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Salvatore Bancheri



Un viaggio attraverso
la conoscenza
Studi in memoria
di Paul A. Colilli (1952-2018)

A Journey through
Knowledge:
A Festschrift in Memory
of Paul A. Colilli (1952-2018)

edited by
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The volume stems from the conference *Fragments of Culture between Diaspora, Language and Semiotics. Conference in Honour of Paul A. Colilli, a Modern-day Renaissance Man*, held at the University of Toronto Mississauga on October 3-4, 2019.

The Conference was organized to honour the memory of our beloved and respected colleague and friend, Paul A. Colilli (1952-2018). It saw the collaboration between the Department of Language Studies (University of Toronto Mississauga), the Department of Italian Studies (University of Toronto), the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (Laurentian University), and the Italian Cultural Institute, Toronto. We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep sense of gratitude to all of these units in providing conference space, essential technical assistance, and precious financial support.

The book would not have been possible without the help of many people along the way, starting with the authors. Their collaboration has been exemplary, and we extend our gratitude to them. We are equally thankful to the peer reviewers—for their insightful comments, recommendations and guidance, which have definitely enhanced the academic standing of this volume—and to Nicholas Terpstra, Interim Chair and Emilio Goggio Chair of the Department of Italian Studies, University of Toronto, for making the publication of this collection possible. Last but not least, we wish to extend our special thanks to Diana Iuele-Colilli and the entire Colilli family for their support and encouragement during the preparation of this tribute to their husband and father.

The *Festschrift* starts with a paper *in memoriam* of Paul Colilli, followed by forty-six essays arranged into six broad thematic areas. Although each work contributes to the interpretation of some aspect of Italian studies, the subjects treated and the critical methods used are widely dissimilar. The reader will appreciate the scope of contributions from bright advanced undergraduates, with a passion for Italian studies, to emerging scholars, who are at the beginning of their chosen profession, to senior colleagues who enjoy well-deserved international reputations. In this sense, the contributors to this volume represent the entire spectrum of research being carried out in Departments and Programs of Italian worldwide at all levels of preparation (undergraduate Italian majors,

nascent researchers and distinguished scholars whose professional activity has earned countless accolades for their exceptional contributions that advance our knowledge of Italian studies). At the same time, the volume follows Paul's intellectual journey and his varied and multifaceted approaches to Italy and its linguistic and cultural space, ranging from linguistic questions to literary reflections, from educational principles to migratory models. Paul's intellectual interests span many research areas, reflecting the unity of knowledge, the philosophical concept of logos, where word, identity, and sign (mathematical or linguistic) are polygons of the same polyfaceted thought (*res cogitans*). In sum, the richness and variety of this volume are a tribute to Paul's copious and wide-ranging teaching and research interests and to his reputation of excellence in all of these fields.

Paul certainly would not have anticipated at the start of his career at the University of Toronto all of the topics he ended up researching. He let his work go where his remarkable mind steered him. And in each investigated area, he has been a creative and ingenious pioneer.

Paul's intellectual journey has its origin and meaning in migration, intended as movement, creativity, abandonment of the known and discovery of an unknown that will become known. In this *festschrift*, we wanted to offer some stages of this journey. We imagined a journey that starts with the process of migration of his family. During this earthly travel, Paul benefited from and was enriched by many encounters (including students, colleagues, and scholars), and gave life to projects that otherwise would not have existed or would not have been the same. And finally, some of these encounters have now joined in celebrating Paul's research and life.

The Editors
Toronto, Ontario
October 2020

Il volume raccoglie i contributi presentati al Convegno *Fragments of Culture between Diaspora, Language and Semiotics. Conference in Honour of Paul A. Colilli, a Modern-day Renaissance Man* che si è tenuto presso la University of Toronto Mississauga nei giorni 3 e 4 ottobre 2019. Il Convegno ha inteso ricordare l'amico e collega Paul A. Colilli (1952-2018) ed è stato il frutto di una collaborazione sinergica tra il dipartimento di Language Studies (University of Toronto Mississauga), il Dipartimento di Italian Studies (University of Toronto), il dipartimento di Modern Languages and Literatures (Laurentian University) e l'Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Toronto.

