

Gamma Kappa Alpha National Italian Honor Society Newsletter



GKA PLEDGE

We, the members of Gamma Kappa Alpha, the National Italian Honor Society, pledge to uphold and further the Italian language and culture. The initials signify “Knowledge and Virtue,” two attributes that we will strive to maintain throughout our lives. We pledge to stay true to our dreams, never stray from our beliefs, and carry forth the traditions that have made Italians great.

Noi, membri della Gamma Kappa Alpha, ci impegniamo a sostenere ed incoraggiare la lingua e la cultura italiana. Le iniziali significano “Conoscenza e virtù,” due valori che ci impegniamo a mantenere per tutta la vita, rimanendo fedeli ai nostri sogni senza allontanarci dalla nostra fede, e portando avanti le tradizioni che hanno reso grandi gli Italiani.

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New England: Jonathan Hiller, Adelphi University

South: Manny Rossi, University of Miami

West: Loredana Di Martino, University of San Diego

Southwest: Tugba Sevin, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Midwest: Iva Youkilis, Washington University in St. Louis

EDITED BY MARIA ROSARIA VITTI-ALEXANDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 14, 2024

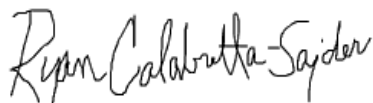
Dear Colleagues,

As the 2023-2024 academic year comes to an end, I would like to thank you for all that you have done for your students, programs, and Gamma Kappa Alpha at large. We know many of us are facing difficult times at our institutions with the numerous political situations arising, as well as the continuous decline of enrollments in language courses. While we recognize the various challenges, we applaud all the hard work you put towards maintaining and building your programs. We hope that Gamma Kappa Alpha helps you build your programs and entice students to continue to study Italian. It is important to celebrate the success of our students, which both directly and indirectly highlights the importance of our programs and languages in general.

This academic year we happily added one more university to the Gamma Kappa Alpha family, but we would still like to add more. If you know of schools without a chapter, please have them contact me or Maria Rosaria so we get more institutions active.

Just a few reminders before closing this annual letter. First, please submit your students' essays in our annual essay contest. This occurs each Spring semester and the deadline is usually around the beginning of April. While we do receive submissions every year, we would like to have a more robust competition. See this newsletter for the exact date. Second, if you are interested in helping out with Gamma Kappa Alpha, please let me know. I would love to have someone work on the website, which is outdated: <https://gammakappaalpha.uark.edu/>. We would also like to have one or two additional faculty to serve on the essay review committee.

Thanks again for your dedication and passion for all things Italy.



Ryan Calabretta-Sajder
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT:

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you for your dedication to the GKA. We are growing every year as we recognize the work of our students and colleagues, and I am convinced that our work is doing wonderful things for the teaching of our language and culture in the United States.

I am also very proud to announce the names of our two winners of the GKA annual scholarship. The papers were very well written and well documented. Congratulations my dear students and their professors.

Victoria Snyder: **Molto di piu' di un libro per l'infanzia**

The Pennsylvania State University

Professor Maria Truglio

Jordyn Bagley: **Nell'Italia moderna**

Nazareth University

Dr. Joelle Carota

Congratulations to our winners and their faculty.

I'd like to remind the Chapter Advisors to order the honor cords to accompany the certificates of recognition for our students. The honor cords should be worn by inductees at the graduation ceremony. The one-time membership fee for each new member is \$30, of which \$27 is sent to the national office and \$3 remains with the local chapter for GKA activities.

Since I received many requests from newly appointed colleagues in the position of GKA adviser without any instruction on how to organize an induction ceremony, please let me go over a few important things.

