

# *The Balsells Fellowship*

*Tenth Anniversary  
1996-2006*



*Pete J. Balsells and Family*



*The Henry Samueli School of Engineering  
University of California, Irvine*



*Generalitat de Catalunya*

Barcelona, June 2006

[balsells.eng.uci.edu](http://balsells.eng.uci.edu)

## Ten years of the Balsells-Generalitat Fellowship

“I will try to describe some aspects of my appearance. Thin, 1.80m tall, brown and short hair, and glasses. I will be carrying a newspaper on my left hand. I will wear a white T-shirt with the face of The David by Michelangelo on the front side.”

It has been almost ten years since that September 5, 1996, when I received this message from Sergi de Miguel, who was about to travel to Irvine, California, as the first Balsells Fellow. In the early part of 1994, over two years prior to my receiving this message, a California businessman named Peter J. Balsells had approached the school of engineering at the University of California, Irvine – UCI – with the idea of creating a fellowship to support a student from Catalonia pursuing a graduate degree in engineering at UCI. Mr. Balsells, *Pete* for most of us, *Pere* in Catalonia, had arrived in New York in April of 1947, fleeing the Spain of Franco but also looking for a future. In 1958, he and his wife had started Bal Seal Engineering and this was by then a fairly successful enterprise. Pete wanted to give the same opportunity to a few young people in his native Catalonia and also contribute to the promotion of the Catalan culture in California. My colleague and then Dean of the school of engineering, Bill Sirignano, had helped Pete in the initial phase of identifying the engineering schools in Catalonia and establishing the gift.



Now, almost ten years after the arrival of Sergi de Miguel, we celebrate a decade of the Balsells-Generalitat fellowship program, having bestowed that same opportunity to fifty two -and still counting- young Catalan students and postdoctoral fellows. So how did the program become the

Balsells-Generalitat fellowship? Pete’s endowment to create the fellowship was finalized in December of 1994 and UCI made the official announcement in January of 1995. I learned about it reading one of the campus newsletters. Our school was, and still is, in a significant growth mode. California, and by extension the U.S. as a whole, does not produce enough engineers to satisfy the internal demand from either the industrial or academic sectors. Our school needed highly qualified students and here I saw an opportunity to develop a program in a fairly large scale by pooling up resources. Since I had a couple of upcoming trips to Barcelona (that’s another story) in the spring of 1995, I

figured I could get the ball rolling there by taking the momentum created by the announcement of the fellowship at UCI. I contacted Pete by phone and had my first glimpse of this exemplary man. He in turn contacted his friend Teresa Pino in Barcelona and she immediately arranged for a series of interviews with key people in Barcelona. We visited La Caixa, La Vanguardia, UPC, La Salle, and notably the *Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca* of the Catalan government. Everyone was willing to listen but two people were instrumental in achieving the next step, the matching of the Balsells contribution. David Serrat and Antoni Giro occupied the posts of Director General of Universities and Research, respectively. They immediately saw the great potential of the nascent program and pledged to contribute a matching amount to finance a second fellowship every year. David Serrat would later be instrumental in creating the Balsells-Generalitat post-doctoral fellowship by, I am proud to say, reducing the support of an existing program with MIT in favor of the program with UCI. Coincidentally or perhaps not, Serrat and Giro would eventually become *Rectors* of the University of Vic and UPC, respectively. I came back to Irvine with the great news and months of arduous negotiations followed in order to iron out the details of implementation of the awards. It wasn't easy, a sort of cultural clash or rather, different administrative approaches. California and Catalonia go back to *Gaspar de Portola*, the first California governor and a Catalan who came with the Spaniards to America. A sisterhood agreement between the



two regions had been signed ten years earlier, in 1986, on the occasion of the visit of then Catalan President Jordi Pujol, and a handful of cultural and educational agreements had been subsequently signed. During the time of negotiations which followed my return to Irvine in 1995, two key people emerged whose roles would be pivotal to the success of the program.

