

# **NEWSLETTER**

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## VALEDICTORIANS OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAŞOV IN THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

In this special issue of the Newsletter of Transilvania University, we invite you to meet the most valuable alumni in the academic environment of Braşov: the valedictorians of the 2023-2024 class. Through their self-narratives, we will discover their success stories, aspirations and vision for the future.

Transilvania University of Brașov celebrated academic excellence on 21 June, within the 2024 Gala of Valedictorians, hosted in Studio 181 Hall of the Rectorate Building. In an atmosphere of emotion and joy, the worthiest graduates of the bachelor's education cycle were awarded by the Deans and Vice-Deans of all 18 faculties.

These outstanding young people, who obtained the highest multi-year average grades in their classes, are a new generation of professionals ready to leave their mark in various fields.

Through their presentations, we will discover how they capitalised on the acquired knowledge, how they got involved in research activities, and how they combined extracurricular passions with academic demands. Their stories are a source of inspiration for the entire academic community and a testimony to the quality of education offered by Transilvania University of Brașov.

We are proud of their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their careers!

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

Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU Vice-Rector for Students and the Liaison with the Economic and Socio-cultural Environment

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## MARIA-ALEXANDRA DIMACHE – Average grade 9.82



My name is Maria-Alexandra Dimache, I am 23 years of age, I graduated from "Mihai Eminescu" Middle School, and then from "Gheorghe M. Munteanu Murgoci" National College of Brăila.

Today I have the honour of sharing my achievements as a valedictorian of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, majoring in Automotive Engineering (taught in English). During the four years of study, I have shown dedication, passion for engineering, and the capability to excel both academically and in extracurricular activities.

I succeeded in graduating from Transilvania University of Brașov with flying colours, obtaining the title of valedictorian due to exceptional academic performance. During the studies, I excelled in core subjects of mechanical engineering, such as fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, structural analysis and computer-aided design.

I have acquired outstanding skills in the use of computer-aided design (CAD) and AutoCAD software, and have performed advanced structural analyses with Ansa. Besides, I have used MATLAB for mechanical modelling and simulations, proving

advanced knowledge of the essential technical tools in mechanical engineering. Moreover, I have developed leadership and team management skills, having the capability to motivate and guide my colleagues to success in the extracurricular activities. My communication, presentation and problem-solving skills have held steady throughout the academic path.

I currently pursue the master's study programme Motor Vehicles and Future Technologies and for the future the doctorate still at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering within Transilvania University of Braşov.

In conclusion, I dare say I have acquired practical engineering skills, developed my team spirit and obtained outstanding academic performance. I am proud of my achievements and am confident that I will continue to evolve and significantly contribute to the field of mechanical engineering.



Maria–Alexandra DIMACHE
Valedictorian
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering



My name is loana Nistor. I graduated from the Aerospace Engineering specialization within the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, and I am confident that my path has led and will keep leading towards aviation and the aerospace field.

I graduated from "Mircea Eliade" National College in the town of Sighișoara, county of Mureș, majoring in Mathematics - Informatics.

I chose neither this faculty nor the Aerospace Engineering study programme by mere chance. I began to take gliding courses at the Romanian Aero-Space Club in 2018, when I was 16 years old. It is at that time that I discovered my passion for flying and implicitly for all that aircraft and aviation mean. I succeeded in obtaining my glider pilot license in 2019; and ever since I have been active as a sportswoman in the gliding team of Brasov county. Therefore, it was only natural for me to continue in this field and in this beautiful city during my student years, too. I chose Transilvania University of Brașov due to my passion, to its special location and to its opportunities. I can say, with satisfaction and gratitude, that I made the right decision. I am an ambitious and hardworking person, I love nature and being with people whom I

can learn from. And I can also say that my decision to be a student in this study programme and implicitly at this university helped me enormously to develop psychologically and emotionally, but also intellectually and professionally, as well as to have self-confidence. I am grateful for this.

I wouldn't have made it this far without my winning team. It consists of my family whom I love unconditionally, my friends who have encouraged and accepted me just as I am, and my professors who have guided me. I've had an amazing team. I've been lucky to meet so many people from whom to learn the most beautiful lessons about engineering and life.

I am a girl with big dreams, head in the clouds (literally: when flying a glider), but feet on the ground. I believe in progress (whether technological, professional, spiritual or intellectual). I am lucky to have by my side everyone who has helped me figure out who I am.



Ioana NISTOR
Valedictorian
Faculty of Technological Engineering and
Industrial Management

## CRISTIAN MAREȘ – Average grade 9.65



My name is Cristian Mareş and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering within Transilvania University of Braşov.

I was born on 5 January 2001 in the town of Onești, where I spent the childhood with my parents, in a simple, unpresuming family. In 2020, I graduated from "Grigore Moisil" National College of Onești, mathematics and science track, majoring in Mathematics-Computer Science. Only a few months after graduating from high school, I applied for the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering in the city of Brasov.

As far as I'm concerned, I can say that I am a persevering, hardworking and ambitious person. I am passionate about travelling and enjoy spending time outdoors. Now, upon completing my student years, I have come to the conclusion that it takes a lot of effort and perseverance to accomplish all my goals. On the other hand, the passion that I developed for this engineering side of mine has greatly contributed to this achievement, giving me the necessary motivation to overcome all obstacles. In addition to the time spent learning and experimenting with multiple metallic material joining procedures, I have

realized that it takes a lot of patience to achieve the much-desired results.

