



Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov

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# NEWSLETTER

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## PROFESSOR ION VIȘA, *DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA* - 47 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF OUR UNIVERSITY

The day of 25 November marked an important event for the Faculty of Product Design and Environment: it was dedicated to celebrating Professor Ion Vișa's remarkable academic career spanning 47 years, of which 8 years as Rector, between 2004 and 2012.



On this occasion, professor Vișa was awarded the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the current Rector, professor Ioan Vasile Abrudan, and the president of the university Senate, Professor Mircea Horia Țierean, in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the development of our university.



The *Laudatio* outlined the academic and managerial achievements of prof. Vișa, his research, his role in the instruction of many classes of specialists in the field of mechanisms and renewable and sustainable energy sources, and his work leading up our university's international recognition.

Currently prof. Vișa holds full membership of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences, is a Laureate of the highly prestigious Educational Merit Order in Rank of Grand Officer, Honorary Member of the American-Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences, Dr.h.c. of Bloomfield College (USA) and of "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University at Iași (Romania).



In his speech, prof. Vișa described the landmark moments in his career set against the backdrop of our university's evolution in time and the dynamics of the staff in his faculty.

Accounts of various professional collaborations over the years were given for the benefit of the audience by professors Florea Dudiță, Marina Cionca, Constantin Duguleană and Petre Alexandru.

Professor Vișa's decades-long professional achievements testify to his vision, commitment, competence and high standards in his work.

Dr Codruța JALIU, Dean  
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

## TWO CELEBRATIONS OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management

On 22 November, Transilvania University of Brașov celebrated 70 years of existence of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and 55 years since the creation of the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management.



The achievements and evolution of the two faculties were presented in front of the over 100 guests from our country, of our university's management team, and of our colleagues from other faculties.



The event focused on the teachers' contributions to the development of technical education in Brașov and at the national level, on the teachers' achievements over time, and on our graduates'

involvement in the development of the Romanian industry.



Homage was paid to personalities in the history of the higher technical education in Brașov, and to their trailblazing careers.



A special moment was awarding Excellency Diplomas by Transilvania University of Brașov to the teachers who contributed to the development of the two faculties through effective academic management and exceptional professional activity.



In recognition of the prestige of the faculties, rectors, deans and colleagues from the universities in Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Bucharest, Cluj, Craiova,

Galați, Iași, Oradea, Sibiu, Suceava and Timișoara conveyed complimentary messages highlighting the primary role that the two faculties have played and will continue to do so in national and international technological progress.



In addition to personalities from the academia, representatives of various companies and institutions were present at the celebrations and, among them, graduates of the two faculties.



At this moment in their history, the two faculties take pride in their 30,000 graduates from Romania, with 23 working as engineers all over the world. Also, at present, the educational offer of the two faculties includes undergraduate and graduate study programs, in Romanian and English, in several domains.

Through their achievements, the two faculties represent an important pillar of the engineering community. Their aim is to continue and to strengthen traditions by obtaining relevant results both at national and international level.

At the same time, the periodical meeting of the National Consortium of the Faculties of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering took place. It brought together many deans and heads of departments from most universities in the country that coordinate study programs in the fields of industrial engineering and mechanical engineering.

Dr Ioan Călin ROȘCA, Dean  
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Dr Gheorghe OANCEA, Dean  
Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial  
Management

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## PROFESSOR MARIN MARIN - PROFESSOR HONORIS CAUSA OF "OVIDIUS" UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANȚA

On 29 November, "Ovidius" University of Constanța awarded the PROFESOR HONORIS CAUSA degree to Professor Marin Marin from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of our university in recognition of his remarkable teaching and scientific activity, of his professionalism and commitment, as well as for being a role model for younger generations throughout his entire career.



Born on 4 January 1954, prof. Marin Marin is a 1978 graduate of "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași, where he completed his undergraduate studies in mathematics, earning a Certificate of Merit. He further enrolled in a graduate program at the same university, and wrote a paper on functional equations under the coordination of Professor Viorel Barbu, member of the Romanian Academy. In 1990 he began his doctoral studies at "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași, with Professor Dorin Ieșan, member of the Romanian Academy, as his doctoral advisor. He earned his Ph.D. in 1994, with a dissertation titled "Mixed Problems with Limit and Initial Data in Generalizing Environments", defended at the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Bucharest.

He joined the teaching staff of our university in 1990, and in 1999 he became tenured Professor at Transilvania University of Brașov. In 2013, he was

the first at our university to earn the habilitation degree awarded by the University of Bucharest.

