



**Transilvania
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NEWSLETTER

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15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

On 12 December 2019, teachers, graduates and students celebrated, with joy and pride, the fifteenth anniversary of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, one of the nine faculties in the field of Humanities at Transilvania University of Braşov. The large number of participants in the event attests to the durable bond between the students and their teachers.



The faculty is young, compared to other, even septuagenarian, faculties within the university. However, youth has the benefit of courage, energy and enthusiasm, resulting in a rich educational offer, adapted to the needs of both the candidates and the labour market.

The event was honoured by the presence of our Rector, Professor Ioan Vasile Abrudan, who conferred the anniversary plaque upon the faculty and shared with the audience his thoughts for the future, a source of inspiration for the new projects at the faculty. Furthermore, several deans and representatives of other faculties within the university joined in the celebration.

Valuable collaborators from the city and county of Braşov (County School Inspectorate, the Romanian College of Psychologists, County Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, the Probation Service in Braşov, the Centre for Inclusive Education) expressed their satisfaction with the results of our long partnerships, benefitting both the students and the community.

Highly impressive moments were the interventions of the graduates, today dedicated specialists in education and in the field of psychology. They expressed their pride to be *alumni* of our young faculty, as well as their commitment to fostering the values acquired during their student years. Some of the *alumni* are now members of the faculty teaching staff, on a successful professional trajectory, writing new pages of achievements in the faculty chronicle. They are able to meet the ever-higher demands of Romanian education and to further develop a faculty that is firmly anchored in the local community and the national system of higher education.



Since an anniversary is also a milestone, we can summarize the achievements in numbers: 3,046 bachelor's degree diplomas and 767 master's degree diplomas have been awarded since 2004.

With respect to the colleagues who are no longer with us, as well as to those whom we only see at festive moments, we treasure their memory, we acknowledge their merits in creating the prestige of the faculty, prestige which we strive to honour and preserve.

Professor PAVALACHE-ILIE, Dean
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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EVENING OF SAINT NICHOLAS

THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

On 6 December, the Aula Magna of our university hosted the concert entitled *Evening of Saint Nicholas*, held by the Chamber Orchestra of Transilvania University of Brașov, conductor Traian Ichim, and by the soloists Cristina Radu and Liviu Iftene. The artists succeeded in bringing on stage the magic of the winter holidays, with carols and musical pieces composed by Johann Strauss, Astor Piazzolla, Franz Schubert, Emmerich Kálmán, Franz Lehár and Giuseppe Verdi.



The two soloists, whose names are already well-known to the music lovers in Brașov, were once again admired both for their voices with a very pleasant timbre and for their interpretive manner commensurate with the beauty of their voice.

Traian Ichim, the conductor of the Brașov Opera Orchestra, succeeded in thrilling the entire audience with his charismatic presence. He carefully guided the orchestra and managed to make its members understand the music they were performing.



The evening program started in a festive note, appropriate to the event, with the overture of the opera *Countess Maritza* by Emmerich Kálmán. Next came well-known arias, performed by both soloists and orchestra, in a professional manner. In the end, the orchestra entered the atmosphere of Christmas holidays, playing carols, both Romanian and international. Particular mention should be made of the excellent communication between conductor and orchestra, throughout the concert, the orchestra proving highly receptive to the conductor's instructions.

The concert was a real success, because the conductor, as well as the soloists were attentive to the details, to the sound balance, instilling phenomenal energy in the entire audience.

Diana ICHIM,
3rd year student, Musical Performance,
Faculty of Music

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TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY CUP IN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Between 30 November and 1 December, the sports hall of our university was the venue for the second edition of Transilvania University Cup in Rhythmic Gymnastics, a competition organized by ACS Team Nova Braşov in partnership with the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports.



The competition, which will hopefully become a traditional event in the internal and international calendar, was a good opportunity to assess the gymnasts' training and afforded them the chance to compete at a high level with athletes from abroad, in a valuable exchange of experience.

The competition brought together 255 female athletes aged between 3 and 17 years, representing sports clubs from Romania (Braşov, Constanţa, Argeş, Suceava), the Republic of Moldova (Chişinău Olympic Reserve Sports School and Chişinău State University of Physical Education and Sport, Tiraspol Olympic Reserve Sports School – Transnistria, and AGG Gloria Chişinău) and Ukraine (Ismail School Sports Club, Ismail Sports School).

