



# LA VOCE DEGLI AMICI of The University of Denver

Volume 15 - Autumn, 2011



Founded in 1995, AMICI is a group of friends committed to the promotion and support of the educational exchange of students and faculty between the University of Denver and Italy, Italian cultural appreciation, language acquisition, and the enjoyment of "la dolce vita."

## 2011-12 GRANTS-IN-AID AWARDED



Awards Recipients from the left: **Erica Papillion-Posey**, Clara Rosen Lamont Music Award. Erica attended the New Opera Festival for six weeks in Rome and Viterbo. **Claire Hibbs**, Bill Whitley Award, is studying at the University of Bologna. **Jennifer Lutchi** is also studying at the University of Bologna. **John Donahue** is studying at the Umbria Institute in Perugia. **Lindsey Goodwin** is also studying at the Umbria Institute in Perugia.

These five outstanding young DU scholars received the 2011-12 AMICI Grants for study in Italy on May 7<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Roberta and Len Waldbaum.

AMICI is pleased to have a hand in making their experiences in Italy the best.

**It's because of you, our members, that AMICI can award these grants.  
The students as well as the Board thank you for your generosity!**



### From the President... **Dennis Ferraro**

A while back I went with some of my family to the (Belmar) Italian Festival. There were seven of us including three younger grandchildren. None of the group, except for me, had been to the Festival before. After leaving the parking garage and getting to the street of the festival we had to stop at the food booth. The food all looked good and there was a line that moved pretty fast. We got some calzones and cookies which were very good. We then walked through the

booths, went to watch some Bocce being played and listened to the entertainment. The kids signed up for the barefoot grape stomping along with about hundred other kids. After their feet were washed off we had to get some Gelato for all of us. It was a fun afternoon, well attended and highly organized. The enthusiasm, excitement and energy of the young people was a joy to watch. Speaking of **young people**,



our Amici of DU could certainly use some younger members to energize the Club. Photos courtesy of David Ferrero.

## Members and friends have fun at the Bocce party

*Grazie mille to **Beverlee Henry** and **Bob Fullerton** for hosting the annual event!*



**With great food and friendly rivalry!**



*At the Belmar Italian Festival, our winning team was made up of **Kathleen Ness, John Ness, Mike Huseby, Beverlee Henry** who won their first two matches! But as luck would have it, they lost their third match. Bev tells us: "We had such fun. Perhaps we will even practice for next summer"*



## **NEW ITALIAN LANGUAGES & LITURATURES PROFESSOR *Gian Maria Annovi***



**Gian Maria** Graduated *magna cum laude* in Philosophy at University of Bologna in 2002, after having studied as an exchange student at University of Barcelona (Spain) and UCLA (USA). His dissertation concentrated on the influence of Giacomo Leopardi's poetry and thought on the work of Andrea Zanzotto and in 2003 it was awarded the special mention of the Premio Leopardi. After graduation he worked with Professor Niva Lorenzini and achieved a Doctorate in Contemporary Italian

Literature from University of Bologna. In his doctoral dissertation he explored the presence of the body in the experimental poetry of the '60s, focusing on the work of Pasolini, Zanzotto, Rosselli, Sanguineti and others. Before having the opportunity to attend

Columbia, he worked as editor and translator in a small publishing house and taught Italian Language and Literature at the Centro Studi of University of California in Bologna. Professor Annovi's Ph.D. dissertation at Columbia is titled "In the Theater of my Head. Authorship, Personae and the Making of Pier Paolo Pasolini's Work." His main interests include contemporary Italian poetry and prose, psychoanalysis and literary theory. **Gian Maria** has published three collections of poetry and several essays and translations in Italian and international journals. In 2006 he won the "Russo-Mazzacurati Prize for Poetry" and in 2007 he was a finalist for the prestigious "Antonio Delfini Award". He writes for the Italian newspaper **Il Manifesto** and is a collaborator of **alfabeta2**.

He has edited a bilingual anthology of Antonio Porta's poetry to be published in Los Angeles in March, 2012.