His remarkable scientific activity is duly reflected in the following Hirsch index values: WOS h-index = 27, Scopus h-index = 27 and Google Academic h-index = 32; he has published 108 WOS papers, 127 Scopus papers, 175 papers indexed in Google Academic; his citation count is also impressive: 1,212 in WOS, 1,399 in Scopus and 1,892 in Google Academic. His score on ResearchGate is 35.45.

In 2014, Professor Marin Marin was the organizer of the first edition of the MACOS International Conference at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of Transilvania University of Brașov, in collaboration with the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of "Ovidius" University of Constanța.

In acknowledgement of his research activity in 2010, he received our university's award for publishing studies in high impact journals. In 2011, he published three articles in the journal "Nonlinear Analysis: Real World Application", with a very high impact factor for a Mathematics journal. In 2012 he received the "Spiru Haret" Award from the Romanian Academy.

These results speak volumes about Professor Marin's outstanding professional achievements and his truly remarkable career.

*Vivat, Crescat, Floreat,* to our Professor Doctor Honoris Causa, Marin Marin!

Dr Olivia FLOREA, vice-dean

Dr Nicușor MINCULETE

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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## ARTS, TRADITIONS, MUSIC AND DANCE AT THE ETNOVEMBER FESTIVAL 2019

The Etnovember Festival 2019 took place between 16 and 19 November. The festival is a cultural project developed by the Faculty of Wood Engineering, with the financial support of the City Hall and co-financed by our university. Each year, the Etnovember cultural projects are submitted in the competition launched by the City Hall. The project manager and head of the festival is Dr Alin M. Olărescu.



The Etnovember Festival is a fixture on our city's cultural agenda, being one of the local cultural events with the longest tradition after 1989. It is a celebration of diversity in various guises: creative domains, ethnic diversity, diversity of locations, diversity and flexibility of the target groups it is aimed at, international participants. Its three-day structure has remained constant over the years, and the local community has grown accustomed to it.



On 16 November, our university's Aula Magna hosted 35+ exhibition stands and interactive artistic events in the field of visual arts—painting and mixed techniques, graphics, architecture, restoration, design, photography, decorations and traditional crafts—ceramics, embroidery, knitting, traditional techniques with modern applications. The exhibitions

were remarkable in the consistency of their layout and in the elegance of the stands designed by Dr Ioan Muscu and his team of thirty-seven student organizers from the Faculty of Wood Engineering. The festival brought together 30 artists and guests from Belgium, Austria, the Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Germany, as well as top specialists in the field of architecture, design, art history, famous craftsmen who help preserve and renew the Romanian traditions.

On the evening of 17 November, in Belgium, Norbert Detaeye gave a piano and voice performance in his Gospel Concert. The event was livestreamed in one of the churches in Braşov. The next day the Weavers' Bastion hosted the Medieval Fair, which included, among others, music and dance, and involved 13 national and international groups, (Belgium and Japan), which was followed by a Medieval torchlight procession and the *Adrenalize* fireball show by the Hypnosis group in the City Square. On the same day, the Multicultural Centre hosted a German-language theatrical experiment entitled *Die Professoressa*, artfully created by Professor Carmen-Elizabeth Puchianu accompanied by the Duo Elena and Paul Cristian (violin and piano).

On the last day, the festival ended with a Marathon of Poetry at the Faculty of Letters. The special guest of this edition was the German language poet Michael Astner. In the evening, the concert of *Trei Parale* musical group, that used more than 25 old instruments, recreated the bucolic atmosphere of the Romanian villages, then of the times of the Fanariot boyars and of the Bucharest parties at the beginning of the 20th century. Their performance came out as a beautiful and fit corollary of Etnovember 2019.

Dr Marina Cristina CIONCA  
Faculty of Wood Engineering

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## THE FIRST MUSEUM VIRTUAL ASSISTANT IN ROMANIA BASED ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROPOSED BY TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

The Brașov County Council and “Casa Mureșenilor” Museum, in collaboration with Transilvania University of Brașov and the School Inspectorate of Brașov county, carried out the cultural project “IA – the first museum virtual assistant in Romania based on artificial intelligence”, which was officially launched at the beginning of November. This project was financed by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (AFCN), as part of the material culture projects, and it took four months to complete.