The experience of the student years will remain in my memory as a collection of wonderful moments spent with special professors and colleagues. As for future plans, I have decided to stay in Braşov and practice as an engineer, and at the same time to continue my studies with a master's programme within the same faculty that I graduated from. I have made this decision because throughout the Welding Engineering study programme I succeeded in fulfilling my true potential and gradually growing up. In the long term, I want to become a good expert in the field of materials and embrace a career in the academic environment, and later on to conduct my activity alongside the people who opened up a new path in my life and contributed to my training as a future specialist.



Cristian MAREŞ Valedictorian Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering

## TEODOR IONUŢ MATEI – Average grade 9.81



My name is Teodor Ionuţ Matei and I am a fresh graduate of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, majoring in Automation and Applied Informatics.

Early in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I stepped into Children's Palace of Buzău to attend the courses of the Circle for Computer Programming. It was here that I discovered the secrets of the programming languages and knew that this would be the path of my professional orientation.

In terms of high education, the choice came only natural, namely "Alexandru Marghiloman" Theoretical High-School of Computer Science, math and science track, Mathematics - Informatics major, intensive Informatics, in Buzău. Here I had dedicated teachers who drew me into solving problems of all kinds, starting with mathematics and computer science.

A great chance was the meeting with the mathematics teacher, originally from the city of Braşov, who passionately spoke to me about Transilvania University of Braşov.

I chose to continue my studies at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, in the Automation and Applied Informatics study programme, for the opportunities that automation engineering provides. This choice was extremely inspired through the prism of the teaching personnel, genuine role models of professionalism and dedication. They inspired me to work even harder and constantly outperform myself.

At the end of the second study year, I had the chance to receive an internship within Siemens

company. This is where I got a first insight into the secrets of artificial intelligence, and in the following period I had the opportunity to get involved in projects where such techniques are used for applications in the medical field.

As far as I am concerned, the four years of study were a continuous process of learning, unexpected challenges and professional fulfilment.

The fact that I graduated as a valedictorian came as a surprise and I would like to emphasise that it was not in order to acquire this status that I learned so much during my years of study, but in order to try to please the one who has always been the hardest for me to please, namely myself.

I am aware that we live in times where a man's intelligence is less and less promoted; however, for the students this should not be an impediment to learning, since knowledge is perhaps the only thing that cannot be taken away from anyone, enhancing his/her ability not to be manipulated by others.

I conclude with a quote from the philosopher John Dewey: "Education is not about preparing for life, education is life itself."



Teodor Ionuț MATEI Valedictorian Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

## MARIA ALEXANDRA MOROIANU – Average grade 9.87



My name is Maria Alexandra Moroianu, I am 23 years old and come from the county of Constanța. I graduated from the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, more precisely the study programme Terrestrial Measurements and Cadastre.

In high school, I attended a math and science track, majoring in Mathematics-Computer Science, which greatly contributed to the choice of the faculty. Although I hadn't always dreamt of a specific career, I knew I would like to study a technical field, in a beautiful city. Therefore, I chose the city of Brașov. As the only option I applied to for admission, this faculty turned out to be the best choice for me. Adapting to a new place, with new people, was a real challenge. However, I learned to cope, knowing that beautiful results always involve sacrifices.

During my years of study, I had the opportunity to meet dedicated professors, willing to share the secrets of this beautiful job. I gladly participated in courses and laboratories, and I succeeded in fulfilling all the tasks I received. Moreover, out of a desire to discover as much as possible in this field, I attended internships every summer. Thus, I had the opportunity to work alongside passionate people, to discover measuring tools based on state-of-the-art technological principles. I dare say commitment during faculty is consequential, as the knowledge that we can acquire during practice is a real benefit.

As far as I am concerned, the four years of faculty were the most beautiful stage, because I succeeded in

fulfilling my most important dream, namely laying the basis for a beautiful future. I have always wanted a successful career which to enjoy practicing. I dare say the field of terrestrial measurements offers a special opportunity to combine the field- with the office activity and to constantly evolve through the prism of the challenges that may arise on a daily basis. In this permanently changing world, I want to become an ever-better version of myself, a necessary process in everyone's life.

The status as a valedictorian of the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering is, for sure, my most beautiful achievement. I take this opportunity to thank my parents for their efforts, for always being by my side, even from a distance. I would also like to thank all my professors for their involvement, confidence and support provided.

Further, I have chosen to pursue a master's study programme to delve deeper into the knowledge acquired in the field of geodesic engineering. I see the end of this chapter as a new beginning and I am grateful for all the beautiful experiences I have had!



Maria Alexandra MOROIANU

Valedictorian

Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering

# GEORGIANA-BIANCA DASCĂLU - Average grade 9.59



My name is Georgiana-Bianca Dascălu and I was born in the year 2002, in the city of Iași. My passion for woodworking started in high school, when I attended the courses of "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical College of Iași, majoring in Wooden Product Manufacturing. It was here that I discovered how fascinating and creative this field could be, which is why I decided to continue on this path.

After completing high school, I sought an academic environment that would allow me to develop myself and delve deeper into my knowledge. I found this place at Transilvania University of Brașov, Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering (IL). During the four years of academic studies, I had the opportunity to develop both personally and professionally. I actively participated in numerous academic and extracurricular activities, including an Erasmus mobility programme and the project "Homelike IL", which offered me international perspectives and valuable experiences.

A special aspect of my academic experience was the collaboration with the teaching personnel. The professors of the Faculty of Furniture Design and

Wood Engineering inspired and guided me wholeheartedly, sharing their vast knowledge and expertise. Their support was essential for my development as a specialist in this field.

I am extremely proud to have graduated from this faculty, unique in the country, with remarkable results and a solid knowledge base. I wish to continue my academic path by enrolling in the Furniture Eco-design and Restoration master's study programme, in order to further expand my skills and abilities.

