

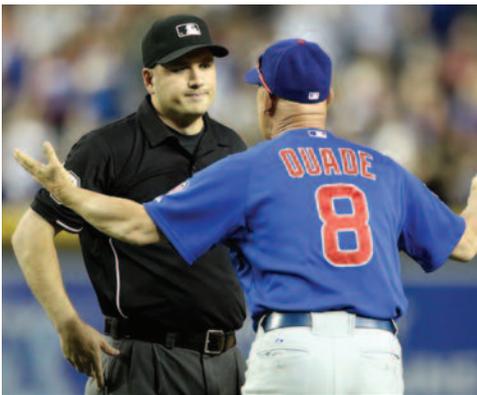
HEAVY HITTER

Attorney-turned-umpire Dan Bellino is the subject of Leonard Amari's most recent website profile of Italian Americans in the professions.

Bellino was a standout student at John Marshall Law School with a keen interest in intellectual property law, but a funny thing happened to him on the way to his chosen profession: He got bitten by the baseball bug and, upon graduation, devoted himself to becoming an umpire in major league baseball.

"In a profession that employs only 68 full-time members, one in which the odds are heavily stacked against ever making it to the major leagues, Dan Bellino's rise was near meteoric," Leonard writes. "The 32-year-old resident of Crystal Lake got the call in February 2009, just before he left for spring training. It was the call of a lifetime as he learned he was being promoted to a full-time major league umpire. His wife, Katie, recalls they both shed tears of joy over the news."

For more, visit www.franoi.com and click on PEOPLE at the bottom of the home page.



FRA NOI



DREAMING BIG

Costume designer Mark Mariani is the subject of Lou Carlozo's most recent website profile of Italian Americans in entertainment and the arts.

"The theater world has many unsung heroes: folks like Mark Mariani who work behind the scenes to make plays look great," Lou notes. "Based in Philadelphia, Mariani designed the costumes for 'Freud's Last Session,' now playing at the Mercury Theater."

A two-time Barrymore Award nominee for his theatrical work in the City of Brotherly Love, Mariani loves the live stage, but has his eyes and heart set on the big screen, with its larger budgets and increased scope to widen his creative vision.

For more, visit www.franoi.com and click on PEOPLE at the bottom of the home page.

DUE RESPECT

Melrose Park Fire Chief Rick Beltrame is the subject of Mara Calvello's most recent website profile of Italian Americans in law enforcement and fire protection.

The son and nephew of police officers, Beltrame became a firefighter in his hometown of Melrose Park in 1981, working his way up the ladder to chief in 2005.

The key to being a good fire chief is to deal with each personality differently, according to Beltrame.

"You have to deal with those personalities to get the best work out of them: not the most, but the best," he explains. "You have to be able to get respect from your men so they will work for you and do their job."

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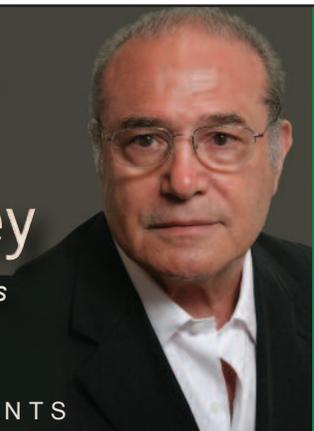
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