



**A Magazine of the HONORS CENTER OF ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES (H2CU)
for research and educational exchanges between Italy and United States of America**

Fall 2012

A conversation with H2CU Director

I am delighted to introduce our readers to the inaugural issue of our H2CU magazine and to share my pleasant conversation with Director Engineer, and Professor Lucio Ubertini who offered a background on the birth of this magazine and the H2CU program.

Francesca Lorusso Caputi

Staff Writer

Good morning Professor Ubertini. How was the magazine born and what should our readers expect in this number and future ones?

The H2CUmag was conceived as a new and important vehicle and conversation platform that can be used by researchers, students and professors in American and Italian research institutions to reinforce and promote H2CU. This magazine wants to help to create opportunities for collaboration and will host research papers, interviews with professors and/or students who were or are involved with the H2CU program and present news on prizes, grants, and awards received by participants to the H2CU program. The faculty reviewers of the magazine come from different research institutions and very different research background. What they share is an active interest in research exchanges in many fields. You will also read about other faculty associates and their activities.

We look forward to reading it. So, the magazine gets its name from the H2CU program. Can you tell us what the H2CU program is and what it stands for?

H2CU stands for Honors Center of Italian Universities for research and educational exchanges. The Center was born from the idea to establish international academic exchange programs between Italian and American universities. It was formed in 2004, and today 21 Italian Universities and 3 Italian Research Council Institutes (CNR) are related to H2CU. The statute opens the door for enhanced collaborations between American and Italian Universities and between faculty students and researchers.

How many students and American universities participate in this program? And who are they?



Since 2004 more than 200 graduate students have participated. American Universities involved in H2CU Programs are: Columbia University (New York), MIT- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge/Boston), New York University (New York), Pace University (New York) and FIU Florida International University (Miami).

So, let's talk about the Center. How does it work? Who can participate, and to what?

The Center promotes a variety of international programs. H2CU provides logistical and organizational support to students. For example, at completion of Double Degree programs participants are awarded two titles: one from Italy and the other one from the American Institution.

And, in practice? Do students follow classes and take exams?

The main initiative, now consolidated in any American university partners, is called "Double Master Degree" and it requires the student to attend an American institution during the last year of the Italian "Laurea Magistrale". Courses completed during the Master of Science in the US are all approved by the Italian institutions and the students are awarded two titles. The "Dual Master degree" is the most advanced initiative from an academic point of view and it has already been implemented in some universities affiliated to the H2CU Center. In this case, the academic curriculum is established a priori by the international partner universities and it requires students to attend the first year of the "Laurea Magistrale" degree in Italy and the second year in the US Master of Science.

The initiative is bilateral, so that American students can also participate, and is open to international students in general. There are therefore:

Dual & Double Masters

- Civil Engineering (NYU-Poly/Cassino and Columbia/Bologna)
- Environment science for large urban areas (Pace/Tuscia)
- Ingegneria delle Telecomunicazioni (NYU-Poly/Parthenope)
- Mechanical Engineering (NYU-Poly/Sapienza and Bari)
- Structural and Geotechnical Engineering (NYU-Poly/Parthenope)
- Double Ph.D
- Mechanical Engineering and Hydraulic Engineering (NYU-Poly/H2CU-Sapienza-Tuscia)



And, does H2CU promote other initiatives besides academic exchanges?

Yes. H2CU has promoted and sustained periods of study aimed at conducting research within students thesis and dissertations, as well as support postdoctoral, lecturing, and short courses for young researchers in American Universities. These activities also aim at aiding and consolidating collaboration among professors in their pertinent fields of interest or among those who work in such fields. Examples are: the *Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art-APAHA at the Stabiae excavation site* sponsored by Columbia University and H2CU; and *Rome: Eternal City* sponsored by Pace University and H2CU.

Can you tell us a little about them?

The course "Rome: The Eternal City" is organized by H2CU and Pace University in New York and is designed for undergraduate students of Pace University. The course lasts 4 weeks (May-June) and it was first established in 2005. "Rome: The Eternal City" is a multi-disciplinary course that offers students the opportunity to study, visit and live the Italian culture and in particular the elements that led to Rome to represent a city worldwide reference since antiquity. Teaching is carried out jointly by faculty of Pace University and Italian faculty, selected by H2CU. Since 2005 the program helped more

than 25 professors, both with conducting seminars and mentoring activities. Pace University recognizes 6 academic credits to students for attending the course. The



Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art is an excavation program for Classical Studies students at Columbia University.

Every summer, students work on excavation

sites in the Naples region and in addition to the fieldwork experience students have the possibility to take part in fieldtrips and seminars held by prominent archeologists and art historians.

While in New York City, students and professors can stay at the College Italia? Can you tell us more about it?