Due to my dedicated mentors, I would like to contribute myself, in the future, to educating and training the future generations of specialists. I pursue a professional activity in the academic system, alongside the professors who mentored me, to prepare young people for tackling the challenges and opportunities in the field of wood design and engineering. This is my story, a story of passion, dedication and success.



Georgiana–Bianca DASCĂLU Valedictorian Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

## DUMITRU-GEORGE MUNTEANU - Average grade 9.79



My name is Dumitru-George Munteanu. I am a graduate of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, majoring in Civil, Industrial and Agricultural Constructions (CCIA) within Transilvania University of Brasov.

I was born in Braşov and, as regards high education, I graduated from "Grigore Antipa" College of Sciences. After passing the baccalaureate exam, I applied for the Faculty of Civil Engineering in the city of Braşov.

After the first two years of faculty, I chose to specialise in Civil, Industrial and Agricultural Constructions, the study programme that I had opted for since registration.

With each passing year of faculty, I could notice that the responsibility was ever greater in this field. I have always tried to improve my expertise in what construction design means, as a professor would say "... to put material where it ought to be, as much as needed, and in the right direction...".

My favourite disciplines included Statics of Constructions together with Strength of Materials.

During my senior student years, I understood the importance of manual calculations as underpinning reason in correctly interpreting the results of the automatic calculation programmes.

My interest in the field of Civil Engineering prompted me, in the summer of the third year of faculty, to also register for the Railways, Roads and Bridges study programme. I thus pursued the two majors in parallel.

Although I would end up spending almost the entire day at the faculty, due to the subjects that were now twice as many, I felt no fatigue; on the contrary, I had discovered a new interest in artworks, namely bridges, where the materials are truly pushed to the limit.

I thus succeeded in getting a bachelor's degree in the CCIA field. As a recent graduate, even valedictorian, I am now glad to be part of the elite alumni of Transilvania University of Braşov, while still attending the final year of my second major within the Faculty of Civil Engineering.

Not least, I would like to thank all the academic teaching personnel for the support they have shown us, for their dedication and involvement in guiding and empowering us; our study will not stop after these four years, but we will carry it further.

Dumitru-George MUNTEANU Valedictorian Faculty of Civil Engineering

## LAURA-NICOLETA CATANĂ - AVERAGE GRADE 9.93



My name is Laura-Nicoleta Catană (Damian) and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Food and Tourism, majoring in Food Control and Expertise. The first faculty I graduated from was Physics and Chemistry; and, as I conduct my professional activity in the field of control and quality, I decided to attend this new study programme in the educational offer of Transilvania University of Brașov, namely Food Control and Expertise. Upon completing this study programme, I can definitely say that my professional training has been firmly strengthened, even though I had attended a master's programme and a doctorate in this field.

I was born and grew up in Brașov, where I graduated from "C.D. Nenițescu" High-School of Brașov, majoring in Biology-Chemistry. However, the academic institution where I spent most of my years is Transilvania University of Brașov, to which I owe my professional training. Here I met highly-qualified professors whom I will fondly remember to a ripe old age. They were the ones who encouraged me and

believed in me. I will keep striving in the field of research, which I will never give up, and I want my professors to be proud of me.

Accordingly, I will conduct my activity in the same field, but with a more generous knowledge base than four years ago.

Although it was not at all easy for me, now, in the end, I dare say all the efforts were worth it. Engineering was a good choice and I am confident that any effort pays off sooner or later.

I express my warm gratitude for my family, academic teaching personnel and everyone close to me who stood by my side throughout this academic endeavour.



Laura-Nicoleta CATANĂ Valedictorian Faculty of Food and Tourism

## BÉLA BAGOLY – Average grade 9.87



My name is Béla Bagoly and I am a fresh graduate of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment within Transilvania University, majoring in Mechatronics. The choice of this field of study is due to my grandfather, from whom I inherited my technical propensity, but also to my passions for cars, robots, vinyl records and 3D printing.

I come from the town of Covasna, where I attended the courses of Kőrösi Csoma Sándor High School, Math and Science track. Ever since high school I have been attracted to science subjects and practical things, which made me choose the city of Braşov to continue my education and become an engineer.

During my years of study, I had the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge to excel in the field of mechatronics. I benefited from the advice and guidance of dedicated professors, with expertise, who provided me with an excellent training. During my faculty years, I chose to participate, through the Erasmus + programme, in an internship at an industrial automation company of Budapest. This

experience gave me the opportunity to learn from the best professionals in the field and acquire valuable practical skills.

After completing my bachelor's studies, I succeeded in easily finding a workplace due to the gained experience and acquired practical knowledge. I am confident that, if you do something with passion and dedication, you will succeed. The years spent in Brașov have been filled with wonderful experiences and people who have inspired me in my career. I will always remember this time with fondness and I am grateful to everyone who has supported me along this journey.



Béla BAGOLY Valedictorian Faculty of Product Design and Environment



My name is Diana-Maria Hintea, I am a graduate of the study programme Industrial Design (taught in English) and I am honoured to be the valedictorian of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment. I am an empathetic, creative, sensitive and ambitious person, always looking for new ways to express my passion for design and bring an aesthetic contribution to the world.

I have always been fascinated by design and how the objects around us can influence our daily lives. I chose to study industrial design because it gives me the opportunity to combine my creative side with the technical side that I acquired in the high-school, math and science track, in the town of Sighișoara. I love that now, as a graduate, I have the power to revolutionise the world through my creations and make it a better place for all people.