- After receiving the cord, the students should recite together the GKA Oath which is printed in the first page of this Newsletter.
- It would be advisable to have them read the Oath in Italian since the people present at the ceremony have the English translation, since it is very important for the students accepting to become a GKA member to recognize their commitment to the language and the culture of Italy.
- When requesting certificates and cords, you must allow at least **two weeks** of mailing time. I cannot be held responsible for the prompt arrival of material, since I will mail the requested certificates and cords only **AFTER** I receive the check to cover the costs. Thank you for your courtesy in allowing the time needed for shipping.
- **Requests will be accepted no later than May 2th, 2025. After this date, I will be in Italy and I will not be able to provide chapters the materials that are needed.**
- For the induction into Gamma Kappa Alpha in 2025, I am asking to please send me only **ONE** request for GKA membership certificates per year. We need to keep mailing expenses down. Please be advised that I will be charging a **\$15 fee** for any additional mailing for certificates and honor cords. Last spring, there were numerous requests for additional mailings which were all done at the expense of the GKA Society. I also have to remind colleagues that I will not mail out **ANY certificates and cords without a check accompanying the request.** To receive prompt attention and the requested certificates, **YOU MUST HAVE** a check made out to the GKA National Italian Honor Society.
- I would like to ask the Advisors not to mail me students' personal checks. There have been a few "returned checks for insufficient funds." Needless to say, the Association has lost money in some cases. Ask the students to write you a check or give you cash; then write the National Association a check for the total number of certificates requested. A personal check from a colleague is fine; there is no need to have the University issue a payment check to the GKA.

Please mail in information on your induction ceremony, students, and the activities of your Italian area. It is nice to share experiences with colleagues, and many times we can always learn from what others are doing. I wish you all best of luck and warm wishes for the remainder of the academic year.

Cordially,

Maria Rosaria Vitti-Alexander

Nazareth University

Gamma Kappa Alpha Award Scholarship Information

It is also the time to bring to your attention the following item:
Announcement of the 2025 GKA Award for Scholarship (details below)!

As always, we are grateful for your interest in GKA. Let's keep in mind that this AWARD is an honor for the recipient as well as for the instructor!

We strongly encourage you to submit your name to serve as a member of the AWARD COMMITTEE. We need three colleagues to serve; if you are interested in serving, please send an email to the Vice President Maria Rosaria Vitti-Alexander **no later than Tuesday, February 18, 2025**. Her email address is mvittia6@naz.edu.

Also, please submit for consideration the names and works of your best students, in accordance with the guidelines provided elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER. Please mark your calendars for the deadline for submission of the students' packets as **Friday, March 21, 2025**.

An invitation to Award Committee Chapter Academic Advisors:

The GKA National Italian Honor Society is pleased to announce its 2025 GKA Award for Scholarship, to recognize outstanding undergraduate scholarship in the field of Italian literature, culture, or linguistics. We are cordially inviting you to encourage your students to submit entries in the form of original essays and by offering this award, we sincerely hope to stimulate further interest in Italian studies, while recognizing the achievements of the students and their teachers.

Nomination packets are to be sent to the Chair of the Award Committee, whose name will be announced in a separate mailing once we receive nominations to serve in the GKA AWARD COMMITTEE, or to the Vice President, Maria Rosaria Vitti-Alexander, at mvittia6@naz.edu.

Deadline for submission of entries is **Friday, March 21, 2025**.

Thank you for your attention to this announcement and for your consistent support of our Society.

Scholarship General Info:

- **Name of Award:** Gamma Kappa Alpha Award for Scholarship.
- **Purpose:** To recognize outstanding undergraduate scholarship in the field of Italian literature, civilization or linguistics.
- **Amount of Award:** One \$500 award yearly, contingent on availability of funds and subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- **Administration of Award:** An Award Committee will be appointed by the President of the Society. Three members, one of whom will be designated as “Chair,” will serve at the pleasure of the President. Upon receiving nominations, the Chair will contact members of the committee to review each nomination package. The Chair will report to the President the committee’s recommendation. The President will then notify the Secretary-Treasurer, who will make out a check in the sum of \$500, drawn from the Society’s funds. The award may not be given if the committee is unable to make a recommendation to the President.
- **Eligibility:** Undergraduate students attending an institution with a GKA chapter. Students must be seniors completing a major, minor, or concentration in Italian literature, civilization, or linguistics, and must meet eligibility requirements for induction into GKA.
- **Nomination:** Eligible students will be invited to the Chapter Academic Advisor to submit an essay in the field of Italian literature, civilization, or linguistics to a nominating committee comprised of the Chapter Academic Advisor and at least one other member of the home institution. No more than five faculty members may be invited by the Chapter Academic Advisor to serve on the nominating committee. After evaluating the essay(s), the committee will recommend no more than one candidate for the award.
- **Deadlines:** Chapter Academic Advisor will send nomination packages to the Chair of the Award Committee by Friday, March 21, 2025. The Chair will notify the President, as soon as feasible, of the committee’s decision. The President will notify the Secretary-Treasurer, who will send the check.
- **Nomination Package:** The Chapter Academic Advisor is responsible for assembling a nomination package for each student. The nomination package consists of four copies of each of the following items:

