

GRADUATION DAY CEREMONY
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MASTER'S COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

by Barbara Ghizzoni

Respected dean,
Dear colleagues, professors and guests,
Good afternoon

I consider it a great honour to be in front of you today and have the possibility to talk about my great experience in ASERI , so thank you.

Almost one year ago I was completing an application form that would change my life. If I go back with my mind, it seems like yesterday that I passed through that door, saw for the first time this amazing building, had my interview to enter this master's course and met my tutor for the first time. If I think at how I was and I am now, it seems like as years have passed. So many things have happened since that very day. Today I am without the slightest doubt... more stressed, more tired, busy and I think I am also starting having some wrinkles... but also absolutely happy and satisfied!

As any choice in one person's life, the one of coming to ASERI was not at all an easy one. Attending this school has implied for me, as well as for my colleagues, great efforts, struggles and sacrifices: many of us have leaved their own cities or even their own countries, their friends, loved ones and sometimes their habits. What I can say for sure today is that all these efforts were definitely worth it. The experience in ASERI has been incredibly inspirational. It was enriching from an academic, a professional and personal point of view.

In ASERI we attended stimulating courses from passionate professors, we discussed about relevant and contemporary topics, engaged in simulations and exciting debates, approached new disciplines. Of course, it was not always a walk: ASERI has represented a good and sometimes really tough training. It has compelled us to confront long hours of study, demanded us mental and physical resistance, made us face our limits, and help us in stretching further those limits. This is exactly what I appreciated most: here I have been pushed through experiences that I thought I could not accomplish. Showing me different choices, this experience helped me discover myself and gave me useful hints on how my path should develop.

ASERI has also revealed itself an incredible human experience. Particularly, I shared last months with a very special group of people: my colleagues. In this occasion I would like to thank you personally. Each one of you, with your own personalities, experiences and culture has contributed to render last year instructive, funny and a little wild: in a word, unique. We have lived together so many adventures, we have spent so much time studying and so much time laughing, we have exchanged intellectual point of views and we have shared emotions, we even experienced some



little dramas, but these are just details, and I believe we have grown up a bit together. I found in you mates, models, challenges, sources of inspiration, contestants, allies... most of all I found friends. For this, thank you. Without you this experience would certainly not have been the same.

I need also to thank five important people who have constantly accompanied us in this travel. I want to say thank you to Gianni, who unfortunately today is not with us, for his complicity and friendship; to Nadia, for having welcomed us every day with a smile; to Professor Zoboli, our Master's Director, for the patience he showed with us; to Davide, for his availability, precious help and suggestions during these months. Last but not least I would like to thank Nacho: for his assistance in time of difficulty, for having been our professional tutor, but also our adviser, our confidant, sometimes even our nanny. Thank you for your time and patience, for your enthusiasm and your commitment, for having supported us in our projects, stood us in our boyish episodes and comforted us in our numerous hysterics. Thank you because the relationship with you went far beyond a simple and dull professional one and I hope it will remain as such in the future. For all this, for having believed in us from the very beginning, thank you! Without you all this would have not been possible for us.

Finally, if should summarize my experience here in one word I would use: change. Building a tradition of opportunity and excellence, ASERI has contributed to prepare and shape us, to make us better students, better professionals and, I guess, also better people. The year spent inside this institution was incredible and it was really amazing to be part of it, together with my colleagues. To you again I want to wish a satisfactory, rewarding and successful career, as well as a gratifying personal life. Celebrating today is so special because you are here. To conclude, let me imagine what our fellow, who today is missing, would have said in such a special occasion: "Oh Man! We have made it!!!"

Congratulations!



MASTER'S COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

by Fabio Petroni

Dear professors, guests, friends.

I am very honoured to be here and share with you the last minutes of this year in ASERI.

If I don't go wrong, about the beginning of this year professor Beretta said: "ASERI is a place where we made things happen". That is what I would like to briefly talk about: "places" and "things".

Let me begin with "places".

ASERI is a crossroads: a place where people come from all over the world and meet. And we have met actually. We have met a world made up of theories and dilemmas, but also efforts to solutions. We have met ASERI people's keenness and dedication to work, and the kind of professionals we are today is also fruit of their passion and commitment. Most of all, we have met each other: we have shared our fears and aspirations. Through them we have created a texture of feelings, ideas, opportunities and emotions which has been growing and thickening since the very beginning. This texture is spreading all over the world: India, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, The Netherlands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Peru, Dominican Republic, Portugal, France, Belgium, just to quote some. After this year in ASERI we are a web of relations and feelings spreading throughout the continents: a sensitive web which registers and drives inputs from everywhere to everywhere so creating reciprocal knowledge and opportunities. Through this worldwide texture, we connect each other with the world. Beside the marble and the location, this is the kind of place ASERI is: a place, where relations thicken and strengthen, and words like internationality get flesh. ASERI is a crossroads where you meet the world and through which you push off to the world, with new faith and the backing of many friends.