Lowell Lewis, an emeritus UC professor had been living in Barcelona for a number of years and acted as liaison between the UC office of the president and Catalonia. He provided much support by serving as a direct personal contact when email was not enough. Angela Baguena at the *Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca* became the fundamental pillar of the day-to-day operations of the program within the Catalan government and still does so to this day. Even as Directors of Research, *Comissionats*, and even *Consellers* have changed, Angela has been an invaluable contributor to the successful operation of the program throughout a decade.

In late 1995, even as the program was being structured, the next challenge was to find students. The internet had not fully flourished yet although usage of email was quite established. We had to promote the program, find a decent number of qualified

applicants, evaluate them for admission and hopefully find two who could start the program in the fall of 1996. Having arrived in California in 1981 with the same quest for academic opportunity and adventure, just like thousands of others, I had an idea of what I was looking for. Josep Carrau, then director of the *La Caixa* fellowship program, provided some needed relief by allowing us to write to the engineering applicants for *La Caixa* fellowships. In addition, I started a yearly “pilgrimage” to Catalonia in the fall, in the style of the religious missionaries to affix announcements in as many bulletin boards as possible and to hand out even more to anyone willing to take them at the main engineering schools in Barcelona, notably UPC. Through this process is how Sergi de Miguel, and later Jose Miguel Pulido, emerged as the first and second Balsells fellows. Jose Miguel and his wife would arrive one or two days before the end of December of 1996 so my family and I had them over at our house for New Year’s. It had been a good year and 1997 was full of more promises and challenges. During the initial years, Miquel Huguet, Director of CESCO and a sort of Balsells fellow precursor while a Ph.D. student at UCLA, provided much needed office space and computer support so that Lowell and I could interview students in Barcelona. John Sommehauser, for many years the graduate counselor in the school of engineering, provided plenty of administrative guidance to the incoming fellows.

So now, ten years and fifty two fellows later, we pause to evaluate our achievements. Ten years can be a long or a short time depending on one’s perspective. It’s a small time in



the time frame measured since *Gaspar de Portola* became governor of *Las Californias* in 1768 or perhaps even in the almost sixty years since Pete arrived in New York. UCI however, is very young; it celebrated forty years in 2005 so the Balsells Fellowship program has existed for one fourth of the campus’ existence. It has brought California and Catalonia closer together in ways that go beyond the educational experience of

these fifty two students and post-doctoral fellows. The program has put each region in each other’s map of academic and research geography. In the intervening years, our school became the Henry Samueli School of Engineering – HSSoE – through an important endowment secured by our Dean, Nick Alexopoulos, a firm supporter of the program. The *Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca* became a department – DURSI -- and *Consellers* Andreu Mas-Colell first and Carles Sola later continued and augmented the support from the Catalan government. Incidentally, DURSI has disappeared this year amid political restructuring.



Throughout these ten years, several colleagues and researchers from Irvine and Catalonia have visited each other and in some notable cases, significant collaborative efforts have



sprung up, now encompassing several years. My family and I spent a total of eight months in 1999 and 2000 when I was on sabbatical as a visiting professor at the University of Barcelona in the research group of my colleague Josep Maria Guilemany. During that period, I established communications with several of the other engineering schools in the region, including the *Universitat Rovira i Virgili* and the University of Girona. The latter, through its school of engineering foundation and in partnership with the HSSoE and the *Generalitat de Catalunya*, established an additional fellowship in support of one of its students. Our relationship with UPC was further cemented through interactions with then *Rector* Jaume Pages and with my good friend Lluís Jofre. I even had the opportunity to experience *Canaletes* first hand when Barça won the league in 1999.



