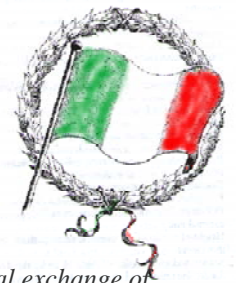




# **LA VOCE DEGLI AMICI** *of The University of Denver*

Volume 12 - SPRING, 2008



*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."*

## **2007 GRANTS-IN-AID AWARDED**



Six outstanding young DU scholars received the 2007 *AMICI* Grants for study in Italy. *AMICI* is pleased to have a hand in making their experience in Italy the best. It's because of you, our members, that *AMICI* can award these grants and the students as well as the Board thanks you for your generosity!

Seen above from left to right are Meghan Holly, Meghan Leonard, Laura Fry, Micaiella Dominguez-Robinson, Jordan Kober, and Erica Skatvold.

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

An organization is defined by its mission, members and results. Fortunately we had a banner year in 2007. With the addition of new board members, the Polidori and Dills, we have had new ideas, participation and an infusion of new energy. Thanks to Bob and Marcy Dill we had a very successful benefit dinner at Paris's restaurant. Some of those who attended the dinner attended other functions during the year and we will have 4 or 5 new members for next year.

*Thanks also to Randie and Gary Polidori for their gracious hospitality and cooking in hosting our scholarship awards party. The Bocce party was a success, with some of the new members attending and participating in the games. We fulfilled the mission statement goals by the of promotion of Italian Culture, raising funds for the scholarship fund and living La Dolce Vita.*

*The Board has allocated \$8500 for grants for 2008-2009 which will be awarded on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30P, At the home of Carol Whitley. Mark the date and plan to attend.*

**A Symposium "The Changing Faces of ITALY"**

*Presented By the Dante Alighieri Society and the Amici of the University of Denver In collaboration with the Colorado Historical Society, was a grand success, because of the hard work of a special committee chaired by Vince Tagliavore, and especially the efforts of Pamela Marcantonio of the Dante, and our own Dr. Roberta Waldbaum.*



## “Big Night I” At Parisi’s

finds Len Waldbaum and Bob Dill basking in the limelight of one of the most successful fund raisers we have ever had, with a superb dinner prepared by the Parisi staff.

22,



“Big Night 2” is planned for Tuesday, April 2008 again at Parisi’s  
*Firenze a Tavola*

Plan to attend this incredible Italian dinner!

## The Bocce

Tournament was a success for both the AMICI Scholarships as well as the winners, Rosalie Spicola and Jean Damiana for the women



and for the men, Ronald Damiana and Robert P. Fullerton.

## Alec Ropes, one of the Tagliavore Italian Scholars,

has returned from a year at the University of Bologna where he excelled at his studies and enjoyed a few days at Cervina and Zermatt See his letter on page 4.



## Randie and Gary Polidori

hosted the AMICI 2007 Scholarship presentation. They have our grateful thanks.



## Generous gift establishes the Anna Maglione-Sie Endowed Chair in Italian Culture

By Kristal Griffith

*DU TODAY* - February 14, 2008—

The Italian Program in the [Department of Languages and Literatures](#) has received a \$1.5 million gift from the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation. The gift will establish the Anna Maglione-Sie Endowed Chair in Italian Culture. Italian is among the most popular languages of study for DU students. This quarter, 157 students are taking Italian courses; 42 students are majoring or minoring in Italian. And, Italy is the most popular study-abroad destination for DU students.



"The generous gift from **Anna and John Sie** will allow us to increase the number of study-abroad opportunities for our

students in Italy and improve an important language program at a time when there is clearly more interest in studying the country's rich history," says DU Chancellor Robert Coombe. The chair, which is DU's first endowed chair in languages, will honor the contributions that Anna Maglione-Sie has made to the University, the Italian culture and the community.

Maglione-Sie is originally from Italy and is very active in Colorado's Italian community. While attending a conference in Bologna, Italy, and visiting the DU-Bologna International Center for Civic Engagement there, she and her husband, Trustee John Sie, had a vision to make DU's Italian program stronger. "As a poor immigrant from Italy, I am now living the American dream," says Maglione-Sie.

