

THE MENTORIS PROJECT:

Discover the influence of Italy

With

Books, podcasts and events



The Mentor Project is a series of novels and biographies about the lives of great Italians and Italian-Americans, men and women who have changed history through their contributions as scientists, inventors, explorers, thinkers, and creators. The Barbera Foundation sponsors this series in the hope that, like a mentor, each book will inspire the reader to discover how she or he can make a positive contribution to society and finish the readings with the affirmation, "I too can do something great."

<https://mentorproject.org/>

THE BOOKS

What would it be like to meet the man who inspired Thomas Jefferson? Or hike through New Mexico's mountains with Enrico Fermi? These biographies and novels take you on great adventures.

THE PODCASTS

Meet the authors of the Mentor Project book series through engaging conversations with host Dr. Rosanne Welch. Learn about famous Italian and Italian-American artists, adventurers, explorers, educators, and philosophers.

The Foundation

The Barbera Foundation's mission is to encourage and inspire young people to create a stronger future by supporting educational initiatives that foster an appreciation of history and culture.

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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