



**Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov**

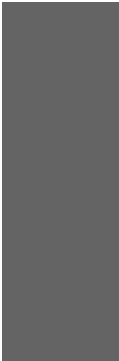
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# NEWSLETTER

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No. 112 August 2021

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# VALEDICTORIANS OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV - CLASS OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

Elites are also trained in school.

This new issue of Transilvania University of Brașov newsletter is a genuine promotional catalogue introducing the most valuable students of Brașov, the valedictorians of the academic year 2020-2021, through their own accounts.

The best graduates of our university introduce themselves, evoking the scientific and professional knowledge acquired during their student years in relation to the professional requirements of the career they want to pursue and for which they have trained themselves.

This performance of being the first within a generation where competition was, most likely, very fierce, in an unimaginable context until last year, is proven by their

graduation average grade and by the capitalization of the knowledge acquired during the faculty years, from both a personal and a professional viewpoint.

However, the number of UNITBV elite students is much higher, we are convinced; and, over the next few years, the catalogue of UNITBV elites, which we inaugurated in 2020, will be growing.

We wish everyone good luck in the future and a brilliant career in the field freshly graduated.

Prof. Dr. MD Liliana ROGOZEA,  
Vice-Rector for Public Relations

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Victor BRICIU,  
Office of Marketing and Image

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## TITUS ANDREI CALEN – Average grade 9,82



My name is Titus Andrei Calen and I recently graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering within Transilvania University of Braşov, specializing in *Automotive Engineering*.

I was born in Braşov; and, when I did not go hiking with my family and friends, I was out all day on Dealul Melcilor [*Hill of Snakes*], where I spent my childhood. I completed my primary, middle and secondary education at "Johannes Honterus" National College, then I left for Cluj, to the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, from where I returned after a semester, for personal reasons. After a sabbatical year, I began my studies at our university. I have always tried to get involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible, such as *Formula Student* and the various competitions organized by Renault; however, in my leisure time, and when I wasn't out in the mountains, I was working on my own projects. I restored my grandfather's Dacia, which had been lying in a garage since the 1990s, I have been maintaining a

motorcycle dating back to the 1970s, and I am currently restoring a 1982 Alfa Romeo.

My second hobby, which also falls within the theme of "antiques", is analog photography. Wherever I go, I have at least one device with me. My principle is to maintain a balance between academic activity and personal life; therefore, even though I had to make some sacrifices, I dare say I eventually managed to enjoy these years.

Next, I will attend a master's study programme in Sweden, within the *Royal Institute of Technology* of Stockholm, focused on mechanical vibrations and acoustics. I hope to return to the country, because I will surely miss my friends, family and the mountains. However, I am leaving with an open mind, and I'll see where the wind will be pushing me.

*Titus Andrei CALEN*  
*Valedictorian Faculty of Mechanical Engineering*



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## BOGDAN IONUȚ POPA – Average grade 9,81



My name is Bogdan Ionuț Popa, I was born in the town of Buzău on 10 October 1997. I am a graduate of the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, specialization of Manufacturing Engineering, within Transilvania University of Brașov.

The desire to deepen my knowledge in the field of cutting processing pushed me to choose this beautiful specialization. During the four study years, I met wonderful people who supported me in the various activities conducted in the faculty (competitions, scientific communication sessions, etc.); moreover, I can say that in these years of study, I got trained as a man, but especially as a future engineer.

In 2016, I graduated from “Henri Coandă” Technological High School of Buzău as a valedictorian; and here I am, in 2021, I succeeded in

carrying on the tradition by obtaining the title of valedictorian of my faculty. Afterwards, I would like to continue with the master’s degree, specializing in Innovative Manufacturing Engineering, and then to pursue a doctorate in engineering.

I thank all my professors for the knowledge passed on, for the advice and support provided, because I owe them an important part of my training.

*Bogdan Ionuț POPA*  
*Valedictorian Faculty of Technological*  
*Engineering and Industrial Management*



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## ELENA SIMONA IVAN – Average grade 9,38



My name is Elena-Simona Ivan, I was born in the town of Mizil, in the County of Prahova, and I came to Braşov in 2017, after graduating from “Tase Dumitrescu” Technological High School of Mizil. Without much hope, I registered for the specialization Economic Engineering in Mechanics within the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering. A new life chapter – a stage which I experienced to the fullest – opened in that year’s fall. I even managed to enjoy my dormitory resident life, the session parties, the stress and emotions on exam days – everything that student life means. It is a stage that each young college graduate should experience.

During the four years of college, I acquired important knowledge in two fields, both economics and engineering. Therefore, I want to thank our

professors for all the dedication and patience they had with us, for succeeding in guiding us and lighting our way.