In questa breve nota ci sia data l'occasione per ringraziare sentitamente coloro che hanno contribuito in maniera fattiva alla realizzazione e alla splendida riuscita della conferenza: il nostro grazie va in primo luogo alle persone che hanno lavorato logisticamente per garantire spazi, sale e supporto tecnico. Un secondo indirizzo di ringraziamento è poi dovuto alle istituzioni universitarie e generalmente culturali, canadesi e italiane, che hanno voluto fortemente la conferenza e ne hanno sostenuto la fattibilità sul piano economico-finanziario. La nostra gratitudine deve essere estesa agli autori dei singoli contributi che hanno dimostrato affetto e sensibilità nei confronti di Paul e hanno messo le loro ricerche a disposizione di un volume miscelaneo di grande impatto per gli studi di italianistica e le *humanae litterae*. Gli atti che ci accingiamo a presentare sono stati possibili grazie al lavoro importante dei revisori esterni che hanno guidato le singole pubblicazioni perché potessero seguire linee di interesse molteplici, ma al contempo complementari. La pubblicazione di questo volume è stata poi possibile grazie alla generosità del prof. Nicholas Terpstra, Interim Chair e Goggio Chair del Dipartimento di Italian Studies della University of Toronto. *Ultimo sed non ultimum*, un ringraziamento particolare e affettuoso deve essere riconosciuto a Diana Iuele-Colilli e alla sua famiglia che hanno incoraggiato la realizzazione del convegno e hanno supportato con affetto e discrezione gli editori perché a distanza di pochi mesi dal convegno potesse venire alla luce questo tributo accademico al Paul studioso, marito e padre.

Il volume prende avvio con una riflessione *in memoriam* di Paul Colilli a cui fanno seguito quarantasei contributi articolati in sei aree tematiche, cia-

scuna della quali rappresenta un aspetto del multiforme ed eteroclitico mondo dell'Italian Studies a cui Paul ha dedicato passione e intelletto. Così come Paul amava fare, muovendosi tra "altezze accademiche" diverse, perché consapevole che anche il promettente studente "alle prime armi" nel mondo della ricerca può aggiungere un tassello alla riflessione epistemologica, il volume si muove attraverso interessi e profili di studiosi molteplici, mettendo assieme giovani studenti e ricercatori con professori già apprezzati sul piano internazionale. Questo, per noi curatori, convinti di ben interpretare il pensiero e il sentimento di Paul, è un valore aggiunto che riflette l'intero spettro di ricerca e didattica portato avanti dai dipartimenti e dai programmi di Italiano diffusi in Italia e nel mondo. Il volume coniuga gli interessi di Paul che da fine studioso, rigoroso e aperto a prospettive altre, talvolta anche apparentemente lontane, ha riconosciuto il principio primo di unitarietà del sapere e della conoscenza, cioè di unitarietà del *logos*, ovvero del presupposto per cui parola, identità e segno (segno linguistico, ma anche segno matematico) sono facce dello stesso poliedro chiamato *res cogitans*.

All'inizio della sua carriera alla University of Toronto, Paul non avrebbe di sicuro immaginato di attraversare tutti i temi che sarebbero stati poi centrali nella sua vita accademica, ma ha lasciato che le sue ricerche si muovessero in consonanza con il suo pensiero e la sua sensibilità. In ogni ambito indagato, Paul è stato pioniere creativo, uomo capace di dare un senso nuovo allo studio e alla ricerca. Crediamo che sia difficile trovare un unico filo conduttore ai suoi molti interessi; allo stesso tempo è difficile identificare il suo primo ambito di interesse, se con primo vogliamo trascendere il senso cronologico e ritrovare il valore etimologico di *primum* ovvero di ciò da cui tutto il resto deriva. E allora vogliamo credere che il primo viaggio di Paul nel mare della scienza e della conoscenza inizi con il viaggio della sua famiglia dall'Italia al Canada, metafora del passaggio dal Vecchio al Nuovo Mondo, e con esso l'abbraccio a quella America che ne avrebbe dato i natali e riconosciuto universalmente i meriti e le profondità intellettuali. Durante il viaggio della vita, Paul è stato arricchito dai tantissimi incontri avuti con colleghi, studenti e studiosi e ha dato vita a progetti e ricerche che altrimenti non sarebbero esistiti o non sarebbero stati gli stessi. Ed ora alcuni di questi incontri si sono ritrovati, e altri se ne sono aggiunti, per celebrare la ricerca e la vita di Paul.

I curatori
Toronto, Ontario
ottobre 2020

PAUL COLILLI: A MODERN-DAY RENAISSANCE MAN

Christine Sansalone
Laurentian University

ABSTRACT – The article examines the figure and contribution of the late Professor Paul Colilli as a versatile academic who left an indelible mark on literature of all times, as well as on fields such as angelology, astronomy, philosophy, innovative music, playwriting, acting, pedagogy, and more.

