

Open Ceremony

## **Italian Academic Center**



Roosevelt Island, Cornell Tech Campus  
Tata Innovation Center, New York

25 novembre 2019

# SOMMARIO

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Rassegna Stampa

Foto

# PROGRAMMA

## **11.00 – 12.30.**

Cornell Tech Campus tour.

## **12.30 – 1.45.**

Light lunch – Thoughts on the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci.

## **2.00. Welcome Address**

*Greg Morrisett* Dean, Cornell Tech;

## **2.30. Opening statement**

*Eugenio Gaudio* Rector, Sapienza University of Rome;

*Francesco Ubertini* Rector, Bologna University.

## **3.00. Joint Program Bologna University - Cornell University**

*Francesco Ubertini* Rector, Bologna University;

*Beatrice Fraboni*, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Bologna University;

*David Erickson* Director, Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE)  
Cornell;

*Silvia Ferrari* John Brancaccio Professor, Cornell Center Veho;

*Wendy Ju* Assistant Professor, Information Science Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at  
Cornell Tech;

*Victor Goldsmith*, Emeritus Professor, PACE University.

## **3.45. Conclusions**

*Greg Morrisett* Dean, Cornell Tech

## SINTESI

L'evento inaugurale dell'Italian Academic Center si è svolto lunedì 25 novembre dalle ore 11 alla presenza dei Magnifici Rettori Prof. Eugenio Gaudio, Sapienza Università di Roma e Francesco Ubertini, Università degli Studi di Bologna. La delegazione italiana era composta, inoltre, dal Prorettore alla Ricerca della Sapienza Università di Roma, prof. Teodoro Valente, dal Direttore Generale, dott. Marco degli Esposti e dalla prof.ssa Beatrice Fraboni, dell'Università degli Studi di Bologna. Il Centro H2CU era rappresentato dal Direttore, prof.ssa Beatrice Vallone, dal prof. Lucio Ubertini e dal prof. Salvatore Grimaldi.

L'evento è iniziato con il Tour del Cornell Tech Campus, in Roosevelt Island, guidato dalla Sig.ra Kathy Mendall, coadiuvato da Alireza Esmaeilzadeh, Vice Presidente della Forest City Realty Trust. Alla visita hanno partecipato, oltre alla delegazione italiana, anche i colleghi della Cornell University, tra cui il prof. Greg Morriset, il prof. David Erickson e la prof.ssa Silvia Ferrari. Erano presenti, inoltre, molti colleghi, imprenditori, rappresentanti di diverse istituzioni che negli anni hanno collaborato o preso parte alle iniziative promosse dal Centro H2CU, ed infine molti studenti ospiti negli alloggi del College Italia e una rappresentanza della comunità di Alumni dell'Università di Bologna.

Il Tour si è concluso con la visita agli spazi dell'Italian Academic Center presso i quali i Magnifici Rettori hanno siglato un accordo preliminare per la programmazione delle attività accademiche e scientifiche che si svolgeranno nell'immediato futuro.

Prima dell'inizio delle relazioni, durante la pausa pranzo, si è voluto ricordare, e quindi celebrare, i 500 anni di Leonardo da Vinci, proiettando la rappresentazione teatrale "il Diluvio".



INTERVENTI

## GREG MORRISETT



Good afternoon, my name is Greg Morrisett and I am the dean vice-provost here at Cornell Tech. It is my privilege and honor to welcome you today here to inaugurate the Tata space with the partnership of Italian Universities: University of Bologna, Sapienza University of Rome and University of Napoli Federico II. The goal of this center is to focus on research challenges in next generation transportation including topics such as advanced automotive engineering, new interphases in incorporating virtual and augmented reality, autonomous operations that of course are at the top of everyone mind such as modern vehicle, and more generally challenges in transportation and in infrastructure. So one of the reason on why I am so delighted by this event is that it coincides to the launch here in Cornell Tech of a new initiative that we call Urban Tech, part of Jacob Institute inside in Cornell Tech and in partnership with Technion of Haifa, and is the place where we try to be distinctive and forward lining and for example runaway post doc programs to bring post doctorate candidates from all over the world to become business people. They are typically deeply trained as scientists and engineers and they have the desire to launch some entrepreneurial activity. We bring them here to train them, connect them and find the right resources. Together with master programs in areas like health tech, computer science, connected media, operations research and computer engineers has found out about 60 companies since the Cornell Tech opened. That kind of radical thinking about how we engage with the academic and industrial worlds is clearly what Cornell Tech is all about and the new Urban Tech initiative is another example of them. Is one of the three hubs within the Jacob Institute where the focus is not so much about having an academic disciplinary boundaries but rather a focus what is the society looking for and integrates the digital age with a particular infrastructure. So health tech is an example of that with partnership between big data and genome analyses really opens up big opportunities, so combining people with strong computational big data background with people from medicine provides new opportunities. This provide an umbrella for many other collaborations between faculty, data scientists, computer scientists and urban designers. How we design for a world of climate change, how do we build new adaptive and resilient infrastructure, how do we build new infrastructures that supports sustainable operations? So transportation is of course at the hearth of that, so this particular center and its opening is such an opportunity for us as it brings together expertise across a broad range from Academia but it also addresses one of the central challenges in the Urban Tech. So we are excited to welcome our new partners here, the building is the Tata Innovation Center but originally bridges

