



**Transilvania
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NEWSLETTER

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AWARD CEREMONY FOR THE DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA DEGREE

At the proposal of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Transilvania University of Braşov awarded the *Doctor Honoris Causa* degree to Professor Ravi P. Agarwal, the head of the Department of Mathematics of Texas A&M University, Kingsville, U.S.A.



On 10 July, the award ceremony took place at the university's Aula Magna of our university under the coordination of Professor Ioan Abrudan, the rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, and of Professor Mircea Ţierean, the President of the University Senate. Members of the Scientific Committee that decided to award the degree were Dr Eugen Păltănea, the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Professor Dorina Răducanu and Professor Marin Marin.



Professor Agarwal's academic record is impressive. He taught and conducted research in the field of mathematics in many countries: India, Singapore, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and the USA. His fields of expertise include numerical analysis, differential

equations, mathematical inequalities and the fixed point theory.

Professor Agarwal published 44 specialised monographs and over 1600 scientific articles in the most important mathematical journals, such as *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, *Boundary Value Problems*, *Journal of the London Mathematical Society*, *Nonlinear Analysis* and *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*.

The scientist Ravi Agarwal was among the most quoted researchers in the world for 12 consecutive years. At present, he has a Hirsch index of 60 in Scopus. Also, he has had an intense editorial activity as editor or member of the editorial board of many ISI journals in the field of mathematics. Moreover, he supervised the activity of numerous researchers around the world.



We are proud of Professor Agarwal's collaboration with the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of our university. Awarding the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa* of Transilvania University of Braşov to Professor RAVI P. AGARWAL represents an acknowledgment of his exceptional scientific activity and of his merits in promoting the cooperation with our university.

Prof. Dr Marin MARIN
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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MACHINE LEARNING AND APPLICATIONS SUMMER SCHOOL - MLASS 2019

Between 22 and 26 July, Transilvania University of Braşov organized "Machine Learning and Applications Summer School" - MLASS 2019 (<http://mlass.unitbv.ro>). The event was co-organized by Central Washington University (USA) and Université Paris 13 (France), and sponsored by Siemens and Fotonation. This summer school targeted both specialists in the academia and in industry, and master, doctoral and post-doctoral students, affording the participants the excellent opportunity to meet experts from diverse countries with a vast experience in machine learning techniques.



The event brought together 52 participants, out of whom more than half are employees of IT companies, with activities in the field of artificial intelligence, but also master and doctoral students as well as researchers from universities in Ireland, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova and Romania (Braşov, Cluj, Craiova).



The classes were supplemented by workshops which offered practical experience in the use of machine learning methods. There were nine lecturers invited: Guénaël Cabanes, Nistor Grozavu, Basarab Matei and Parisa Rastin - Université Paris 13 (France), Jérémie Sublime - ISEP Ecole d'ingénieurs du numérique, Paris (France), Nicoleta Rogovschi - Université Paris Descartes (France), Boris Kovalerchuk and Răzvan Andonie - Central Washington University (USA) and, a special guest, professor Volker Tresp from Ludwig Maximilian University, Munchen, Germany, who is also a researcher at Siemens AG.

The topics approached were very diverse and covered a wide range of methods and techniques: data visualization, text analysis, reduction of data sizes, supervised and unsupervised learning using neural networks, hyperparameters optimization.

Lecturer Dr Eng. Angel CAȚARON
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON IMAGE PROCESSING - ISIP 2019

Between 15 and 26 July, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of our university organized the 11th edition of the *International Summer School of Image Processing (ISIP 2019)*.

The morning program comprised lectures in fundamental algorithms in image processing, delivered by Professor Detlef Richter from *Rhein-Main University of Applied Sciences* of Wiesbaden. The afternoons were reserved for laboratory work on the implementation of the algorithms discussed in the theoretical lectures. The laboratory work was coordinated by Professor Detlef Richter and Dr Ioana Cristina Plajer from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. They were helped by two volunteers, Vlad Vrabie and Cosmin Polifronie, graduates of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. The school was attended by 21 students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and one employee of *Siemens Industry Software*.

The work schedule alternated with a series of recreational activities: game night, trip to Curmătura chalet in Piatra Craiului Mountains, visit to the Black Church and an organ concert.

The beneficiaries of the summer school were delighted with the content and the schedule of the lectures. Thus, the participants assimilated important knowledge in the field of image processing, practiced the application of mathematical concepts and also improved their programming skills.

The organizers of the summer school *ISIP 2019* would like to thank *Siemens Industry Software* for its generous contribution, and the faculty management for their support.

Project coordinator,
Lecturer Dr Ioana Cristina PLAJER
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL – FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTHY LIVING – FSHL 2019

Between 30 June and 3 July, Braşov was the venue of the second International Summer School – FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTHY LIVING – FSHL 2019.