College Italia was established in 2008 when six Italian Universities purchased 15 apartments located at 225 Rector Place, in lower Manhattan New York. Students, and also researchers of Universities are guests of the College Italia and reside in either studios or one bedroom apartments that can host up to 42 guests in total. The apartments are not to be considered student dormitories but professional lodging. There are building regulations to be followed and the guests are held responsible for the welfare of the premises.

In this page: Summer School 2009 New York (photo by H2CU); Eternal City program (photo by Pace University); view of College Italia, New York (photos by Maria Grillo).

Any plans for H2CU and its future?

H2CU has grown tremendously in the past 5 years and will continue to do so. In the longer term, we hope that Research Centers and Universities in the United States and in Italy will take advantage of the program and drive more students and professors to work together in today's shrinking research world.

Professor Lucio Ubertini is the Director of H2CU (Honors Center of Italian Universities); he graduated from Sapienza University of Rome and was Professor at University of Perugia from 1968 and then Professor at Sapienza University of Rome since 1996. A member of the Oslo International Water Academy, prof. Ubertini is also a member of the "Accademia dei Georgofili" and the "Accademia Scientiarum et Artium Europea" of Salzburg. From 1978 to 2008, he is the Director of the Research Institute of Hydrogeological Protection (IRPI) of the National Research Council (CNR) in Perugia. From 1982 to 2002, he was the President of the Italian Hydrogeologic Risk Commission. He was President of the National Group for Hydrological Disasters (GNDCI) and President of the Italian Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). From 1989 he is a member of the Board of Directors of the University for Foreigners of Perugia. He has been invited lecturer and visiting researcher in several national and international academic institutions, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Princeton University, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo. He is the Italian representative in several official events of the United Nations and also in the UNESCO Intergovernmental Council (International Hydrologic Programme, IHP) since 1992. He was also

involved in the establishment of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) in Perugia. He is the Vice-president of the International Commission of Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). His research focuses on: scientific advances of water-related phenomena and issues, and in particular the investigation of hydrologic and hydraulic processes, hydrologic data stochastic models, rainfall-runoff simulations, flood and draught frequency analysis, hydrogeological disasters and land-slides. Professor Lucio Ubertini can be reached at: lucio.ubertini@uniroma1.it



A publication for students, alumni, professors and researchers. The goals of our publication are :

- showcase graduate achievements in research
- inspire academic inquiry
- promote H2CU's commitment to graduate research endeavors

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Francesca Lorusso Caputi & Maria Grillo

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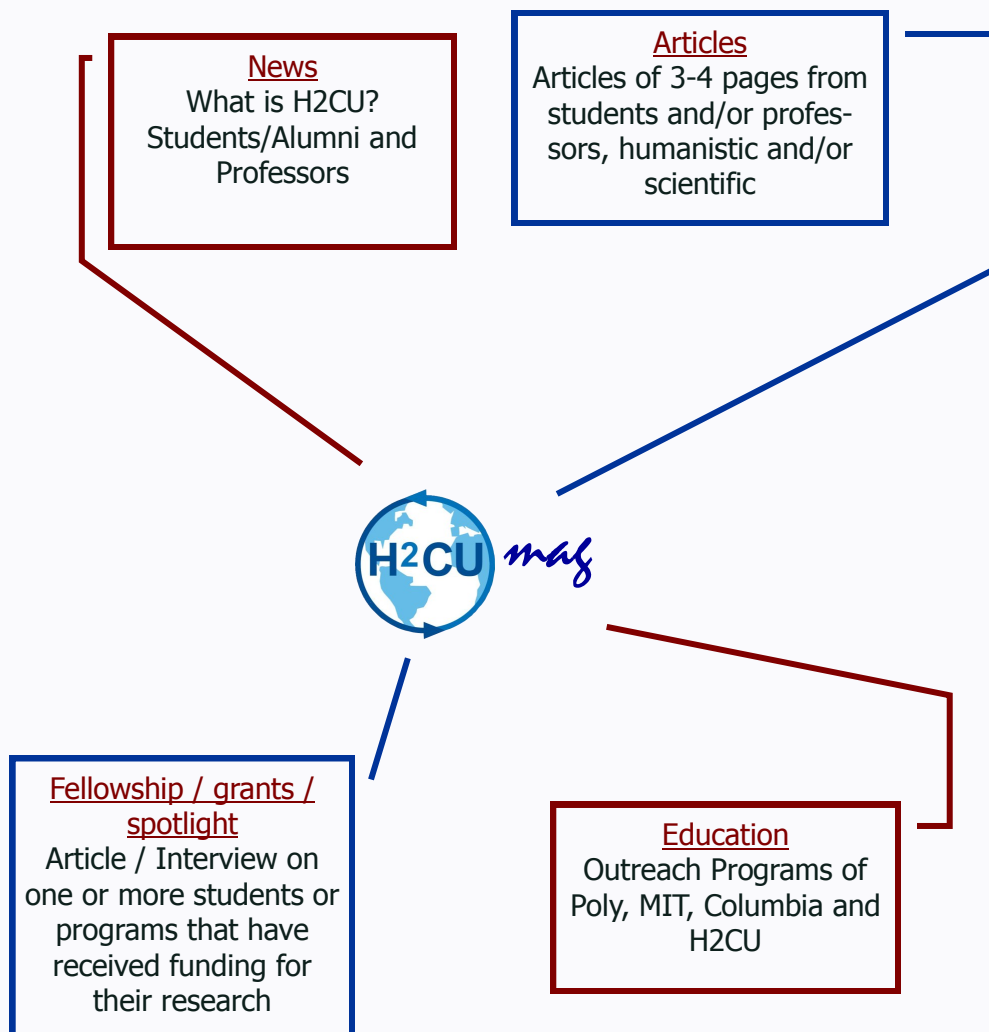
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H2CUmag welcomes your comments. Write to the editor at h2cu.magazine@gmail.com