The competition was supported by sponsors which offered diplomas, cups, cash prizes and medals to all the athletes for their participation, as well as to the best three in each category/year of birth. Moreover, the youngest gymnasts present in the competition were awarded: thus, for the hobby/recreational category, the prize went to a little gymnast from Braşov, Ingrid Şeitan, only 4 years old, while for performance, the prize went to a little gymnast from Ismail - Ukraine, almost 6 years old. At the same time, special prizes were granted, for example, to Anna Cozbinova from Chişinău - the Special Prize of Transilvania University – Prize for Elegance, to Izabella Tulinca from Constanţa – the Miss Difficulty

Special Prize, to Patricia Cabuz from Braşov - Miss Smile Special Prize.

On 30 November the competition was dedicated to the gymnasts in the hobby/recreational category, who presented individual exercises with or without objects, duos, trios and ensembles, a real treat for the audience. On 1 December, the national day of Romania, the participants in the performance category competed. From the youngest gymnasts, not even 6 years old, the level of the exercises was very high, the marks given by the professional jury were in line with those in the major competitions abroad. The numerous spectators present in the Colina Sports hall applauded enthusiastically the gymnasts' performances. The highest marks in the competition were obtained by Anna Cozbinova from the Chişinău Olympic Reserve Sports School, who was declared the all-around winner, with a total of 43.400 points for 4 objects.

All the attending clubs praised the impeccable



organization, the prizes offered, the high level of the competition, the very bright hall, with European level facilities, promising to return for the following editions of this competition. The competition was also attended by Dan Mareş, amateur photographer accredited by the specialized Federation, very fond of rhythmic gymnastics, who provided us with an impressive photo gallery that you can find here: <http://sportyromania.blogspot.com/2020/01/2019-december-1-rhythmic-gymnastics.html>.

Dr Ioan TURCU, Dean
Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

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INAUGURATION OF THE SECOND *STEINWAY & SONS* PIANO OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV – PIANO RECITAL BY DIANA ICHIM

On 11 December 2019, the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Brașov was the venue of an exceptional musical event featuring the young pianist Diana Ichim.



During this concert, the new Steinway & Sons piano of Transilvania University of Brașov was inaugurated.



Under the guidance of Professor Stela Drăgulin, a prominent name in piano teaching worldwide, Diana has learned the importance of a touching, sensitive interpretation, and has acquired the energy and virtuosity needed for the musical pieces she approaches. The program included compositions by Frédéric Chopin, one of the most sensitive and romantic composers, as well as by Franz Liszt, whose name brings to mind virtuosity and an extraordinarily difficult musical style.



In the first part of the evening, music lovers rejoiced in Diana's sensitive and heart-warming interpretation; the first musical piece performed was *Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, op. 22*, followed by two nocturnes op. 27, which enhanced the dreamlike atmosphere, all this culminated with *Polish op. 44*. The young pianist thrilled the audience with the harmonies that Chopin gave the world.

The second half of the evening began with a "whisper", a "sigh", as is the title of the work she performed, *Un Sospiro, S.144* by Franz Liszt. The transition from Chopin to Liszt was so elegant that the audience was shocked and the softly spoken question "Is she one and the same person?" could be heard in the room. The last composition, but also the highlight of the evening was *Venezia and Napoli, S.162*, Diana emphasizing both its rhythmic poignancy and dynamic diversity, leaving the music lovers present with one question on their lips: "How can such a young and frail person convey such intense feelings?"

The recital was a real success, Diana Ichim demonstrated professionalism and extraordinary musical talent, and her recital rose to the level of the event which marked the inauguration of the second Steinway & Sons piano of Transilvania University of Brașov.

Diana CRISTEA,
2nd year student, Musical Performance,
Faculty of Music

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THE MARKETING CLUB OF THE MEDICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS- iMEDIT

The second-year students of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment founded iMEDIT Marketing Club. The main purpose of this club is to promote the profession of medical engineer in society. The club seeks to raise the public's awareness of the important role the medical engineer plays in the medical procedure by using the techniques, technologies and medical devices at the optimal parameters, as well as of the need for the technical support offered by these specialists.



To this end, a series of lectures will be organized, supported by medical personalities, dealing with the necessity of employing medical engineers in clinics, hospitals and laboratories. On 10 December 2019, the first event in the series coincided with the launch of iMEDIT marketing club and its official Facebook

page. It was the lecture held by Professor Liliana Rogozea, M.D., "The partnership between the medical engineer and the medical staff - essential in the development of contemporary medicine".