- **Curriculum vitae**
- **Transcripts of all colleges attended** (if more than one). Only one set of transcripts needs to be official. The other three sets may be copies.
- **A letter of nomination and recommendation** written by the Academic Advisor and signed by all members of the Nominating Committee and the Department Chair.
- **The entered essay**

Please pay attention to the following:

- Essays must be written in Italian.
- Essays must consist of a minimum of two thousand (2000) words to a maximum of two thousand five hundred (2500) words, i.e. eight (8) to ten (10) pages, type-written or computer generated.
- We are offering one (1) award, in the amount of five hundred (500) dollars.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The association is doing well financially. We currently have two accounts at Key Bank of Rochester, NY.

Checking Account Balance: \$ 15,375.24

Money Market Account Balance: \$ 13,703.87

We strongly encourage chapters to nominate a candidate and encourage him/her to enter an essay for the Gamma Kappa Alpha award scholarship. It is important to remember that students are driven when their endeavors are rewarded. Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to serve the GKA; it is truly a pleasure.

GAMMA KAPPA ALPHA MEMBERS INDUCTED IN SPRING 2024

Adelphi University (1): Angela Ruggiano

Arcadia University (6) Alexander Joseph Burger, Quinn M. Crowning, Jillian Danielle Hauer, Emilie Ann Kopf, Jules Trinity Lutz, Peytann Rose Tamasi

The University of Alabama (12): Chiara Findaca, Shannon Kathleen Garguilo, Grace Hardy, Adam M. Honson, Mackenzie Kronimus, Isabella Martina, Alexander Miele, Siddarth Mupparaju, Porter Lawrence O'Doherty, Handleigh Richardson, Merritt Ruffner, Jordan Welker

Arizona State University (12): Alan Quezada, Sophia Cartwright, Valentina Carrillo, Mario Violi, Brendan Alcott, Lo Svitak, Emma Williams, Jasmin Thacker, Jocelin Acosta Herrera, Mirra Keeto, Kannan Srinidhi, Kannan Malvika

The University of Arizona (13): Sierra Beard, Stefania Chambers, Andrea Chavez, Joseph Colianni, Nina Doering, Audrey Fitzgerald, Fiona Hodkinson, Sadie Parent, Liliana Quiroz, Zeno Scotti, Talia Tardogno, Matthew Valente, Riley Williams

University of Arkansas (9): Juan Carlos Esquivel Monroy, Leah Foster, Michelle Kamanga, Emily Lawless, Jordyn Moore, Claire Phelps, Adriana Tredway, James II Sterling West, Grace Wilson

Bryn Mawr College (9): Ava Blumer, Maddalena Galli, Camryn Karis-Sconyers, Lake Sanchez, Monica Scotto, Julia Smith, Meenakshi Thirumurti, Leila Andriana Vazquez, Sankeerthna Vedamtam

University at Buffalo (SUNY) (4): Mariann Caprino, Benjamin Molina, Matthew Nestor, Isabella Sotgiu

Chapman University (7): Sarah Sanders, Isabella Spagnoli, Olivia Sacco, Zola Franchi, Kaylee Laird, Jackson Ignatuk, Maggie Elliott

The Catholic University of America (4): Angela Luna, Anita Gulia, Faith Costello, Matthew Engelhaupt

Columbia University (8): Monica Pedone, Gwyneth Campbell, Joshua Martin, Kat Ponza, John Brunner, Machae Brieschke, Missy Mellor, Senia Magzumov