"Through this Italian chair I am so pleased to be able to contribute to U.S.-Italian relations for the peoples of both countries. I hope that this gift encourages more students to enroll in the Italian program at DU and that it inspires other donors to contribute to the University's division of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences."



Assistant Professor **Roberta Waldbaum** will hold the initial Anna Maglione-Sie Endowed Professorship. Waldbaum has won two teaching awards at DU, including the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1998 and the Driscoll Master Teaching Award in 1992. "Because

of the Sie's vision and generosity we can develop a new curriculum, enhance faculty research projects, develop ties to the community — both locally and in Italy — and establish innovative programming and projects with DU departments," Waldbaum says. "We also can enrich the study-abroad experience of DU students studying in Italy and Italian students coming to DU." In addition to the language immersion and study-abroad opportunities offered through the Italian program, students can receive credit or a stipend by teaching Italian in Denver-area elementary, middle and high schools through the Ital Internship program.

The Anna Maglione-Sie Endowed Chair in Italian Culture will be established and funded through the University's permanent endowment. Anna and John Sie will stay involved by reviewing proposals for the program and participating in the selection of future appointments to the chair.

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### [Lamont School of Music Performance of Interest to AMICI](#)

*An extraordinary pianist from Italy, Aldo Ragone, who is pursuing an Artist Diploma in Piano Performance, will play a solo recital in Hamilton Hall in the Newman Center on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Admission free.*

*The Lamont Opera Theatre Department presents: "Cosi fan tutte" o "The School of Lovers" by Mozart. Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, performances will be on Friday and Saturday,*

## LETTERS FROM "ALUMNI" of AMICI GRANTS

*Katy and Dan Craig graduated from the University of Denver in 1999. They were married in 2000. Katy became the Assistant Director of the University of Denver Honors Program. She received an MA in English from DU in 2004. Katy is now the Director of Scholarship at the Boettcher Foundation in Denver. Dan received a Master of Architecture in 2003, and is now an Associate at Anderson Mason Dale Architects in Denver.*

*While at DU, Dan studied at John Cabot University on Rome, He received a grant from AMICI to help with his expenses.*



Dear Roberta,

First let me say that it's embarrassing for me that it has taken so long to write this letter... Nine years ago last week I returned from my first-ever travel abroad - a trip to Italy that never would have been possible had it not been for your support, and an experience that would change my life forever.

Later Katy and I would travel to Italy together after we graduated, and we wandered the streets of Rome that had been my home for 5 months - It was on that trip that we were engaged. This past spring we returned to Italy once again - through a trip that my office sponsors - and we were reminded of the memories and romantic notes that only a place like Rome has.

As Katy and I re-visited old favorites in Rome last April - and discovered new ones - I couldn't help but think about just how much you and Professor Angela Polidori and all *Gli Amici* have influenced Katy's and my life. That first trip was so inspirational, and it is certainly responsible in many ways for where Katy and I are in our present lives...we wouldn't begin to know how to thank you! That said, hopefully a small donation is one way to pay homage to your commitment to the study and enjoyment of Italian culture. That commitment helped put me on a path in life that is very fulfilling, and it would be an honor to begin paying it forward, so to speak.

I hope this letter finds you well, and I hope you are having a wonderful holiday. Please give our best to Len and the rest of your family, and have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Katy and Dan Craig

### *Alec H. Ropes writes:*

Dear All,

From an early age I was taught the value of hard work. When I was an infant my father would come home from a long hard day of fishing, and my mother would immediately put me in his arms. Most people don't know what a fisherman smells like after a day at sea. Let me stimulate your olfactory senses: dead rotting fish, salt air and water, diesel fuel, and what I myself call "sea slime." Sea slime can be just about anything that comes from the sea, and has a "gunky" essence; therefore results may vary. My mother said that I never complained nor cried. My sister hated the way my father smelled, but I guess I never noticed it. My father told me it was the smell of success. "It's what money smells like, son." I never truly understood this until I saw my first paycheck after working aboard the boat with my father.