I will continue my studies within the same Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering, within the master’s programme of Advanced Materials Engineering and Management.

*Elena Simona IVAN – Valedictorian  
Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering*



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## MARIANA DANI – Average grade 9,38



My name is Mariana Dani and I graduated from the Faculty of Science and Materials Engineering, the study programme Industrial Safety Engineering.

I come from Vama Buzăului, a village neighbouring Braşov, from a simple, I could say, but very loving family that has always supported me in everything I set out to do. I am a lively person who always finds a reason to smile or tell a joke.

At the time I chose my faculty, I did not know exactly what this field entailed, my initial thought being to enrol in a faculty of arts to pursue my passion. I have been creative since I was a child, loving everything related to the arts, from drawing to music and theatre.

I have tried them all and I loved every second of expressing my ideas on paper or on stage, bringing joy to others, even if I completed a math and sciences track, namely the Mathematics - Computer Science specialization of "Mircea Eliade" Theoretical High School of Întorsura Buzăului. However, after these four years, I realized that God guided my steps to the right place. Engineering has come to fascinate me and I feel that this field suits me like a glove, as I am a person attentive to details, who tends to always take care of the people around me. During the years of study, I have enriched my knowledge with a great many new things and I can only thank the wonderful professors I have worked with.

They always motivated me to work harder and provided me with the needed support. At the same

time, I am glad to have had the opportunity of participating in an internship where I had the live experience of being an industrial safety engineer and I acquired many lessons which I treasure.

Moreover, during the AFCCO event, I had the pleasure of presenting the topic which I extensively dealt with in my bachelor's graduation project, namely combating industrial noise with soundproof housing. I will deepen my studies on this topic in the relevant master's programme, and I am enthusiastic about this.

I feel honoured to be a valedictorian and I am grateful to all the beautiful people in my life who have always been by my side and who have trusted me. At the same time, I am glad that my work over the last few years was rewarded.

In the end, I can assuredly say that through hard work, ambition, and perseverance, we can always get where we want. It will not be easy and for sure will take some sacrifices, but it will eventually be worth the effort.

*Mariana DANI  
Valedictorian Faculty of Materials Science  
and Engineering*



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## ANDREEA BIANCA POPESCU – Average grade 9,97



I was born 23 years ago, on Education Day, in the city of Constanța. From an early age, I have realized that the engine of my life is knowledge. Without exhibiting a propensity for a particular field and without having specific passions, I have been always drawn to everything that is new.

During secondary education, both teachers and parents guided me to multidisciplinary training. Literature, history, biology, mathematics – they all attracted me equally and I studied them all with the same dedication. Choosing a study track in late 8<sup>th</sup> grade was extremely difficult, since I did not know yet what field I could reach my full potential in. I chose the specialization “natural sciences” as I thought it would open most future opportunities, and this decision turned out to be the right one. During my upper secondary studies, I had equally committed teachers, who helped me understand that not having propensities for a certain subject was not a disadvantage. Thus, I embraced interdisciplinarity and participated, during the four years, in Olympiads and competitions in the most varied fields, and eventually graduated as a valedictorian the chosen specialization within “Lucian Blaga” Theoretical High School of Constanța.

I chose to continue my studies at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, specializing in Automation and Applied Informatics, anticipating the opportunity to combine computer engineering and programming with other fields.

In the first semester I was a little confused and insecure about the decision I had made. I didn't know if I would be able to keep up with all the engineering sciences, new to me; however, from the very first year, I met teachers who trusted me, perhaps more than I did myself. They inspired me to work harder and constantly outdo myself, and having graduated from college as a valedictorian is, I dare say, just proof that these joint efforts have paid off.

From the second year onwards, I began to discover the secrets of artificial intelligence, and in the following period I had the opportunity to get involved in projects in which such techniques are used in applications in the medical field. Noticing concerns about the privacy of personal information when used in such applications, I became interested in data security techniques. This is how the topic of my bachelor's graduation project came about, which aimed to integrate encryption techniques and artificial intelligence into personalized medicine applications. Next, I want to specialize in the field of information technology security.

*Andreea Bianca POPESCU*

*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*



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## LUCIAN–ALEXANDRU TARBĂ – Average grade 9,97



My name is Lucian-Alexandru Tarbă and I am a fresh graduate of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, specialization of Computers. On 26 March 1998, I was born in Câmpulung Muscel, county of Argeş. I completed primary and middle education at “Iosif Catrinescu” Middle School of Dragoslavele. From an early age, I have been fond of team sports; therefore, together with my colleagues, we succeeded in getting the 5<sup>th</sup> place at national level, twice, at the handball Olympiad. However, football has remained my main hobby.