Students from Medical Engineering, Mechatronics, Medicine, Communication and Public Relations attended the event. The dialogue which followed the guest's lecture emphasized the importance of a close collaboration between students, the need to establish a professional dialogue between medical engineering and medicine, highlighting the technical needs faced by the medical staff in their work, the lack of specialists in the emergency service and the need to use medical devices at the optimal parameters. Communication and public relations students came up with the idea of organizing public communication courses for the other students.

It was a very good start, more actions will follow, medical and engineering personalities will continue to be invited to present other directions for collaboration and development of joint projects.

Professor Angela REPANOVICI
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

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EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH THE ERASMUS+ INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The students of our university have the opportunity to gain professional experience, an increasingly important requirement on the labour market, but also to study in universities worldwide through the Erasmus+ Program. One of the partners of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication is the University of Madeira, Portugal.



In the framework of this program, in the first semester this academic year, the master student Ioana Mircea from Braşov carried out a project whose purpose was to make a promotional film for the University of Madeira and Madeira Island from the Erasmus students' perspective.

#studentofmadeira has become one of the official videos of the University of Madeira. "We want this short film to reach every corner of the world. The University of Madeira has opened its doors for students from all over the world", says Margarida Pocinho, who coordinated Ioana Mircea's internship. Thus, ten students from Romania, Germany, Italy, Poland, Greece, the Czech Republic, but also from other countries, worked together to make the short film "#studentofmadeira".



Overall, 600 frames were shot in four days, 12 hours a day. #studentofmadeira was officially presented on 4 December, at the University of Madeira, and was appreciated both by the management of the educational institution and by the Portuguese and Spanish press, which provided ample coverage of the project and the students' mobility experience.

The project was supported by Professor Margarida Pocinho and Professor Pau Pascual, film director and professor of visual arts at the University of Madeira.



Personal experience is the basic element of this very emotional film. The dialogues are very short, but the emotion is very strong. The video can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMLrbtKbSqA>.

Ioana MIRCEA,
Screenwriter and director of #studentofmadeira,
Master Student, Branding Campaign Management
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

WORLD WAR II IN TRANSYLVANIA. COMMEMORATIVE VISIT



On 6 December 2019, a commemorative visit was organized to some of the significant places in World War II in Transylvania, as part of the project Europe for Citizens *ACT-Active Telling, Active Learning*, in which Transilvania University of Braşov is a partner.



The participants in the event included students of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication and the Faculty of Letters, members of the Braşov Branch of

CRIFST (Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technique, the Romanian Academy) and members of the ACT project team (Professor Elena Helerea and Dr Laura Leluţiu, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Dr Florin Nechita and Dr Daniela Sorea, Faculty of Sociology and Communication).



The participants visited the heroes' monuments in Braşov, Bod, Sighişoara and Oarba de Mureş. The event afforded those involved the opportunity to discuss the war costs for Braşov county residents (every village has its own heroes), the evolution of the front in Transylvania, and the behaviour of the Romanian soldiers in the dramatic situations generated by the conflict.

Dr Daniela SOREA,
ACT Officer for Transilvania University of Braşov

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HACKATHON BEST BRAȘOV

Technology evolves every day, as does the business environment we live in. As both the market and the city are constantly developing, there is a need to increase the visibility of the students with high level skills in software-developing.

On 14 and 15 December, the Research and Development Institute of Transilvania University of Brașov hosted the first edition of *Hackathon BEST Brașov* software-development competition, organized by BEST student association and supervised by the Department of Automation and Information Technology of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The *Hackathon* was a 24-hour programming marathon, in which 45 students of our university, grouped in 14 teams, competed in programming a "Smart City".

After 24 hours of work, the participants were rewarded for their performances: the first prize was won by the "Professional Googlers" team, composed of Ștefan Cristea and Cristian-Alexandru Mihai, students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. Their project was called "SmartCitizen" and represented a parking platform. They made a list of available parking lots, with the possibility of renting/ booking the parking space. The second place went to the "IMF" team, consisting of George-Daniel Găgiu, Silviu-Marian Ifrim and Szabolcs Molnar, third-year students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, respectively. The three students developed the "Park Share" project, an application by which you can rent your own parking space to another person,

if you are not using it for a certain period of time. The third place was occupied by the "Spartans" team, made up of Vlad Blendica, Mihai Răzvan Ilie and Lucian Ciolac, third-year students at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Their project, "CitWatch", represented a modularized platform for interactive reporting in the city, such as traffic congestion, ride sharing, weather details and general pollution level.