We didn't stop there. On the occasion of President Pujol's visit to California in January of 2002, Pete Balsells, Nick Alexopoulos and I, together with some of the fellows traveled to San Francisco and proposed the California-Catalonia Program for Engineering

Innovation. With support of President Pujol, always committed to the California-Catalonia partnership, and then DURSI Conseller Andreu Mas-Colell, we launched this new program in 2003. The California-Catalonia Program for Engineering Innovation is now into its fourth year and has funded nine (soon to be twelve) collaboration projects

between Irvine and Catalonia with important industrial participation. The fellowship program in the meantime, grew to a total of eight fellowships per year with increased participation from each partner. Six Balsells fellows have received their Ph.Ds since the inception of the program while approximately ten others are currently pursuing their doctoral degree. Moreover, two Balsells fellows are now also *Ramon y Cajal* fellows, a prestigious Spanish fellowship for young researchers. A new program funded by the National Science Foundation: the California-Catalonia Alliance for Miniaturization Science and Engineering was established in 2005 and will allow students from California to spend time and conduct research in the laboratories of our Catalan partners.

It seems like a long time since the days when Pulins, Paco, Alba and Ferran, and then Cesar, Jordi and Cristian, would faithfully join me for lunch at the Phoenix Grill every Friday or since the historic tennis matches with “Arantxa” and “Conchita”, or the soccer games at Gabrielino field. At some point, the whole thing took a life of its own so I gradually stopped going for lunch with the fellows or playing tennis, I think I started losing. Now there is a Catalan student association at UCI which seems to win a campus culinary contest every year. There are of course *Castellers* – the California Kids – with Anabella and Adrian as occasional *anxanetas*, featured once on Catalan television, and there is a bench in the middle of Aldrich Park celebrating Pete’s original vision, unveiled last year by Jordi Pujol. Even *Mikimoto* came to California to reveal Pete’s vision and the fellowship program to the Catalan audience of his *Affairs Exteriors* TV show. As icing on the cake, while we celebrate these ten years of the Balsells Fellowship, Barça takes not only the Spanish League but also the European Championship.

In the middle of all this, I do not lose track of Pete Balsells. His vision, unlimited generosity, unconditional support, contagious energy, no non-sense approach, amid the most striking and un-assumed humbleness have made all of this possible. Thank you Pete!

Roger Rangel  
Irvine, June 2006

## Balsells Fellowship Vision and Reality



Vision is the desire to accomplish something. The reality is the implementation of such vision. Both are quite different. The Balsells Fellowship started that way; a vision to create something of value that would benefit Catalonia by giving opportunities to qualified students to study at the University of California, Irvine. The vision seems rather simple, but the implementation was something else.

The beginnings: the fellowship program was structured based on a legal document that would ensure that monies contributed by the Balsells family were used to fund part of the Balsells Fellowship program. One of the initial conditions was participation by the University, in part by contributing to the expenses of foreign students and because of the benefit that they could bring to the University.

The initial contact was with then Dean William Sirignano who was very familiar with Catalan universities, was interested in the participation of the University in such a program, and became an enthusiastic supporter of the program.

A stroke of luck came along when Professor Roger Rangel got interested in promoting the fellowship program. I don't think that he knew what he was getting into. Maybe the fact that his wife, Mireya, was from Catalonia made some difference, I don't know. But his total dedication to promote and direct the fellowship made it possible for the fellowship to flourish. There was a lot of talk and negotiating with Catalan government officials to secure matching contributions and the manner how the students would be selected and they wanted to do it one way and we wanted to do it another. There was a lot of give and take, but Professor Rangel was able to secure a favorable agreement and matching funds.

Further luck came our way when the new Acting Dean of Engineering, Al Stubberud, was going to travel to Lisbon and I convinced him that he should extend the trip and go to Barcelona and have an opportunity to visit the Polytechnic University (UPC). He came back with a very favorable impression, which contributed to further cement the establishment of the Balsells Fellowship.

Next came implementation. As I indicated, vision is one thing, but implementation is another. Roger Rangel took it upon himself to promote the virtues of studying at UCI



and the opportunities that it would offer. But UCI was a long way away, not well known in Catalonia then, but with perseverance, a lot of leg work, a lot of poster hanging and a lot of presentations, he managed to convince a few to come and then a few more and then a few more and I am truly happy that his pioneering effort made it possible that all of you one by one came to California and hopefully benefit from your stay there. I believe that we owe a vote of gratitude to Roger Rangel for the tremendous effort that he has made in welcoming all the students, making them feel at home and more than anything else, contributing to their success. It was his primary effort that made the fellowship the success that it has achieved. Roger, thank you very much for such a great effort.