As regards secondary studies, I was a pupil of “Dinicu Golescu” National College of Câmpulung Muscel, math and sciences track, Mathematics-Computer Science. During this time, I was drawn to solving problems of all kinds, from math and informatics to those appearing on the computer, for various reasons. Hence, I chose the specialization Computers, due to its being a problem-ridden field. During the 4 study years, in each academic subject, I

tried to understand how things work and what the purpose for which they were developed is. In the future, I intend to pursue a master’s degree programme at the same faculty, as I am open to new challenges and opportunities.

I am grateful to my parents, who have been by my side all this time, for all the support provided, both morally and financially. Moreover, I am grateful to my professors who, over time, have been an example to the students and from whom we have been able to acquire a lot of principles of life, ethics, and professionalism.

*Lucian Alexandru TARBĂ*

*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*



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## ADELIN-IONUȚ NICORESCU – Average grade 9,84



My name is Adelin-Ionuț Nicorescu, I come from a small village on Valea Mureșului (Căpâlnaș, county of Arad), growing up very close to the forest and to the field of silviculture, and learning from a tender age what love for the forest means.

I began my field-related studies at “Casa Verde” Forestry and Agriculture College of Timișoara, proudly representing the high school in numerous competitions and Olympiads. My journey to Brașov started even before the national general assessment, when I decided that I wanted to attend the courses of the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering within Transilvania University of Brașov.

Once a 1<sup>st</sup>-year student, I thought seriously about what I could do to become an accomplished engineer; therefore, after a lot of hard work and perseverance, I made achievements at local, national and international competitions (Russia). Internationally, I participated in internships in Beijing, China; I benefited from an Erasmus + scholarship during a year of study in Prague, Czech Republic; and out of a desire to expand my horizons, I even managed to work in California, USA, through the programme *Work&Travel*.

After much “toil”, I succeeded in proving my skills and thirst for knowledge to the mentoring professors, which resulted in the publication of four scientific papers (one as an author and two as a co-author in top ISI indexed journals, and one as an author in a BDI indexed journal) and the participation as a member of a scientific project implementation team.

Next, I will attend the master’s degree within the study programme “European Forestry”, which is coordinated by six prestigious European forestry universities (Finland, Austria, Germany, France, Spain and Romania), in partnership with renowned institutions across Europe, America and China. Out of the desire to bring my knowledge to the highest level, I want to pursue a doctorate in the same field.

*Adelin-Ionuț NICORESCU*

*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering*



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## IOANA ISPAS – Average grade 9,96



My name is Ioana Ispas and I was born in Braşov, on 6 March 1997, in a family of professors. I have always been a curious child - eager to understand the world around me. I have had and still have interests in very different fields, but which complement each other.

Being passionate about drawing, upon completing middle school, I wanted to pursue a college of arts; however, I was advised to make a choice providing me with more options for my future career. I chose thus the intensive English natural science class within "Andrei Şaguna" National College, and I regard it as the right choice because I had the opportunity to grow multilaterally in a competitive environment. There I found my interest in biology and chemistry, which led me to attend for a year the courses of the Faculty of Biology within the University of Bucharest, the study programme of Biochemistry. However, the career prospects did not align with what I wanted, so I decided to start a new path, at the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering of Braşov – a unique faculty in our country and with a tradition in my family, as both my father and my grandfather graduated from this faculty.

Within the specialization of Wood Products Engineering and Design, I had the opportunity to

return to my passion for drawing. During these four study years, I have met special people, with a vocation for their profession, who passed on to me the knowledge specific to the field, but also a multitude of life lessons that I will carry in my soul and that I will pass on, in my turn. I attended the courses of the psycho-pedagogical training programme and I participated in many extracurricular activities, among which I would like to mention the annual multicultural festival Etnovember, a festival organized by the students of the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering and dedicated to the entire Braşov community and beyond. In the long run, I intend to pursue a master's degree in design and to work as a furniture designer.

I would also like to thank all those who were by my side and without whom I would not have been able to achieve my goals. In the words of great tennis coach Nick Bollettieri, *it's not I did it, it's we did it!*

*Ioana ISPAS*

*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering*



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## EMILIA KÖLLŐ – Average grade 9,88



My name is Emilia Köllő, I was born in 1999, in the beautiful town of Gheorgheni, in the county of Harghita. My parents are the ones from whom I learned the most about life, they have supported me, loved me, and helped me the most during these years. They are my heroes. Heroes who have taught me to accept people as they are, to help them as best I can. My sister and I have tried to follow their teachings. During this time, she has become my best friend who has been by my side every moment.