I dedicate my leisure time to the wonderful people in my life and to my passions: photography, mountain hiking, travelling and reading. Photography, discovered since childhood, with my sister's requests to capture her in snapshots, gives me the opportunity to commit unique moments to memory and to look at everything around me with more attention and calmness – in an era where everything is constantly moving – transmitting emotion through each photo. Hiking and travelling help me reconnect with nature and find inspiration in the various landscapes and cultures that I meet. Reading, on the other hand, offers me an escape into the worlds of all possibilities and a constant source of knowledge and relaxation. Writing is another passion of mine, which allows me to express emotions and thoughts in a deep and creative way.

I owe my development not only to myself and my work, but also to the wonderful people in my life who, aware or unaware, have given me a piece of themselves. My family who has supported me unconditionally since the first moments of my life, my beloved one who has constantly encouraged me, the friends who have been by my side, the dedicated and enthusiast professors whom I have met since primary school, all of them are all part of me and my beautiful journey.

I always try to give each design that I create a story and a deep meaning. I believe that the objects we design should not only be functional, but also convey an emotion and an experience to those who use them. This personal and deep approach helps me create design concepts that not only improve people's lives, but also inspire them. This is my philosophy in design and the one by which I will guide my life.

Diana-Maria HINTEA Valedictorian Faculty of Product Design and Environment

## MIRELA-MAGDALENA CATRINA - Average grade 9.93



My name is Mirela Magdalena Catrina and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, majoring in Applied Computer Science. I was born in Brașov and I studied from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade at "Grigore Moisil" National College of Computer Science in our city. In this college, I discovered my passion for mathematics and informatics, for which fields I had shown talent since an early age. Besides my affinity for sciences, I attended the School of Arts and Crafts during that period, playing the piano for six years and participating in numerous competitions.

I fondly remember my first informatics Olympiad, in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, when I qualified for the national stage and I was not yet aware that it was the beginning of my path in the field. I kept participating in mathematics and informatics Olympiads, winning awards at their national stages. Starting in high school, I gained expertise in numerous national and international competitions, as well as team hackathons, summer schools and internships; and the various experiences in their framework remained among the most cherished ones of that time.

After high school, I chose to stay in Braşov and attend the courses of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science within Transilvania University. I am glad to have chosen this faculty and experienced these three years of undergraduate studies alongside exceptional colleagues and true friends. In addition to

the courses in the curriculum, to the periods with a high workload, we took advantage of opportunities and of our professors' openness in order to organise relevant and important events for us, the students; accordingly, I organised, for instance, together with my sister, an introductory workshop in quantum programming. Furthermore, I participated and won awards in the scientific communication sessions (2023, 2024) and AFCO (2023, 2024), I published articles together with professors of my faculty and I completed my bachelor's thesis in the field of neural cellular automata under their guidance, being appreciated with a grade of 10 by the committee.

Moreover, I attended the courses of the Teacher Training Department. I shared back with the high-school generations some of the knowledge and experiences I acquired, as a mentor of the circle of excellence for preparing the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders for the national informatics Olympiads.

I dare say the faculty has taught me values of professional and academic ethics, as well as seriousness and the importance of constant involvement in the various undertaken activities. I am honoured to hold the title of "Valedictorian of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science", along with Sorana, and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all professors for their involvement and availability, for the passion with which they teach their courses, and to the colleagues and friends with whom I have built the most beautiful period of my life. I thank my parents and family for their support and I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices made and the confidence offered throughout my educational and academic path.

> Mirela-Magdalena CATRINA Valedictorian Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

## SORANA AURELIA CATRINA – Average grade 9.93



My name is Sorana Aurelia Catrina and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, majoring in Applied Computer Science.

I was born in Braşov; and, starting with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I studied at "Grigore Moisil" National College of Computer Science, where I discovered my passion for sciences. In high school, this passion was encouraged by the environment and peers through the opportunities to participate in various competitions in informatics, mathematics, robotics, and more. Another formative factor in high school was the teachers' urge to study not only for grades and to be interested in more than just one field, and I can definitely say that these encouragements helped me tremendously in faculty.

Thus, at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade I was sure about wanting to keep this direction. Even though it was not an easy decision to determine exactly which field I wanted to pursue, and accordingly which faculty and study programme was best for me, I can gladly say, upon completion of these three study years, that I am very satisfied with the choice I made, and I warmly recommend this university to everyone.

Once at faculty, my expectations were high and I can proudly say that I was not disappointed. I had the honour of meeting dedicated professors who instilled in us the willingness to create a better world, to explore and learn. I had the opportunity to participate

in various student science communication sessions, various projects, through which I met exceptional colleagues and created connections that I am sure will last over time. I have learned that where there is passion and ambition, nothing is impossible. Perhaps even more than the ability to find answers to my questions, I am happy to say that I have learned to ask the right questions in different contexts.

Thus, I would like to express my gratitude to all professors for doing their best to support me in various projects, even if they required extra time and energy. Their dedication is an example that has always motivated me to outperform myself. For example, I greatly appreciate their support for the development of my bachelor's thesis in an adjacent field that is not yet studied within the faculty and, more than that, the welcoming attitude with which they chose to support me in this regard.

I would like to thank, alongside the professors, my colleagues for all the moments we spent together. Besides the projects we made together, the nights spent studying before the exam sessions, we also shared nights of fun, moments of relaxation and happiness following our various achievements. I have learned a lot from you, and I thank you for that.

Therefore, I am always proud to say that I was a student at Transilvania University of Braşov and that here, in these three years, I acquired, alongside exceptional colleagues and professors, not only technical knowledge that will certainly help me in the future, but also experiences and life lessons that contributed to my formation and that I will never forget.