The project put forth an innovative solution to protect and promote the patrimony with the help of artificial intelligence. “I.A.” is a feminine avatar, which can be seen on a TV screen and is able to supply around 400 pieces of information in Romanian about the history of Brașov, the museum, the exhibition and its content. The museum virtual assistant is programmed to take part in conversations, use non-verbal language (gestures, facial expressions) in a friendly manner, facilitating the visitors’ access to the museum.



Our university’s team that carried out the technical part of this project was made up of Dr Octavian Machidon (from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science), Dr Răzvan Boboc and Dr. Mihai Duguleană (from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering).

Following the planned visits to the museum by ten classes of students from various local schools and high schools, the research team was able to test and improve the application, and in the future, it will complete and update the database of the virtual assistant with new information, meant to increase the public’s accessibility to the values of the local and national cultural patrimony.

Dr Mihai DUGULEANĂ  
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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## FIRST PRIZE FOR STUDENTS AT THE FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGICAL ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEST "STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION – SDC"

On 28 November *Dunărea de Jos* University at Galați was the venue of the first edition of "Student Design Competition – SDC" organized by the Faculty of Engineering and the Polymer Processing Center of Excellence (CE-PP). The main aim of this competition was to foster ingenuity in the manufacturing process and provide the engineering community with fresh perspectives on the development of industrial products. The jury consisted of representatives of industries with close professional connections to the organizing bodies.



On behalf of Transilvania University of Brașov, a team of two were present at the competition lineup: Ionuț Stelian Pascariu și Marian Agafiței, master students enrolled in the program *Innovative Manufacturing Engineering*, under the supervision of Dr Sebastian Marian Zaharia.



Our students stood out owing to their theoretical background and practical skills, which allowed them to design, implement and test a radio-controlled aircraft. Their project titled "Radio-controlled aircraft manufactured by means of thermoplastic extrusion modelling" was top rated by the jury and awarded the first prize.



Throughout its development and implementation, this project had been financially supported by our university, within the *My Bachelor Project* scheme.

Dr Sebastian-Marian ZAHARIA  
Faculty de Technological Engineering and Industrial  
Management

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## COLINA LEAGUE CUP – THE SIXTH EDITION OF A SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Between 21 October and 7 November, Colina League Cup 2019, a student mini-football competition, took place at our university. Although the original format was designed for sixteen teams of students distributed in four groups, given the students' increasing interest in participating in this competition, this year the line-up included thirty-two teams that were distributed in eight groups.



The draw for the groups took place on 16 November at the university's Aula Magna in a ceremony similar to that organized for large European inter-club competitions, in the presence of representatives of the participating teams, of the competition referees and of national and international guests.



The winners of the first three places were "Samba Tiki Taka", "Canna Boys" (team made up exclusively

of foreign Erasmus+ students) and "El Mas Fuerte". The competition also awarded the best goalkeeper, the best player and the competition goal getter.

As with previous editions, this year's competition was organized by a team overseen by the Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Community Relations in partnership with the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports. The winning teams gained a trip to Bucharest (National Arena), to the match Romania-Sweden, part of the qualifications to the European Football Championship - Euro 2020.



The student competition was attended by famous former football players from Braşov, such as Marian Ivan, Mugurel Buga, Romeo Surdu or Rareş Forika, who played a friendly match before the final.

The enthusiasm generated by this competition among our students has determined the organizers to include it on the list of the annual manifestations of our university, as a landmark of student life.

Dr Daniel MUNTEANU – Vice-rector

Dr Bogdan OANCEA – Vice-dean

Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

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## TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY CHESS CUP

Between 30 November and 1 December, on the occasion of Romania National Day, Transilvania University of Braşov in collaboration with C.S. *Şah Club* Braşov and the County School Inspectorate organized a chess contest at "Memorandului" Student Complex Cafeteria. Out of the 110 participants in this 2nd edition of the competition, 20 came from the University, 70 were children, and 20 adults.



The special nature of this edition lay in the participants' talent, as well as their diversity: among them there were multiple medallists in Junior National Championships and European Championships from various cities, such as Braşov, Brăila, Galaţi, Târgu Mureş, Cluj-Napoca, Bucureşti, Turda, Târgu-Secuiesc, Miercurea-Ciuc, Sfântu Gheorghe, and Sibiu.

