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NEWSLETTER

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TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES WIN AWARDS AT PATRIOTFEST THE FIRST EDITION OF THE NATIONAL INNOVATION CONTEST IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY



I INNOVATE FOR ROMANIA

A premiere in Romania, institutions in the field of national security have organized PatriotFest – a national innovation contest aimed at improved training of national security for future challenges by attracting Romanian innovation resources. The contest was organized by the Ministry of National Defence (MapN), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), and the Protection and Guard Service (SPP) in partnership with New Strategy Centre. Romanian innovators in the country and from abroad were invited to showcase their achievements in the form of functional prototypes.

The 2017 edition of PatriotFest kicked off with 38 projects submitted in three different fields: information security, artificial intelligence, and man-machine Interface.

At the PatriotFest Gala held on 29 November 2017, and broadcast by TVR1, the best functional prototypes won awards. Transilvania University of Braşov was represented in this contest by Ştefan Popa and Alexandra Stanciu from the Department of Electronics and Computers at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, both of whom won special awards.

Ştefan Popa is a first year PhD student and research assistant within the Research Centre – Embedded Electronic Systems and Advanced Communications.



Ştefan won the first special award for the project Read-out-controller. Read-out-controller is a real-time database processor implemented as ASIC. It aggregates, stores, filters, encapsulates, and retransmits the databases received from the muon detectors in the experiment ATLAS from CERN, Geneva.

Dr Alexandra Stanciu, assistant lecturer within the Department of Electronics and Computers, won the special award PatriotFest Hope for the project Method of generating binary sequences used in cryptographic operations by utilizing RO PUF circuits. The project proposes binary sequences generation based on process variations which occur in the stages of production of the embedded circuits using PUF (Physical Unclonable Function), and the implementation and validation of the proposed solution at FPGA circuit level.

Dr Titus Bălan

IN SITU INVESTIGATION OF FURNITURE INSPIRED BY QUEEN MARIA'S ARTWORK

'QUEEN MARIA, THE IRRESISTIBLE AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIAN HISTORY AND FOLK ART'



On 26 January the Old Town Hall of Braşov hosted a creative workshop inspired by Queen Maria's artwork. The workshop is part of the project 'Queen Maria, the Irresistible Ambassador of Romanian History and Folk Art', coordinated by the Braşov County Museum of History, in partnership with Forums Association and our Faculty of Wood Engineering.

At the workshop, Dr Adrian Silvan Ionescu, the manager of the *George Oprescu* Institute of Art History, delivered a presentation based on historical photographs, stock footage and objects created by Queen Maria. Following this, Ms Nicoleta Petcu, the manager of Bran National Museum, gave a detailed description of the royal patrimony items held in the custody of this institution. The historian Nicolae Pepene, manager of the Braşov County Museum of History, acted as host. The project was also endorsed by the Romanian Furniture Manufacturers' Association, represented by Eng. Mircea Vlad.

Besides local artists, among the participants in the event were fourteen students and three alumni of

the Faculty of Wood Engineering, as well as two students of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment.



Their working group is coordinated by Dr Alin M. Olărescu. Its aims for 2018 are an *in situ* investigation correlated with research and creation of furniture inspired by Queen Maria's artwork.

The workshop was an event dedicated to Queen Maria's legacy. Furthermore, it aimed at developing the mechanisms that are involved in knowledge construction, research, documentation, and artistic creation, as well as in the valorisation of art.

Dr Alin M. Olărescu

■ TOC

TEXTBOOK OF INTELLECTUAL WORK TECHNIQUES BOOK LAUNCH AT THE ȘT.O.IOSIF BOOKSHOP



intellectual work skills, a great necessity in contemporary society.

The ensuing Q&A session showed the interest of those present – teaching staff, students, alumni – in such a book.

Dr Mihaela Voinea

■ TOC

The Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences has got off to good start in 2018: the volume entitled *Manual de Tehnici de muncă intelectuală (Textbook of Intellectual Work Techniques)* by Dr Marcela Rodica Luca was launched at the Șt.O.Iosif bookshop, a long-time partner of our faculty, represented at this event by Ms Augusta Oniță.

