

THE MENTORIS PROJECT AT CSUN

The Special Projects Division of the Italian Studies section of the Modern and Classical Language and Literatures Department, under the direction of Professor Patrizia Miller (pmiller@csun.edu), has joined with Mr. Robert Barbera and the Barbera Foundation to bring 'The Mentor Project' to the CSUN campus.

Mr. Barbera is a long-time supporter of Italian Studies and the mastermind behind the Mentor book collection. The titles feature Italians and Italian-Americans who have made important contributions to the world. At CSUN, Professor Miller is directing the effort to make the titles available to students at large. Students are encouraged to read the biographical novels which cover history, political science, education, the sciences and technology, to mention only a few disciplines. The intent is to familiarize our academic community with such influential contributors to the world as Mazzei, Marconi, Sirica, Giannini, Gallo, et al. We encourage students to read a title that directly impacts their field of studies as well as Italian language and culture. Once the readings are completed, and if interested in doing so, the students would be asked to write a five-page paper. The report in MLA format, would need to include the following:

- Why the student selected the particular book.
- How reading about the subject relates to their field of studies and/or Italian Studies
- Was the reading enlightening, and does it inspire future research.
- A personal assessment of the Mentor Project in general. What is a mentor in their opinion.
- Complete the project by mid-February and submit to Professor Miller via email pmiller@csun.edu
- Present the paper at the annual mid-March Mentor Symposium

The reports would be collected by Professor Miller, reviewed by a panel of faculty members, and finalist(s) would be selected for the Mentor Award however, all students are encouraged to present their papers at the event. The funding for this award is again part of Mr. Barbera's vision and generosity.

The Mentor Project titles are available for perusal by contacting:

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