I graduated from the General School of Ditrău village, after which I attended a math and sciences track (natural sciences) at "Salamon Ernő" Theoretical High School of Gheorgheni.

From the very beginning, the first grade, math was my favourite subject, which set the course of my life.

Over the years, I have met many outstanding teachers who have inspired and helped me. In addition to knowledge, I received advice on life, encouragement, and kindness.

As the years went by, along the way and my professional development, I have realized that I want to do something valuable.

In high school I thought a lot about what to do next. Until the final moment, of registration for a faculty, I wanted to become a math teacher, but when the time came for me to choose between the two faculties, I chose the Faculty of Civil Engineering, the specialization of Civil, Industrial and Agricultural Constructions, and I am very happy to have completed my studies at this faculty.

In these four years I have gained a lot: knowledge, friends, experiences. I found my way and my passion. At first, I was not sure if this college was right for me or not. Now that I have graduated, I can say that I will never regret this choice.

*Emilia KÖLLŐ – Valedictorian  
Faculty of Civil Engineering*



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## FLORENTINA-CĂTĂLINA FLOREA – Average grade 9,88



I was born on 2 November 1998, with an 8 at birth, but with a predestination for 10 in life, in a young family from Bucov commune, Prahova County. I had the most beautiful childhood with my little sister, under the protective wing of our parents, who gave us all their love and attention. In the family environment, I have learned that kindness, modesty, and education are the most important values, which give you the status of a MAN.

I acquired my basic knowledge in "Constantin Stere" Middle School in the village of Bucov, where I was lucky to be appreciated by the teachers, encouraged and involved in one of the most important projects of my life: the European project Comenius "Recycle your nature, save your future!"

I graduated from "Mihai Viteazul" National College of Ploiești, the specialization of Natural Sciences. I participated in the Olympiads of Biology, my favourite subject and was awarded several prizes. In high school I had colleagues from whom I always had something to learn. I will never forget how we all repeated the history lessons during breaks, or the pleasure to correct each other in math classes, always interactive.

I chose to attend the courses of the Faculty of Food Industry and Tourism in Brașov, the specialization of Food Engineering. I studied beautiful, interesting subjects, where I learnt for myself, to be a future engineer well-prepared in all respects, not to get good grades. As a professor very dear to me would

say, "Grades come and go, but what's really important is what we have in mind, no one will ever be able to take that away from us".

I have always tried to combine business and pleasure; therefore, during my four years of student life, I made the most of everything Brașov had to offer, by which I'm referring to the beauty of the city and its surroundings. On a personal level, I live a beautiful love story, I have been married for almost two years, and this year we have planned the much-dreamed wedding.

In the autumn I will start my master's studies, also at Transilvania University of Brașov, I want to work in the field I have prepared for, to learn and to develop continuously, because "the more you know, the more you realize you know too little".

I am grateful for everything I have accomplished up to this age, I am grateful to the teachers and professors who trained me and guided my steps, I am grateful for my family and for all the support I have received.

*Florentina-Cătălina FLOREA*  
*Valedictorian Faculty of Food Industry and*  
*Tourism*



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## MĂDĂLINA–GEORGIANA STATACHE – Average grade 10,00



I arrived on the realms of this world on 30 January 1998, a cold, gloomy winter day, but special for my parents. I attended primary and middle school in lanca, county of Brăila, a small town in the Danube Plain, which is oasis of self-discovery for my soul.

Education is the survival of knowledge after learning, and this is how I obtained my first 10, on the occasion of the National General Assessment. Then I chose to pursue my upper secondary studies at "Gh. Munteanu Murgoci" National College, specializing in Natural Sciences. Basically, this environment was the springboard for Braşov, respectively for the Faculty of Product Design and Environment, specialization of Medical Engineering, since it put me in direct contact with the exact sciences and challenged me to improve my knowledge and personal development.

Once at this faculty, my curiosity and passion for discovering cutting-edge technologies acquired new valences, and I came to love more and more this universe of notions and processes dedicated to human health and safety.

My student years taught me a lot. They taught me that I must often resort to self-motivation, not give

up even if I run into difficult things. They taught me that I can find a balance between professional and personal life and how not to separate them, but to intertwine them. They taught me that I am responsible for the efficient management of my time, resources and energy! They taught me that in life it is important to take advantage of the opportunities that arise; and I do not regret that I chose to participate in various competitions and conferences, because I only stood to gain!

It's a piece of advice I give to others: take advantage of every opportunity that helps you grow, experience something new, learn something new, even if it means stepping out of your comfort zone! It's really worth it!

