



Drexel Students Bring Italy to Campus & Community

BY KYLIE CAFIERO

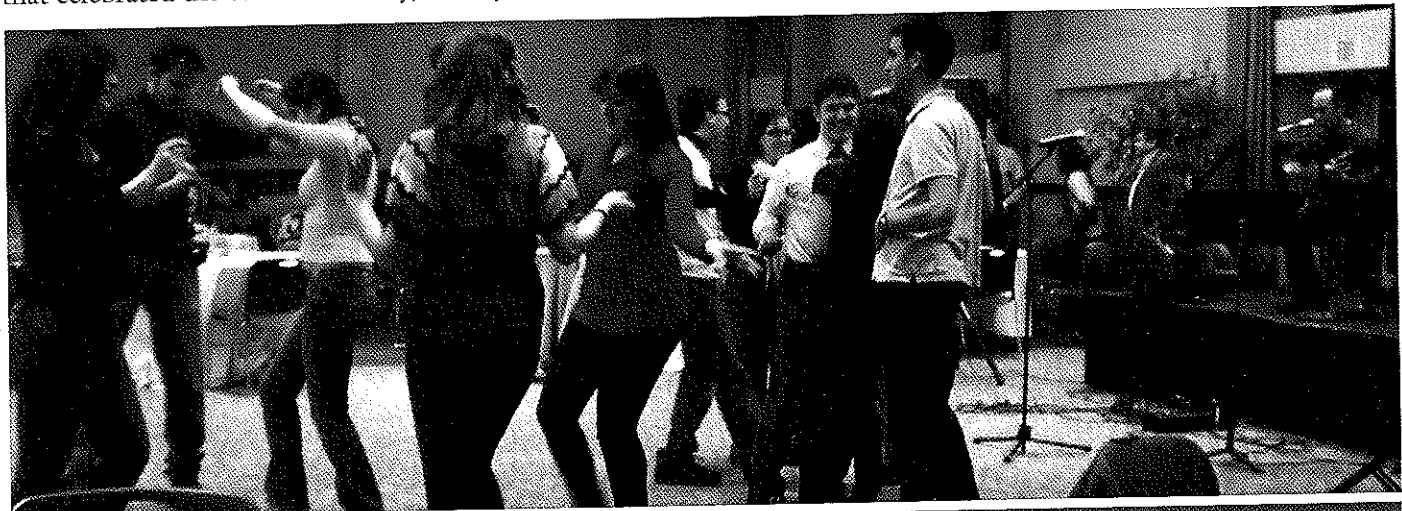
Students at Philadelphia's Drexel University last year launched the Italian Students Organization (ISO), the school's first Italian club, which now has 75 members and a very active program of events, according to founders Nick Wright, Natasha Daminao and Stephen Vitale.

On campus, so far the ISO has hosted pot-luck dinners, multiple bocce tournaments open to both students and the community, and off-campus trips to Italian festivals. Last March, ISO members worked with other ethnic campus organizations to co-sponsor "A Night on the Mediterranean" that celebrated the cultures of Italy, Turkey and Israel.

This spring, the ISO hosted a lecture series "Chat and Chew" that featured prominent members of the Italian American community, including Chris Canatella and Diana Conti, respectively president and vice president of the OSIA Enrico Fermi Lodge #2229, who will help ISO establish an OSIA lodge on campus.

"The ISO promotes Italian culture throughout the university and community through service and support," says Daminao.

"It's become the meeting place all students who enjoy the Italian way of life." Contact iso@drexel.edu or visit www.italianstudentorg.com.



ISO members learn a Turkish folk dance at "A Night on the Mediterranean."

Worth Noting

YouTube: *They Discovered America* about Italian Americans and their contributions to the USA. It is a three-minute excerpt from *Loro scorprirono l'America*, a 60-minute documentary directed by Pino Tordiglione that aired in Italy last year. It has not yet been dubbed into English.

Harvard Journal: In 2007, Harvard University formed the Harvard College Italian American Association, which publishes a journal on Italian American history, culture and issues. Both are run entirely by students. To submit an article or request a free copy of *The Harvard College Journal of Italian American History and Culture* contact Sabino Ciorciari at sciorc@fas.harvard.edu.

Italian on the Rise: College language enrollment in Italian continues to soar from 49,300 students in 1998 to 63,900 in 2002 to 78,400 in 2006, according to the

Modern Language Association, the professional association of university professors of foreign languages and literatures and English. That constitutes a difference of 29,100 students or a 60% increase since 1998.

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