I also would like to pay tribute to the untiring support of Dean Nick Alexopoulos in supporting and expanding the fellowship and the California-Catalonia engineering innovation program and to President Pujol for his invaluable support of the program, since its inception.

Pete Balsells  
June 2006



## Thoughts and Memories from the first Balsells Fellow

I was about to present my final thesis at the Industrial Engineering school in Barcelona. The subject was control systems, and the application was the design of a ten-meter telescope testbed for an observatory in the Canary Islands. We presented the results of the work done together with my good friend Josep M<sup>a</sup> Fuertes, professor at the UPC.



Before the presentation, I decided to take the elevator and check my email in the computer room. A new email from the friendly, mysterious, professor named Roger Rangel was in my inbox. I was about to read the email that changed my life. Roger congratulated me because I was the recipient of the first Balsells Fellowship in Engineering.

At that time, my dad, an engineer and self-made man, still owned and managed a small company that he founded 20 years ago with my uncle. They were not Hewlett & Packard but business was not bad. They expected me to help take care of the family business right after school, I guess. But through this generous fellowship I had the chance to improve my engineering background in a prestigious university in the US plus I would have the chance to meet people from very different cultures and experience one of the most dynamic economies in the world. Crystal clear, let's go for it. Three months later, I was flying to LA, California. I remember a gentleman from BalSeal Engineering picked me up at the LAX airport and BalSeal payed for my overnight stay at a hotel in Irvine. The next day I met Roger Rangel, a tall, sharp, very friendly and trustworthy person. His very first words were "*Bienvenido a California*". Immediately I thought: I made the right choice, this is going to be great.

Very soon I met Mr Balsells. He clearly said how important it was to start cooperating with the *Casal*. Indeed, one of the most important missions of the first fellow was to help the *Casal Català de Califòrnia*. Together with Jose Miguel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Balsells fellow, and guidance from Pete Garriga, we edited the *Butlleti* and started helping in the *Aplecs*. It was fun and interesting to meet all these friendly and special people speaking Catalan with an American accent. Eating my first paella from Pepita at the *Aplec de Tardor* was awesome. Then came the Christmas party, the Pot luck in Pete's house, and the *Aplec of Primavera*. Pete always helped me during my stay. He even made sure I experienced

Thanksgiving with some of his friends. I realized one important aspect of the fellowship was to understand the American society, their traditions and values. We should take back what we thought were good things.

My first month at UCI was not easy. Classes started really soon and I really did not have a place to live. I rented a room in a house in Turtle Rock, about 2 miles from the campus. Luckily, a few days later, Jennifer, the very kind Asian-American secretary of the MAE department called me because there was an opening at Verano Place. I had to pass a tough interview with Pete Catapano, my future roommate, before being accepted. I remember his last statement: "You should know that on Thursdays we always play poker with some friends, it's a tradition". No need to tell I made extensive use of library on Thursdays. Really soon I met Professor Jabbari, my advisor, and Professor Schmitendorf. I loved the people of their lab. Thanh Nguyen, 35, Vietnamese, M.Sc. in EE from Purdue University, working part-time for TRW and concurrently pursuing a Ph.D. Emre Kose, Turkish, good in mathematics, Rosy Atmadja, Indonesian, ex-Berkeley, and Jabbari, Iranian, a very friendly and smart person. I also met Trevor Demayo, from the UCI combustion lab, today still a very good friend of mine working for Chevron. Saghir, from Pakistan, worked in Mease's lab and shared the space with an Indian student. I enjoyed so much working and speaking with all of them. Thanh really liked me because I was the only one in the lab that still wanted to join for vietnamese food in Little Saigon. In September 1997, I earned my M.S. degree and Roger Rangel organized a party at his house. I made a second important decision at that point: I went to the Santa Clara job fair to get the job that was waiting for me out there. Honeywell Inc. asked me to join the flight controls engineering team at Honeywell, a respected multinational company in the field of control systems based in Glendale, Arizona.