in the conceptualization of the campus. It was called The Bridge because its aim was to tie together academia and industry and I think is just wonderful that this center is the embodiment of that intention. Welcome you all.

# EUGENIO GAUDIO



Dean of Cornell Tech,  
Consul General of Italy,  
President of the Conference of Italian Universities Rectors,  
Dear Colleagues, Rectors of the “Alma Mater Studiorum” University of Bologna and “Federico II”  
University of Naples,  
Distinguished guests,  
Students,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very proud to be here, today, at the wonderful Tata Center on Roosevelt Island, New York, to inaugurate this new location embedded in the Cornell Tech Campus Innovation Hub.

Today’s ceremony has a special meaning because it marks the beginning of our collaboration with important institutions conducting research and solving real-world challenges. Indeed, this is a part of Sapienza’s mission. Since its foundation, our university has always played a significant role in key changes and developments in society. Merging centuries of tradition with cutting-edge didactic activities, research and innovation, Sapienza provides top quality education and research opportunities.

Now, we look to the future. The agreement signed by the universities of Bologna, Naples and Rome to reinforce collaboration and develop research promoting activities at the Tata Center begin here and now (“hic et nunc”).

Our strategic approach will be to harness new ideas and technology from various fields of interest for the three universities. We aim to promote collaboration amongst talented students and frontier researchers both from the Cornell Tech Campus and from our universities.

Let me now briefly introduce Sapienza University.

In the last 15 years, Sapienza has been coordinating an academic and scientific project involving 23 Italian Universities and 3 National Research Council (CNR) Institutes.

In 2004, following two years of initial work with the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), the National Research Council (CNR) and various universities, the Honors

Center of Italian Universities (H2CU) was opened to enhance scientific and academic collaboration between Italy and the United States.

Despite the significant differences between the two academic systems, it immediately became clear that this mission could be achieved if the H2CU Center acted as a "cultural entrepreneur" with an excellent cost-benefit ratio.

Thanks to the economic support provided by the MIUR – Department of Public Instruction and Research, six Italian universities (Sapienza University of Rome, Polytechnic of Bari, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, University of Perugia, University of Brescia, University of Molise) agreed to purchase and establish the "College Italia".

The "College Italia" Project was conceived as a facility to host Italian students, researchers and faculty, who temporarily attend universities in NYC, mainly for double degree programs.

The cost-benefit ratio includes 50 million dollars in benefits against 30 million dollars in costs (College Italia investment, personnel expenses, management costs, etc.)

The two slides show an overview of "College Italia" along with statistics about the program promoted and organized by the H2CU Center in NYC.

In order to further improve H2CU programs, it is crucial that we become a part of the "Vertical Silicon Valley" Program, involving the three top Italian Universities on the "Cornell Tech" campus: University of Bologna, Sapienza University of Rome and University Federico II of Naples - a group of historical, academic institutions that together have over 300,000 students and 20,000 academic and administrative staff.

From the past to the future, we must adapt to our times. Our world is constantly changing, and we need to take part in building the future. Indeed, with a vision and courage, we can even strive to improve the future.

Our university's motto is *Il futuro è passato qui*, which means that the future has already been here. This perfectly matches our location, the birthplace of what comes next!

Last but not least, of course, we should honor the genius of Leonardo da Vinci. Italy is the land of Leonardo. He is our flagship and we will always strive to improve ourselves in his honor!