But as ASERI is also "things".

It is about "making things happens". When I joint ASERI in January I was full with doubts. I was just back from a wonderful experience in Bruxelles, in the European Parliament, and frankly I was not that sure ASERI and the MIC&D were the right choice. Shouldn't I at least try to get one more chance in Bruxelles? What could ever ASERI offer me that Bruxelles couldn't? In the beginning it was not that clear what ASERI's assets are. And I guess it was the same for everyone. We were all overwhelmed by courses, exams and tutorial rushes. We all were anxiously looking forwards to get a job: spending some ten ours per day at ASERI seemed to be somehow worthless. We didn't catch at once was what we were actually learning. It was not only international economics and geopolitics, so to say: we were learning



how to make things happens. Sixteen exams in six months, strict deadlines, new subject to be learnt in a couple of week have been a tough struggle, but facing all that we have freed resources we would have never thought of. Taking part to ASERI has made us more stubborn and resolute, and helped us to understand what we want. The past year this time I was in Bruxelles, but it was dream: I didn't have any idea why I was there and how it was possible that I was working there. From that lesson I learnt that everything is possible: but I was still too much green to turn possibility into reality. At ASERI I learnt how to go for what I want and how to make things happens. Today I am doing my internship at ENI, the largest Italian company working in seventy-seven countries, employing more then seventy thousands people. Thanks to ASERI, I decided to win this opportunity; I know why I am working at ENI; I know why a guy with a background ranging from philosophy to economics, is handling ENI's partnership with the UN. "Undergoing" ASERI's courses is that empowerment. These are "things" that happen at ASERI.

Anyway, what I mean is "thanks". Especially thanks to Prof. Simona Beretta for the wise advises and encouragement. Thanks to Cristina Rago, who has never grown weary to support me, even when I was clearly taking advantage of her patience. But most of all thanks to my classmates for enduring me and eventually making friends.

Thank you!



MASTER'S DOUBLE DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES

by Myriam Zandonini

Dear professors, guests and friends,
Good afternoon.

I'd like to say right from the start what I'm going to talk about: it is and it couldn't be about anything else than giving my sincere thanks for this year. And I'm not saying because I have to: but because I really mean it.

Yes, I'm thankful for the time spent here: not only we could strengthen our knowledge and empower our skills, but we could also do it in a unique setting and environment, a place where we could stay the whole day and feel at ease. ASERI has proved to be such place.

You might wonder why I'm always using "we": it's not a matter of having a big ego, but working closely with my classmates made me really feel like being part of a group. We made friends.

But since we've recently celebrated ASERI's 15th anniversary, I am sure that much has been said and written already about how unique and enriching this experience is, or at least we all gathered here already know, since we had the chance to experience it this year or some time ago. And I guess that the Magnifico Rettore and the dean, who honour us with their presence today and whom I also thank for having the idea and for founding Aseri, do already know it very well.

So, today I would like to share with you another aspect of this year, which is what I could call the "legacy" of this master's degree for me. What I bring back home and at the same time the biggest "thank you!" I have to publicly say today, deals with the people I met and got in touch with this year.

During the master's, In addition to a set of tools to better understand the nature of the current ever changing societies and world, and to a different mindset, a broader way of conceiving things, I learnt from the open confrontation and mutual collaboration with my colleagues, friends, with professors and all the people I shared something with. In this process of mutual learning I have been an active part, everyone did his or her part, according to their personal and academic background. Yes, I am, we all are, an active part involved in everything we do, we shape the things and people we get in touch with, we are not the same after that.... And I can tell: this is exactly what happened to me this year: I changed, I grew up.

I call it legacy but it might be a wake-up call for those who might forget it sometimes. Regardless where and who we are going to be in the next few years, a part of it has been shaped here: needless to say this is an honour and a great



achievement, for the faculty and the staff and of course for the students, for us: we made it happen, we are ASERI too.

But at the same time it means also a responsibility, since all those people I mentioned, all of us, including the professors and ASERI as a whole, contributed in different ways to build our future: we should not take it so easy! We all are responsible for giving shape and changing one another.

Finally, I wish to all of us, especially to us students, a bright and successful future: I hope we never forget how we shape every place we are in, and how we can always contribute in a way, as I learnt to do here. But I am sure this was a year unlikely to forget!

Thank you very much!