I had never seen or fathomed having that much money before. I was hooked, but living off the lobster money isn't an easy life. You earn every penny through back breaking manual labor.

I feel that my DU career has been similar if it is put into perspective. No, I don't come home smelling to the high heavens every day, but I feel that I have worked hard. The physical pain and relentless abuse of my body aboard the fishing vessel *Harmony*, can be compared to the psychological pressures of high university standards. Sometimes (especially during finals) one begins to seriously contemplate what a brain explosion would look, feel and sound like. In the most stressful of assignments, appointments and intellectual endeavors, one can be stricken by the fear of incompletion or failure.

My strategy is to think back to the times on the sea, when I felt I had absolutely nothing left. Pulling that last pot, and stacking it in the stern of the *Harmony*, as the sea tosses and boils with fury, there is no room for mistakes. That's how people get injured, lose their lives, or jeopardize their gear or boat. You have to reach deep inside yourself and pull out something that you never knew you had. When I think about this I can get anything finished.

I am a pathological rogue and independent thinker. I need to feel that I earn everything on my own. I value

## **Alec H. Ropes** - Continued from Page 4

The people I have met and the teachers that have influenced me have been wonderful. DU has helped me to experience and grow into the adult that I feel I am becoming. Truthfully all I can think about during my present hours is where I will be a year or two from now. I try to live in the present moment, but it is really hard not to constantly think of my future. Believe me, commercial fishing is not my first career choice, but I will always have a job aboard the boat. My father has a business degree from the University of Maine, Orono, one of the few lobstermen to have received a higher education. "You better go to school so you don't have to be pulling pots for the rest of your life." That's how my old man keeps me in line. He knows I never want to be a commercial fisherman, but I know he loves it. He wouldn't want to do anything else. I need to find a career that would give me that same feeling. I need to enter into something that I feel passionate about, and strive to excel in. Now, after two year long experiences in Italy, seven grueling seasons lobstering in Maine, and with my career at DU quickly coming to a close, I feel confident enough to do anything. My hard work ethic will help me in whatever I decide to do.

I will be in Colorado for a while. I'm not going back to Maine. This is home. I want to work for a few years,

and then eventually go to graduate school when I really feel that I can continue my education in that which I am passionate about. I want to lead, but I know I won't be leading right from the beginning. That's why I want to get my feet wet, and have some experience under my belt. I think this will help direct me towards that for which I am searching. Then, I feel that further education will be essential if I ever want to have a leadership position. So with that said, I am putting together my resume, and trying to make it look good in order to properly market my strengths, experiences and ethics. I am a social person and I feel that I would excel in a job that will allow me to utilize my interest in conversing and learning about people. I would most likely enjoy applying my psychology degree to the business world, and I hope that my Italian degree will possibly allow me to have an international career in the future. I have to harness my strengths, improve upon my weaknesses and consider all possible options before truly deciding on something. I don't regret anything. Things happen for a reason. It feels good to finally be an adult.

With my best regards and up most respect,

*Alec H. Ropes*



## **THE BOLOGNA EXCHANGE CONTINUES TO BE A GRAND SUCCESS**

For the past thirteen years the University of Denver and the University of Bologna have been engaged in a successful linkage that has included the exchange of students, faculty scholars, interdisciplinary faculty workshops and seminars, short faculty visits and a major international conference at the University of Bologna.

Building upon these initiatives, in the fall 2002 the Universities dedicated a joint "*International Center for Civic Engagement*" (ICCE) in the historic center of Bologna and the first faculty-led program for DU undergraduates was initiated. The DU/Bologna ICCE has classroom/seminar space and an administrative office. The Center has taken the relationship one step further, providing a Civic Engagement course and practicum open to all students and staff of the universities, as well as students of the Socrates and Overseas programs.

