

# The Association of Italian American Educators



announces the

## Programma Ponte Scholarship Program

July 2010

(specific dates TBA)

**A four-week program of study in Rome, Italy that offers the academic, cultural and language opportunity of a lifetime and the following courses:**

### **Contemporary Italy, European Institutions and USA Relations (in Italian)**

This course consists of an in-depth analysis of the political, economic and social realities that resulted in the formation of the Italian Republic in 1948 and laid the foundation for European integration. Italy's role in the European Union and the relationship with the United States are examined. Differences in present day political and economic systems are studied for comparison purposes to enable students to develop insight into the factors impacting EU and USA relations. Classroom lectures are supplemented with visits to related institutions, relevant museums and historic sites. Past visits have included: a tour of the Chamber of Deputies and Congressional Library and the opportunity to discuss current issues with Italian congressmen, a visit to the European Commission and lecture with its director, presentation on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by journalist Giuliana Sgrena, lectures at influential labor unions, and even a tour and lecture at Italy's official National News Service, ANSA.

### **Italy: Past Foundations, Present Realities (in Italian)**

This course traces the development of Italian civilization from the founding of Rome in 753 BC to the establishment of the Republic in 1948. Students analyze the social, political and economic structures in Ancient Rome and consider their influence on contemporary Italian society. Classroom lectures are supplemented with guided visits to major archeological sites. Formal instruction imparted during on-site visits to contemporary institutions provides students with direct knowledge of current practices in political, economic and social organization. Past visits have included: the Coliseum, the Church of San Clemente, the Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, and Hadrian's villa.

NB Each course consists of 45 hours of instruction and yields 3 credits.

**Additional information about the 2010 Programma Ponte Scholarships can be obtained at [www.aiae.net/joomla](http://www.aiae.net/joomla) or by e-mailing inquiries to [PonteApps@gmail.com](mailto:PonteApps@gmail.com).**

## SPONSORS

The Programma Ponte, now in its thirteenth year, is a collaborative initiative, sponsored by the **Association of Italian American Educators (AIAE)**, the **Federazione Nazionale dei Cavalieri del Lavoro (FNCL)** and the **Istituto Superiore per la Comunicazione e l'Opinione Pubblica (ISCOP)**, associated with the Department of Social Sciences of the **Pontifical University St. Thomas Aquinas**, Rome, Italy.

The number of scholarships awarded is dependent upon the availability of room and board at the *Residenza dei Cavalieri del Lavoro*, located at Via Giuseppe Saredo, 74 in Cinecittà, Rome.

**RELATED EXPENSES:** The Programma Ponte scholarship includes all tuition fees, and room and board at the *Residenza dei Cavalieri del Lavoro* in the vicinity of Cinecittà. It does not include airfare or personal/week-end travel money. Although students are selected in New York City, the scholarships begin in Rome on the first day of class and end with the final examinations.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The applicant must be 19-24 years of age, a student in good standing at an accredited four-year college or university, of any major discipline, with a GPA of 3.5 or above. He/she must have one parent or grandparent of Italian ancestry and possess substantial understanding of and fluency in the Italian language, as evidenced by having completed one intermediate course in Italian or by demonstrating significant fluency during the interview process. Although Programma Ponte is not inherently a language program, it is of *paramount importance* that each student be willing and able to immerse themselves and utilize their time in Rome by conversing *in Italian* with their peers, professors, and with Italians in general.

**NB** Each scholarship recipient must complete the two above-mentioned courses whether or not his/her college or university will accept a transfer of credit. It is recommended that students obtain the approval of the Registrar/Study Abroad Office as soon as they are notified of being accepted into the Program.

**DEADLINE:** The complete application with required documents must be submitted on-line at *PonteApps@gmail.com* no later than December 17, 2009. All required hard copies of transcripts and letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than December 17, 2009 and are to be mailed to Prof. Ida Corvino Miletich, 245 Manhasset Avenue, Manhasset, New York 11030.

**INTERVIEW:** Applicant finalists will be invited to an interview (date and place TBA). The interview is mandatory and will be conducted in Italian. Each student's language ability must be assessed in order to ensure that participants are adequately prepared to meet the academic and linguistic demands of the program. Candidates will be notified of their acceptance to the program by the end of January.

**GALA:** The 2010 participants are expected to attend this event to be held at Chateaubriand in Westbury, NY (Date and time TBA).

**ORIENTATION:** Prior to departure for Rome, Students will meet at the America Oggi facility in Westwood, NJ. A detailed overview of the program will be presented at this time.

**STUDENT HEALTH DISCLOSURE:** All those selected to participate in the program will be asked to disclose any pre-existing medical condition as well as any medications that are prescribed.

# **AIAE Programma Ponte Italian American Scholarship Program Application**

## **Mission Statement**

**Programma Ponte is a program of study designed to give students of Italian American heritage first-hand experience with Italy today through course work, visits to important Italian and European institutions and direct contact with the Italian people. Participants are expected to establish lasting connections and develop their respective roles as bi-cultural ambassadors.**

The following information is to be forwarded via mail (to Prof. Ida Corvino Miletich, 245 Manhasset Avenue, Manhasset, New York 11030):

- 1) Official high school transcript
- 2) Official and current college transcript
- 3) Two letters of recommendation (on official letterhead) – at least one from a college or university professor
- 4) Two passport-size photos

The following information is to be submitted via e-mail at [pontedocs@gmail.com](mailto:pontedocs@gmail.com) as attachments (either Microsoft Word documents or, if scanned from printed copies, as a PDF):

- 5) A passport-size photo
- 6) The application found below
- 7) Curriculum Vitae
- 8) An essay of no fewer than 500 words in English or Italian that includes a brief biography, your comments on our mission statement and how you foresee that this study abroad experience in Rome, Italy will enhance your personal, academic and professional life.
- 9) A writing sample (research paper, term paper, etc.) completed preferably at the college level demonstrating analytical and writing abilities.

**Programma Ponte 2010**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Today's Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSPORT #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Italian Ancestry (relative(s) and provenance)** \_\_\_\_\_

**College Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Credits completed to date** \_\_\_\_\_ **GPA** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major** \_\_\_\_\_ **Minor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Italian courses completed** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Letters of recommendation (on official letterhead)**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information for the person in the Office of the Registrar at your college/university responsible for receiving the official transcript.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lastly: How did you hear about Programma Ponte?**