KEYWORDS – Petrarca, Dante, Giordano Bruno, Poliziano, Vico, Eco, Agamben, Valesio, Italian Canadian studies, angelology, astronomy, music, playwright, actor, teaching



On March 7, 2018, the Italian studies community suffered the loss of Paul Colilli, one of its most esteemed members and a dear colleague of mine. A professor of Italian Studies at Laurentian University (Sudbury, Ontario), Paul was a highly respected scholar and a vibrant personality. Many have known Paul for his many publications, ranging from Renaissance to Modern Italian literature, and for his intellectual thought, but his accomplishments go well beyond his research: Paul was an admired teacher, a respected administrator, a diplomat, a playwright, an actor, and a talented musician. Paul Colilli was a modern-day Renaissance man.

Paul was born on August 1, 1952, in Hamilton, Ontario, from Italian parents originally from the region of Abruzzo. He completed his undergraduate studies at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) in 1978, and received a Ph.D. in Italian studies from the University of Toronto in 1983.

1. A Passionate Teacher

Paul started his teaching career at Laurentian University in 1983 as an Assistant Professor of Italian in the Department of Modern Languages and Litera-

tures, and was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in 1997. He also taught as a Visiting Professor in the graduate program at the Middlebury College's Italian School (Vermont) from 1989 to 2013. In the fall of 2012 Paul was an Emilio Goggio Visiting Professor in the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Toronto, where he taught a graduate course on "The Medieval Origins of Italian Literary Culture."

During his career at Laurentian University Paul taught courses at the undergraduate level, in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and, at the graduate level, in both the Interdisciplinary M.A. in Humanities and the Ph.D. in Human Studies programs. His teaching was always guided by a profound sense of responsibility towards his students. He was truly interested in their well-being, and, believing in their potential, he encouraged them when they were going through difficult moments and rejoiced in their successes.

His impact on the Italian Studies program at Laurentian University was clearly felt from the beginning: when he arrived at Laurentian, Paul had a ten-month contract to replace the only tenured faculty member who had just retired. The university's administration had planned to graduate the remaining students and, then, close the program. By the end of that academic year Paul's position was converted to a tenure track position, the program was reinvigorated and, in the following years, 2 more tenure-track positions in Italian studies were created. All this was possible thanks to Paul's vision, his commitment to the program, his passion for Italian studies, and, most of all, to his honesty, his dedication, and his sense of duty towards his students.

Paul had a true passion for teaching, so much so that when he became an administrator at Laurentian University (first Dean of Humanities, then Associate Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies), he insisted on continuing to teach a course every year, even though without remuneration. Nothing could stand in the way of his desire to impart knowledge on his students, not even his illness. When he was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in July 2017, the doctors at first advised him to stop working and take some time off to undergo his weekly chemotherapy treatments. This deeply saddened him. He rejoiced immensely when his doctor gave him permission to return to the classroom. And there he was, on the first day of his classes, ready to inspire and motivate his students one more time.

Paul's passion for teaching was attested not only by the countless certificates of appreciation from the Centre for Academic Excellence (CAE) at Laurentian University and by the outstanding teaching evaluations he consistently received, but also by his innovative teaching styles and methods, which reflected the students' changing needs and interests. He was renowned for creating and proposing the most innovative and interesting courses, such as "Reading Italy Through Its Scandals," where he introduced the students to Italian cul-

ture through the dynamic of the scandals that, in many ways, anticipated and brought about the changes in the country's cultural climate. Through the analysis of literary works, journalistic writings, films and television programs, the course studied the major scandals of postwar Italy that occurred in the sphere of politics, culture, soccer and other domains. His "Made in Italy: Italian Fashion and Design" course examined the cultural and historical import of Italian fashion and design from the perspective of literature, television, and cinema. The course explored how fashion and design offer a wide-ranging perspective on the central elements that define the cultural profile of Italy, as well as their impact abroad. Paul always managed to give an exotic and contemporary twist to all his courses, even the most traditional ones like "Reason, Love & Death in Italian Enlightenment," where he explored how the cultural production of the Italian Enlightenment and Romantic periods pivot on the interplay between reason, love, violence, and mortality.

Throughout his career, Paul has touched the lives of hundreds of students. He has inspired them and motivated them to reach for the top and achieve their goals. On the day of his funeral and memorial, the church and the hall were full of family members and colleagues, but most of all of students, past and present, from all corners of North America. Paul cared deeply for his students and in return they cared deeply for him.