I spent 3 years at Honeywell, as a digital automatic flight control system engineer. The Technical Manager was Hamid Sadeghpour, also Iranian. I learned many things from him. In Arizona, I shared engineering discussions with competent people from all over the world. This is one of the best things I think you can experience in an engineering career. I spent two years in Honeywell's France Support Centre in Toulouse, and worked in a fly-by-wire program. After this time, I tried to come back to Barcelona, but there were no opportunities to come back. So I ended up in Madrid, and since then I work for Sener, a strong engineering company. After 10 years, I am proud to be still an engineer and manage projects where I adopt techniques and procedures that I learned back in the US. I have those talented people from UCI and Honeywell always in my mind when I start new endeavors. I have a special memory also from Professor Donald Dabdub, I always enjoyed his classes and very interesting questions. I am happy to share what I learned with my new colleagues or partners, for me it is a way to revisit my stay.

In Toulouse I met my wife. Sophie and I moved to Madrid in 2000, and married in Santes Creus in 2001. We have 2 kids, Leonor and Louis. It is not easy to work hard and be a good father. We live in the countryside, in the beautiful Catalan region of Penedès. And now the question is, shall I take over the company of my father, shall I continue at Sener leading technological projects, shall I move on to other challenges?

Whatever the decision, whatever the paths I will take, I will always be extremely grateful to Pete, for his generosity and leadership. Thanks very much also to Roger Rangel, to the Balsells family and to the Balsells Fellowship Committee.

I would like to send my best greetings to the past, present and future Balsells Fellows. Long life to the Balsells Fellowship!

Sergi de Miguel – 1996 Balsells Fellow  
Barcelona, June 2006

# Balsells Fellowship Recipients

## 1996

### 1) Sergi de Miguel Sanz

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1996  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 1997  
Advisor: Professor F. Jabbari  
Presently: Project Director  
SENER Systems Engineering, Barcelona

### 2) Jose Miguel Pulido

Telecommunications Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1995  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1998  
Advisor: Professor K.-J. Lin  
Engineering Degree, Stanford University, 2000  
Presently: Technical Lead  
Avaya R & D, Barcelona

## 1997

### 3) Paco Lopez Dekker

Telecommunications Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1997  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1999  
Advisor: Professor G.-P. Li  
Ph.D., U. Mass, Amherst, 2003  
Presently: Ramon y Cajal Researcher  
Communications and Signal Theory Dept  
UPC, Barcelona

### 4) Ferran Negre

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1996  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1999  
Advisor: Professor Tomas Lang

### 5) Alba Perez Gracia

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1996  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 1999  
Advisor: Professor J. M. McCarthy  
Ph.D., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2003  
Presently: Assistant Professor  
Idaho State University, Pocatello

## 1998

### 6) Cesar Alvaro Mercadal

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1997  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 1999  
Advisor: Professor G. S. Samuelsen  
Presently: Engineering Manager  
*S. A. de Hornos Automaticos*, Barcelona

### 7) Cristian de Haro Carbonell

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1998  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 1999  
Advisor: Professor J. E. Bobrow  
Presently: Corporate Development Analyst  
ROCA Corporation, Barcelona

### Alba Perez Gracia

(2<sup>nd</sup> year award)  
See 1997 for data

### 8) Jordi Ros Giralt

Telecommunications Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1998  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1999  
Advisor: Professor K. Tsai  
Ph.D., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2003  
Presently: Barcelona

## 1999

### 9) Manrico Fedi Casas

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1999  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2000  
Advisor: Professor K. D. Mease  
Presently: Project Engineer  
GTD Engineering, Barcelona

### 10) Galo Gimenez Palop

Computer Sciences, UPC-Barcelona, 1999  
Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2000  
Advisor: Professor K. Kim  
Presently: Software Architect  
Hewlett-Packard, Barcelona



**11) Carlos Lopez Lois**

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1992  
 Ph.D., UPC-Barcelona, 1998  
 Postdoctoral Fellow, 1999-2000  
 Institute of Transportation Studies-UCI  
 Advisor: Professor W. Recker  
 Presently: Head of Transportation Services  
 City of Barcelona