**AMICI is pleased to welcome him to Denver!**



### **BENVENUTI!!**

The AMICI welcomes three Bologna students studying at DU this fall as part of the **Global Cities/Citizenship: Transformation of Urban Areas in Europe and the USA**  
**Giulia Stagnitto Antonio De Rinaldis, and Silvia Pavasi**



**Giulia Stagnitto**, was born in Verona, but her family comes from all over Italy: Tuscany, Rome, and originally, Sicily. She is 20 years old. She studies at the University of Bologna in Forli. Giulia's major is International Studies and Diplomacy. In the future she wants to specialize in African or Middle Eastern Studies and Politics and hopefully, get to work in an international and humanitarian organization. She plays the piano. Giulia says that she loves Denver and the State of Colorado, and enjoys being outside in nature and in the mountains and can't wait for the snow to come!!

**Antonio De Rinaldis**, was born in Forli. He studies English and Russian at the University of Bologna.

**Silvia Pavasi** was born in Piacenza. At Bologna/Forli her major is International Studies.

## LETTERS FROM AMICI GRANT WINNERS



Dear Amici,

I returned to the United States from Italy in December and now I am attending my classes at DU. My time in Perugia was beautiful. I attended two art classes, a class in the history of Italy, and an Italian language class.

The Italian class was amazing, and I learned a lot. My speaking skills have improved a lot. I had the best time, and I met many new friends, both Americans and Italians.

I want to thank you once again for the grant that you gave me. You've helped me in so many ways.

I wish you the best,  
**Morgan Tilton**



Cari tutti,

I don't know where to begin or how to even describe my experience in Italy this academic year. I have been challenged and grown in more ways than I thought possible, and I truly am grateful for the opportunities that this year has presented me. I know now that Italy is going to be a permanent part of my life rather than just a passing interest, and the thought of continuing my education and/or living in Italy is now a permanent idea in my mind...there is just something about Italy that makes sense to me, even though a lot of the times it seems like Italy functions in a constant state of chaos.

I started my year at the University of Bologna as an exchange student on the EU-US Atlantis Exchange program along with 2 other DU students and 2 students from Portland, Oregon. We struggled with the Italian university system and the (inexplicable to us) organization within its disorganization, though in the end things worked out. My time in Bologna was mostly spent traveling northern Italy as well as several other European nations: each weekend a different adventure. One of the greatest things about Italy is how easy it is to travel between cities, even if the trains do randomly go on strike for the weekend. Bologna was where I experienced my first Italian soccer match, my first oral exams in Italian, and where I spent New Year's Eve: watching them light a giant papier-mâché frog on fire at midnight in the middle of Piazza Maggiore is something I will never forget nor understand.

Second semester I spent in Perugia, capital of the region of Umbria and hands down the most perfect place I have ever been in my life. I attended an American university with about 100 other students, and was one of the few who actually spoke Italian. Perugia

makes it much harder to travel as it is not on a major rail line but I found that I didn't care so much: it is one place I never wanted to leave. The Umbrian hills are one of the most beautiful places in Italy, in my opinion, and I am so grateful that I was able to spend an entire semester in such an incredible place. Perugia is where I came to fully understand the importance of the pausa, the 3 hour break that Italians take in the middle of every day. I have come to realize that one of the differences between Italians and Americans is that Italians are not afraid to take time off of work and be with the people they love and do the things that they want to do. I feel that most Americans do not understand how to have free time and that we have the unfortunate mentality that any time spent without agenda is time wasted. The way I see it and the way Italians seem to see it is that time is not wasted, it is spent. This is a mentality I hope to maintain after my return to the United States, and is probably the most important lesson I have learned in my time abroad.

After spending some time my sophomore year in southern Italy, moving around to northern Italy and central Italy has given me a general understanding of Italy as a whole and how regionally diverse it is. I would have not been able to have this complete experience without the encouragement from not only the Italian department at DU but also the Amici scholarship committee and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Tagliavore that thought enough of me to offer me financial support throughout this year. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for this amazing and absolutely life changing opportunity, and the hope that many other students will be as fortunate as I and are able to spend a significant amount of time abroad, because it truly has affected my life positively and I would not change a single minute.

Grazie a tutti,  
**Katie Redmond**

## ITALIAN STUDY ABROAD

### **Did you know that Italy is the country most often chosen by DU Cherrington Global Scholars?**

The University of Denver has its very own center in Bologna, Italy. Students have two options for studying in Bologna:

1) The faculty-led fall or spring term in Bologna. This program is co-led by University of Bologna and DU faculty working in tandem to provide students comprehensive academic and community experiences alongside Italian and other international students. In Bologna, you will be immersed in an international cultural experience that allows you to explore global perspectives, relationships, challenges and leadership. The four components of the program include an intensive five-week language program, a Core course taught by a DU faculty member, a UNIBO seminar series with a service experience, and UNIBO course taught in the Department of Political Science.