2. A Successful Researcher

What can one say about Paul's scholarly activity, other than it was truly remarkable. During his career Paul published 12 monographic volumes, edited two books, wrote 24 chapters in academic books, published 25 articles in refereed journals, translated two books, wrote countless book reviews and presented at 68 conferences around the world. The value and quality of his research are attested by the eight Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada research grants he received, a rare honour among academics. His enthusiasm for research and contributions to his field of study will never be forgotten.

While most researchers tend to focus on one or two literary periods, Paul's research interests varied from Francesco Petrarca, Dante Alighieri, Giordano Bruno and Angelo Poliziano to Giovanbattista Vico, Umberto Eco, Giorgio Agamben and Paolo Valesio, as well as from pedagogy and second language acquisition to Italian Canadian studies, or from angelology to astronomy. It is important to point out that all his literary writings from the middle ages to today were informed by modern critical theory.

His first monograph, *Petrarch's Allegories of Writing*, was published in 1988 by Nicola De Dominicis. The book was an extensively revised version

of his Ph.D. thesis, “Petrarch’s Theology of the Veil,” supervised by Julius A. Molinaro, and was one of the first studies to suggest the presence of flexible boundaries for anachronism in Petrarch scholarship.

Paul’s interest in ontology and semiotics brought him to write *Poliziano’s Science of Tropes*, published in 1989 by Peter Lang, a work which follows “Poliziano’s tracing and appropriation of the semiotic voices and matter emitted from the past” (xi).

His continued interest in Petrarca culminated with the publication of *La poetica dell’aletheia nell’“Africa” del Petrarca*, published in 1993 by Marra. In the volume, Paul proposes a radical re-evaluation of the relationship between writing and nothingness. His attention falls on Petrarch’s revisions of *Africa*, which are present in the “Acquisti e Doni 441” manuscript of the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, that were never incorporated by the author in his final work.

In 1993 Paul also published *Signs of the Hermetic Imagination*, which appeared as number 12 in the Series of the Toronto Semiotic Circle. In this study, he traces the genealogy of a hermetic vein in Giordano Bruno, Giambattista Vico, Martin Heidegger, Franco Rella, Giorgio Agamben and Paolo Valesio. The works of these same authors are once again examined by Paul in a later publication, *The Idea of a Living Spirit: Poetic Logic as a Contemporary Theory* (University of Toronto Press, 1997), where he uses their textual materials to formulate the idea of a poetic logic. *The Idea of a Living Spirit* was also a stepping stone in Paul’s next chapter in his academic career, when his research interests delved into the field of angelology. In his next book, *The Angel’s Corpse* (St. Martin’s Press, 1999), he applies his theories on poetic logic to the signifying nature of the angel in literature. In his review of *The Angel’s Corpse*, Michael Hardt (Duke University) states:

Paul Colilli takes the existence of angels seriously. And he takes seriously too the truth of poetry. In this provocative and original book he makes clear how intimately related the two are.

Paul’s fascination with the philosophy of Giovanbattista Vico is what inspired him to write *Vico and the Archives of Hermetic Reason* (Soleil Publishing, 2004). In this volume he argues that one of the key tools in understanding the thought of Vico is the hermetic philosophy of the Renaissance, and he does so by “focusing on aspects of the topographical dispersion of the hermetic archives present in Vico’s writings” (4).

In *La redenzione delle cose: il pensiero poetante di Paolo Valesio*, published in 2006 by Metauro, Paul focusses on Valesio’s works and traces the emergence of a poetic reason that pivots on the redemptive qualities of his poetry.

Paul’s last monograph, *Agamben and the Signature of Astrology: Spheres of Potentiality*, published by Lexington Books in 2015, focusses on the work of

one of the world's most important living philosophers. Paul was ecstatic when, after reading his manuscript, Giorgio Agamben himself wrote the following commentary for the back cover of the book:

Paul Colilli's archeology of astrology is enlightening and penetrating. His conception of astrology as an epistemological ruin located in the unconscious of contemporary thought should be carefully considered by any scholar in the field of humanities. Therefore, it is not surprising that I learned from his book something utterly unexpected about my own work.

While *Agamben and the Signature of Astrology* was his last published book, Paul kept on researching and writing till the very end. Even during the painful and tiring months of chemotherapy treatment, I would often find Paul in his office working away on his latest book on critical theory and angelology. He once told me that his research was able to give him a sense of peace during that difficult time and made him come to terms with death itself. He then explained that his last work was on the Angel of Death.