The prizes reflected the level of the performance. The first prize was worth 500 EUR, the second and the third prizes were worth 400 EUR and 250 EUR, respectively, in objects: VR glasses, wireless batteries, headphones and many more.

The partners of this first edition of *Hackathon BEST Brașov* proposed the theme of the competition, assessed the projects and offered the prizes: Siemens, a company that provides performance, innovation and IT services globally, but also tailored to local needs; Mondly, the company that created a highly regarded product worldwide, namely the application for language learning, which quickly became one of the most popular in the field of education, recently crossing the threshold of 50 million users in 190 countries; and Metro Systems, a company that offers innovative solutions in the retail field, the only provider of IT services, software and innovation for the Metro group worldwide.

Ana BURJA, BEST Coordinator
Dr Laura FLOROIAN, C09 Coordinator

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MentorFEST – EVENTS FOR THE ADVERTISING ENTHUSIASTS

In November and December, 25 undergraduate and graduate students of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication participated in the first editions of MentorFEST, events held within the MentorIALAA program developed by the *International Advertising Association Romania* (IAA Romania) for the students wishing to pursue a career in marketing and communication.



On 14 November, the MentorFEST format was a marathon of presentations that started at 10 a.m. and lasted for five hours. On 11 December, the edition started at 5 p.m. and had only four guests; their short presentations were followed by a series of "one-to-one" meetings, in the *speed dating* format, between the students present and the communication professionals.



It is worth noting that, among the students of the four IAA Romania partner universities, at the second meeting, the Braşov students were the most numerous.



They wrote down the many pieces of advice received from their future mentors, such as the one from Dragoş Smeu, General Manager at *Mavericks*. "I know we live in an era of the instant, but you should also be more patient with yourselves. #Latergram. Stop & chill for a second. Let things settle down, be patient with yourselves. I am sure you will achieve the things we have achieved much faster!", was his encouragement.

And, because the students wanted to make the most of their trip to Bucharest in December, the departure was scheduled at 6 a.m.



Until the beginning of MentorFEST, they met with an old friend of our faculty, Lorand Boţi Balint (director of *Publicis Sports & Events*) and with two graduates we take pride in and who found their vocation in advertising also due to similar visits made 5-6 years ago. The two, Ioana Moaşă (*The Practice*) and Octavian Aftanaşă (*Tribal Worldwide Romania*) talked about their activity in the PR and communication agencies where they work and encouraged their younger colleagues.

Dr Florin NECHITA
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

BOOK LAUNCHES DEDICATED TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF ROMANIA



On 29 November, in the context of the festivities dedicated to the National Day of Romania, the Military Circle of Brașov was the venue, for the fourth time in a row, of a double poetry book launch: *Oameni și Destine* [People and Destinies], author General Petrișor Mandu, and *Timpuri Noi* [New Times], author Dr Tiberiu Foriș, both professors at the Department of Management and Economic Informatics of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration.



The presentations were made by Mrs. Dana Anghelescu – general director of Libris Press, and Mr. Mircea Freund-Brenciu from the Writers' Union; and the verses were recited by the actor Mihai Giuritan and Col. Octavian Botezatu.



More than 250 were present at the launch, including academics, servicemen, businessmen, politicians and cultural figures of Brașov.



The books are available to poetry lovers in the country, but also in the Romanian communities in Europe, USA and Canada. Finally, the authors expressed their intention to maintain the tradition and to organize a new double book launch to celebrate the National Day of Romania in 2020.

Professor Gabriel BRĂTUCU, Dean
Dr Ioana CHIȚU, Vice-dean
Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business
Administration

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT HELD BY *GHEORGHE DIMA* CHOIR OF THE FACULTY OF MUSIC

On 12 December, under the guidance of the music teachers Ioan Oarcea and Ciprian Țuțu, *Gheorghe Dima* choir of the Faculty of Music held a Christmas concert. The program included traditional carols, but also famous pieces from the international repertoire.



Well-known Romanian Christmas carols combined with international songs such as *Ding dong! Merrily on High*, *Ring, Christmas Bells* or the famous *Jingle Bells*, the latter being performed this time in the harmonization of the Brașov composer Dan Pavelescu.