*Mădălina-Georgiana STATACHE*

*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Product Design and Environment*



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## BOGDAN CRISTIAN ANGHELINA – Average grade 10,00



My name is Bogdan-Cristian Anghelina and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, specialization of Mathematics - Informatics, which I completed with the average grade of 10.

I graduated from "Ștefan Velovan" National Pedagogical College of Craiova, specialization of Mathematics - Informatics. After finishing high school, we decided, as a family, to move to Brașov.

I've always liked to understand how things around me work, hence my favourite subjects were the exact sciences. In high school I participated in various field-related competitions, but especially in mathematics and informatics.

Being fond of computer science and interested in electronics, I chose, that year, to register for the study programme Computers at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, but I soon concluded that this field did not suit me. At the

end of the first year I made the choice to register for Mathematics - Computer Science.

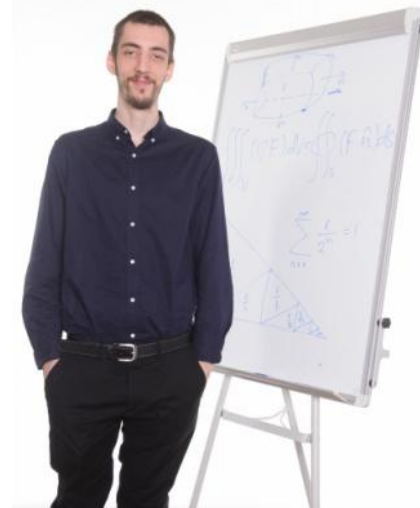
I can say that I did not regret this decision because, from the very first weeks, I realized that mathematics was what I always wanted to do.

In the first year I participated in "Traian Lalescu" student competition, where I got a mention. In the second year I received a mobility scholarship in Bratislava, Slovakia; and in the third year I won the second prize at the Student Scientific Communication Session.

*Bogdan Cristian ANGHELINA*

*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science*



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## ANA-MARIA MOCANU – Average grade 9,70



1 December 1999 would remain special for our family, not only because it is Romania's National Day, but also because it was the day when the family's youngest girl was born. It is often said that the numbers 1, 12 and 99 are the ones worn by captains; however, I have never considered myself a captain, but only a normal child.

I have achieved high performance ever since middle school, and in 2014 I completed "Ion Rotaru" school of my native village Valea lui Ion (commune of Blăgești, county of Bacău) as a valedictorian. For me, this was the first step towards performance, a step in which I grew, evolved, brought numerous diplomas and trophies on the school shelves, a step that would shape me for a new stage.

In September 2014, I began my studies at "Nicolae Vasilescu Karpen" Technical College of Communications Bacău, specializing as a Technician in Economic Activities. During the four years of high school, I had the opportunity to become a fledgling economist; and, in an attempt to make a change in my high school, for two years I took on the role of high school secretary. In order for them not to miss me, I left to "Karpen family" numerous diplomas and the trophy obtained within the project "Today a project, tomorrow the future", 2017 edition, national stage.

In May 2018, I was declared the valedictorian of "Nicolae Vasilescu Karpen" Technical College of Communications. Although I could have continued

my studies at one of the two faculties in Bacău, I chose to enrol at Transilvania University of Braşov, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, study programme of Economy of Trade, Tourism and Services.

For everything, you must have good luck in life, but especially with people ... I was fortunate, in my training as an economist, to find a fairy-tale city, a performance-oriented faculty, and professors eager to share with us the knowledge gained in a friendly manner.

I belong to the generation of sacrifice, the generation that fought for more than a year to save education and culture from the "claws" of the pandemic and I am glad that this year I had the opportunity to be the image of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration.

For the future, I want to keep on achieving high performances within Transilvania University of Braşov, and therefore I pursue the master's degree in the study programme Business Administration in Tourism.

*Ana-Maria MOCANU - Valedictorian  
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration*



## ELISABETA HAGHEL – Average grade 9,89



My name is Elisabeta Haghel and I graduated this year from the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, specializing in Pedagogy of Primary and Preschool Education. I would describe myself as a very ambitious, persevering, funny, loving, purpose-oriented and reflective person.

My family has had a major impact on my development. I saw the light of day for the first time on 8 March 2000. It was a timid but joyful spring day. It was a joy, because I am the first girl in a large family at the time, a fighter later ... I grew up in a wonderful setting, full of life and hope, despite the obstacles we faced as a family. My childhood was a happy one and I remember how fondly I started school. I was only a tiny "bundle of joy" eager to know as much as possible, to be the best!