3. An Experienced Administrator

Throughout his career at Laurentian University Paul assumed many administrative duties. In 1985, two years after his arrival in Sudbury, he became Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (originally Italian, Spanish, German), a position which he held till 1993, then, again, from 2000 to 2001 and from 2015 to 2018 (he even chaired our departmental meeting the week before his passing). Thanks to his guidance, the department was recently able to expand with the addition of two more languages: Chinese (since 2016) and Arabic (2017).

From 1993 to 1997 Paul assumed the role of Dean of Humanities at Laurentian University. From 2001 to 2008 he was Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and, following a period of restructuring, he became Associate Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies (2008-2009). From 2009 to 2010 he was Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences.

His administrative duties also expanded beyond the boundaries of Laurentian University, as he assumed the role of Associate Director at Middlebury College's Italian Summer School from 2006 to 2013. From 1993 to 1996 he was Vice-President of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies. He was Regional Representative of the Council of Deans of Arts and Sciences of Ontario, from 1993 to 1997, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Conference of Deans of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences from 1995 to 1997. He held the position of Corresponding Member of the Canadian Federation for the Humani-

ties from 1997 to 2005, and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies from 2005 to 2008.

As Dean of Graduate studies, Paul worked tirelessly to promote and expand graduate studies at Laurentian University. He fought to guarantee funding for all M.A students, and it was under his deanship that Laurentian University's first Ph. D. program in the Faculty of Arts (Ph. D. in Human Studies) was established and launched in 2007.

Paul was the perfect administrator: he was well respected, fair, open-minded, and, most of all, always calm and collected. His sincerity, honesty and willingness to help had a profound effect on all those around him. It was not uncommon to see other senior administrators stop by his office and ask for advice, knowing that his door would always be open.

4. A Dedicated Community Leader and Diplomat

Since his arrival in Sudbury, Paul worked tirelessly to promote the Italian culture by building a strong connection with the local Italian community, in particular through the main associations: the Società Caruso of Sudbury (the largest local Italian social club), the Montessori Club of Sudbury, the Italian Club of Copper Cliff, the Associazione Alpini of Sudbury, and the various regional Italian associations (Associazione Regionale Marchigina; Calabria Social Club; Associazione Veneta; Fogolar Furlan). He served as Chair of the Società Caruso's Culture and Education Committee from 1995 to 1999, and was First Vice-President of the Società Caruso from 1999 to 2003.

Paul partnered with the local Fogolar Furlan when he organized a conference and an exhibit on Pier Paolo Pasolini in 1995, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the director's passing. In 2011 he collaborated with several local associations in organizing a conference in honour of the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy.

In the year 2000, Paul was chosen to become Honorary Vice-Consul of Italy for Sudbury, Timmins, Parry Sound and Sault Ste. Marie. While in office, he spent most of his Friday mornings in the consular office at the Società Caruso, assisting his fellow Italians from all over North-Eastern Ontario with their applications and issues concerning pensions, passports, citizenship, and all other bureaucratic matters.

5. A Talented Musician, Playwright and Actor

Paul Colilli is one of those apocryphal figures in Canadian Rock history. (Bruce Mowat. G-Mole, Friday, August 19, 2011)

Paul Colilli's *Psycho Sacred Music* is a record that sounds like it's streaked with silver. It flows with sparks of pop sensibilities and quivers with intimate, sometimes melancholy undertones. (Liz Worht, The Radio Forest, March 5, 2012)

Paul Colilli's melodies, themes and lyrics are all very exclusive and unforgettable. (Willie Poll, Lambda. Tuesday, March 20, 2012)

These are only a few of the comments on Paul's music expressed by critics around the world. Paul's musical career started in the 70s, when he co-founded the legendary Canadian proto-punk band Simply Saucer. He left the band in 1979, when his life journey brought him from creating experimental music to academia, where, in the years to follow, he became an authority on angelology, hermeticism and post-theology.

Paul relaunched his musical career in 2011 with the release of his first solo album *Psycho Sacred Music*. In an interview conducted by a local newspaper, Paul admitted that "at a certain point, my severe nostalgia for my musical archeology ended up alchemically contaminating my ongoing odyssey through the unmarked forests of ancient and modern books. The result was *Psycho Sacred Music*." Paul has described his songs as "metaphysical ghost music with a beat" or "psycho Baroque pop." His melodies are characterized by pulsating pianos, chiming organs, thrashing guitars, mellotron sounds, disarming ambient sounds and hypnotic rhythms. The webpage dedicated to his music (www.paulcolilli.ca) reads:

The album guides the listener throughout worlds that haunt the many aspects of our daily lives. The tracks on the album unleash a sense of wonder for the things that once existed and a feeling of terrifying nostalgia for what has not yet taken place. [...] Everything is bound together by lyrics that bring the listener to the edge of an intoxicating sound space, lodged somewhere between darkness and light, not unlike a Caravaggio painting reconceptualised by Andy Warhol.