College of Holy Cross (12): Matteo del Santo, Giulia DiRaimo, Lauren Szanyi, Kristin Nastasi, Mary Cate Pawlus, Madeline Sughrue, Elisabeth Griffith, Alessia Caira, Grace Papa, Katelyn McCarthy, Charles Nascimben, Lilly Hoehn

University of Delaware (13): Gary Conte, Anna Frasso, Cecilia Napoli, Nanant Rattanachaisit, Clara Anderson, Ally Festa, Natalie Pinto, Mary Davis, Monika Shafi, Allison Glading, Holly Talbot, Madeline Dickerson, Gabriella Autovino

Drew University (9): Robert James Angarone, Alexandra Nicole Artigliere, Emmily Bacca Polo, Colin James Kidwell, Lauren A Miglietta, Val J. Montrone, Marco Achille Niro, Charlotte Rae Reing, Dante Anthony Spagnuolo

Duke University (7): Ava Bailey, Tyler Burden, Jacob Carnes, Joey Illagan, Katherine Wiest, Harper Wilkinson, Isaiah Williams

Fairfield University (11): Christina Silvestri, ToniAnne Gagliostro, Logan Saks, Marianna Kalin, Abigale Evangelista, Alexandra Goetz, Sarah Rocha, Flaminia Melchionna, Abigail Byrne, Natalie Cavanaugh, Theodore Chieffi

Florida State University (9): Harrison Betz, Kirk Fechter, Emily Lauro, Joao Marcello Pereira De Magalhaes, Ava Monastero, Ilaria Roncelli, Holly Sacca, Elizabeth Sauer, Campbell Walter

George Mason University (3): Astrid Viera Benitez, Bianca Fiore, Josephine Petras

University of Georgia (1): Anna Elizabeth Hatfield

Gettysburg College (1): Jordan Basso

The George Washington University (6): Alexandra Kilduff, Sophia Pappas, Sofia DeLuca, Nina Plateroti, Elise Jansen, Yolanda America Maria Fernandez Cenedo

Indiana University (8): Haley Baker, Holly Fizer, Alexa Norbeck, Gwyn Lawler, Sam Capello, Joshua Noll, Hayeon Byun, Ji-Woon Jung

University of Kansas (6): Georgia Fite, Greta Hayden, Katherine Balke, Sarah Sinelli, Quincey Kramer, Maycee Nicholas

Loyola University of Chicago (11): Yulia Romantsova, Mia Grace Conti Mica, Erica Chelmowski, David Spingola, Benjamin Fanelli, Lidia Rebolledo, Nick Neumayer, Bella Milici, Clara Copps, Ana Laura Konrad Fagondes, Olimpia Giancolone

Loyola Marymount University (1): Olivia G. de Paschalis

University of Massachusetts Lowell (2): Julian Viviescas Mejia, Stefan Iglesias, Skylar Charles

Michigan State University (2): Abigail Bies, Emily Goschka

Middlebury College (11): Katie Baker, Elizabeth Bowen, Daniela Michell Delgrado, Hannah Wittenberg Dorosin, Elizabeth Duran, Naja Irvin-Conyers, Jack Lundgren, Nicolas D. Paneto, Brenda J Ramirez Alcala, Paige Victoria Swanson, Michael J. Yamin

Monmouth University (1): Nadia Zamorski

Mount St. Mary's University (5): Howard- Bennett Shelby Marie, Mckee Isaac, Stine Margaret, Garwood Jessa, Jones Kayla

Nazareth University (8): Frazier Hannah, Jenkins Ashley, Jenkins McKayla, Messer Veronica, Monti Danielle, Princip Mia, Romano Benedetta, Teasdale Erin

University of New Hampshire (7): Natalie Fosberg, Hailey Keel, Leia Krans, Kaley Lambert, Julia Lucey, Kegan Messmer, Lindsey White