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Getting involved

H2CUmag is seeking submissions for our next issue. Papers are Peer Reviewed and may be submitted in the following categories:

Article: the culmination point of an undergraduate or a graduate research project; the author, a H2CU student, addresses a clearly defined research problem.

Dispatch: it reports recent progress on a research challenge; the paper is narrower in scope and it must be written by a H2CU student.

Perspective: it provides personal viewpoints and invites further discussions through literature synthesis and/or logical analysis. It is written by H2CU faculty.

Synopsis: it is the summary of already published articles highlighting the work of involved students.

Submission guidelines

H2CUmag accepts papers from students that have studied or worked in collaboration with the H2CU program. Research may discuss empirical or theoretical work, including, but not limited to, experimental, historical, ethnographic, literary, and cultural inquiry. Original research must be well supported by evidence, arguments must be clear, and conclusions must be logical.

Articles

An article represents the culmination point of an undergraduate or graduate research project, where the author, a H2CU student, addresses a clearly defined research problem from one, or sometimes multiple approaches. A properly formatted article must: be between 1500 and 3000 words (including the title page, abstract, and references); include an abstract of 250 words or less; and have at least the following sections:

Introduction / Background Information
Materials and Methods / Procedures
Results
Discussions / Analysis
Conclusion
Acknowledgments

Dispatches

A dispatch is a manuscript in which the author, a H2CU student, reports recent progress on a research challenge

that is relatively narrow in scope, but critical toward his or her overall research aim. A dispatch should: not be more than 1500 words (including the title page and references); and have at least the following sections:

Introduction / Background Information
Materials and Methods / Procedures
Results
Discussions / Analysis
Future work
Acknowledgments

Perspectives

A perspective reflects active scholarly thinking in which the author, a H2CU faculty, provides personal viewpoints and invites further discussions on a topic of interest through literature synthesis and/or logical analysis.

A perspective should: not be more than 1500 words (including the title page and references); address some of the following questions: Why is the topic important? What are the implications (scientific, economic, cultural, etc.) of the topic or problem? What is known about this topic? What is not known about this issue? What are possible methods to address this issue?

Formatting

The following formatting requirements apply to all types of submissions and must all be satisfied before a submission will be reviewed.

All papers must be submitted in:

- Microsoft Word format;
- Type set in 12-point
- Double-spaced Times New Roman
- The Title Page should include:
 - Full name and Title
 - Institutional address
 - Email address
- Papers must be written in standard U.S. English and utilize standard scientific nomenclature define new terms, abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols at their first occurrence;
- Acknowledge any funding, collaborators and mentors;
- Authors must provide 4-6 keywords for indexing purposes;

- Please, do not use footnotes — if footnotes are absolutely necessary to the integrity of the paper, please contact the staff at h2cu.magazine@gmail.com;
- Reference all tables, figures, and references within the text of the document.

Tables

Please submit tables at the end of your text document (in Word or TeX/LaTeX, as appropriate). Tables should be numbered separately with (I,II,III,IV) in the order of occurrence in the text of the manuscript.

Figures

Figures should be numbered separately with (1,2,3,4,) in the order of occurrence in the text of the manuscript.

Deadlines

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. H2CUmag publishes several issues per year. Due to the review and production process, for submissions to be considered for each issue they must be submitted before the publicized deadline, which can be found at www.h2cu.com. Submissions received after this deadline will be considered for the following issue. If the quality of their submission were to be compromised to meet the deadline, authors are encouraged to further develop their work and only submit it once it is fully realized.

Eligibility

Submitters must be present students, alumni of the H2CU program, and H2CU faculty to be eligible for consideration.

Submitting

To submit a paper, authors must submit it to the following email: h2cu.magazine@gmail.com

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If you have questions, please e-mail h2cu.magazine@gmail.com

For more information, including detailed submission guidelines and samples, visit: www.h2cu.com



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