**12) Miguel Sainz Serra**

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 1996  
 Ph.D., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2003  
 Advisor: Professor N. Bagherzadeh  
 Presently: Developer Technology Engineer  
 NVIDIA, London

**2000****13) Jordi Amatller Claraso**

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2000  
 M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2001  
 Advisor: Professor N. Bagherzadeh  
 Presently: Software Engineer  
 SENER Systems Engineering, Madrid

**14) Andreu Fargas Marques**

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2000  
 M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2001  
 Advisor: Professor A. Shkel  
 Presently: Maintenance Engineer  
 Consorci d'Aigües de Tarragona  
 PhD Student – Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

**15) Mari Cruz Villa Uriol**

Telecomm. Engineer, La Salle-Barcelona, 1997  
 Ph.D., Electrical Engng and Computer Science, 2005  
 Advisors: Professors N. Bagherzadeh and F. Kuester  
 Presently: Post-doctoral researcher  
 Computational Imaging Lab, Univ. Pompeu Fabra

**2001****16) Juan Carmona Martínez**

Chemical Engineer, IQS-Barcelona  
 M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2002  
 Advisor: Professor R. H. Rangel  
 Presently: Applications Specialist  
 Millipore, Barcelona

**17) Marc Carreras Sospedra**

Chemical Engineer, University of Barcelona  
 Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
 Advisor: Professor D. Dabdub  
 MS/PhD, in progress

**18) Jasmina Casals Terré**

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Terrassa, 2000  
 M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2002  
 Advisor: Professor A. Shkel  
 Presently: Ph.D. student and adjunct professor  
 UPC-Terrassa

**19) Christian Casanova Moya**

Civil Engineer, INSA-Toulouse, 1999  
 M.S., Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2002  
 Advisor: Professor M. Feng  
 Presently: Project Manager  
 DRAGADOS, Barcelona

**20) Natalia Galiana Ballester**

Chemical Engineer, IQS-Barcelona  
 Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, 2002  
 Advisor: Professor E. J. Lavernia  
 Presently: Ph.D. student  
 Materials Science Institute, Madrid

**21) Oscar Gargallo Lobo**

Chemical Engineer, URV-Tarragona  
 M.S., Chemical Engineering and Materials Science  
 Advisor: Professor H. Lim  
 Presently: Chemical Engineer  
 HERA Group, Barcelona

**22) Marc Medrano Martorell**

Chemical Engineer, URV-Tarragona, 1996  
 Ph.D. Chemical Engineering, URV, 2001  
 Post-doctoral Fellow, 2002-2004  
 Advanced Power and Energy Program  
 Advisor: Professor G. S. Samuelsen  
 Presently: Assistant Professor, Univ. of Lleida

**23) Laia Pages Giralt**

Civil Engineer, INSA-Toulouse, 1999  
 M.S.(2002), Ph.D. (2006)  
 Civil and Environmental Engineering  
 Institute of Transportation Studies, UCI  
 Advisor: Professor R. Jayakrishnan  
 Presently: Lecturer, UPC-Terrassa

## 2002

### 24) Marc Antonijuan Tresens

Multimedia Engineer, La Salle-Barcelona, 2002  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2003  
Advisor: Professor F. Kuester  
Presently: Software Engineer  
GeoVirtual, Ltd., Barcelona

### 25) Javier Atero Vázquez

Computer Sciences, UPC-Barcelona, 2002  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2003  
Advisor: Professor K. Kim  
Presently: QA Engineer  
Fidelity National Financial

### 26) Silvia Estévez Castellà

Mathematics, UPC-Barcelona, 2000  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2004  
Advisor: Professor A. Sideris  
Presently: Risk Analyst  
General Electric Capital Bank, Barcelona

### 27) Alfred Grau Besolí

Telecommunications Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2001  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Advisor: Professor F. de Flaviis  
M.S./Ph.D., in progress

### Marc Medrano Martorell

(2<sup>nd</sup> year award)  
See 2001 for data

### 28) Albert Mercadé Blasco

Mathematics, UPC-Barcelona, 2000  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2004  
Advisor: Professor R. Pajarola  
Presently: Programmer of Computer Applications  
ABSIS Group, Barcelona

### 29) Raimon Pousa Hijós

Industrial Engineer, University of Girona, 2002  
M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2004  
Advisor: Professor K. Tsai  
Presently: Senior Engineer  
Power Engineering Inc.