# FRANCESCO UBERTINI



I am very proud of being here today to celebrate the opening of the ITALIAN ACADEMIC CENTER in New York, located in this outstanding location, the TATA Innovation Center.

Today we celebrate a great achievement for the Italian Academic Community, made possible by the long standing and strategic partnership between the Universities of Rome la Sapienza, Naples Federico II and Bologna, the Alma Mater Studiorum - indeed, we can say that this partnership has been nourished for centuries (Roma 1303, Napoli 1224).

We are here today because of the remarkable success of such a relationship, based on the efforts of many individuals, some of whom are here with us today. I would like to specifically mention the role played by the H2CU association, that has triggered the process that led to this remarkable accomplishment.

In recent years, our 3 Universities have been joining forces on major international projects that would enhance and promote cooperation and sustainability, such as the one related to enriching Higher Education in the Horn of Africa. I believe that the launch of the ITALIAN ACADEMIC CENTER in New York, is a major milestone in this roadmap, that will bring innovative and transdisciplinary collaborative action between Italian and US Universities, that will foster Public and Private Partnerships, and encourage a stimulating interaction with the local community that has clearly demonstrated its progressive approach by supporting and promoting the sustainability principles employed in the design and construction of the TATA Center building itself.

The ITALIAN ACADEMIC CENTER will be an unprecedented opportunity for our three Universities (and for the Italian Academic Community, in general) to disseminate and promote our initiatives and principles and, in return, to open up to the US Academic, Industrial and Social Community, enabling the exchange of rich, fruitful motivations and incentives

UNIBO has a long-term experience in collaborating with US Academies thanks to the presence in Bologna since 1950s of US Study Abroad programs (of Brown University, of East Coast Colleges, Indiana University and the University of California) and a seat of John's Hopkins University (SAIS)

The active connection between UNIBO and the US is also witnessed by the recent launch of the UNIBO EAST COAST ALUMNI CHAPTER, the first ever ALUMNI Chapter of UNIBO in the world, who we believe will be one of the active local actors in generating innovative and collaborative actions

I therefore strongly believe that the ITALIAN ACADEMIC CENTER which we are opening today at the TATA Center, is a ground-breaking tool, a unique place where the US and the Italian Academies will join forces in triggering novel ideas, stimulating young talents and thrust innovative, successful research projects and initiatives.

## DAVID ERICKSON



More and more now it will be the physical machines we interact with on a daily basis, including automobiles, that will exhibit more and more elements of autonomy. To ensure that the potential for the gains in efficiency and quality of life are realized then means that we require deeper collaboration and partnerships between the mechanical and electrical engineers that design and build the machines and the computer and information scientists who develop tools for autonomy. I believe this partnership, though nascent, is one that can help enable that. I also hope it forms the first of many such collaborative efforts between the two Cornell Campuses and beyond.

I am also heartened to see the desire for engagement with industry in the Center. Engagement with industrial partners is very important in these opportunities - both to bring a level of intellectual robustness to our research and teaching efforts and to help us ultimately translate what we learn beyond the university where it can have impact at scale.

Finally let me also comment on the international nature of the center. International experiences expose students and faculty to a broad range of ideas and ways of doing business. In an interconnected world, but one where rivalries and political differences cause near and long term friction, it is critically important that we equip our students with the knowledge they can gain from these experiences to ensure that they are best able to navigate the future.



## BEATRICE FRABONI



UNIBO is institutionally involved in the development of advanced education programmes, cutting edge research and innovation activities, and, through a variety of initiatives, in promoting technology transfer and collaboration with industry and institutions.

UNIBO is located in Emilia-Romagna that today is one of the most developed regions in Europe, and it is surely a leading region in Southern Europe, in terms of competitiveness, GDP and activity and unemployment rates.

Manufacturing plays the leading role for the whole regional economy. It is concentrated on some powerful clusters, apparently belonging to traditional sectors, but able to activate medium and medium-high technology activities and high innovation capabilities. The most relevant group of industries are linked to mechanical engineering and automotive: sport cars and motorcycles, agricultural machines, shipbuilding and offshore, industrial automation and robotics, various industrial sectors equipment (including food processing and packaging, wood processing, ceramics, etc...), sensoristics and precision farming, medical equipment. Other powerful clusters are agri-food, construction materials and technologies, biomedical industries.

