

AATI at ACTFL

Bridging Cultures through Languages

*Marriott Rover Center and
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center*

San Antonio, Texas

November 15-18, 2007

Program

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Paolo A. Giordano
Anthony Julian Tamburri

Sponsors

TBA

Program

Friday, November 16

Session 1, 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Theories of Development and Enhancement in Italian Programs

31069

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Rosa Bellino-Giordano, College Board

Marinella Garatti, SUNY New Paltz

“Input Enhancement in the CALL-Based Italian Classroom”

The presentation reports on a study on the impact of input enhancement through the use of color and image to increase the salience of linguistic elements in the teaching of Italian articles in beginning-level college classes, discusses implications for CALL-based teaching and research, and provides additional examples of input enhancement.

John Means, Means Language Center

“Input-heavy task-based instruction: from theory to practice”

This presentation will walk attendees through a sample task cycle and review relevant SLA theory. For teachers interested in applying this methodology, the task cycle will demonstrate how to implement the pre-task, during-task and post-task phases. Empirical findings will be shared that support the model's claims of effectiveness.

Enza Antenos-Conforti, Montclair State University

“Italian Teachers and FL Education Programs: The Case of NJ”

A recent call for action from foreign language (FL) teachers (Italian, however, was not represented) noted key areas for FL teacher development programs, ranging from more opportunities to experience language learning *in loco* to emphasis on developing FL proficiency. Findings of a microcosmic survey of Italian teachers will be discussed.

Beginnings, Endings, and In-between-ness: Literary “Signs” of Various “Means”

31075

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Victoria Surliuga, Texas Tech University

Alessandro Carrera, University of Houston

“Italo Calvino’s Sixth American Lecture”

Italo Calvino left his sixth Norton lecture (“Consistency”) unfinished. It is known, however, that he wanted to address Melville’s “Bartleby” and that he wanted to draw material from another unfinished lecture on “Cominciare e finire” (“On Beginning and Ending”). This paper discusses

Calvino's unrealized Melville essay in the light of Gianni Celati's and Giorgio Agamben's critical reflections on "Bartleby".

Luigi Ferri, University of Central Florida – Orlando
"Metaphorical Function of the Train in C. E. Gadda's Works"

While trains, train stations, and locomotives are frequently emblems of modernity in 20th-century Italian literature, in C. E. Gadda's work they become an element of his metaphorical representation of Fascism. Focusing on *That Awful Mess on Merulana Street*, this paper analyzes the author's use of this symbol.

Viktor Berberi, University of Minnesota, Morris
"Poetry's Presence in the Italian Works of Gezim Hajdari"

The Albanian poet Gezim Hajdari, residing in Italy since 1992, positions his growing body of poetry in Italian as a challenge to comfortable categories of citizenship, belonging, and national literature. Addressing the problem of presence (both linguistic and existential), he recovers a sense of the political force of poetry.

Session 2, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

The Teaching and Development of Oral Skills in Italian

31070

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Paolo A. Giordano, University of Central Florida

Angela Costantini, Italian Consulate & University of Pennsylvania
"Describing Oral Skills in Teaching Italian Language"

The usage of descriptors to define learners oral performances (and levels) in Italian as a foreign language can help teachers in finding out what students are expected to be able to do with this language. Descriptors could also be used for professional purposes as a tool to plan a course (considering both needs and competences of learners) and to build up a grid for observation and assessment.

Lauretta De Renzo-Huter, University of Oregon
"Easing Students into Speaking Italian: a Model-Based Approach"

Developing oral competency is essential for students at the elementary level. The use of a series of samples of oral interactions, i.e. recorded dialogues and video segments, as models upon which the students create their own interactions, provides a source of ideas and vocabulary, decreases anxiety, and promotes better fluency.

Cell Lucas, Gallaudet University
"*Italia Contemporanea-Conversations with Native Speakers*"

Teachers of Italian at all levels will learn how to use the *Italia Contemporanea-Conversations with Native Speakers* instructional materials, an 85-minute DVD in 20 chapters of unscripted and unrehearsed interviews with 25 native speakers and an accompanying workbook with verbatim transcripts, cultural and vocabulary notes, and questions.

