

# Massimo Capaccioli



***Doctor Honoris Causa  
of Karazin University***

# Massimo Capaccioli



***PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH:***

Castel del Piano (Maremma, Italy),  
April 19, 1944

***PRESENT POSITION:*** Emeritus Professor  
in the Physics Department *E. Pancini*  
of the University of Naples Federico II

# Massimo Capaccioli

## ACADEMIC CAREER:

- 1969–1976 Assistant professor at Padua University.
- 1976–1986 Associate professor of *Celestial Mechanics* at Padua University: chair held previously by prof. Giuseppe Colombo.
- 1986–1988 *Astronomo ordinario* at Padua Observatory.
- 1988–1995 Full professor at Padua University.
- 1995–2014 Full professor at Naples University.

# Massimo Capaccioli

- Long-standing collaboration with the famous astronomer **Gérard Henri de Vaucouleurs** (1918–1995, France-USA)



Visiting professor at the University of Texas in Austin.

## ***PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS***

- Structure, dynamics, and evolution of stellar systems
- Observational cosmology and Dark Matter
- Astronomical instrumentation.

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## ***MAIN SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS***

- Evaluation of the cosmic distance scale
- Studies of the properties of early-type galaxies and of their evolution
- Galaxy dynamics
- Evaluation of the Dark Matter content of galaxies and clusters.

Over **500** papers in international journals and proceedings of international meetings.

Total citations 8923, H-index 51 (source: ADS, Nov. 2017)

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## *SOME POSITIONS AND AWARDS*

- **1991–2001** President of the Italian Astronomical Society
- **1993–2005** Director of the INAF-Capodimonte Astronomical Observatory (Naples)
- **2000–2002** General President of the National Society of Sciences, Humanities & Arts in Naples
- **2005–2010** Director of the INAF-VST Center at Naples
- **2005** “*Commendatore*” of the Italian Republic, title awarded for major academic achievements by the President of the Italian Republic
- **2017** Member of the Academia Europaea



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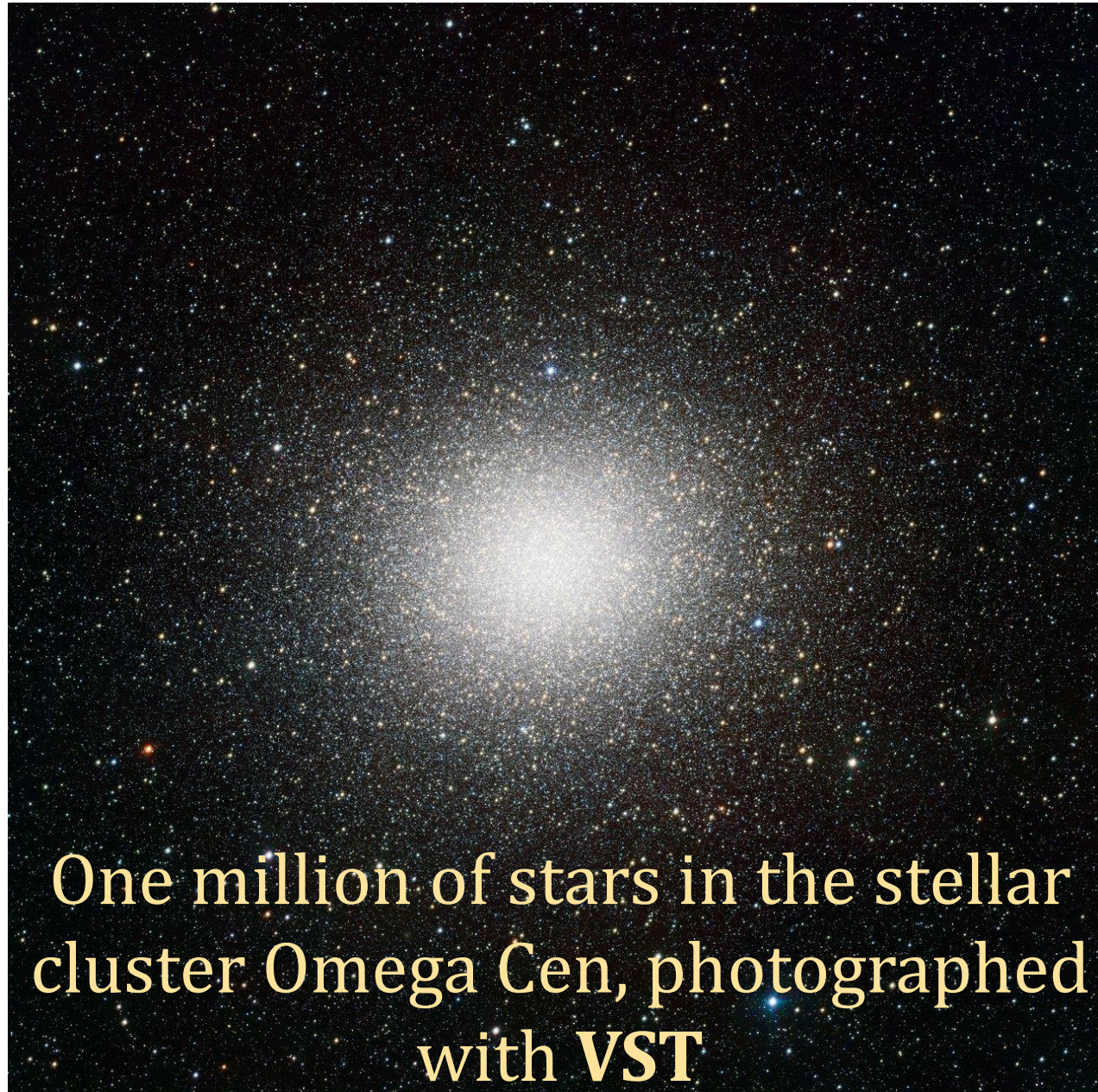
## *MANAGERIAL ACTIVITY*

- While director of the Naples Observatory, he has conceived and realized, jointly with ESO, the VLT Survey Telescope (VST), so far the world largest optical wide-field facility, operational since 2011 at the ESO Observatory on Cerro Paranal, Chile.





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One million of stars in the stellar cluster Omega Cen, photographed with VST



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## ***DISCIPLES OF PROF. CAPACCIOLI***

- Supervisor of over 100 “*laurea*” level dissertations and of two dozen PhD level dissertations in physics in Italy, France, Germany, USA, Egypt.
- Supervisor of dissertations in history of science at the Second University of Naples.
- Many of his former students are now well known researchers spread over the world, and some of them have already reached the top of the career.

## ***OUTREACH ACTIVITIES***

Journalist (paper & TV), passionate popularizer of science, has founded an astronomical journal in Arab.

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## *ACTIVITIES AT THE KARAZIN UNIVERSITY*

- *WINTER SCHOOL ON ASTROPHYSICS, January 2017*
- *Open lecture *Order and beauty in the Universe*, October 2016*
- *Seminars at the Institute of Astronomy*
- *Scientific collaborations with researchers of the Institute of astronomy*
- *Promotion of the **Cooperation Agreement** between the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) and the V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University*

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