Sorana Aurelia CATRINA

Valedictorian

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science



My name is Ana-Maria Nicoară and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, majoring in Marketing. I am honoured to represent my faculty this year, as this is the first time that a Marketing alumnus has been designated as the Valedictorian.

In order to get better acquainted, I would like to take you a little back into my childhood. I was born on 6 August 2002, in the village of Tulnici, county of Vrancea, which is the place that I call *home*. I come from a simple family, with deep-seated principles, for whom education mattered more than any material good, and who instilled in me that in life I should stand out for who I am and what I know, not for the assets I own. Growing up in the countryside, I can happily say that I belong to the generation of hard-to-get-in-the-house kids who spent their evenings with the village children in the streets, playing different games and putting their creativity to work.

After graduating from middle school, my life would take a new turn. Because my sister was already a student in the city of Brașov, my parents decided that it would be best for me as well to continue my studies here, in order to open my door to new opportunities for success, but also in order for her to help me in the process of maturation and self-empowerment.

In 2017, I was walking shyly through the gates of "Nicolae Titulescu" College. Not only had I separated from my native village and family, but I was also for the first time in an utterly foreign city and in the situation of fitting into a totally new collective. However, the high school years passed at the speed of

thought, I experienced times of joy, but also of sadness, there were moments when I felt that maybe this decision was not quite right, but every time my family was by my side and supported me in order to make this journey easier. I completed this chapter of my life in 2021, not in an ordinary way, but as a valedictorian. This title that I received upon graduation from high school came as a crowning of my family's efforts to support me all along, but also as a crowning of my dedication and willingness to succeed.

The decision to continue my studies in Braşov was not too complicated, because I felt that it was the place for me to develop, but also the witness of my first personal success. Nevertheless, my choice to attend a science major raised many questions around me because, after completing humanities in high school, it seemed crazy for what I was about to do. However, I can say that, after the decision to come to high school in Braşov, this was the best one of my life.

During the three faculty years, I realized that the science track was not that difficult and I even preferred it over other academic subjects that would be related to the humanities. It is still the faculty that helped me discover myself, identify my comfort zone and go beyond it every time, that made me pass from ecstasy to agony, so that today I could proudly say to have succeeded, and not just in an ordinary way, but as a valedictorian for the second time. I take this opportunity to thank the academic teaching personnel for all their advice and guidance, but also for the ways in which they helped me evolve and become the best version of myself.

This ending is actually the beginning of a new phase in my life. I am deeply grateful for all the experiences and lessons that life has offered me so far and I am ready to embrace new opportunities and challenges, with the hope and confidence that my path will continue to be just as rich and successful.

Ana-Maria NICOARĂ Valedictorian Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration

## ANDREEA-GABRIELA DOGARU - Average grade 9.88



My name is Andreea-Gabriela Dogaru and I recently turned 22 years of age. I am originally from the county of Prahova and live in a small village near the municipality of Câmpina. I chose to attend primary and middle school somewhere close to home (in Câmpina); however, starting high school, I chose to "take flight" towards my dream. At that time, I dreamed of being a schoolteacher and accordingly completed my secondary education at Queen Mary of Romania National College of Ploiești. I really liked it; therefore, I did not regret the choice I made even for a second (although I have been and still am a music lover and I would have liked to follow that path, too). Back then, I only saw myself as a teacher who would guide dozens, hundreds of children towards a bright future; however, one of the study disciplines made me want more. In the 12th grade, I studied a subject actually called "Special Psychopedagogy"; and from then on, I knew what I wanted to do. I had noticed, during the pedagogical practice, that in all the classes where I was teaching there were children with special educational needs (SEN), and yet inclusion was not a core principle in those classes. Therefore, by learning within that subject how much SEN persons needed help, I decided that I wanted to be one of those people who do good for the ones who are often rejected and stigmatised.

The Special Psychopedagogy study programme within the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences of Braşov was my only option after passing

the baccalaureate exam, for what I wanted appeared clearly to me. Once again, I did not regret the decision I made, as these three years of faculty changed me in a way I never thought they would. Everything I achieved was wholeheartedly and for the heart. Obviously, I learned a lot of theoretical things, but I appreciate the experiences that I had as the most valuable. I saw the true face of this field and although I experienced a shock at first, I did not back down, because nothing is impossible. My plan was to achieve performance, yet not in grades, but rather in knowledge. Everything I did came out of my heart, out of curiosity and of the desire to make a change through what I am and do.

I rejoice in this result (to have reached the level of Valedictorian) but even more in the actual journey. I really enjoyed it and I hope that by volunteering at our faculty's stand early in the academic year that just ended, I could present the faculty just as it is: wonderful, full of experiences and dedicated people. I succeeded not only in appearing on the faculty's website, but also in discovering myself, as well as learning how to do good for those who need me, us.



Andreea-Gabriela DOGARU Valedictorian Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

## ELENA-BIANCA BOTEZATU - Average grade 9.95



My name is Elena-Bianca Botezatu and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports, majoring in Sports and Motor Performance.

I have been a professional swimmer for over 10 years, during which time I have continuously outperformed myself, winning medals in both national and international competitions. As far as I'm concerned, I like to say that I live a "double" life: one in the water and one on land.

I chose this field because sports represent me and, throughout my high-school years (as a graduate of "Grigore Moisil" National College of Computer Science, Mathematics and Informatics track, intensive Informatics), although I had good results, I constantly felt a difference in vision between me and my colleagues who were practicing "professional" informatics.