Considering thus the specific location of UNIBO, in the middle of the so-called Motor Valley, the research and education in Automotive engineering and technology has always been a priority for our University. In the last years, further investments have been made to create a regional network, able to offer both Master and PhD courses with specific degrees in particular in the fields of Automotive Engineering and Data Science, with several specializations at undergraduate and graduate level, and a distinctive industrial approach. In MUNER Degrees (Motorvehicle UNiversity of Emilia Romagna), the main automotive companies of the area are directly involved (Ducati, Dallara, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Magneti Marelli, Haas F1, HPE-Coxa, Pagani, Toro Rosso), together with the 4 Universities of the Emilia Romagna region (Bologna, Modena-Reggio, Parma, Ferrara) and offer industry-supported traineeships.

The University of Bologna has been highly investing over the last 3 years in fostering the valorization of research results in its areas of excellence and in line with the specialization of the region Emilia Romagna where the Alma Mater is settled. Among the various initiatives that witness this engagement, I believe one of the best examples is the recent coordination by the University of Bologna of BI-REX one of the 5 Italian Competence Centers launched in the Industry 4.0 Programme.

Recently, UNIBO activated two new PhD Degrees in “Automotive for Intelligent Mobility” and “Data Science and Computation” an initiative that has been strongly supported by both institutional and industrial partners. Up to 20-25 students may be enrolled every year, with several scholarships.

Within the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed in April 2018, the Cornell Tech and UNIBO started to enhance their collaboration by developing a closer relationship in the above fields of research and innovation at graduate, PhD and researcher level.

## SILVIA FERRARI



From Latin, the verb *veho* means "to carry or transport." It is my hope that our new Cornell-Unibo Veho Institute on Vehicle Intelligence will help transport the world of high performance automobiles into the new millennium by providing a unique synergy between the MUNER program at Unibo, Cornell Engineering, Cornell Tech, and the Jacobs Institute. Synergistic activities spanning education, research, and entrepreneurship will include short courses and summer programs, interdisciplinary thesis and exchange programs, and incubator programs across these institutions.

The MUNER programs on racing car design, high performance computational fluid dynamics, and automotive engineering provide an ideal opportunity for the integration and development of recent advancements in neural network computing, artificial intelligence, human-machine interfaces, and sensing technologies developed by Cornell and Cornell Tech faculty. Along with core members Wendy Ju and Helen Nissenbaum at the Cornell Tech, Cornell Engineering hosts top researchers in the areas of mechanical engineering, transportation, sustainability, autonomous vehicles, machine learning, and vehicle routing, such as Prof. Oliver Gao, Prof. Jamol Pender, Prof. Peter Frazier, and Prof. Samitha Samaranayake. Our goal is to put in place a number of project agreements and funding opportunities that will both leverage existing student exchange programs, such as Cornell Global Program in Bologna, and provide new possibilities to undertake international experiences and mentoring by world leaders in both industry and academia.



The success or failure of autonomous vehicles will very much depend on the driver-vehicle interaction: whether people have a good assessment of what the car perceives and is likely to do, and how they might respond to different situations. At Cornell Tech, we are looking at how people will interact with vehicles in the future, particularly around shared control with automation, cross-cultural issues with automated driving, and opportunities of learning and adaptation. By using simulation technologies and techniques we can prototype and test interfaces to understand how best to design our future automobiles.

# VICTOR GOLDSMITH



Following my move to Roosevelt Island, 10 years ago, I greatly welcomed the development of Cornell Tech. At that time, I was Associate Provost at Pace University (for 13 years), in charge of all research, Head of a Business Incubator at the University, and other responsibilities. Hence, I was very interested, both professionally and personally, and I still am! When my good friend, and professional partner for about 20 years, Lucio Ubertini, came to visit me, I happily showed him Cornell Tech, and we discussed the potential for Italian academics. Thanks to Lucio and his colleagues, the Italian Academic Center (IAC) opened on 25 November, at my doorstep. Although, I have recently retired from Pace University, I have kept current with Cornell Tech, and of course, the IAC. Now, I have the option of enjoying all things Italian, by either walking 8 minutes, or, as I did this past November, spend 3 weeks in Italy. Given my history here, I definitely wish to see IAC succeed.