Having started as part of the CEEPUS – FOOD SAFETY FOR HEALTHY LIVING (CII-RO-1111-02-1819) project, this international summer school was aimed, among others, at bringing together the project partners.



The summer school was coordinated by Transilvania University of Braşov (with the involvement of the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and the Faculty of Food and Tourism), and partners were “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest, Universita Degli Studi di Milano (Italy), Universite de Perpignan Via Domitia (France), and Synevo Romania.



Centred around food safety for a better life, the summer school was the framework for presentations about the special monitoring of various bioactive compounds, environment toxicology in relation with food safety (analyses of mycotoxins, heavy metals, persistent organic compounds), the issue of antibiotic resistance,

elements of nutrition and accidental poisoning in children, the complexity of anaphylactic reactions, ethical aspects regarding food safety, and innovations in genetic testing correlated with a personalized diet.

The interdisciplinary presentations were delivered by prestigious professors from Romania (Braşov, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca) and from various universities abroad (Spain, Italy, France, Russia, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Portugal), successfully contributing to the internationalization of the partner institutions.

Active participants in this scientific event were 44 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students (21 from the Faculty of Medicine at Transilvania University of Braşov, and 23 from universities in Ljubljana, Rijeka, Milan, and Lisbon). On the first day of the summer school, the students presented the cities and faculties they represent, as well as products specific to their place of birth.



The organizers and participants are grateful to Transilvania University of Braşov for their support, including the access given to the infrastructure necessary to conduct these activities.

This summer school will surely become a pleasant memory for all those involved and a source of motivation for further participation in events organized by Transilvania University of Braşov.

Dr Mihaela BADEA
Faculty of Medicine

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AcademIAA AT THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

The partnership between *International Advertising Association România* (IAA) and Transilvania University of Braşov, via the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, began with the organization of the first Summer School dedicated to the communication and marketing professors from the partner universities.



AcademIAA represents the platform for transversal partnership between academia and the marketing and communication industry made possible by the cooperation between the association that represents the main advertising agencies in the country, IAA, and five universities from Romania.



The first AcademIAA Summer School took place between 26-28 July in Braşov, in the T building of Transilvania University, and included two trainings aimed at the fifteen professors from faculties in the

field, and a meeting dedicated to investigating the academic research directions in collaboration with the marketing and communication industry.

The two training sessions were delivered by Liliana Caimacan - *Business Transformation Strategist & Innovation Leader Tata Global Beverages London* and Professor at *HULT International Business School* (Innovation in business and education) and Ciprian Teleman – Founder of *MAX Business* and *Consultant Qualians (Soft Skills)*.



Participants were fifteen faculty staff from the University of Bucharest (the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies), Bucharest University of Economic Studies (the Faculty of Marketing), the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations and the Faculty of Management, respectively), Transilvania University of Braşov (the Faculty of Sociology and Communication and the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, respectively).

Lecturer Dr Florin NECHITA
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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SUMMER SCHOOL – DISCOVER PSYCHOLOGY AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY

Between 26-28 July, high schoolers eager to learn more about the study of psychology were invited to the Discover Psychology at UniTBv Summer School, organized by the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences.

The eleven participants from Braşov and Târgovişte were guided toward self-knowledge in order to build a realistic self-image and manage their resources more effectively. Using autoscapy, they practised and analyzed the process of delivering a speech in public, thus learning not only how to build an impactful message, but also how to deliver it to the public without succumbing (too much) to nerves.

We tried to convey the fact that psychology is a science, but that not all approaches that begin with PSY explain the world from a strictly scientific perspective. We believe that learning from specialists what it means to be a psychologist in the workforce was useful for them.

The activities were entertaining, judging by the participants' enthusiasm and involvement in the exercises, and the many questions they asked. Every afternoon, they were accompanied in getting to know the cultural and historical Braşov, by visiting the Museum of Urban Civilization and exploring places for traditional promenades.

One opinion expressed regarding the summer school: "It was an unforgettable experience that I would tell my great-grandchildren about. I had a wonderful time with my team; I can say that these three days gave me food for thought."

The team of the first summer school consisted of Ana-Maria Cazan, Andra Crăciun, Laura Teodora David, Marcela Rodica Luca, Laura Elena Năstasă, Camelia Truţa, Aurel Ion Clinciu, and this author.

Prof. Dr Mariela PAVALACHE-ILIE
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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THE THIRD EDITION OF TRANSILVANIA SUMMER EVENT

On 9 and 10 July, the third Summer School Transilvania Summer Event took place, with the theme *Personal branding and storytelling*.