I could describe myself as a purposeful, ambitious, loyal and sometimes sensitive person. I like challenges and I like being put to the proof. I am determined, and a failure only fuels my willingness to move forward, regardless of obstacles.

As a long-term plan, I would like to bring a significant contribution in my field of expertise; and, while working on what I want, I am open to seeing what the future holds in store for me.



Elena–Bianca BOTEZATU Valedictorian Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

## CRISTIAN PAUL IONESCU – Average grade 10



Born into a family of intellectuals of Braşov, I enjoyed all the attention and musical education of my father, a bassoonist in our city's Philharmonic Orchestra. My first childhood memories are by his side at the piano. I can't imagine my life without art. When asked what I gained by studying music, I replied unawares: I am a better young man than I would have been without it. How is self-realization possible? By merging with everything you intuit when delving into the great composers' creation: it's all there, an inestimable value that transforms anyone who has the ability to connect with the Universe of Music!

I have been playing the piano since the age of three, making my debut as a soloist at the age of nine, when I performed with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Braşov the Concerto in D Major by Joseph Haydn, under maestro Cristian Oroşanu's baton. I attended in parallel, during the first eight years of school, "Tudor Ciortea" Vocational Highschool of Music, the piano class of professors Dana Voinicu, respectively Corina Ibănescu; and then "Johannes Honterus" National College in my home city. I completed my 12 grades of study at this German College.

As a pupil, I won many awards: First prize in the final phase of the National Olympiad, First Prize of excellence and Special Prize for best performance of a Baroque piece at "Tudor Dumitrescu" International Contest, First Prize for exceptional performance and Special Award for artistic personality at "Pro Piano" International Contest of Bucharest, First Prize at "Ina Macarie" National Contest of Bucharest, First Prize for composition and Second Prize for performance at "Carl Filtsch" International Contest of Sibiu. Apart from the competitional activity, I gave many recitals at Cantacuzino Palace of Bucharest, the Palace Hall of Bucharest within "G. Enescu" Festival, Enescu's House of Sinaia, as well as in Buşteni, Câmpina and Braşov on the stage of the Philharmonic House and "Mureşeni House" Museum.

I was admitted to the Faculty of Music by exam, with an average grade of 10, in Prof. Dr. Corina Ibănescu's class. Under the professor's close guidance, I continued my training and competitional activity, obtaining the Trophy and Grand Prize at "Festival 4 Arts" International Performance Contest for Piano and Violin, First Prize and Grand Trophy at "Eduard Caudella" National Performance Contest (2023). Accustomed to the stage from an early age, I also had a rich concert activity both in the country and abroad, giving over 25 concerts as a soloist. In Romania, I performed with the Philharmonic Orchestras of Brasov, Bacău, Botosani, Pitesti, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Ploiești, under the baton of the conductors: Cristian Oroșanu, Vlad Agachi, Emil Vișinescu, Liviu Condriuc, Marcian David, Matei Pop, Valentin Doni, Florin Totan, Tiberiu Oprea, Iulian Rusu, Robert Gutter, Vlad Vizireanu, Constantin Adrian Grigore, Paolo Ponziano Ciardi and Petronius Negrescu. Abroad, I performed under the baton of the conductors Giovanni Bria and Martin Studer, in the Republic of Moldova, with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Chișinău; in Italy, at Lucca, Pisa, Castelnuovo del Garfagnana, with Capella Toscana Orchestra, in Switzerland, at Amthaus Rüti, Rapperswill-Jona, within Musiksommer am Zürichsee Festival, as well as Berna and Zürich, with Neue Züricher Orchester (NZO).

As a student, I gave recitals on the stage of the Philharmonic House of Braşov, at "George Apostu" Cultural Centre of Bacău, at the Multicultural Centre of UNITBV, in Belgrade and Novi Sad (Serbia), in Amsterdam, as well as in Chianciano and Tropea (Italy). Confident that the professors who have taught me so far and whom I am deeply grateful to can help me further develop in music, I pursue a master's degree at this faculty within UNITBV. The above must be listed as they are not only my achievements, but also my tutors', and excellence should be each artist's "becoming into being" as the great philosopher Constantin Noica said.



Cristian Paul IONESCU Valedictorian Faculty of Music

## ELISA-ELENA GHEORGHE - Average grade 10



My name is Elisa-Elena Gheorghe, I am 22 years old and I graduated from the Faculty of Music, Vocal Performance study programme, within Transilvania University of Braṣov.

I spent my childhood in a village of Dâmboviţa county, near the municipality of Târgovişte. In this city full of history, I defined my first musical bases within "Bălaşa Doamna" High School of Fine Arts. My first steps towards this world of music were difficult. The number of study hours gradually became equivalent to the number of courses, the involvement in cultural and artistic activities was always maximum, and the presence in competitions required a greater consumption of mental and physical energy; thus, the daily schedule was difficult and quite tiring for a 14-15-year-old child.

However, nothing could overcome my desire and motivation to achieve the best version of myself at that moment. Having formed myself in this way, when I began my studies at the Faculty of Music in Brașov, I knew that it could not be otherwise. I entered this new stage of my life with a lot of motivation and ambition, but without expectations, because I wanted to be taken by surprise and live more than I could visualise, and that's how it really was! By doing my best and valorising my skills, the opportunities did not falter to arise: the possibility to meet people with high values and aspirations, people who can show one that there

is room for more and better; the chance to discover different lifestyles and visions; the opportunity to get to know oneself and make one's own choices; the opportunity to have fulfilling experiences and gain confidence in what one does, such as the recitals and competitions that have added to my track record over time.

