third year. I loved the astronomy lab the most! That is why I am here!" That was very different from my experience.

In the end, I decided to go to UCLA for graduate school, mostly because I really enjoyed working with Mike. There were so many interesting projects to work on! I think that was one the best decisions I ever made in my life. Plus, Los Angeles had a lot of good Chinese restaurants in case I got homesick.

My main research topic was planetary systems beyond the main sequence stage, particularly around white dwarfs. For my PhD studies, I worked on data from a lot of telescopes, including the Keck Telescope, the Hubble Space Telescope, and the Spitzer Space Telescope. Mike was a superb advisor and he trained me in many aspects of research, from writing proposals, planning the observations (always have a backup plan — or several!) and reducing the data, to publishing the results and presenting them at conferences. I still remember my very first paper: we kept revising the manuscript and the final submitted version ended up being version u (i.e., the 21st version). The accepted version was version z (26). I was seriously concerned about what would happen if we used up all 26 letters! I feel extremely grateful that I had a chance to work with Mike so closely. He is always a source of inspiration and a role model for me. Whenever I encountered a problem, I would ask myself "What would Mike do in this situation?"

I joined ESO in Garching as a fellow in September 2014. I very much enjoy the freedom that I have and the diversity of research done at ESO. There are interesting talks and discussions happening every day. On account of my passion for observational astronomy, I decided to work as a support astronomer at Paranal for my functional duty. So I have the chance to travel to Chile, meet many interesting people, and operate one of the world's best telescopes. The sky there is amazing! Looking into deep space, it constantly reminds me why I am here and why I decided to pursue astronomy in the first place. Most importantly, it has been a really fun journey. I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for me!

Personnel Movements

Arrivals (1 October-31 December 2016)

Europe

Augustin, Ramona (DE) Brucalassi, Anna (IT) Chen, Chian-Chou (TW) Darré Pascaline (FR) Nedelchev, Borislav (BG) Querejeta, Miguel (ES) Seidel, Matthias (DE)

Zanella, Anita (IT)

Student

Astronomer/CRIRES+ Project Scientist Fellow

Applied Physicist in Interferometry Student

Fellow

Electronic Engineer

Fellow

Departures (1 October-31 December 2016)

Europe

Béthermin, Matthieu (FR) Faran, Tamar (IL) Galametz, Maud Muriel (FR) Milligan, Samantha (UK) Phan. Duc Thanh (BE)

Student Fellow Secretary/Assistant Software Engineer

Fellow

Chile

Anderson, Joseph (UK) Corral Santana, Jesus (ES) Jones, Matias (CL) Leftley, James (UK) Milli, Julien (FR) Nurzia, Vittorio (IT) Opitom, Cyrielle (BE) Santana Tschudi, Samuel (ES) Yang, Bin (CN)

Operation Staff Astronomer Fellow

Fellow Student

Operation Staff Astronomer Telescope System Engineer

Fellow

Instrumentation Engineer Operation Staff Astronomer

Chile

Colleoni, Franco (CL) Klement, Robert (CZ) Martins, Jorge (PT) Ober, Claudia (CL) Orrego, Ernesto (CL) Razmilic, Jasna (CL)

Electronics Engineer Student Student Contract Officer Administrative Assistant **Executive Assistant**