Nuances in visual recognition

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In the beginning of this doctorate I was told that a PhD is not a 100m sprint contest but a marathon. These were some wise words. In this marathon I was not alone.

First, I would like to thank Cees G.M. Snoek, my daily supervisor and my great friend. With Cees I have so many memories: our first handshake in the old building, our first paper and travel to Florence, the first windmill beers after a TRECVID victory shortly after my arrival, to name a few. In describing my relationship with Cees I need to resort to Dutch and say that it felt so gezellig. Day in day out I would arrive at the office and get some coffee, and after while I would go to his office and chat a bit, for a crazy new idea or a problem, scientific or personal. And Cees, was always happy to listen, to discuss and interact, to give smart advice and suggestions, to keep his cool when I had lost mine, to be there. Cees’ approach to science, with a genuine interest and open-mindness, great sense of the big picture and continuous optimism have marked me and showed me how a researcher should do research and how a supervisor should approach a student. What is a better proof for all this, but reality itself. When I started my doctorate, Cees was also starting as a post-doctoral researcher and a supervisor. Today he is already an associate professor, supervising a bunch of doctoral and post-doctoral students. Cees, thank you so much for believing in me, for all your help and support, scientific and personal.

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Για να φτάσω μέχρι το σημείο αυτό η οικογένεια μου υπήρξε καταλήτης και της αφιερώνω την διατριβή αυτήν. Καταρχήν, θέλω να εκφράσω την ευγνωμοσύνη μου στους γονείς μου, τον πατέρα μου, αρχηγείο και παντογνώστη Γαβριήλ, και την μητέρα μου, σύντερε εφευρέτη και ερευνήτρια Αντωνία, για όλες τις θυσίες που έκαναν για εμένα, για την στοργή τους και την σπουδή τους, για τα βραβεία που πέρασαν όσο είμαι στο σχολείο, προσπαθώντας να γίνουμε καλύτεροι ο αδερφός μου και εγώ. Επίσης να μπορέσω και εγώ κάποτε να τα καταφέρω όπου εσείς. Στον αδερφό μου, Μανώλη, θα ήθελα να πω ότι οι ένας δύο μήνες που έμεινε εδώ ήταν φανταστικοί και σε ευχαριστώ τόσο, μακάρι να μπορούσαμε να περνάμε περισσότερο χρόνο μαζί. Αλλά όσο μακάρι και αν βρισκόμαστε δεν θα έχει ποτέ τόση σημασία, γιατί πάντα θα είναι ο αδερφός μου και πάντα θα είσαι δίπλα μου. Και φυσικά, θα ήθελα να πω ότι έχω τόσο μακάρι να μπορούσαμε να περνάμε περισσότερο χρόνο μαζί. Αλλά όσο μακάρι και αν βρίσκομαστε δεν θα έχει ποτέ τόση σημασία, γιατί πάντα θα είναι o αδερφός μου και πάντα θα είσαι δίπλα μου. Και φυσικά, θα ήθελα να πω ότι έχω τόσο μακάρι να μπορούσαμε να περνάμε περισσότερο χρόνο μαζί.

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