

Luigi CAPASSO (GROUP FOUR)

In 1980 he graduated in Medicine and Surgery. In the same year he started working as an anthropologic doctor in Florence. Since 1983 he started teaching different scientific subjects in the university of Florence, Naples and Chieti. In his career he discovered and studied a lot of anthropologic material, especially from ancient cities, also studying new ways of conservation of ancient human remains.



1) Why did you choose to study anthropology?

I've always loved both Medicine and Paleontology. I think Anthropology is a science which studies all the anatomical and physiological features of the human being and his evolution, so it includes all my passions.

2) How important is it to collaborate with other scientists in your profession?

working in cooperation is really important for at least two reasons: the first is that nobody could have all the knowledge to work with science alone. So it's necessary that more than one scientist takes part to a research, everyone with his specific knowledge: this is the only way to make a research which involves multiple subjects. The second reason is that is easier to see more features of a problem and to find a solution when there are multiple points of view.

3) Is there someone who inspired you and made you take on your career?

Studying at University has been a really important step in my life and surely my teachers has influenced my choice, one over all was my Maths and Physics teacher at the scientific high school, the engineer Amicarelli) and many at University (mostly the Chemistry teacher in the first year course, his name was Rapi, and one in the sixth year, the Special Medical Pathology's teacher Ugo Teodori).

4) How long have you been teaching at the university?

I'm teaching at University since 1980, the year when I had my first appointment at the University of Florence, but I started my official teaching career in 2000.

5) What is your favourite scientist?

I don't have only one, but two favorite scientists. The first one is Galileo Galilei, with his clarity in imposing scientific questions, because he's the inventor of the scientific method and he homemade the telescope, the technical tool he used for his demonstrations about terrestrial rotation and the moviment of Jupiter's satellites. The second scientist I most admire is Oronzo Gabriele Cosa, a doctor from Lecce who became an excellent naturalist and paleontologist ((he published the first Zoology of the Kingdom of Naples and he also published the first, but still unique Paleontology of the Kingdom of Naples). He discovered and described for first the amphioxus, the most primitive corded animal, but most importantly he did all of this with extreme and captivating passion, still exciting for current readers.

6) Which subject do you like teaching the most? Why?

Anthropology, because it is the science that studies humans in all current forms and history, even over very ancient times. Anthropology, in my opinion, is the "science of science".

7) What's your favorite book? Do you like science-fiction authors, like Asimov?

My favorite book is "Don Camillo" by Giovannino Guareschi. I love science fiction, especially the Russian authors of the 50 years. I like Asimov as well, because of his synthetic and concrete vision of the Future.

8) When you were a child, were you planning to become a scientist or something else?

I always wanted to become a scientist. As a matter of fact, when I was at primary school I wrote it in a text which impressed my teacher a lot.

9) Did you visit any Science Museum? Which one do you prefer?

I have seen many museums of science history and all the museums of natural history in Europe. I enjoyed the museum of Natural History of New York, but also the museum of Boston. In Europe, I like the Science museums in Paris and London.

In Italy certainly the Museum of Biomedical Sciences in Chieti! (editor's note: L. Capasso is the director)