Language through “Literature”

31074

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Alessandro Carrera, University of Houston

Nadia Ceccacci, University of Oregon

“Developing Literary Competency at the Intermediate Level”

The cultural richness of a literary text can become accessible to students at the intermediate level through a framework of well-structured activities. By making the text interactive, such activities help the students develop a progressively more refined understanding of literary texts and promote an early appreciation for literature.

Victoria Surliuga, Texas Tech University

“Teaching Contemporary Poetry in the Context of Italian as L2”

Contemporary Italian Poetry can be successfully taught in the context of Advanced Italian in activities aimed at reading comprehension, writing and conversation: (1) textual hermeneutics; (2) writing poems using a given vocabulary; (3) final discussion in the spirit of a writing workshop; (4) videos of the poets and audio recordings.

Session 3, 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Meet the Authors

31072

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Anthony Julian Tamburri, Calandra Ital/Amer. Institute, Queens College/CUNY

Carolina Ciampaglia, Gruppo Italiaidea

“*Italian Espresso* - La lingua italiana tra nuovi approcci comunicativi ed esigenze del syllabus”

Italian Espresso, di cui presentiamo il secondo volume, è un libro di testo che si rivolge ai molti insegnanti di lingua italiana che, all'interno delle istituzioni scolastiche e accademiche dei paesi anglofoni, si destreggiano tra una pratica didattica tesa a sviluppare effettive competenze comunicative e le esigenze dei syllabus per quel che riguarda l'apprendimento della grammatica e la coscienza della realtà culturale italiana.

Francesca Italiano University of Southern California, and Irene Marchegiani, SUNY Stony Brook

“*Percorsi*: A Beginning College Italian Program”

The two co-authors will present and describe the textbook *Percorsi*, a complete beginning college Italian program, which offers innovative pathways toward proficiency in Italian. This introductory language program promotes the acquisition of Italian language and culture through the integration of the “5Cs” principles of the National Standards for Foreign Language Education, and through thematic, task-based activities that stimulate communication in real-life situations.

Language through “Language”

31073

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Franco Iaderosa, Ente Gestore NOI

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“Italianese-A Cultural and Language Bridge”

Italianese - A language born of necessity to bridge the regional and cultural gap. A mixture of Italian, Dialects, and English expressions woven into a quilt of survival and communication with the new Italian-American generation born in the United States.

Pasquale Fantasia, Consulate of Italy-Detroit

“Words, Expressions and Gestures: Origins and Original Meanings”

A short presentation of words, idiomatic expressions and gestures commonly used today but whose origins reflect a rich historical and cultural past. We will explore such origins and the true meaning behind the most commonly used expressions and social gestures which, at one point or another, served to unite generations and also as a form of communication no different than what the “Italiase” language did for past generations.

Claudia Ventura, University of Oregon

“Developing Intercultural Competency through Interactive Web Activities”

To achieve intercultural competency students must have direct contact with authentic material and communities online. Well-designed web activities can provide that necessary access and interaction. Moreover, they can result in a deeper kind of cultural understanding that cannot be achieved in a traditional classroom.

Session 4, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

“Sarò di nuovo breve...”

174419

Organizer: AATI / Claudia Eugenia Donna, George Washington Univ.

Chair: Claudia Eugenia Donna, George Washington University

This session will be a follow-up to the 2006 presentation on the use of short Italian texts and their exploitation to highlight grammar or lexis items, to develop cultural or cross cultural awareness and to expand oral and written production.

Participants: Claudia Eugenia Donna, Laura Bresciani,
Alessandra Garolla

Bridging U.S. and European Assessment Principles

175033

Organizer: AATI / Carmela Pesca, Central Conn. State Univ.

Chair: Carmela Pesca, Central Conn. State Univ.

This session presents a comparative analysis of the assessment criteria defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and the ACTFL

guidelines for oral and written proficiency. It identifies their similarities and differences, while highlighting common objectives for practical class uses, curriculum articulation and international collaboration.