This Christmas concert was unique because the conductors were the very students of Music Pedagogy and Compositional Techniques and Musical Art in the 20th Century: Bianca Popescu, Gabriel Baci, Jozsef Opra Balazs, Cosmin Ola and Constantin Pop (third year undergraduate student), Diana Roșca, Izabela Cantoreanu and Vlăduț Beldica (first year master student). Each of these “conductors” led the choir voices in a manner specific to his/her own musical thinking, which could be also noted in the sonority of the musical pieces. Homogeneity, timbral richness and precision in

terms of respecting and performing the score, these are just some of the aspects that both the conductors and the choir strived for in preparing this special artistic program, features that were also noted by the audience.

Among the performed pieces, *Colind [Carol]* by composer Ana-Maria Meza stood out. Probably one of the most beautiful contemporary musical pieces for Christmas, *Colind* is characterized by a special emotional charge and a complex score-writing, which calls for a homogeneous timbre and a special sensitivity in performance, demands that the choir of the Faculty of Music successfully fulfilled.



The artistic program offered by the students of this choir and their conductors was a wonderful musical gift. The atmosphere full of light and peace of mind anticipated the joy of the holidays.

Noemi KARACSONY, PhD student
Faculty of Music

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CHRISTMAS FAIR, AT THE FOURTH EDITION

On 16 December, the fourth edition of the Christmas Fair took place, a charity event organized by the Faculty of Sociology and Communication of our university.



During this already well-established event, handmade Christmas ornaments and various tasty cakes, made both by students and by faculty staff, were on display.

It was a joyful meeting in an informal context, with a view to celebrating the December holidays, but also to contributing actively to the well-being of the Brașov community.



Thus, the funds raised during the event were donated to SCUT Brașov Social Services Association, which has specific social programs, targeted at disabled persons and families at social risk.

Dr Diana-Cristina BÓDI
Event Coordinator

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

On 11 December, the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences organized its traditional Christmas concert. Through carols, dancing and gifts, our beautiful and generous students offered moments full of talent and emotion to all the guests.



On each occasion, the ingenuity of the third year students at all the study programs was a pleasant surprise for the audience, including students, teachers or collaborators from the socio-economic environment. This time, as well, the scene was a place for new ideas, voices, joy and dance, constantly generating applause and well-being.



Over 50 souls, led with great mastery and care by Mrs. Iulia Porcos, sung various Romanian and foreign carols. It was an opportunity to see our students

differently. Otherwise, we would not have known that their voice could reach such pure and profound notes.



Another special moment was offered by the folklore ensemble "Mlădițe românești" from Întorsura Buzăului, led by choreographer Rodica Boieriu. Music and dance, in a surprising harmony!



Dr Ioana TOPALĂ
Dr Oana Alina BOTA

■ CUPRINS

SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

VICTOR HĂNESCU – GRADUATE OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MOUNTAIN SPORTS

Victor Hănescu (born on 21 July 1981, in Bucharest) graduated from the Faculty of Physical Education in 2007, the study program Sports and Motor Performance at Transilvania University of Braşov.



He is one of the representative names of Romanian tennis as confirmed by his successful career. Thus, in July 2001, Victor Hănescu reached the final of the F1 tournament and won the F2 Futures tournament in Romania, climbing to the 319th place in the world. In August 2001, he reached the semi-finals of the Challenger tournament in Poland and the final of the one in Germany, climbing to the 209th position; and in July 2002, he reached the quarterfinals of the ATP tournament in Umag, Croatia. In September, he won his first Challenger in

Portugal. In September 2003, he reached the quarterfinals of the ATP tournament in Bucharest; and in October 2004, he returned to the Challenger tournaments and won his second title in Rome. In 2005 we find him at the French Open, where he reached the quarterfinals of the competition, and in August 2007, he won two consecutive Challenger tournaments in Romania and Austria.

It is worth noting that in December 2007, ATP admitted Hănescu to the Centuries Club for the performance of climbing hundreds of places in the standings, and in July 2008 he won the 2008 Allianz Suisse Open Gstaad tournament, returning among the first 100; his winning the 2008 ATP tournament at Gstaad represented his best result. Moreover, Victor Hănescu reached the third final of his career at Stuttgart 2009. In 2010, at the Wimbledon tournament, he reached the singles 3rd round.

Currently, Victor Hănescu owns a tennis school—Hănescu Academy.

Dr Ioana CURITIANU
ALUMNI Coordinator

Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

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