Besides the emergence of opportunities, of whatever kind, I dare say what matters most is what you choose to do with them, how much you get involved and how! Although in my case a dreamy side prevails, through the lens of my vocation, the rational side, organization and goal-setting have never been lacking. I believe this is what has underlain my evolution, in one word I could say it is about *balance*.

Through my motto "I can see the goal, not the obstacles" which I have constantly pursued during these years of study at the Faculty of Music in Braşov, I dare say I have achieved everything I set out to do and even more; and all of this can be concluded in a beautiful name – *Valedictorian 2024*.



Elisa–Elena GHEORGHE Valedictorian Faculty of Music

## ALEXANDRA-IOANA RUCSANDA - Average grade 9.55



Life is a living story to abide, / Everyone is a hero, either main or side, / Each of us has a very large part, / And yours has just seen its start.

My name is Alexandra-loana Rucsanda and I graduated from the Medicine study programme within the Faculty of Medicine of Braşov.

I was born in Braşov on 19 April 1999, in a family of intellectuals (my mother is a musician, my father is an engineer), and my whole childhood was marked by music. I consider myself lucky because I was surrounded by books and music. My parents and grandparents took care to provide me with benchmarks and values, they taught me to speak, think and choose; and, for all of this, I am grateful to them.

I began to sing at the age of four and over the years I participated in more than 70 festivals and contests held in the country and abroad, I was invited to many TV shows (Attention! There Is Singing Here, Little Star Sprinkle, I Want to Be a Star, and more) or radio broadcasts, where my artistic qualities have always been appreciated. Since the age of six I have studied the piano and learned to play the guitar. At the age of eight I released my first CD, followed by two other thematic CDs: one with songs dedicated to mothers and one with carols and winter songs.

In middle school, I decided to become a doctor because I love people and I want to heal them with the proper treatments, but mostly with a kind word or a smile.

In 2018, I graduated from "Dr. Ioan Meșotă" National College, the science track, and I took the entrance exam to the Faculty of Medicine in Brașov, where I was

admitted among the first candidates. During high school, I combined my passion for music with schoolwork, and I would like to mention as special achievements my participation in the National Chemistry Olympiad and in three national stages of "Adolf Haimovici" Mathematics Competition, where I ranked in the first places. During my student years, I had the opportunity to discover the fascinating and complex world of medicine through my professors, colleagues and everyone who shared their wisdom with me. To all of them, I express my gratitude!

Transilvania University of Braşov offered me many opportunities: I participated in conferences (KronMed, Student Communications Session of the Faculty of Medicine), I won and implemented a project within "Be Central" Competition (*Centre for the promotion and maintenance of physical and mental health among students - MELO-PSI-MED*), I attended the AFCO Conference, I published six articles in prestigious medical journals. As a performer, I gave concerts abroad (Cuba, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Peru, Brazil) to promote the university. The experience of these faculty years will remain of great importance to me and I will always remember it.

For the future, I pursue the doctoral studies within Transilvania University of Brașov, I will take the residency exam and I wholeheartedly want to become a competent doctor who "not only treats patients, but heals people". Throughout my academic life I have always wanted to improve my knowledge and skills, to become more efficient, yet not for a photo or a fleeting moment; this journey will continue and will be guided by my motivation to permanently achieve excellence.

Proceed thus with your hero, / As you will and as you know, / Aware that every step of our climb, / In your story, will be a line.

Alexandra–loana RUCSANDA Valedictorian Faculty of Medicine



My name is Camelia, I am 22 years of age and I graduated from the Faculty of Letters, majoring in Applied Modern Languages, French-English.

I come from Cotova, a small village in the North of the Republic of Moldova.

Since an early age, I have been inquisitive by nature, passionate about reading and knowledge. Maybe because my leisure time has always been filled with homework and extracurricular activities, training for competitions and Olympiads, even to this day I find it hard to rest without feeling like I have something else to do.

I have always had high expectations of myself, while feeling at the same time like I never really knew what I wanted, and always had a hard time making decisions. I graduated from the middle school in my commune with an average of grade of 10 and continued my studies at "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" High-School, humanities track, in the town of Drochia. This high school was my second home for three years and, due to my talented teachers, every school subject was dear to me. In particular, my love for the study of foreign languages was cultivated. Due to my French teacher's support, in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, I plucked up courage to apply for DELF B2, which I passed with a score that I am proud of and which exempted me from taking the baccalaureate exam in that subject.

Even though three years ago I was still undecided about what I wanted to do with my future, somewhere in my soul I felt a propensity for studying foreign languages and for the peace and beauty of

nature in the city of Brașov, which I had already fallen in love with following some trips in my teens.

Looking back, I do not regret this choice, the undergraduate years were beautiful, I felt myself growing both professionally and personally. I am especially grateful for having the opportunity in my second year to do my professional internship as a translator / interpreter within the *Continuing education programme for the school principals and teachers in the city of Braṣov* organised by Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), where I was the communication bridge between trainers and teachers, who were this time in the position of pupils.

Within Transilvania University of Braşov I met wonderful professors who inspired, guided and helped me, colleagues and friends who made my life more colourful, and the city of Braşov became even dearer to me. At the end of these years, I realized how important it is to choose a field of study that is close to your heart. I had never set myself the goal of receiving the distinction of Valedictorian, never studied for the merit scholarship, since I knew I couldn't receive it, as a Romanian everywhere, but I have always competed with myself and done my best to be satisfied with myself. Today, after three years of hard work, I experience the joy of success and the satisfaction of achievements.