University of Notre Dame (42): Patrick Bader, Grace Barger, Adele Bonomi, Cole Botta, Andrew Buonaccorsi, Emily DeFazio, Jame Dewalt, Matthew Espeland, Brigit Ferry, Joe Fiocca, Kendall Fisher, Iliana Gamboa, Dirgo Gerena, Maria Valeria Guerrero, Ella Haley, Luke Hinsman, Sarah King, Daniel Kraemer, Abby Lamm, Kendra Lyimo, Stella Mancini, Abby Mancuso, Joe Marinai, Brett McLaughlin, Will Milosevich, Khya Morton, Sara Nelson, Corinne O'Toole, Joce Orlando, Anselma Panic, Nick Pesce, Connor Roop, Maggie

Scheibel, William Smith, Elizabeth Spretnjak, Michael Stenaniu, Lauren Stevens, Ashley Straub, Isaiah Thummel, Jack Witkop, Dillon Hughes, Olivia Connor

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (24): Michela Acosta, Sophia Blatchley, Gianna Brennan, Bennett Brosnan, Landon Cable, Courtney Castillo, Sarah Chocron, Amy Elder, Ani Florence, Aidan Galu, Hunter Hatfield, Giacomo Hardin, Joseph Hickman, Autumn Hiller, Elizabeth Kohn, Connor Lopez, Dakari McCorkle, Siobhan Morris, Paul Nogara, Ashley Pearson, Jonah Prober, Eliza Sparrow, Dorian Varney, Justin Wilson

University of Massachusetts Amherst (15): Audrey Addonisio, Sofie Aziz, Stephanie Bianco, Brendan Cadogan, Massimiliano Donati, Gabriella Gagnon, Charlotte Goralski, Lydia Harrison, Valentina Karabinas, Isabella Masiero, Lauren Miguel, Cameron Prescott, Ashley Rooney, Noelle Sicoli, Sarah Tobia

North Carolina State University (5): Nathaniel Somma, Isabel Jackson, Jillian Mauron, Wayne Johnson, Yong Ma

Penn State University (5): Leonardo Frepoli, Kanan Mammadov, Megan Neely, Victoria Snyder, Alexis Wilson

Providence College (4): Colin Prancel, Christian Sciarretta, Dominique Paolicelli, Samantha Purpura

Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences (9): Zack Novac, Sophia Scala, John Ianelli, Andrea Potesta-Oliva, Vaughn Battista, Dylan Freno, Laisha Rodriguez, Angela M. Amedeo, Bianca Cacchione

Rochester Institute of Technology (10) Noah Baumgaertel, Jacob DiGiovanni, Allison Valentina Davila Prado, Ryan Lembo-Ehms, James Hansplant, Megan

Moscato, Nicole Powers, Eleanor Tallman, Monica Domeniconi, Julian Huenerfauth

University of San Diego (5): Catherine Giorgi, Lilian Gallardo, Liliana Kim, Dominic Rago, Maria Varriale Gomez ,

Stanford University (2): Helena Aytenfisu, Alexander Lewis Selwyn

The University of Texas at Austin (14): Ballerini Isabella, Farahani Roya Veronica, Roberts Kaolyn Nicole, Walsh Nicholas Paul, Zaman Sofia, Sale Connor Christopher, Arulanandam Grace Ann, Reyes Sabrina Isabel, Kemmer Cassandra Jane, Cavedoni-Villega Alessandro, Leonard James Douglas, Morquecho Andrea, Arteaga Perez Stefanie Abigail, Zurovec Alexia M

University of Vermont (5): Amelia Catanzaro, Lauryn Katz, Iain Pless, Davis Priest, Stella Vercesi

Villanova University (5): Marisa Mongiovi, Marianna Noble, Brianna Puorro, Amanda Santini, Jillian Williams

University of Virginia (5): Clara Grimmelbein, Jed Daniels, Sofia Cosie, Will Warner, Nicole Borino

Wake Forest University (10): Kate Bucci, Georgia Cowie, Joseph Doria, Claudia Fernandez, Ryan Fessler, Matthew Giuliano, Rogan Kersh, Cameron Krell, Michaela Re, Kate Trombold

Wheaton College (3): Catriona Stewart, Celines Ramirez, Gianna Wyatt

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