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Italian Club President Attends Washington Convention

November 16, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University Italian Club President Angela Latkowski recently attended the National Italian American Foundation's annual two-day convention and 31st Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C., held this year on Oct. 21. The convention was established to honor influential Italian Americans in areas such as politics, science, philanthropy, business, sports and entertainment.



The event is open to Italian Club officers from universities throughout the country. All expenses are paid by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), a non-profit organization serving as a major cultural advocate in Washington D.C. for nearly 25 million Italian Americans.

Italian Club faculty advisor Scott Sheridan, associate professor of French, decided to apply for the convention grant in September as a way of making connections with other collegiate Italian Clubs. Though not of Italian heritage, Latkowski, a senior vocal performance major from Roselle, Ill., has spent a semester in Milan studying at an Italian music academy.

As part of the convention activities, Latkowski attended a gala where she had the opportunity to hear speeches by such influential figures as President George W. Bush, baseball legend Yogi Berra, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Samuel Alito and baseball Hall-of-Fame member Tommy Lasorda.

A relatively new group on campus, the IWU Italian Club has approximately a dozen members from different majors and heritages. The group strives to promote Italian cultures by hosting events such as dinners and movies. The club is inclusive and does not require an Italian heritage or fluency of the language.

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