The launch started with Marcela Rodica Luca's professional portrait, outlined by Dr Mariela Pavalache-Ilie. There followed a discussion based on the book. The debate was moderated by Dr Ana-Maria Cazan, who pointed out the importance of a specialised book of this type. She highlighted the utility of the volume for the students of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, as well as for anyone wishing to develop or optimise their

THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT “LEARNING TOXICOLOGY THROUGH OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES – TOX-OER”

SEVEN COURSE MODULES LOADED ON THE MOOC PLATFORM

Between September 2015 and February 2018, Transilvania University of Braşov participated in an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project. The project “Learning Toxicology through Open Educational Resources – TOX-OER” was developed through a partnership involving Universidad de Salamanca (Spain) as coordinator, Space Research and Technology Institute (Bulgaria), Univerzita Karlova V Praze (Czech Republic), South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Università di Bologna (Italy), Universidade do Porto (Portugal), and our university.



The project consortium developed seven course modules as open educational resources (OER), loaded on a Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOC) platform. All OER modules are available in 8 languages – the languages of the seven partner universities and English - and consist of video presentations, support texts, additional documentation, and assessment tests. Our university contributed to the development of

modules 4 and 6, ensuring 7 of the 35 transfer credits (ECTS). The courses focus on pollutants and their monitoring in the environment, with one of them devoted to environmental laws. The main beneficiaries are students from the study programs *Industrial Environmental Engineering and Protection* (undergraduate level) and *Sustainable Product Design and Environment Protection* (master’s level). The students have already been involved in testing certain modules on the platform, as a first stage in implementing the project at our university.

The TOX-OER project created the framework for validating the knowledge acquired after the completion of OER modules. Loaded on the MOOC platform, the modules will represent open educational resources available to other specialists interested in learning about or updating their knowledge in the field of toxicology and the effects of pollutants on public health and the environment.

Dr Camelia Drăghici, Dr Ileana Manciulea,

Dr Dana Perniu

■ TOC

DUO ENESCU RECITAL AT AULA MAGNA

PIANO AND VIOLIN SONATAS BY MOZART, BEETHOVEN AND STRAUSS



On 31 January, *Aula Magna* was the venue of a musical event organized by the Musical Centre, having as protagonists Dragoş Mânza, violinist, and Alina Elena Bercu, pianist. The exquisite artistic stance of the two interpreters coupled with the variety and complexity of the selected repertoire offered the keen audience a genuinely enchanting experience.

The recital commenced with the Violin Sonata in E-flat major KV 380, a musical piece that foregrounds the expressive assets of the violin. With its unique style, Mozart's music reflects a wide array of feelings whose expression swings from juvenile joy to anguish. The second piece in the recital showcased one of Beethoven's most valuable creations, composed for piano and violin. A consummate instrumental gem with heroic and melancholic overtones, the Violin Sonata No. 7 in C Minor showed the two protagonists at their best.

The complementarity of their instrumental dialogue reflected instrumental qualities peculiar of grand concert halls. The recital concluded with Strauss' Violin Sonata in E flat major Op. 18, an impeccable fusion of lyrical beauty, strength, improvisation and excellence.



With admirable virtuosity, both protagonists relished the opportunity to meeting again with the local audience, who applauded their effort and talent. Concertmaster of the Tonhalle Symphonic Orchestra in Düsseldorf, Dragoş Mânza scored success after success both as soloist and, together with Alina Bercu, in chamber music duets. A most talented pianist, Alina Bercu also possesses an impressive musical career which includes numerous performances in recitals and concerts across Europe, the USA, and Asia.

Fulvia Anca Constantin
Musical Centre Expert

■ TOC

BOOK LAUNCH - YU HUA'S NOVEL *CHRONICLE OF A BLOOD MERCHANT* MEETING WITH SINOLOGIST LUMINIȚA BĂLAN



The meetings between our teachers are as many opportunities for us students to open our minds to new perspectives on things. This time, we, along with an enthusiastic audience interested in how things work on another continent – were given the opportunity to sit in on an interesting debate centred around the ways the Chinese language and fiction can be cast into the moulds of the Romanian culture, on the impediments to translating literary texts, and on how to overcome them.

