THE PhD-PRIDE DAY (THE CEREMONY OF CONFERRAL OF PhD DEGREES)
Chronicle and commentary by Enrico De Angelis

It happens every year, late spring. It usually rains (mainly when an outdoor ceremony is planned) but this year the weather was warm and the sun shining (in fact, we organized indoor-only activities).
It happened few days ago, in the morning of Friday, May 24th: our PhD School celebrated a new set of awarded Doctors and, as always, the Ceremony was introduced by a series of talks.

Our Executive Vice Rector Donatella Sciuto introduced the whole Ceremony with a first wish for the future career of the new graduated:

The Dean, prof. Paolo Biscari, added official thanks to his personal wishes:

Then, Effy Vayena came. And it was a really touching and inspiring talk!!

The world you are entering is challenging, not a pick-nick in the park. Although this is one of the best moment in the history of humanity the digital transformation is great, with some criticalities.

In this day of celebration, let me give your tips for your future: 1° REMAIN CRITICAL
Chair of Bioethics at ETH Zürich, Institute of Translational Medicine, Effy is the responsible of a lab that studies ethics, legal and social implications of precision medicine and digital health in particular, with a very wide eye on technological changes and their social sustainability. She welcomed our PhD Graduates, congratulated for reaching such a milestone, then added the “bad new”. You can’t relax, now, she said, because today life of an expert is not (no more?) an easy game and the pace and the scale of technological change we are living (and enjoying) is asking for a constant ethical tension from you, the future “experts”.

The following speaker was the roaring Enrico Zio, the president of the Association of the Alumni of Politecnico di Milano. Also Prof. Zio performed (not with a song, this time) a celebration of the skills and capabilities of the PhD graduate (of course, with the strong wish of welcoming all them as new members of the Association he generously leads, a network of several thousands of graduates of Politecnico di Milano all over the world):

Two other speeches, from two Polimi Doctors, closed the talks: Luca Podofillini, PhD in Nuclear Science and Technology, an expert of Human Reliability Analysis, now at the Swiss Paul Scherrer Institute (addressing the development of quantitative models of human performance in industrial systems) and Fabio Tradigo, PhD in Structural, Seismic and Geotechnical Engineering, taking his experience from the academy into the practice of the projects of one of the most known Architectural and Engineering Design firm in the world: Arup.
CALLS AND EVENTS

ERASMUS+ FOR TRAINEESHIP 2019/2020 CALL
The Erasmus+ for Traineeship call for the academic year 2019/2020 is open with deadline on noon of Thursday June 6th. PhD Candidates may ask grants for internship and research visit periods at an European company or Institution (including Universities). The grants are compatible with the scholarship increase for periods abroad. Here the link to the main page and the link to the call
Deadline: 6 June 2019

IEEE- ABB MASTER AND PHD THESIS AWARD 2019
The IEEE Italy Section together with its Chapters and WIE Affinity Group, is pleased to announce the call of the 2019 Awards on New Challenges for Energy and Industry thanks to the financial sponsor of one of the major players of the electric power industry, such as ABB. Two Awards have been established for 2019:

- the IEEE Italy Section ABB 2019 Master Thesis Award
- the IEEE Italy Section ABB 2019 PhD Thesis

Deadline: 6 June 2019

VALUTARE PREMIA
The Regional Council of Lombardy awards a master’s degree thesis and a doctoral thesis aimed at analyzing and evaluating public policies regulated and / or financed by the Lombardy Region. Awards and acknowledgments are aimed at young graduates and PhD graduates who obtained their degrees in Lombardy from 1 January 2018 to 31 July. Applications must be submitted from 17 June to 7 August 2019.
Deadline: 7 August 2019

PARTNERSHIP FOR KNOWLEDGE
Partnership for Knowledge - PfK - is a higher education initiative of the Italian Cooperation aimed at providing scholarships to researchers, public administration officers, social entrepreneurs and young leaders.

