

ACTE D'INVESTIDURA DEL PROFESSOR ROGER OWEN COM A DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA PER LA UPC

9 de maig de 2012

Intervenció del rector

Membres de la nostra comunitat universitària,
Digníssimes autoritats acadèmiques,
Sr. Secretari General del Consell Interuniversitari de Catalunya
Familiars, amics i companys del professor Owen,
Senyores i senyors que ens acompanyeu en aquest acte,
Dear Professor Roger Owen,

Vull en primer lloc agrair-vos la vostra presència, i manifestar també l'agraïment de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya al Departament de Resistència de Materials i Estructures a l'Enginyeria, per haver presentat aquesta proposta, que va ser aprovada per unanimitat pel nostre Consell de Govern. Les meves felicitacions també al professor Oñate per la seva magnífica laudatio als mèrits del professor Owen, i al CIMNE, pel seus primers 25 anys d'intensa i exitosa activitat. Per últim, el meu agraïment, com no, al nostre nou doctor honoris causa, professor Owen, per les seves paraules. Thank you very much for giving us a snapshot of your life and your exciting experiences. Your description of the importance of analysis of problems in fracturing was fascinating. Especially impressive was the case of the pilot who managed to land his plane on one wing!.

We are very proud and happy to welcome Professor David Roger Jones Owen as a new member of the academia of UPC. Honorary Doctorates are awarded by our university to distinguish individuals who have played a leading role in their field, either

by being eminent scientists and academics, or by having contributed with their work to the development of society, and in particular, to UPC.

Professor Owen is one of the few extraordinary cases in which the same person gathers all these attributes. He is a prestigious scientist who has made important contributions to the field of computational mechanics. He is also a fine academic, an excellent teacher and a mentor of some 70 Ph.D. students. Last, but not least, his work has been seminal to the development of computational mechanics world-wide, and, in particular, at CIMNE and at UPC School of Civil Engineering.

His entrepreneurship in creating and developing the company Rockfield Software Limited, twice acknowledged by the British Queen for being an innovative and successful international enterprise, is a good example and a model from which we will surely extract many ideas for promoting new spin-off companies at our university.

The many merits of Professor Owen therefore, clearly justify that he becomes an Honorary Doctor of UPC. This award is also a recognition and an expression of our gratitude for his continuous involvement and support to very many scientific activities and projects at UPC for over 30 years.

Our university is committed to excellence in research, as well as innovative ways for educating our graduate and postgraduate students, so that they can be better prepared for the challenge of their future careers.

Numerical and computational methods and their applications provide us with a world of opportunities to generate new ideas for promoting innovation in Higher Education Institutions and Enterprises. These techniques will also allow us to develop new methods and approaches for making teaching and learning more attractive, in order to facilitate the professional development and competitiveness of our graduate students throughout their professional life.

This is a task that we should not and we cannot do alone, but in partnership with many colleagues and organizations in Europe and world-wide. Examples are the 25 or so, international Master of Sciences courses, carried out with support of the prestigious Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Commission.

One of these Masters degrees, the one in Computational Mechanics, is offered jointly by UPC and the University of Swansea, together with the Universities of Nantes and Stuttgart. This is another example of the many fruitful relationships of UPC with the University of Swansea, that I hope will continue, and even increase, in the future.

Professor Owen, I have had the opportunity of greeting you at the opening of many COMPLAS conferences. Today it's my great pleasure to welcome you as a new Doctor of UPC.

We thank you for your support and friendship towards our University, and look forward to continuing our close interaction with yourself for many years to come.

A continuació, acomiadarem aquest acte escoltant d'empeus el Gaudeamus Igitur, interpretat per la Coral Arquitectura i la Orquestra de la UPC, als que agraïm que, com sempre, ens hagin volgut acompanyar. Per últim, un sincer agraïment a totes les persones que heu treballat per tal que aquest acte s'hagi pogut desenvolupar.

Thank you very much to you all. Moltes gràcies.