In a discussion with Roxana Rîbu, Sinologist and professor of Chinese at Transilvania University of Braşov, the translator of the novel, Luminița Bălan, signalled possible delimitations between the literary work and its translation, between what belongs to the text author and what is the translator's in a translated text.

To the students at the Faculty of Letters the meeting with Sinologist Luminița Bălan was a further encouragement to those who aim for a career in literary translations. Furthermore, the discussion around the novel promoted on this occasion, *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* by Yu Hua, was an incentive to discover the whole universe of the book.



The presence of Mrs Denisa Comănescu, Editorial Director at Humanitas Fiction, afforded us a glimpse into the editorial process. The project coordinated by Mrs. Comănescu, the collection *Denisa's Bookshelf*, which is also open to Far East fiction, popularized, to the delight of the students in Chinese Language and Literature, a few significant literary works of the Chinese culture, including Yu Hua's novel.

Nicoleta Roman,
Undergraduate student, Faculty of Letters

■ TOC

THE H2020 eHERITAGE PROJECT

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATING VR TECHNOLOGIES WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE



The H2020 eHERITAGE Project (“Extending the VR research and innovation capabilities into the cultural heritage”) is currently in its third year of implementation. To mark this achievement, the eHERITAGE consortium has made Braşov, Romania, the venue of the first international conference (VRTCH'18) devoted to the integration of VR technologies in cultural heritage management, to take place on 29 and 30 May this year. The cultural heritage of Braşov is the most important asset of the local community. We believe that this event is a great opportunity to promote the historical importance of our city, and to make a good impression on the participants.

The conference is targeted at researchers in the field of tangible and intangible heritage. Our goal is to showcase the latest trends in the use of technologies and state-of-the-art equipment designed to preserve and digitize the content of cultural heritage associated with archaeological sites, monuments, art galleries, etc. Moreover, VRTCH'18 will cover a range of useful topics relating, among others, to hands-on technologies

likely to lead to the adoption of long-term measures by the general public, companies, curators, and managers of cultural entities.



Within a different frame, at the beginning of May the eHERITAGE team will showcase a few VR applications on the occasion of the Open Day organized by the European Union as part of the “European Year of Cultural Heritage”. The event will take place at the EU Headquarters, in Brussels, Belgium.

Dr Eugen Valentin Butilă

■ TOC

PROFESSORS WE TAKE PRIDE IN

Professor POMPILIU PECULEA



Professor Pompiliu Peculea is one of the co-founders of the Faculty of Philology in Braşov, and, was, for 27 years, the guide of philological students on the path of learning English language, culture and civilization.

Pompiliu Peculea was born on 8 May 1932, and his youth was not at all plain sailing. While a student at the Faculty of Letters in Cluj, he joined the Anti-Communist League founded in 1949 as a form of protest and fight against the spreading communism. In 1953 he was arrested, accused of treason and sentenced to 20 years of forced labour. What followed were long years of political imprisonment at Deva, Jilava, Piteşti, Cavnic, Aiud, Caransebeş, Gherla, Giurgeni, Ostrov.

Throughout this ordeal, he never gave up the supreme ideal of dignity, of faith in the resistance movement, and hope for better moments, which eventually came in 1964, when he was released from prison. In 1970 Prof. Peculea graduated from the Faculty of Letters in Cluj and became a professor at the Faculty of Philology in Braşov.

As one of Prof Peculea's students, I cannot but fondly remember how fascinated we all were by the kindness in his voice, and the reserve with which he delivered his lectures on British culture, the impressive wealth of details used to describe even the minutest fact pertaining to language or civilization. Among many other things, I am grateful to Prof. Peculea for sharing with us an infallible method of teaching grammatical structures, which I currently use with my students.

I shall always remember Mr Peculea as the professor *par excellence*, a devoted professional, and, above all, as a MAN.

On 10 February he departed this world. Those of us who had the chance to meet him pledge to carry him forever in our hearts.

Dr Oana Tatu