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# THE "CAPRI" MEETING

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## A TWENTY YEARS FRIENDSHIP

Twenty years ago, Professor Nicolais from the University of Naples and I organized a unique symposium in Capri, Italy. The meeting was co-sponsored by the American Science Foundation and the Italian CNR agency. It focused on some technical innovations in composite materials, the collaboration between industry and academia and other issues concerning the education of young

engineers. At that time Boeing and Aeritalia (now known as Alenia) had agreed to collaborate in the development of the Boeing 767 aircraft and, as a result, some of the composite materials were manufactured in Southern Italy.

We both felt that the right time for another Capri meeting had arrived and we decided to hold it in the year of the 20th anniversary of our first meeting. In those years

our friendship grew stronger and our professional collaboration led to many interesting scientific accomplishments.

For this occasion, we assembled a group of diverse and distinguished friends to spend four days in Naples and Capri, but, more importantly, to find ways in which ideas and concepts can be implemented into research and become reality.

Prof. J. C. Seferis



***Professor Seferis at the Wilson event in Capri.***

## ANOTHER FRIENDSHIP FLOURISHED.

The organization of a technical meeting held in my home country, seemed a great challenge when Prof. Seferis told me to get in contact with the "Italians" to set up a 20th year anniversary Capri meeting. All the organizational problems were solved with the help



***Mario Montanino and Eddy Depase (on the left) together with Jim Ferrara and Chris Velisaris.***

of Dr. Mario Montanino from the University of Naples. He provided our group with the experience and humor of a Neapolitan and his help was fundamental for the final success of the meeting. These few lines are to acknowledge the help of my new friend Mario.

Edoardo Depase

# CULTURAL SENSITIVITY OF THE VISITORS IN THE CAMPANIA REGION

On June 30, 2001 at 12:54 p.m. I stepped off of a Boeing 737 onto the warm concrete of the tarmac at Capodichino Airport in the Campania Region

reason for this, the answer becomes clear; southern Italy and the Campania Region were the most culturally

as the most captivating place I have ever experienced. The Campania Region is the administrative region for

population in Campania is somewhat irregular: certain inland areas are under populated, while the coasts are highly urbanized. The Province of Napoli, in particular, has a density of 2,617 inhabitants per square km., one of the highest in Europe. This imbalance is the result of centuries of drift by rural workers from the poorer areas, while the coastal cities (especially Napoli, the principal pole of attraction), lacking the manufacturing enterprises capable of absorbing such an abundant supply of labor (mostly unskilled), found that their own historical, social and environmental problems, rooted in unemployment and proliferation of the underground (black) economy, were severely aggravated. One of the major problems facing the coastal cities, particularly Napoli, is that of bad housing conditions in the overcrowded poorer quarters that are lacking the necessary social and public health infrastructures.



*View of "Castel dell'Ovo from the hotel room in Naples.*

of southern Italy. This was, literally, my first step in experiencing a culture outside of North America, and now, as I reflect on my 21 day visit to central and southern Europe, the time I spent in southern Italy is unquestionably the most vivid. As I ponder the

awakening experience of my trip, and for that matter, my life. Beyond the stunning architecture, breathtaking coast line, multiple millennia of history, brilliant food, and fine wine, it was the people and the culture of southern Italy that mark Napoli, Capri, and the Campania Region

southern Italy and is located in the central coastal region of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The islands of Capri and Ischia, located in the Bay of Napoli, are also part of this region. The Region is approximately 5249 square miles with a population of approximately 6 million people. The distribution of

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## BEDR OPEN 2001 – SPONSORED BY WILSON SPORTS AND THE CAPRI TENNIS CLUB

Wimbledon? No. The U.S. Open? Not Quite. The French Open? Almost. Try the BEDR Open. At the Capri Tennis Club, Wilson Sports donated eight state of art rackets to the BEDR Open as gratitude for the hours of dedication that the University of Washington Polymeric Composites Laboratory has provided in novel materials research for Wilson Sports and their next generation product lines. The participants of the first ever BEDR Open tested each of the rackets in the final two matches of the tournament with lightening fast serves, awe-inspiring backhand returns, extraordinary drop shots, and precise volleys. The team of Jamie Burgess and Mario Montanino challenged the team of Fred Betz and Hiroshi Aotani in the tournament consolation match, while the team of University of Washington, Professors Jim Seferis and Lambros Georgoulis, challenged Dr. John Halpin in the championship. In the end, the pair

from the University of Washington fittingly took their first BEDR Open title with a titanic three-set win over Halpin. After almost exactly one hour, Halpin netted a forehand re-

cous crowd at the first BEDR Open, the players delivered a wonderful see-saw battle. Inspired winners mixed with nerve-shredded errors to a backdrop of football-style chants

ship itself until the tumultuous finale. The team of Professors missed three match points in the 4th game of the last set before digging deep to become the first champions of the tournament.



