



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

After a decade of researching and teaching internationally, M. Gabriella Santonicola '07PhD returned to her home country of Italy in 2012 to teach at Sapienza University of Rome.

Currently an assistant professor in the chemical engineering, materials and environment department, she teaches courses on biomaterials and non-metallic materials for biomedical use. Outside of the classroom she researches the self-assembly of bio-nanocomposite materials, soft polymeric materials and interfaces for biological applications, and other related topics.

Prior to her current position, Gabriella held a two-year appointment as a researcher at the MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology at University of Twente (UT) in the Netherlands. While there, she worked with UT's faculty of science and technology as a teaching assistant.

Gabriella's other previous positions include post-doctoral work at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Germany, visiting research assistant at the City College of New York and team leader at the Center for Advanced Biomaterials for Healthcare at the Italian Institute of Technology.

While a graduate student at UD she also spent her time as a teaching assistant in the chemical engineering department, for which she received the Robert L. Pigford Teaching Assistant Award.