PfK offers a unique opportunity for future leaders and influencers to develop professionally and academically, network extensively, experience Italian culture, and build lasting positive relationships with Italy.

The programme offers a number of Master of Science scholarships and PhD fellowships in the thematic academic platform of Sustainable energy, Environment and Industrial innovation. The energy profile trains highly skilled technicians in renewable energy systems, energy efficiency and energy planning. The environment profile focuses on risk protection and prevention, climate change and water management. The industrial innovation profile promotes the new frontiers of innovation.

In years 2019-2022 the PfK PhD program provides a total of 19 MSc scholarships and 6 PhD Fellowships for Citizens of Kenya, Mozambico, Tunisia, Pakistan, Albania, Libano and Ethiopia who are resident in their home countries.

English is the teaching language of all academic programs.

Extended deadline: 20 June 2019 at 2.00 pm, Italian time
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

1° FIB ITALY YMG SYMPOSIUM ON CONCRETE AND CONCRETE STRUCTURES
Dr Isabella G. Colombo (fib Italy YMG Secretary)
First symposium organized by the fib Italy Young Member Group for young engineers (PhD students and post-Docs under 35) inspired by the challenging world of concrete and concrete structures.

October 15th, 2019, Università di Parma

APPROACHES IN MATERIAL MODELING
Prof. Holm Altenbach, Otto-von-Guericke-University
The establishment of constitutive equation for materials is a challenge. Geometrical relations are based on mathematical considerations and after introduction of loads, one can introduce balance equations for mass, momentum, moment of momentum, energy and entropy. The number of unknowns is much smaller than the number of equations and initial-boundary problems cannot be solved. Constitutive equations should be introduced and can be realized by different ways.

June 7th 2019, 2:00 pm – Sala Consiglio, Dept. of Mechanical Engin., Via La Masa 1

MICRO-MECHANICS OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS
Prof. Sandro C. Amico, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul
This short-course focuses on micromechanics of composite materials, which consists in observing the constituent materials (reinforcement & matrix) at the microscopic level. This theoretical study is usually justified by the long time and high cost associated with actual molding and characterization of many possible combinations of materials.

June 21st 2019, 9am-1pm, Sala Consiglio, Dept. of Mechanical Engin., Via La Masa 1
STARTING COURSES – PHD SCHOOL

EMPOWERING IMAGINATION
Prof. Schiaffonati Viola, Chiodo Simona, Bernadó Ester
The course aims at empowering imagination as one of the most promising tools we have at our disposal when we think of both how to act and interact and how to work on the objects we create in science, engineering, architecture and design.
From May 18th to June 21st 2019

STARTING COURSES – DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

PHD IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ADVANCED TOPICS IN COMPUTER SECURITY
Prof. Stefano Zanero
The course will deal with most of the practical and theoretical issues involved in designing a secure system, ranging from application-level security to host and network security. However, differently from the course offered at the M.Sc. level, we will cut short on the details of implementation, and add open research challenges and themes. Therefore, the course can be profitable even for students who already took courses on cryptography or security during the earlier levels of study.
From 5 June 2019

DIGITAL CIRCuits AND SYSTEMS FOR DSP AND FPGA-BASED PROCESSING
Prof. Angelo Geraci
Mission of the course is the interdisciplinary knowledge of fundamental topics of design of complex digital systems, in order to enable the development and deployment of electronic processors and boards employing DSP and FPGA devices. Aim of the course is to provide students with: a) awareness of methodologies for hardware-oriented design of digital electronic architectures; b) knowledge of main criteria for realizing and dimensioning the correspondent digital circuits; c) interaction with common commercial CAD platforms for prototyping circuits.
From 24 June 2019

OTHER NEWS

MECCPHD COLLOQUIA DOCTORALIA 2019
Final Defenses of the XXXI Cycle PhD Candidates – Department of Mechanical Engineering
June 13th 2019, 9:30 am