On the first day of the event at AULA MAGNA, a workshop was held with guest Ms Amalia Sterescu, consultant in *Leadership*, strategist for *Personal branding* and *Public speaking coach*. The participant students learned how to build their own success story, how to define their career aim, how to stand out in a competitive environment, and how to become professionals through continuous learning.



On the second day of Transilvania Summer Event, the participants were able to see how a successful brand is made – Viscri. Together with Ms Carolina Fernolend from the Mihai Eminescu Trust foundation, they listened to the success stories of those who contributed to the creation and preservation of the authenticity of a unique community in Romania.

Prof. Dr Bianca TESCAȘIU
Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business
Administration

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"ASTRA" SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

Between 19th - 28th of July 2019, ten students from the Transilvania University of Braşov had the opportunity to participate in the "Astra" Summer School, within the Râşnov Film and History Festival, together with students from other university centers in cities such as Bucharest, Cluj , Timisoara, Iasi, but also Chisinau.



The experiences enjoyed by the participating students were unique, as they had the opportunity to discuss with personalities from different fields, but also to participate in public debates on different topics.

The theme of this year's festival was *freedom*, and the debates and workshops were diversified, from "50 years since the first Moon landing", to "Roma - keepers of Romanian folklore".



As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing, the organizers have had special guests, US Ambassador Hans Klemm, Israel's ambassador David Saranga, but also the only Romanian who has ever flown in space, Dumitru Prunariu. Of course, problems such as globalization,

demography, economy, history have not been lacking in these debates.



"Intensive intellectual corner" was, in a way, the motto of this year's summer school, a motto spoken on the first day by the festival director, Mr. Sorin Mîndruţescu. Indeed, the school has made its mark on the program of students, but the most important aspect is that no one regrets this experience from which everyone had something to learn.



The films, plays and concerts were the "pieces of resistance" within this school, being of different categories such as rock, church music, folk, documentary films, feature films.

The diversity and excellence of both the festival and the summer school proved to leave no trace of regret on the students' souls at the end, but also of joy for this unique experience for many of the participants.

Emanuel Gabriel GUȚOIU,
1st year Sociology Student

JAPAN – FASCINATION BEYOND ALL WORDS

I could speak about Japan for days on end and the time would still be too short for the whole story to unravel. But since I have to be brief, I will refer to those things that really made a lasting impression on my mind.



I am currently a second year MA student at the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, and I have been fortunate enough to earn a scholarship within the MSSP 2019 (Meisei Summer School Project). Within this framework, my task was to teach English to 4th graders in Tokyo, Japan.

So, I went to one of the most fabulous countries in the world - the country of politeness, beauty, respect, education, discipline, work, and commitment. Japan is a totally different cultural experience: people there will apologize even for the slightest thing; they will always offer a helping hand whenever you need one, and they will try to accommodate your needs, even when they are not necessarily fluent in a language you speak. Let alone that wherever you look, everything is in place, clean and well-ordered! Admirable! If someone asked me where the cradle of civilization is, I would say *Japan*.

On my way to Meisei University in Tokyo, where I prepared my teaching materials, I could not help but notice the famous Mount Fuji, governing this 14 million people city, but also the super-silent purr of the terrestrial metro - an apparently insignificant detail which speaks so much of the Japanese success in technology and public welfare.

The study facilities and conditions, the diversity of opportunities go beyond imagination. Since I am talking about opportunities, I must confess that I am incredibly grateful and happy to be given a chance to represent our university right there, in the heart of Japan.

Never in my life have I felt so fulfilled as when I taught English to my adorable, hard-working students! To top it all, they showed their gratitude by writing on my T-shirt, in accurate Romanian "We thank you very much". I have made so many friends over the one-month stay, and we keep in touch daily. Show respect and you will be treated with respect. This is one of the most important lessons I have learned there, and it is something that cannot be missing from a civilized country.

And going on... I will have to also say how much I was impressed by their temples and monuments, by their traditional food (how tasty and fresh it is!), the narrow streets in Shibuya and Shinjuku, the traditionalism in Asakusa, the colour and sparkle of Akihabara, the quiet in Hajjima, and the coloured fireworks in Higashi-Nakagami. One will forever be hypnotized, charmed, lured ... and rightfully so.

Vlad BĂTRÂNU-PINȚEA
2st year MA student
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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THE SIXTH EDITION OF "ALEXANDRU MUȘINA" POETRY DEBUT COMPETITION

The Faculty of Letters within Transilvania University of Brasov and Aula Magna partnered up with Tracus Arte publishing house for the sixth year in a row, inviting unpublished poets to send their manuscripts for the "Alexandru Mușina" poetry debut competition.