Over the school years, many teachers left an imprint on my life, and I wanted to be like them. Every time a classmate asked me to lend him/her a helping hand in school matters, I felt a great satisfaction in helping him/her. From an early age, I have seen in myself this calling to teach others. In high school, I got involved in volunteering activities at *FAST* Foundation of Săcele and later at *Hospice – Home of Hope*. Time went by and in 2018 I completed my secondary studies at "George Moroianu" Theoretical High School of Săcele as a valedictorian. Although I studied in a math and sciences track, specialization of Natural Sciences, I chose to pursue my passion; a choice I had also faced at the end of the eighth grade, but which I postponed because I wasn't sure it was the right one.

This is how I registered, in 2018, for the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the study programme of Pedagogy of Primary and Preschool Education. That's when I knew for sure what I wanted. It's been three wonderful and very active years. To be honest, I learned a lot, but with much pleasure and interest. Moreover, I participated in activities such as *Admission-DPPD* (2019), the online music concert *Looking forward to Santa's Visit* (2020) or *Student Scientific Communication Session* (2021). I felt myself grow professionally and personally, I made unexpected friends with outstanding people. I made progress in self-discovery, and, with patience and hard work, I came to the end ... And what a finale!

At this moment, I registered for the master's degree study programme Human Resources in Education. Training and Management and I look forward to the future. I want to capitalize on the resources I have at my disposal to help others be trained, although I am aware that this path might be fraught with obstacles. I want to continue to grow and fight for a world that needs so much a good word, an outstretched hand, a pure truth, spoken from the heart, and a ray of hope ...

*Elisabeta HAGHEL*  
*Valedictorian*

*Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences*



## ESTERA–MIHAELA CONSTANTIN – Average grade 9,91



My name is Estera-Mihaela Constantin, and my life story began 21 years ago, when I was born into a modest family in Strejnicu village, Prahova County. The third daughter out of my parents' 7 children, I was loved and accepted unconditionally. Living in a large family, I have learnt what sacrifice means, as well as responsibility, how to take care of the others' needs, and share with them the goods you all have.

My parents served me as an example by passing on powerful life principles, which influenced me at first involuntarily, and which I then consciously adopted into my life. They were like a vigorous root, deeply rooted, the very foundation on which I began to grow. Faith in God is not something that is inherited, but I am deeply grateful to them for sharing it with me, and so I came to understand it and live through it.

The first years of my upbringing were influenced by my kindergarten- and elementary school teachers, who saw a potential in the good, shy and dreamy child. They encouraged this child to discover her skills and to capitalize on them through hard work.

I spent my high school years at "Nichita Stănescu" National College of Ploiești, specialization of Natural Sciences, where I discovered my passion for the sciences that have the human body and its mechanisms as an object of study. Thus, the decision

to follow the path of Kinetic Therapy at Transilvania University of Brașov came easily. During these three years I have had the most special experiences, both academic and inter- and intrapersonal.

Professors, colleagues and internship coordinators supported me during my training, and actively participated in my development. I also believe that one of the reasons I came here is my responsible nature, which is why I considered it my duty to prepare myself as best I could to become a specialist. I know the road has just begun, but I look to the future, into the unknown, with hope and optimism.

I want to be a true help in the future for the patients I will work with, and to apply the most useful exercise in the world, that is, bending over to the fallen to lift him/her up.

*Estera-Mihaela CONSTANTIN – Valedictorian  
Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain  
Sports*



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## DIANA GEORGIANA ICHIM – Average grade 10,00



My name is Diana Ichim and I am a pianist, a graduate of the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Braşov, with the average grade of 10. For the last five years, I have been under the guidance of Professor Stela Drăgulin, a renowned name of the Romanian and world piano school.

Over the years, I have participated in numerous competitions, the latest being the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Art Braşov Estival*, where I won the "Award for Excellence in Performance" and "Jury Award for the Best Performance as a Soloist".

I have given numerous recitals, debuting on the stage of the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov. This is also where I had the honour and joy to give a recital at the inauguration of the second Steinway&Sons piano of Transilvania University of Braşov. Moreover, I gave concerts with an orchestra, performing Grieg's *Concerto* in A minor, Chopin's *Concerto no. 2* in F minor, and Chopin's *Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante op. 22*. Meanwhiles, I was also the pianist of the Chamber Orchestra of Transilvania University of Braşov. Since 2020 I have been studying the harpsichord, being a first-year student at the second faculty.

I opened the 2020-2021 Concert Season of Transilvania University of Braşov with an online recital put on the air by the Music Centre, which was later rebroadcast by the Romanian Cultural Institute of London. Important moments in my artistic performance are the appearances as a soloist and as an accompanist, both in the country and abroad, among which I mention the tours in Bulgaria, Mongolia and China. Special mention should also be made of the special recordings for the promotional CD of the Faculty of Music in Braşov.

