his degree in mechanical engineering from the Polytechnic of Naples, Italy.

Frank Sedita is the Supervisor of World Languages & ESL, K-12 at Montclair Public Schools. Prior to this position, he taught Italian for over 6 years in the Morris School District, NJ. He holds a BA in Sociology and Italian as well as a MAT from Drew University, where he is pursuing a Ph. D. in Doctor of Arts & Letters, Literary & Global Studies. He defines himself as “a world language educator and lifelong learner dedicated to promoting global citizenship through active dialogue, facilitation, and collaboration.”

Robert DiBiase is the Chair of NJIHC, New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission, which was created in 2002 by legislative mandate to raise awareness of the historical and current contributions of New Jersey's Italian Americans. NJIHC promotes Italian culture by developing educational resources, organizing presentations, and assisting in the planning and coordination of activities of the many Italian American organizations in New Jersey. As he states on the NJIHC site: “Our primary strategy is to promote and strengthen New Jersey's K-16 Italian Studies programs. NJIHC works to increase enrollment by communicating the value of an Italian Studies education to students, parents, school administrators, and elected officials.”

James Hart is Interim Dean of Liberal Arts and Assistant professor of ESL, Spanish and Intercultural Communication at the County College of Morris, NJ. Prior to this position, he was chair of the Languages and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL) at his College. He received a M.A in Applied Linguistics from Montclair State University and a B.A. from the School of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C., specializing in Spanish and Latin American studies.

Ferdinando Gueli is the Head of Information, Investment and Start Up, Italian Trade Agency, New York, a governmental agency that supports the business development of Italian companies abroad and promotes the attraction of foreign investment in Italy. Gueli has worked for ITA in different capacities both at the headquarters in Rome, Italy and in Shanghai. Since 2017, ITA and the Inserra Chair have partnered up to offer a paid internship in Italian Business for a student in the Italian Program at MSU, made possible by the support of the Inserra Endowment. Gueli received his BA in Political Science and Government & International Relations from the University of Palermo, Italy. He has full or working knowledge of six languages.

Eric Perkins serves on the International Trade Committee at Choose New Jersey, Princeton, an organization with a mission to encourage and nurture economic growth throughout New Jersey, and to collaborate with the State's universities to encourage research, discovery, and innovation. Since 2017 CNJ and the Inserra Chair have partnered up to offer a paid internship in Italian Business for a student in the Italian Program at MSU, made possible by the support of the Inserra Endowment. Perkins is an attorney at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, with extensive experience in international commercial transactions, including the establishment of subsidiaries of foreign companies in the U.S. and especially in NJ. Mr. Perkins is fluent in both Italian and French and proficient in Spanish.

Teresa Fiore is the Inserra Endowed Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at Montclair State University. She is the author of *Pre-Occupied Spaces: Remapping Italy's Transnational Migrations and Colonial Legacies* (Fordham UP, 2017 AAIS Book Award winner) and numerous articles on migration to/from Italy in Italian, English and Spanish. She has published an article in TILCA's current issue entitled “Italian Language and Culture ‘at Work’: New Projects in Business, Audio-Visual Translation and High-School Outreach at Montclair State University Italian Language and Culture.” On campus she coordinates a regular program of cultural events and educational initiatives that place emphasis on bridging pre- and post-university experiences while fostering interdisciplinarity.