After going through the largest number of proposed manuscripts in the history of the award, the jury (consisting of Alexandru Cistelecan, Ruxandra Cesereanu, Caius Dobrescu, Romulus Bucur, Radu Vancu and Adrian Lăcătuș) picked Artiom Oleacu, Artur Cojocaru and Vlad Sibechi to make their poetry debut in the "Alexandru Mușina" series at Tracus Arte publishing house, by awarding them the "Alexandru Mușina", "Budila Express" and

"Regele Dimineții", respectively. The three young poets were invited at the Multicultural Center of Transilvania University on July 26, 2019, for the ceremony.



Therefore, they will join Sabina Comșa, Ioan Șerbu Anca Dumitru, Dina Frânculescu, George-Ștefan Niță, Crina Bega, Simona Năstac and Vlad Serdarian among the poets who made their literary debut as a result of this prestigious competition.

Dr Maria GHIURȚU
The Multicultural Center of Transilvania University

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STRUCTURED INFINITY – AN EXHIBITION BY TEODORA PICA

On July 26, during TAMTAM festival, the Braşov-born Canadian artist Teodora Pica opened her *Structured Infinity* exhibition, combining her background in architecture with her artistic calling.



Her unframed works were allowed to freely unroll on the walls and create fantastic spaces that seemed to open up and develop new and surprising structures while being observed.

By citing Rem Koolhaas, the artist notes that "Architecture provides us with a fascinating lesson: in time, none of the original intentions of the architect are still intact by the project's final stages. I think that, most of the time, the same applies to art,

as to all creative endeavours. That is why the sketch is unequalled in its potential of encapsulating the essence of ideas, but also the thought process. Each of the works in this series is a sketch in this sense, showcasing the story of a fragment of infinity captured exactly at the moment of its conception".

Teodora Pica works in painting, sculpture, experimental printmaking and photography. She first studied at the Ion Mincu University of Architecture in Bucharest. She obtained a Bachelor of Architecture degree from John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto, and later, she studied painting and drawing at the Ontario College of Art and Design University. In August 2014 she graduated from Goucher College, in Baltimore, MD, with a Master of Arts in Arts Administration diploma. Her exhibition was open to the public at the Multicultural Center until August 17.

Dr Maria GHIURȚU

The Multicultural Center of Transilvania University

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THE ILLUSTRATORS' CLUB IN BRAȘOV – A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Between 2 and 17 July, the Multicultural Center of Transilvania University hosted the exhibition of the illustrators' Club in Brasov, a small community of artists working, exhibiting and participating in art-related events as a group.



The club was set up by Xenia Pamfil and Agata Secelean at the beginning of 2018, and since then the members meet regularly for discussions or to draw together, illustrating an increasingly rare form of artistic collaboration.

In 2018, they organized two group exhibitions, one at the International C'Art Fest in Cristian and one at ART onezero, during the White Night of the Galleries in Brașov.

Through the exhibition at the Multicultural Center of Transilvania University of Brașov, the audience had the opportunity to see a more consistent sample of their illustrations, in which they discovered fairy tales, stories featuring witches, fantastic animals and so on in a bright and playful presentation. The exhibiting artists, Anda Ansheen, Corina Drăgan, Agata Secelean, Alexandra Gold, Xenia Pamfil, Alexandra Zgondea, Bianca Spătariu and Homeboy, each chose a theme for the series of works they presented, some of which were drawn on paper or painted on canvas and others were digital prints.

Dr Maria GHIURȚU
The Multicultural Center of Transilvania University

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RECITAL BY ALINA BERCU

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: INTEGRAL OF PIANO SONATAS

To mark the end of the University Concert Season, *Aula Magna* played host to the Integral of piano sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven, performed by Alina Bercu, known not only as a consummate pianist, but also as a generous and empathic person, dedicated to art in general.

In 2018, Alina Bercu joined the project focused on the Integral of piano sonatas. The recital on the 5th of July included Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op 13, commonly known as *Pathétique*, Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1, Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op 14, No. 2, and Sonata No. 10 in B ♭ major, Op. 22.

It is well-known that in his sonatas, Beethoven breaks away from tradition by developing contrasting and contradictory elements and themes, lending thus a romantic pathos to the musical line and altering for ever the means of sending out noble messages to humanity.

To Alina Bercu, each musical score is a universe in itself, as her expressive performance picks up on the

slightest tension between sounds, on their dynamics and their quietness. One following another, the sonatas impressed the audience through their sound balance – an inescapable force backgrounded by sensitivity and lyrical beauty. Everyone was fascinated by Alina Bercu’s force in communicating feelings and ideas. She revealed her technique of rendering emotion through inflexions, sternness and dramatism, through elegant moves and clear-cut sound, through her attention for detail and exquisiteness.

Meticulous in her study of Beethoven’s score, with her professionalism, ideas and technique Alina managed to genuinely engage her audience.

Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Centre Expert

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