Having a great passion for chamber music, both vocal and instrumental, I have given numerous recitals in this regard. Interested in the scientific profile of music, I also participated in numerous student competitions with music analysis papers.

Throughout the faculty and especially through concerts and recitals, I have developed my technical and expressive skills necessary for a pianist, experiencing each sound separately. As follows, I let a few opinions excerpted from previous editions of this Newsletter present my achievements during my academic years:

"The emotions were overwhelming for both audience and performer. We enjoyed, alongside the pianist, her first piano recital, which we will surely remember for a long time. The performance, on a personal note, of the creations of Schumann, Chopin and Bach made us see for an hour, during the event, the world around us through Diana's eyes, and let her lead us to the discovery of her universe" (Alexandra Gîrbea, Transilvania University of Braşov – Newsletter, June 2018).

"Diana has both learnt the importance of an emotional, sensitive performance, and acquired the energy and virtuosity vibrant in the musical pieces she approaches. [...] We can definitely call the recital a real success, Diana Ichim proving her professionalism and extraordinary musical talent; the recital rose to the level of the event marking the inauguration of the second Steinway & Sons piano of Transilvania University of Braşov." (Diana Cristea, Transilvania University of Braşov – Newsletter, January 2020).

*Diana Georgiana ICHIM – Valedictorian  
Faculty of Music*



## ALEXANDRU ALEXANDRESCU – Average grade 9,19



My name is Alexandru Alexandrescu; I was born on 8 February 1996 in Bucharest and raised in Roata de Jos village in Giurgiu county. Ever since I was a child, I have always been drawn to the desire to help my fellow human beings, dreaming all the time of what it would be like to become a successful doctor.

In 2014 I graduated from “Gheorghe Lazăr” National College in Bucharest, the specialization of Mathematics-Computer Science, where I had outstanding teachers and colleagues who encouraged and guided me to follow my dream. Then, starting with 2015, I attended the courses of the Faculty of Medicine, specializing in General Medicine, at Transilvania University of Brasov, graduating as the valedictorian of the 2021 class.

During my student years, in addition to the theoretical and practical training activity, I had the special honour of coordinating the Department of Surgical Techniques within Braşov Student Society of Surgery, subsequently holding the position of Vice President of the Scientific Department within the same society. I also collaborated with a team of three other colleagues, under the coordination of a professor, with a prestigious company, in order to develop a medical software in the field of medical imaging.

Paracelsus said in a classical definition: “Medicine is not only a science, but it is also an art. It does not consist of making pills and patches, it really deals with the processes of life, which must be well known before they are well guided.” Nothing could be closer to the truth!

Being able to bring life back to its normal parameters is a divine thing, something superior to you as a human

being, and yet possible. This is the motivation that guided me in all these wonderful and difficult years of college.

Being a medical student is not an easy thing to do.

It takes a lot of work to get where you want, namely, to have a brilliant career, full of success and challenge. Sometimes, motivation tends to forsake you along the way, especially when experiencing some less beautiful stages, such as difficulties in passing an exam or finding a specialization to your liking. However, if you love what you do, no matter how difficult it may be, and no matter how demoralizing a situation may be, you will always find a way to overcome it successfully. It's the easiest thing you can do. And that's what I did. Thus, I had the honour of completing this faculty as a valedictorian.

Braşov has been a dream city for me. The city's charm quickly enticed me, as the potential for personal development here is enormous. The peace of mind I discovered here I had never experienced anywhere before. Here I met high-quality people: professors, colleagues and friends. I urge anyone who wants to pursue their dream of becoming a student at a prestigious university to choose our university in this wonderful city. Natural landscapes and architectural details are a bonus.

*Alexandru ALEXANDRESCU*  
*Valedictorian*  
*Faculty of Medicine*



## MARIA-ELENA ȘUCATĂ – Average grade 9,85



My name is Maria-Elena Șucată and I was born in 2000, in the municipality of Codlea, county of Brașov. I completed the Middle School no. 3 of the aforementioned town in 2014, and later I moved to “Grigore Moisil” National College of Computer Science of Brașov, which I graduated from in 2018. Focusing on science in middle school and attending a college with goals closely related to math, informatics and physics, I had plenty of opportunities to wonder what it would be like to pursue a different path, completely opposite to the previous experiences. Next came the Faculty of Letters where, fortunately, I excelled with a lot of effort, sacrifice, and with the support of the professors of the American Studies programme.