The years spent in the faculty confirmed to me the prestige and professionalism of the studies conducted within the Faculty of Letters; and for this reason, I pursue to continue my academic path within Transilvania University of Brașov with the master's study programme of Language Studies for Intercultural Communication. I also chose this programme with a view to continuing with a doctor's degree, as I would like to teach in this faculty, alongside the professors whom I respected and admired so much during the bachelor's study programme.

Camelia IRODOI Valedictorian Faculty of Letters

## FLORIN-ALEXANDRU CRAP - Average grade 9.82



My name is Florin-Alexandru Crap, I am 23 years old and I originate in Brașov, the city where I grew up and attended my both pre-university and academic studies, which I complete this year. I graduated from "Emil Racoviță" College of Natural Sciences, the science track, intensive English; and, despite spending four years of my life on a real track, I have been constantly interested in what happens in our society and I have always wished to support the change that the community which we live in needs, from a profession that brings to the fore the contact with people and the concrete situations they face.

Although I made the decision to enter Law quite late, at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade (in the summer of 2019), looking back on those moments I can conclude that it was a very good idea, as I could capitalise on my passions and skills alike in a place where I felt appreciated for what I was doing. As a member in the Association of Law Students, I participated in a series of competitions and events, thus making contact with professionals in law and colleagues from other

academic centres, a fact which, in my opinion, broadened my horizons and reconfirmed my motivation to be part of this faculty's academic community. In my regular faculty activities as well, I tried, as much as possible, to show my involvement during the courses, seminars and events such as the Scientific Communications Session, which was acknowledged by the appreciation that the professors showed me almost unanimously.

It would be hypocritical to claim that I, for my part, did not face moments of pressure during these four faculty years, but precisely because I succeeded in overcoming the challenges I encountered, I can say that I have become more resilient and patient. I really learned valuable lessons while in faculty. In the near future, I pursue a master's degree programme still at Faculty of Law within Transilvania University of Brasov, and I intend to take the bar exam because I want to defend the principles in which I believe in Court. I am confident that the efforts I have made these four years will bear fruit, that I will succeed in achieving both goals, and that my work will keep the mark of professionalism and dedication to the chosen profession. I would also like to thank my professors, friends, colleagues and family for their support, without which it would have been much harder for me during this time.

> Florin–Alexandru CRAP Valedictorian Faculty of Law

## VLAD GABRIEL ASAOANU – Average grade 9.77



My name is Vlad Asaoanu and I was surprised, to say the least, to find myself the valedictorian of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication this year. I attended the Digital Media study programme; and today I can say that if I were to go to university again, I would make the same decisions.

I graduated from a high-school with a Mathematics and Informatics track; and, until the last month of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, I said I would pursue a major in computer science; however, just before the baccalaureate, I decided to do something unpredictable and I made it to Faculty of Sociology and Communication. Given that I am writing these lines, it has been, to all likelihood, the right decision.

Faculty was for me quite a beautiful time, in which I learned more things than I initially hoped, and I dare

say I complete these years with knowledge that I can use at any moment of my future life. I also chose to register for the master's degree still at the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, in the Branding Campaign Management study programme, considering this as the next step in the natural course of events.

I was born in a village within a commune that no one knew about until the month of August 2024 (Dofteana, Bacău – I'll leave it up to you to find out why) and I have always believed that it's important for everyone to do his/her best to achieve performance. I had never set myself the goal of being a Valedictorian, just as I had never nurtured such title-related goals in the previous stages of my education, but rather of being the best I could be in relation to my capabilities.

I dare say each of us ought to be good people, then good professionals, and add value to the society we live in, through the activities we undertake on a daily basis. And if we are incapable of doing good, at least let us not do harm.

Vlad Gabriel ASAOANU Valedictorian Faculty of Sociology and Communication

#### SUMMER SCHOOL – TRANSILVANIA SUMMER EVENT (TSE 2024) – CAREER NETWORK

Transilvania Summer Event (TSE 2024) – Career Network becomes a traditional event organised by Transilvania University of Brașov. TSE is a summer school that, over the years, has established itself as an important benchmark for the students and pupils of Brașov, offering them the opportunity to learn from the top professionals' expertise and to connect with people in various fields.



TSE was created to provide the participants with a stimulating environment in which to develop their professional and personal skills. The event brings together experts in various fields who share their knowledge and expertise, thus helping train future leaders. This is an opportunity for the young people to open themselves to new ideas, learn innovative strategies and expand their professional network.





This year's edition took place on 16 and 17 July. During the two days full of activities, the participants (students, pupils and representatives of the business environment) had the opportunity to get involved in interactive workshops and a cultural trip, all aimed at providing them with a complete and memorable learning experience.

The first day of the event was marked by three captivating workshops held by renowned personalities:



Gina Similie, manager of Integrator Soft company and president the **Association** of Businesswomen and Woman **Business** Managers of Brasov, who offered valuable

insights into leadership and innovation in business, sharing her own expertise and practical advice with the aspiring young people;

- Tatian Deaconu, entrepreneur and former CEO of CEETRUS Romania and Nhood Romania. Tatian brought up the challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurship, offering a clear view of the current market and future trends;
- Mihai Homorozeanu, Business Development Manager of FAMOUS GIFTS | PROMO, who presented effective business development techniques.





The second day of the event was dedicated to a cultural and educational trip to Viscri. The participants had the opportunity to explore the cultural and historical heritage of the region, to enjoy the picturesque landscapes, and to interact in a relaxing setting.

We look forward to seeing you at the next editions of *Transilvania Summer Event*, where we will continue to provide learning and development opportunities for the youth of our community!

Prof. Dr. Bianca TESCAŞIU – ALUMNI Office Roxana STOICA – Career Counselling and Guidance Centre