

Dear All,

I have learned with great sadness about the passing of Professor Giovanni Solari. Like many others around the world I feel at the same time both sad for his loss as well as grateful for knowing him.

I met Professor Solari in 2012, when I came to Genova for a 6 months PhD research stage to attend his course and work with him for my thesis. He has accepted me based on the friendship he had for many years with my PDD supervisor in Romania, Professor Dan Lungu.



Together they have carried on studies related to the aerodynamics (in Italy) and structural reliability to wind load (in Romania) on the Brancusi Endless Column. Since then, Professor Solari has become a very good friend of Romania, of Brancusi and his Column and of Professor Lungu. He wrote many papers on the Column and he promoted it every time with love and enthusiasm. In recognition of his work on the Brancusi Endless Column, he received the Honorary Doctor Honoris Causa of the Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest in 2016.

During a private conversation we had before I left Genova in 2012, I asked him what was the most important thing in his life. And one of the greatest most celebrated Wind Engineering professors and researchers in the world simply said... *my students*.

Since my PhD stay in Genova, Professor Solari has supported me in my academic career with immense kindness and patience.

It is thanks to him that I published my first journal paper and attended my first Wind Engineering conference in Boston in 2016. It is thanks to him that the Romanian Association for Wind Engineering was formally established in 2017 making it possible to organize the 8EACWE conference. And now, it is thanks to him that the first ever wind monitoring system will be installed in Romania on a telecommunication lattice tower to measure and study thunderstorms.

He invited me many times to Genova to continue my research and also to give some presentations. He always introduced me as *an adopted Genovese*. So, for me, the loss of Professor Solari feels like the loss of my father as, in my heart, I have adopted him as well.

As you can see, *he changed my life*. And this is a statement that I am sure many of his students around the world will make.

Ever since I have learned about his health, I have prayed for him and asked God to show him the same kindness Professor Solari has shown me. I have prayed for his life but God gave him eternal life instead.

With deep love and respect,

Ileana Calotescu,

*an adopted Genovese*

November 20, 2020 | Romania