

# WUDS 2017



Workshop "Roberto Tempo" on  
Uncertain Dynamical Systems

July 5-7, 2017, Banyuls-sur-Mer, France

# A tribute to Roberto in Spineto, January 19, 2017

Similar to many of you, I have experienced hundreds of relationships in my life. However, there are only two or three of these relationships which I would characterize as a "true-blue lifelong friendship." Roberto Tempo was my true-blue lifelong friend.

Cristina and Julia: Roberto's unexpected passing is devastating to me -- it must be a thousand times more devastating for you. He was my colleague, my travel buddy, my confidante, my Skype pal. Cristina and Julia, my heart and mind are with you at this difficult time -- I have been thinking non-stop about Roberto since Saturday -- thinking about all the beautiful memories -- so many of them.

Yes, so many beautiful memories going back more than thirty years. Roberto was a twenty-eight year old "kid" when we met during his visit to Columbia University in 1983. How well our characters "clicked." How easily we communicated research ideas between us. Then, as time passed, our collegueship grew into friendship -- then close friendship. There is a cruel irony as I sit here in Wisconsin allowing a stream of memories to flood my mind. On one hand, the recollection of my memories with Roberto is pleasurable -- a temporary therapeutic escape. On the other hand, it is painful to reflect upon the fact that he has been "stolen away" without warning from his beloved family and friends.

There are too many memories to share. Here are a few memories which bubble to the surface of my mind as I indulge in this stream of consciousness exercise: I remember flying into Torino for just a weekend to help celebrate his beautiful wedding with you, Cristina. I remember literally dozens of amazing hikes with Roberto in many worldwide locations -- and I will always remember our many road-running adventures -- going out on the roads and talking non-stop for an hour at nearly every major conference. Included in these adventures was the time two crazy guys, Roberto and Bob, went running through small villages in the hills outside Jerusalem. In retrospect, I do not think we recognized that doing this was rather unsafe and unwise.

Christina, do you remember the time that Roberto and I got locked out of your apartment in Torino? You were not particularly pleased when we interrupted your busy schedule at work and you had to come home to let us back in. But this pales in comparison with the story Roberto told me about a trip to Malpensa with you, Cristina: My recollection is that he forgot to pass the car keys back to you and boarded his international flight. Oh, I can go on forever. In the eighties, I recall so many wonderful occasions in Ivrea with Bruno and Ninni. And then, years later, I recall Cristina's amazing hospitality during my many visits to Castellamonte. I also will never forget the great times I had with Roberto in Ceresole. Some of our best collaborative research ideas came out after drinking an excess of Grappa. We even formulated something technical which we called the "Grappa Conjecture." It turned out to be false.

Some of my most recent memories are still fresh in my mind: My last great meal with Roberto took place just a month ago at a conference in Las Vegas -- and just a few months before that, I spent an amazing day with Roberto touring the environs of Kathmandu in Nepal.

Roberto, we will all miss you dearly -- in an unimaginable way. May you rest in peace.

**Bob Barmish**

# Remembering Roberto

Roberto was special for many people around the world, appreciated and loved both for his outstanding professional skills and for his human qualities, for his warmth, for his integrity, and for his open mind. We will miss him as a colleague, leading researcher and friend.

Many beautiful messages from colleagues and friends about Roberto have been collected at [http://www.sct.ieiit.cnr.it/contents/people/tempo\\_old\\_hompage/Memories.html](http://www.sct.ieiit.cnr.it/contents/people/tempo_old_hompage/Memories.html).

Several initiatives to honour the memory of Roberto have been organized or are under way.

- A workshop entitled *Roberto Tempo: In memoriam* was held at the **Institute of Control Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia** on January 30, 2017
- A Semi-Plenary session entitled *A Tribute to the Memory of Roberto Tempo* will be held at the **IFAC World Congress in Toulouse, France**
  - Time: Monday July 10, 2017, 18:15-19:10
  - Place: Main Amphitheater of Toulouse Congress Center, with video projection in a parallel room
- A special session dedicated to Roberto and his work will be held at **Convegno AUTOMATICA.IT 2017** (Milan, 11-13 September 2017)
- Special sessions dedicated to Roberto and his research are being organised in occasion of the **56th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), Melbourne, Australia**
- During the last board of governors of Control System Society the institution, on initiative of Thomas Parisini, John Baillieul, and Christos Cassandras, of a **CDC Best Paper Award** in honour of Roberto has been approved.