## 2003

### 30) Oriol Español Bada

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2002  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2004  
Advisor: Professor A. Sideris  
Presently: GDT Engineering, Barcelona

### 31) Angel Jimenez Aranda

Mathematics, UAB, Barcelona, 1998  
Ph.D. Chem Engineering, URV-Tarragona, 2003  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
Mech and Aerospace Engineering and Chemistry  
Advisor: Professor D. Dabdub

### 32) Julius Klein

Industrial Engineer, University of Girona, 2003  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2005  
Advisor: Professor J.M. McCarthy  
Ph.D., in progress  
Advisor: Professor Reinkensmeyer

### 33) Francesc Serras Marques

Industrial Engineer, University of Girona, 2000  
M.S., Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2005  
Advisor: Professor R. Jayakrishnan  
Presently: MBA student, IESE, Barcelona

### 34) Daniel Massaguer

*Girona Fellowship*  
Computer Engineer, University of Girona, 2003  
M.S., Electrical Eng and Computer Science, 2005  
Advisor: Professor N. Venkatasubramanian  
Ph.D., in progress

### 35) José Joaquín Mohedano

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Terrassa, 2003  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2005  
Advisor: Professor F. Jabbari  
Presently: Application Programmer at ADASA  
SISTEMAS

### 36) Josep Ma. Soler Carbonell

Industrial Engineer, University of Girona, 2003  
M.S., Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, 2005  
Advisors: Professors R. Rangel and A. Shkel  
Presently: Plant Manager  
EDV Packaging Solutions

## 2004

### 37) Joel Benito Manrique

Telecommunications Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2003  
Aeronautical Engineer, ENSAE-Toulouse, 2003  
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Advisor: Professor K. Mease  
Ph.D., in progress

### 38) Xavier Casadevall i Solvas

Technical Chemical Engineer, Univ. of Girona, 2000  
Chemical Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2003  
Chemical Engineering and Materials Science  
Advisor: Professor M. Madou  
Master of Science, in progress

### 39) Jordi Casòliva Rodon

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2000  
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Advisor: Professor K. Mease  
MS/Ph.D., in progress

### 40) Francesc Galobardes Jornet

*Girona Fellowship*  
Industrial Engineer, University of Girona, 2004  
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Advisor: Professor M. Madou  
M.S. in progress

### 41) Marc Esplugas Gonzalez

Chemical Engineer, University of Barcelona, 2004  
Chemical Engineering and Materials Science  
Advisor: Professor S. Grant  
MS., in progress

### Angel Jimenez Aranda

(2<sup>nd</sup> year award)  
See 2003 for data

### 42) Laura Marchal Crespo

Industrial Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2003  
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Advisor: Professor D. Reinkensmeyer  
M.S./Ph.D. in progress

### 43) José Tomás Morón Morte

Telecommunications Engineer, UPC-Barcelona, 2004  
M.S. Biomedical Engineering, 2006  
Advisors: Professor Bachman and Professor G.P. Li  
Presently: Project Engineer  
MIER Communications, Barcelona

### 44) Miquel Nogués Aymamí

Mechanical Engineer, UPC-Terrassa, 1992  
Ph.D. Chem Engineering, URV-Tarragona, 2001  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
Advanced Power and Energy Program  
Advisor: Professor G. S. Samuelsen  
Presently: Lecturer  
University of Lleida

### 45) Genís Turon Teixidor

Industrial Engineer, University of Girona, 2004  
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Advisor: Professor M. Madou  
M.S./Ph.D., in progress

## 2005

### 46) Raul Benitez

PhD - Physics, UPC  
Post-doctoral fellow  
Biomedical Engineering  
Advisor: Professor D. Reinkensmeyer

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