Teaching Italian Symposium-Workshop: CineLezione—Current Approaches to Film in the Classroom

Over 100 teachers of Italian language and culture, at all levels, recently participated in the sixth annual professional development program organized by the Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America and the Department of Spanish and Italian at Montclair State University and co-sponsored by the Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies. Entitled “Teaching Italian Symposium-Workshops: CineLezione—Current Approaches to Film in the Classroom,” this daylong event featured an engaging keynote address by Prof. Piero Garofalo (University of New Hampshire); a lively roundtable moderated by Prof. Enza Antenos-Conforti (Montclair State University); and two-hour intensive workshops developed and presented by Prof. Garofalo; Prof. Tania Convertini (Dartmouth College); Prof. Elisa Dossena Marcon (Princeton University); and Prof. Teresa Lobalsamo (University of Toronto at Mississauga). A special feature of this signature program was the presentation of the national Coccia-Inserra Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian (K-12) to Ida Nolemi-Lanza of San Pedro High School, San Pedro, California.

Keynote speaker, Prof. Piero Garofalo, addresses over one hundred teachers of Italian, in Montclair State University’s beautiful Conference Center.

Cav. Mary Ann Re, PhD, Director of the Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America at Montclair State University, welcomes participants to “Teaching Italian Symposium-Workshops: CineLezione—Current Approaches to Film in the Classroom.”

Distinguished guest presenters at Teaching Italian: CineLezione—Prof. Elisa Dossena Marcon (Princeton University); Prof. Piero Garofalo (University of New Hampshire); Prof. Tania Convertini (Dartmouth College); and Prof. Teresa Lobalsamo (University of Toronto at Mississauga).

Prof. Enza Antenos-Conforti welcomes Prof. Roberta Waldbaum, Anna Maglione-Sie Endowed Professor of Italian Culture Department of Languages and Literatures at the University of Denver, who flew in to join us for “CineLezione.”
Teaching Italian Symposium-Workshops co-organizer, Prof. Enza Antenos-Conforti (far right), proudly pictured with MSU graduates currently pursuing careers as teachers of Italian.

Lawrence (Larry) Inserra, Jr. presents the Coccia-Inserra Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian (K-12) to Ida Nolemi-Lanza, San Pedro High School, San Pedro, California. This prestigious recognition was accompanied by a $3000 monetary prize generously donated by Coccia Foundation and Lawrence Inserra, Jr., to be used exclusively for curriculum enrichment initiatives with Ida’s fortunate students of Italian language and culture. Left to right: Joseph Agresti (Coccia Institute Advisory Board and Past National President UNICO); Uff. Joseph Sciasone (Chair/President Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations); Prof. Anthony Tamburri (Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute and Chair of Coccia-Inserra Award panel of judges); Lawrence Inserra, Jr.; Ida Nolemi-Lanza; Lawrence Inserra III; Prof. Carlo Davoli (Director of Education, Consulate General of Italy in New York); and Prof. Roberto Dolci (Università per Stranieri di Perugia). Prof. Davoli and Dolci also served on the judges panel, as did Prof. Andrea Baldi (Italian Graduate Director, Rutgers University) and Prof. Clorinda Donato (George Grazialia Chair in Italian Studies, California State University at Long Beach).

Members of Montclair States’ Amici Club, energetic and enthusiastic volunteers for the day! (Members of the NJ-NY district of Coccia Foundation’s network of college and university Italian clubs across the country—AMICI della Cultura Italiana).

2013 recipient of the national Coccia-Inserra Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian (K-12) [with plaque], Ida Nolemi-Lanza (San Pedro High School, San Pedro, California), flanked left to right by 2010 recipient Rina Miraglia (Ho-Ho-Kus Public School); 2012 recipient Maria Abate DeBlasio (Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School); and 2011 recipient Rosalie Romano (St. Peter’s Preparatory School).

Participating teachers browsing and reviewing the various books and