*Participants of the BEDR Open at the "Capri tennis club".*

turn to end one of the great Grand Slam finals in tennis history. However, the victory did not come easy for the team of Professors from Seattle. In front of an unpredicted rau-

and cheers from the Capri locals on every point. In a stomach-churning final set the match went one way then the other, each player treating a game won like the champion-

"I don't know if someone is going to wake me up and tell me I haven't won again," said an emotional Professor Seferis afterwards. "This was the dream of all my life.

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## CULTURAL SENSITIVITY OF THE VISITORS

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The industrial sector, though unable to provide sufficient work to ease the pressure of unemployment that plagues the streets of Napoli, is still the leading sector of its kind in the south of Italy.

Since the start of the century, however, industrial expansion has always been restricted to a number of privileged areas, particularly around Napoli giving rise to pollution and environmental problems associated with the heavy concentration of factories close to inhabited zones.

The city of Napoli is one of the oldest cities in all of Western Europe and the commercial center of the Campania Region. Founded more than 2,500 years ago by Greeks from the nearby town of Cuma, the city quickly developed into a bastion of Greek culture in the West. Its strategic location has been the object of many conquerors throughout history. In the medieval period and beyond, Napoli was ruled in turn by the Byzantines,



*The magnificent view of the bay of Naples from the room in Hotel Royal, with the island of Capri in the distance*

Lombards, Normans, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonites, and Bourbons.

The city is blessed by great beauty and history but the hard conditions of modern life are in stark contrast to the scenic grandeur of this coastal region. Napoli is the third largest city in Italy with a population of 1,200,000 people. The center of Napoli is a cluttered area of churches, convents, and palaces. Within blocks are ancient medieval buildings, Renaissance architecture, relics of the Roman era near modern slums with brightly colored laundry hanging in the sun.

During World War II,

repeated bombing by the Allies caused heavy damage as did the retreating Germans. The harbor and some sections were virtually demolished, and are obviously still recovering to this day. This energetic city is a living contrast of great and common, heroic and sinister, awesome and awful. Beyond any other, after experiencing Napoli and the Campania Region, the day I stepped back on the airplane my world had become orders of magnitude larger, yet disappointingly finite.

Jamie Burgess

## BEDR OPEN 2001

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Professor Lambros and I came here and nobody thought we could win, but here we are holding the trophy. It was one of those matches which could have gone either way, but someone has to lose and we weren't going to let it be us."

At the end of the day everyone who participated in the event was a winner. It was a day of good sports, good competition, and good times. Special thanks goes to Wilson Sports for donating the superb tennis rackets, and the Capri Tennis Club for their hospitality and patience with our group.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MEETING PARTICIPANTS

### Monday July 2nd , Naples

Afternoon	Arrival at Hotel "Royal" in Naples. Visit to the headquarters of the Campania region and opening remarks from Prof. Seferis
Evening	Working dinner at the restaurant "La Bersagliera" in Naples.

### Tuesday July 3rd, Naples

Morning & Afternoon	Behind the scenes tour of Naples and meeting at the headquarters of the Campania region with Prof. Nicolais.
Evening	Working dinner at the restaurant "Mare Chiaro" in Naples.

### Wednesday July 4th, Capri

Morning	Transfer to Capri at the hotel "La Residenza".
Afternoon	Discussion session about polymeric composite systems (Prof. Seferis, Dr. Aotani, Prof. Halpin, Mr. Wilhelm).
Evening	Wilson Tennis Event at the Capri Tennis Club. Working dinner.

### Thursday July 5th, Capri

Morning	Discussion session about Management of Technology (Dr. Montanino, Prof. Betz).
Afternoon	Tour around Capri.
Evening	Farewell "cheese and wine" at the Hotel "La Residenza" in Capri.

- Dr. Hiroshi Aotani, Du Pont retiree
- Dr. Fred Betz, University of Maryland
- Jamie Burgess, BEDR/Boeing
- Dr. Marc Carrega, Rhone Poulenc retiree
- Suzan Corkos, FREEDOM
- Edoardo Depase, BEDR/University of Washington
- Dr. Jim Ferrara, Thermo-Haake
- Dr. Lambros Georgoulis, BEDR/University of Washington
- Dr. John Halpin, AFOSR
- Dr. Mario Montanino, University of Naples
- Dr. Gino Nicolais, Regione di Campania
- Dr. James Seferis, BEDR/University of Washington
- Demetris Vamvakaris, Architect
- Dr. Chris Velisaris, GATX
- Mark Wilhelm, Boeing