I did not participate in competitions or extra-curricular activities, and I do not consider myself a true genius for holding the title of valedictorian of the 2021 class of the Faculty of Letters. I believe that anyone can achieve this if they have the motivation and passion to take action. I am only few hundredths of a grade away from my colleagues, and I am aware that the situation would have been different if I had done something different. The only message I would like to convey is that we are all important in our own way. This biographical material is not a recipe for success, it is just a story among millions of other stories, and its value is not changed by the title of valedictorian. Modesty, decency, and patience are

more important than the few minutes of glory I received with honour upon graduation.

My sincere apologies for not being able to say more than that. My life has had ups and downs, just like the lives of those who read this material. I have not had unique achievements, and my personal life intervened so many times in my academic plans that I cannot say that it was all a brilliant journey with a happy ending. I am proud first of my parents since they worked side by side to bring me where I am, and I promise that I will continue to be a decent citizen, if not an exemplary one, in the paths I will follow after graduating from the Faculty of Letters within Transilvania University of Brașov. I thank the professors who guided me, and I would like them to know that often the high marks I obtained were not out of personal motivation, but out of a desire to show them that their work is respected. The title of valedictorian was won through human, not academic, efforts. What has brought me here in front of everyone does not make me cleverer than the others.

Thank you, however, for your attention, and I hope that your time has not been wasted. I hope everyone finds their place in this world, especially those to whom no one has told that they are special and strong, as I am told at this time. My life details are not so important, because I do not want to be considered a role model. I want each of you to form your own model in yourselves. In high school, I was told that, should I choose to register for the Faculty of Letters, I would end up starving to death at some point.

I would like to thank the university once again for proving the opposite, in accordance with the will and self-confidence I stubbornly had. I know I can, and most of all, I know we can do even more together.

*Maria-Elena ȘUCATĂ  
Valedictorian Faculty of Letters*

## GEORGIANA ALEXANDRA APETRI – Average grade 9,62



My name is Georgiana Alexandra Apetri, I am 23 years old, I was born in the municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe, county of Covasna, in 1998, but I now live in Braşov. As a brief description, I am of Romanian nationality and citizenship, unmarried, of Orthodox religion, proficient in English; and I recently graduated from the Faculty of Law within Transilvania University of Braşov, in 2021.

Between 2005 and 2013, I attended the grades I - VIII at Mihai Viteazul National College in the town of Sfântu Gheorghe, County of Covasna.

Then, between 2013 and 2017, I attended the grades IX - XII at Unirea National College of Braşov, specializing in English bilingual philology.

From October 2017 to this date, I have tried to understand as many of the secrets of the legal sciences as possible, being a student of the Faculty of Law within Transilvania University of Braşov.

I am a communicative, dynamic, determined person, with great power of concentration, sociable, able to face any challenge, interested in continuous personal and professional development.

Optimism and positivism are features that have always accompanied me in life, qualifying me as a motivated person, filled with hope.

An undeniable advantage in my journey so far is that I have had and still have people helping me to evolve, to look up, striving for more, and not to give up when obstacles arise.

*Georgiana Alexandra APETRI  
Valedictorian Faculty of Law*



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## CRISTINA–NICOLETA IOANA – Average grade 9,81



My name is Cristina-Nicoleta Ioana, I am 21 years old and I come from the village of Runco, county of Dâmbovița. Here I completed the middle school. Later, I graduated from the high school in the town of Fieni. I have always considered myself a lucky person. I am part of a family that has taught me to confide in myself and in my abilities, to respect the people around me, to work for what I want to achieve, a family that has encouraged me to believe that anything is possible.

Thus, ever since high school, I have participated in competitions of literary and plastic creation, in which I obtained notable results, such as the first prize at the International Competition "Joys of Europe", in March 2010.

I developed my passion for literary creation especially during high school years, when I received an immense support from my French teacher. Thanks to her, I won several awards, in both Romanian and French literary-creation competitions. The awards obtained include the first prize in the county competition *Tolerance is in your image* – edition of November 2016, and the first prize in the

competition *Le Petit Renard*, section *Écrivains en herbe*, in May 2018.

Out of the desire to make the most of this passion, I chose to register for the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, the specialization of Communication and Public Relations, in 2018.

During my student years, I volunteered for the cultural event *Night of Museums*, both at the Museum of Ethnography (in 2019) and at "Casa Mureșenilor" Museum (in 2021).

During these three years, I acquired a vast body of knowledge, new models to follow - by whom I mean the professors I met in college, as well as unforgettable friends. I have succeeded in rediscovering myself and learnt that determination, perseverance, and self-confidence are key elements to success.

*Cristina–Nicoleta IOANA – Valedictorian  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication*



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