Participants: Carmela Pesca, Lilian Uribe

Session 5, 4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

Teaching Italian in the USA: The Role of the Italian Government

174568

Organizer: AATI / Luigi Giovanni De Sanctis, Embassy of Italy

Chair: Luigi Giovanni De Sanctis, Embassy of Italy

This panel is focused on the role of the Italian Government in the promotion of the Italian language and culture in the USA. The presenters will illustrate the latest successful initiatives, the state of AP Italian, the issue of the teachers' certification and various Memoranda of Understanding with local education authorities.

Participants: Luigi Giovanni De Sanctis, Francesca Valente,
Carlo Cipollone, Marco Salardi, Alfio Russo

Culture-based Language Learning for the Development of Oral and Written Competencies

175011

Organizer: AATI / Luciana Fellin, Duke Univ.

Chair: Luciana Fellin, Duke Univ.

Language use is inseparable from the creation and transmission of culture. Nonetheless, culture is still presented in many FL curricula as an "extra". Presenters discuss, through specific examples, how the development of students' cultural competence goes hand in hand with the development of their oral and written competencies

Participants: Luciana Fellin, Anna De Fina, Teresa Fiore

Saturday, November 17

Session 6, 8 AM - 9:15 AM

Online Proficiency Assessment in Italian Now Available

175288

Organizer: AATI

Chair: Greg Hopper-Moore, Center for Applied Second Language Studies

The Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon has developed a computer based proficiency assessment in Italian. This session will discuss the development process of the reading and speaking tests, including results of two pilot tests. Presenters will share sample items and question types.

Participants: Greg Hopper-Moore, Harinder Kaur Hennesy

***Establishing AP Italian Exam Validity Using College Professors'
Grading Standards***

174190

Organizer: AATI / David Baum, Educational Testing Service

Chair: David Baum, Educational Testing Service

Presenters will report on the research conducted in colleges and universities in order to set initial performance standards for the new AP Italian Language and Culture exam. Attendees will learn how AP Italian grades reflect college and university expectations and how college comparability studies are used to set AP grades.

Participants: David Baum, Frank Nuessel

Session 7, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

***Developing a Linguistic and Cultural Syllabus for Study Abroad
Programs***

174917

Organizer: AATI / Roberto Dolci, Università per Stranieri di Perugia

Chair: Roberto Dolci, Università per Stranieri di Perugia

This presentation describes a study abroad program where American students and teachers work in pair with Italian students and teachers acting as "cultural partners". Sharing activities and working in team they exchange ideas and they have a unique opportunity to learn from each other and to reflect upon their own and foreign culture.

Participants: Roberto Dolci, Barbara Spinelli

***European Language Portfolio and LinguaFolio: Tools Bridging
Continents***

175639

Organizer: AATI / Gisella Langé, Educational Testing Service

Chair: Gisella Langé, Educational Testing Service

The European Language Portfolio reflects the Council of Europe's concern with the "respect for diversity of cultures and ways of life" in its 46 member states and offers students the possibility to describe linguistic and cultural experiences gained in and outside formal educational contexts. Its American adaptation, LinguaFolio K-12, is tied to state Standards of Learning, to assessment of students' outcomes and to individual universities' needs, such as placement, curriculum development, internships, and electronic portfolios for employers.

Participants: Gisella Langé, Patricia Cummins

Session 8, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

***Language Placement Examination in Italian for Entering College
Students***

174692

Organizer: AATI / Leslie Zarker Morgan, Loyola College in Maryland

Chair: Leslie Zarker Morgan, Loyola College in Maryland

Italian language study is increasing rapidly in the US and there is currently no standardized generally available placement exam. Desiderata for such a test include standardization; availability in secure form at a distance over the internet; self-grading. This session describes the steps taken to producing such an exam: research, garnering institutional support, language content and programming, a demonstration of the current state of the finished product together with its differences from other existing tests, and results in placement so far.