I have an active retirement. Among other charitable activities, I serve on one of seven proposal review committees of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) of New York, which donates approximately \$200 million/year. I also serve on the Board of Trustees of a Music School with 2,700 students and spend 3 weeks every August in Austria. I am a member of the Roosevelt Island Visual Arts Association (RIVAA) at a time when the Island leadership is in the process of making Roosevelt Island, the "Island of Art." In this regard, I have been interacting with one of the top Italian artists, Ettore De Conciliis, who has been approached to create a work of art for Roosevelt Island.

Having been involved since the very beginning, I would like to see IAC become a great success. So, if I may, I would like to suggest some current areas in which I can be helpful:

Being close geographically, and also academically and culturally with Italy, I can interact positively with various populations to the benefit of IAC. I can be a voice for IAC on Roosevelt Island and in other audiences.

An example. I have discussed with Ettore the idea of hanging one or more of his famous great works of art on the walls of IAC. Not only would this add prestige and visibility to IAC, it would be part of the process of his creating a great work for Roosevelt Island, as the CEO of Roosevelt Island has requested of him. This enhances cultural diversity.

On my recent visit to Bologna University, I learned of the recently discovered antique Torah, the oldest complete Hebrew version of the Old Testament. An extremely significant historic treasure. I did not know of this, and much needs to be done to make the interested communities aware of this treasure, as well as foster intellectual and cultural interest and research. My current and past

activities would assist in this goal. For me, this endeavor would bring together much of what I hold dear.

Now that IAC is a present in NYC, I am sure, that such new possibilities will be abundant. However, all this requires my close contact, and interaction. I ask to become an active participant, subject to approval of the three University Rectors, in order to help you at this early stage - to receive permission to enter the space of IAC, to be added to appropriate mailing lists for activities, meetings and learn of future directions. I am open to any and all suggestions that will be beneficial. Wishing you great success in this exciting endeavor.

RASSEGNA STAMPA

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## A New York nasce l'Italian Academic Center

È stato inaugurato a New York City l'Italian Academic Center, un nuovo spazio nel cuore del campus della Cornell Tech che ospiterà progetti di innovazione e iniziative di formazione e ricerca promossi da tre tra i più conosciuti e prestigiosi atenei italiani: Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Sapienza Università di Roma e Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II.

L'Italian Academic Center è stato aperto ufficialmente dai rettori Francesco Ubertini (Università di Bologna), Eugenio Gaudio (Sapienza Università di Roma) e Gaetano Manfredi (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II) insieme al Dean di Cornell Tech Greg Morrisett.

Il nuovo spazio è ospitato all'interno del Tata Innovation Center, struttura disegnata e costruita secondo principi e tecnologie sostenibili che fa parte del campus della Cornell Tech, la "Silicon Valley verticale" sulla Roosevelt Island nata dalla collaborazione tra Cornell University di New York (USA) e Technion - Israel Institute of Technology di Haifa (Israele).

Sviluppo di startup innovative e iniziative imprenditoriali legate alla ricerca accademica, oltre che nuove attività formative congiunte saranno le azioni che animeranno il centro. Il ricco ecosistema accademico americano e i sistemi industriali coinvolti permetteranno ai tre atenei italiani di dare vita a nuove modalità di collaborazione, stimolando la nascita di progetti multidisciplinari e promuovendo partenariati pubblici e privati, anche grazie alla collaborazione con le comunità locali, con un'attenzione particolare per innovazione e sostenibilità.

L'impulso per arrivare a questo traguardo è arrivato dal Centro Interuniversitario di Formazione Internazionale H2CU - Honors Center for Italian Universities, associazione che da tempo contribuisce alla collaborazione accademica tra Italia e Stati Uniti.

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26 Novembre 2019 | Internazionale

## L'università italiana alla conquista dell'America: a New York nasce l'Italian Academic Center

Nel cuore del campus della Cornell Tech, la "Silicon Valley verticale" sulla Roosevelt Island, nasce un nuovo spazio che ospiterà progetti di innovazione e iniziative di formazione e ricerca promossi da Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Sapienza Università di Roma e Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II





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## A New York inaugurato l'Italian Academic Center

Il Centro, ospitato all'interno del Tata Innovation Center, si occuperà di progetti di innovazione e iniziative di formazione e ricerca promossi dalla Sapienza, dall'Università di Bologna e dall'Università di Napoli Federico II



FOTO