In June 2013 Paul released his second solo album, *Hieroglyphs of the Soul*, which explores the relationship between past, present and future. His fascination with the end of times brings him to imagine what will happen between now and then. He imagines a future filled with the past in a world where the natural order of time has been reversed and the past races towards us from the future.

Paul's fascination with the past transpires also in his creative writing, and, in particular, in the play he co-wrote with his wife, Professor Diana Iuele-Colil-

li, *Il tempo vola*, published by Soleil Publishing in 2016. The play is set in contemporary Sudbury, and the protagonists are a Laurentian University caretaker and a maintenance worker who, during their night shift, are tele-transported to Renaissance Italy by a faulty elevator.

Together with Diana Iuele-Colilli and myself, Paul also co-authored a collection of 2 other plays: *La sala verde* and *Divorzio alla canadese* (Legas, 2017). *La sala verde* also takes place in present-day Sudbury, and deals with comical situations surrounding auditions for a fictional, joint Canadian-Italian production of a docudrama about Sudbury's Italian community. *Divorzio alla canadese* also takes place in Sudbury, and deals with Giacinto and Assunta, two Italian immigrants who, after many years of marriage, decide to split up. The sobriety and gravity expressed by his music seem to be forgotten in his comedies, where, instead, his wit, sarcasm and ability to find humour even in the most difficult situations, prevail.

Paul's interest in theatre started in 1992, when, together with Diana Iuele-Colilli, he co-founded and co-directed the student theatrical group *Le maschere laurenziane*, housed in the Italian Studies program in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Laurentian University. During his quarter of a century directorial career, he staged several plays from the Italian theatrical canon, such as from Pirandello, Goldoni, Campanile, Fo, and many others, as well as plays by Italian-Canadian authors like Francesca Schembri and Toni Nardi.

Paul's artistic abilities were not limited to writing music and plays: he also graced the stage of the Laurentian University Alphonse Raymond Theatre and Thorneloe University Theatre (Sudbury) on several occasions. In 1996 he played the role of Don Giovanni Altamura in Eduardo De Filippo's *Ditegli sempre di sì*. In 2005 he was Peppino Zicca in Francesca Schembri's *Tutti a tavola*. In February 2010 he was the male lead in Christine Sansalone and Diana Iuele-Colilli's *Vita di tutti i giorni*. His portrayal of Giovanni Campino, a middle-aged Italian immigrant living in Sudbury and trying to collect his workers' compensation benefit was hilarious and humanizing at the same time. In his next role as Carlo in *La sala verde*, which he also co-authored with Christine Sansalone and Diana Iuele-Colilli, he was a RAI-TV movie director sent to Sudbury to film a documentary on Italian-Canadians. His last appearance on stage was in 2016 as Giacinto Pacifici in *Divorzio alla canadese*.

6. A Family Man and a Great Colleague

Paul's accomplishments in research, teaching, administrative work, music and so on are exceptionally remarkable; still, Paul always told me that his greatest accomplishment was his family, i.e., his wife Diana and their three children, Andrea, Julian and Olivia. He was extremely proud of his children, and always

had a little sparkle in his eyes when talking about them. He became a soccer and baseball coach for their school teams, never missed a recital or a school concert, and supported them in their studies and careers. He encouraged them to reach for their dreams, and was a loving and caring father and a devoted husband.

When I joined Laurentian University as an inexperienced, junior faculty member in 2005, I felt a little intimidated about the idea of working with such an accomplished academic as Paul; however, as soon as I arrived, that feeling immediately turned into appreciation for the opportunity to work with a scholar who, in spite of his caliber, was so down-to-earth, humble and welcoming.

As I sit here in my office writing this article, I find myself looking at the empty office next to me, Paul's office, once filled with books, papers, ideas, students, colleagues, and community members seeking advice or just wanting to chat about music, soccer, politics, religion, existential theories, et cetera. Paul will be profoundly missed by all of us, but we may find comfort in knowing that his legacy will live on in his writings, in his music and in his teachings, which have touched our lives and will continue to touch the lives of many in the future.

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