The DU-Bologna student exchange began during the 1994-1995 academic year with four DU and four Bologna students. Since that time a total of 126 DU and 37 Bologna students have spent from a semester to a year studying abroad. A number of the Bologna students have returned to DU to pursue advanced Master's and Ph.D.'s. This cross-fertilization of young people has enriched their own and their adopted communities' lives. During this period of time students have received degrees, formed lasting

relationships (several have met and married Italians), and entered the world of work. We even have our first "DU/Bologna" baby with the birth of Francesca Amara to

**Fall Quarter in Bologna 2008**, Professor Waldbaum will be the resident faculty director teaching Core course on "Italian Cityscapes: Old Models, New Visions," and a civic engagement course, and service-learning practicum.

In addition DU and Bologna will take a course in the Department of Political Science taught by a Bologna professor on "overcoming the EU Democratic Deficit and the Making of the New European Citizen." Planned excursions are to Rome and the Umbrian countryside.

16 very lucky DU undergraduate students will participate in the Fall Quarter exchange and 3 students from Bologna will be at DU.

**Your generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund of the Amici of the University of Denver have helped make these exchanges possible and we thank you. Mille grazie!**

## ITALIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE FACULTY GAINS NEW PROFESSORESSA



**Rachel A. Walsh, PhD is the new** Assistant Professor of Italian at DU. Dr. Walsh received her PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago. Her interests include 18th- & 19th-Century Italian Literature, Italian Theater, Canon Formation and Italian Literary Histories, Autobiography, Italian Periodical Culture, and Language Curriculum Development.

Rachel is married to attorney Josh Urguhart. They have a beautiful two year old daughter, Penelope. We are so very pleased to welcome her and her family to Denver and as members of AMICI.

### AMICI MEMBERSHIP HAS BIG INCREASE!

*Our little group of friends of the DU - Italy Exchange 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 2007/08*

Maria Scordo Allen  
Clyde Spero and June Balistreri-Spero  
Corrine and Ray Bush  
Channing and Tom Puchino  
Russell and Kirsten Coppo  
Katy and Dan Craig  
Ronald and Jean Damiana  
Robert and Marcy Dill  
Joseph and JoAnne Fanganello  
Dennis and BJ Ferraro  
Doriana Fontanella

Robert P. Fullerton and Beverlee Henry  
J.P. and Jane Gabbie  
Eleanora Grandi-Miller and John Miller  
Roscoe Hill and Sheila Wright  
Vita Marker  
Gaspar and Carol Perricone  
Gary and Ruthanne Polidori  
Charles Roitz  
Albert and Kathleen Rosa  
Charlotte and John Santoro  
James Schelling and Virginia Linkus

Zoraide Noya Scordo  
Steven Palordi & Angela Scordo-  
Polidori  
John Sie & Anna Maglione-Sie  
Mary C. Symonton  
Gay and Vincent Tagliavore  
Leonard and Roberta Waldbaum  
Rachel Walsh and Josh Urguhart  
Spencer Wellhofer and Susan Lanman  
Carol Whitley



## *The AMICI mourns the passing of Clara Rosen, the dear mother of Roberta Waldbaum*

*She was a remarkable woman who is fondly remembered by her children, twelve grandchildren and, thirteen great-grand children as well as many friends.*

### **The AMICI - The Clara Rosen Lamont School of Music Scholarship Fund - Donations**

Ashley Bendorf  
Joyce and Gerald Berkman  
Paula and Stewart Brooks  
Barbra and Morris Cohn

Elka and Edward Haligman  
Roni and Martin Katz (Allen & Mary)  
Zeeda and Roy Nierman  
Stephen and Debra Rosen

Selma and Osi Sladek  
Gay and Vincent Tagliavore  
Roberta and Leonard Waldbaum

### **2007 Lamont Grant Recipient Presents Recital**

*The winter reception of the AMCI at the Waldbaum home on February 16<sup>th</sup> was followed by the Junior Recital at the Newman Center of our grant recipient, **Micaiella Dominguez-Robinson**, Soprano, giving a remarkable performance of 19<sup>th</sup> century Italian song from Vincenzo Bellini to Ira Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm!"*

