

Remembering Florian Daniel

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■ **FLORIAN DANIEL** left us abruptly at the age of 42. He left a void that cannot be filled, and memories that will stay with us forever. We are grateful for every opportunity to work, talk, smile, run, and drink with him. We remember him here because *Internet Computing* was with ICWE his favorite publication venue. He authored/coauthored 11 papers here, with important contributions from mashups to crowdsourcing to, more recently, chatbots.

He was a smart, humble, and kind colleague and friend whom we got to know since the early 2000s. We met him through various channels: First during his internship in HP Labs, then through his tenure as a Research Associate in Trento, his participation to EU projects such as COMPAS or OMELETTE, and then through conferences such as ICWE. We always had a wonderful and productive time, and for all of us, our first meeting was the beginning of a great, long-lasting friendship. He was offering his expertise and help in many different ways, from generating novel ideas to writing and running projects and on to the many tasks that are part of our work life. He was always there for you, with an open heart, really listening and empathizing with your issues and stepping in to lend a hand where it



was most needed. He always had a humble, enthusiastic, and optimistic view of the world and of all colleagues, something that all of us need to emulate.

To the young researchers he mentored, he was always a positive force in navigating the challenging years of the Ph.D., leading through advice and by example. He was able to transmit his work ethics, the genuine interest in research

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and in developing, and also the fact that life is much more than what goes on in the office. He celebrated when students were admitted to the Ph.D., went together with them to their first conferences, and was there to encourage them throughout their journey. The younger ones always looked up to him as an example of the type of researchers they wanted to be. His teaching and style of work have impacted young Ph.D. students and led them to grow into more experienced researchers. He was a true role model!

Recently, we were working on new projects and ideas not just because of the common interests, but also because spending time with him was fun and any excuse to meet, talk, run, or listen to his new brewing or baking projects, was a good one. He was a dear friend and a wonderful soul who will be missed forever. We have learned a lot and are better persons because of you, and therefore, you live in all of us. Dear Florian, rest in peace (but not too much, do not forget to have fun, as you used to say). We miss you!



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