Participants: Leslie Zarker Morgan, Giuliana Risso-Robberto, David S Flores

Point of View and Narrating Perspective in Elicited Native and Non-native Learners' Short Stories

174820

Organizer: AATI / Carla Marelo, Università di Torino

Chair: Carla Marelo, Università di Torino

Stories written by Italian students for VALICO corpus will be selected and USA University students of Italian will be asked to discuss their different narrating perspective (I-woman, I-man, I external voice, we-spectators), richness in adjectives and other parts of speech, skilful anaphoric chains (full NP reference to the objects of discourse), originality of the plot.

Participants: Carla Marelo, Anna De Fina, Susanna Williams Sciolla

Session 9, 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Reference Level Descriptions for Italian Language Syllabi

174852

Organizer: AATI / Francesca Parizzi, Università per Stranieri di Perugia

Chair: Francesca Parizzi, Università per Stranieri di Perugia

The "Reference Level Descriptions for National and Regional Languages" is an European project, whose purpose is to describe a given language related to the six levels of the Common European Framework. This session will present the research developed so far to describe four levels (from A1 to B2) for Italian.

Participants: Francesca Parizzi, Barbara Spinelli

Teaching Italian culture through RAI

174524

Organizer: AATI / Daniela Cavallero, DePaul University

Chair: Daniela Cavallero, DePaul University

This session will show how even "traditional" courses in Italian literature and culture could benefit from the introduction of new multimedia tools, such as the RAI (Italian Public Television) programs, to be used along with the regular textbooks. The goal is not only to make the teaching more "lively" by presenting clips from movies, documentaries, news, and so capturing the students' attention, but also to present images and voices of some of the most famous figures of the Italian culture of the last century.

Participants: Daniela Cavallero, Paola Morgavi

Session 10, 4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

The AP Italian Language and Culture Exam: Year 2

174293

Organizer: AATI / Frank Nuessel, University of Louisville

Chair: Frank Nuessel, University of Louisville

This session presents results of the free response questions for the second year of the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam. It will address (1) Intent of the questions; (2) student performance on the various tasks; (3) common student errors and omissions; and (4) suggestions for improvement of student performance.

Participants: Frank Nuessel, Paola Scazzoli, Ida Wilder, Rosa Bellino-Giordano

The Council for the Promotion of the Italian Language in American Schools (COPILAS): Its Mission, Activities and Assistance

173867

Organizer: AATI / Maria G. Wilmeth, Italian Cultural Society of Wash. D.C.

Chair: Maria G. Wilmeth, Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C.

Participants will learn how they may successfully introduce the study of Italian in their own schools. They will find out all information about the Council's aims, its structure and its accomplishments so far. The COPILAS KIT, with many suggestions on what needs to be done and how to accomplish each task will be explained, together with the necessary activities and the best way to get the mission accomplished.

Participants: Joseph Lupo, President, COPILAS; Roberto Severino, Georgetown University; Giuseppe Falvo, University of Maryland, College Park

Session 11, 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

Università per Stranieri di Siena: Current Studies on Languages in Contact

174952

Organizer: AATI / Monica Barni, Università per Stranieri di Siena

Chair: Monica Barni, Università per Stranieri di Siena

The aim of the session is to show current research run by the Università per Stranieri di Siena on several topics regarding languages in contact.

Participants: Monica Barni, Massimo Vedovelli, Carla Bagna, Sabrina Machetti

Italian: Language, Culture and Technology

Organizer: Fabiana Cecchini, Rice University

Chair: Fabiana Cecchini, Rice University

Fabiana Cecchini, Rice University

“Cinema, Letteratura e web: strumenti di lavoro per lo studio della lingua italiana”

Christine Ristaino, Judith Raggi Moore, Simona Muratore, Emory Univ.

“Cultural Acquisition Through Technology: How To Bring a Country To Your University with Its Cultural DNA in Tact”

Alessandro Zannirato, Johns Hopkins University

“Riflessioni sull’uso degli Strumenti di Comunicazione Sincrona e Asincrona nella classe d’italiano”