2) Directly entering the University of Bologna (Europe's oldest university) as an exchange student for either two quarters or an entire academic year and earning DU credit. A pre-session intensive language program is available in September or January. Semester and classes begin in

October and mid February. In addition to earning credits toward the major or minor in Italian, this total immersion program allows students to experience Italian culture first hand.

In addition to Bologna, the University of Denver has numerous affiliated sites throughout Italy that, with the generous support of the Cherrington Global Scholars program, allows students to earn DU credit while in Italy. There are programs specifically designed for students interested in Business, Art History, Italian Literature, political science, music, and more.

### **Living and Working in Italy Study Abroad Program:**

The Living and Working in Italy faculty led program is a total immersion program that takes students to the town of Mola di Bari, Italy, during Winter Interterm. Students who participate in this internship meet for conversation sessions with the professor, participate in weekly excursions, work in actual work-sites, and meet weekly to read a novel by a local author, which enables them to explore the local reality while enhancing their linguistic skill.

## **AMICI MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO INCREASE!**

*Our group of friends of the DU – Italian Program has grown to a new high in the past year. Following are the names of both the new and old members.*

### **University of Denver - Amici Membership for 2010/11**

Maria and Clay Allen  
 Gerrie and David Alvarez  
 Corrine and Ray Bush  
 Katy and Dan Craig  
 Ronald and Jean Damiana  
 Robert and Marcy Dill  
 Sara and Michael DiManna  
 Joseph and JoAnne Fanganello  
 Dennis Ferraro  
 Doriana Fontanella  
 Robert P. Fullerton and Beverlee Henry  
 Betsy and Michael Huseby

Jane and Pat Gabbie  
 Roscoe Hill and Sheila Wright  
 Judy and John Marcucci  
 Anne McCall  
 Theresa and Michael Orecchia  
 Gaspar and Carol Perricone  
 Jean and Larry Pisciotta  
 Gary and Ruthanne Polidori  
 Channing and Tom Puchino  
 Albert and Kathleen Rosa  
 Debra and Stephen Rosen  
 Charlotte and John Santoro

James Schelling and Virginia Linkus  
 Zoraide Noya Scordo  
 John Sie & Anna Maglione-Sie  
 Selma and Osi Sladek  
 June Balistreri-Spero and Clyde Spero  
 Rosalie and Frank Spicola  
 Mary C. Symonton  
 Gay and Vincent Taglialavore  
 Roberta and Leonard Waldbaum  
 Spencer Wellhofer and Susan Lanman  
 Carol Whitley  
 Alisa and Kevin Zahller



## **BOLOGNA PROGRAM THRIVES!**

### **DU Receives a FIPSE Grant of \$180,000.00**

#### **“Global Cities/Citizenship: Transformation of Urban Areas in Europe and the USA”**

*For the first time in human history most people on the planet will live in cities. Given this monumental transition, societal concerns about the long-term sustainability of urban settlements, and urban life in general, are at an all-time high. The University of Denver, along with three other partner institutions - the University of Bologna, the University of Nottingham, and Portland State University - has received funding for four years to develop a curriculum dealing with the social (cultural) and natural (ecological) problems and challenges facing European and American cities in the new “Metro Millennium” in hopes of achieving better—and perhaps novel—interdisciplinary solutions.*

*The grant supports student and faculty exchanges between the partners and this fall there are six DU students attending the University of Bologna, including two students who received Amici grants-in-aid last May, **Claire Hibbs** and **Jennifer Lutchi**. The three Bologna students studying at DU this fall are **Antonio De Rinaldis**, **Silvia Pavesi** and **Giulia Stagnitto**. (See Page 2) The Bologna students are supported with grants from the European Union. Faculty visits for shorter periods throughout the academic year provide lectures or seminars on specific topics related to the theme.*

*DU Italian Professor, **Roberta Waldbaum**, visited the students in Bologna in early September, as pictured at right, in the Piazza Maggiore in front of the Neptune Fountain.*