The *Open General* Contest was won by Răzvan Dicu, a 3rd year undergraduate student at Transilvania University of Braşov; the 2nd place went to Petruţ Sandor, and the 3rd place was won by Armand Veress, a Middle School pupil at No. The 1st place in the women's category was won by Daria Vişănescu, a Master's student at the Faculty of Psychology at Cluj Napoca; the 2nd place went to Denisa Bucur, an 11th grader at "Dr. Ioan Meşotă" National College, and the 3rd place was won by Luciana Gabriela Stan, a 7th grade pupil at "Dr. Ioan Meşotă" National College.

The ranking of the students of Transilvania University of Braşov placed Răzvan Dicu in 1st place, Andrei Constandache in 2nd place, and Cristian Motorga in 3rd place.



From among the teaching staff of the University, the first three prizes were awarded to Ioan Gabriel Stan, Claudiu Coman, and Adrian Damşescu.



Present during the award ceremony were also Dr Daniel Munteanu, Vice-rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, Dr Claudiu Coman, Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, and top-seeded Grandmaster Ciprian Nanu of Romania's National Team, who awarded the prizes to the winners. Further details about the final results of the competition and the participants' performances are available at [www.chess-results.com](http://www.chess-results.com).

Dr Claudiu COMAN, Dean  
Cristina Maria BULARCA, Master's student  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

## THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MOUNTAIN SPORTS. DEVELOPING NEW COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS

The Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports organized the annual international conference in which current topics in the field were presented and debated. The event brought together prestigious personalities from Romania and abroad, many of whom we had already met and signed collaboration agreements with.



In this context, between 6 and 10 November, Dr Ioan Turcu and Dr Dragoş Ioan Tohănean, Dean and Vice-dean, respectively, of the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports visited the Faculty of Sports Studies of Brno (Czech Republic).

The Faculty of Sports Studies belongs to Masarykova University of Brno and supplies higher education based on quality foundations consisting of a wide spectrum of social, biomedical disciplines and physical education, reflecting societal changes through coherent learning and supporting cultural development and the inclusion of sport in the life of the local population.



The Faculty develops research activities, and offers exceptional conditions for doctoral studies. During this visit, we participated in the *12th International Conference on Kinanthropology - Sport and Quality of Life* scientific event, a conference organized by the Faculty of Sports Studies of Brno (Czech Republic) in collaboration with the Faculty of Kinesiology of Zagreb (Croatia). The collaboration between these two specialized faculties from two different countries motivated us to try join into this current trend. In this sense, we already have a proposal from the Faculty of Zagreb, with the details of the collaboration still to be discussed.

Besides inviting various professors in the field of sport to the international conference organized yearly by our faculty and creating international relations with specialized faculties from Europe and South Africa, we also signed a collaboration agreement with Martin Zvonar, Dean of the Faculty of Sport Studies of Brno.

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

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## THE DREAM LIVES ON!

December is that time of year when we express our gratitude for lessons learned and experience acquired. It is the time when we look back and analyse what we did well, where things went wrong, and what we can do to improve in the future.

In what follows we are going to go back to the end of September, when we successfully concluded another Formula Student season.

### *The Researchers' Night*

On 27 September, the R&D Institute of our university was the venue of the "Researchers' Night", an annual event taking place simultaneously in over 300 European cities, on the last Friday in the month of September, in celebration of knowledge, ingenuity, and the benefits of research.

BlueStreamline represented Transilvania University of Braşov in this event, allowing the viewers to admire the 11 one-seaters designed by our team, while finding out the story behind these blue race cars.

This year, the teams made a demonstration for all the racing buffs. One of the one-seaters involved was the BS09, the first-time runner in the Formula Student U.K.



### *Orientation Day 2019*

For BlueStreamline, the beginning of each academic year carries a special significance. The 1st October also means the beginning of a new season, a new team structure, new challenges, resolutions and hopes.

On 30 September there took place the Orientation Day. This gave first year students, mainly, a chance to meet the community that they will belong to for the next few years. All those present were able to satisfy their curiosity and get answers straight from members of our team.



This is how they found out about the ways in which our team managed to divide their time between their academic tasks and their passion, about the theoretical knowledge and practical skills they acquired, and the level of commitment needed to balance between these aspects of their lives.

### *BlueStreamline la Colina Rally Show*



On 18 and 19 October were the dates of the finals in the "Dunlop Races National Championship", TESS Rally 48. Our joy was beyond words. Our task was to open for the third event in "Colina Rally Show". Our cars ran the 2.5 km of tarmac, proudly piloted by Mihai Comşiş, Cătălin Buşiu, Raul Ardeleanu, Ştefan Poienaru, Matei Ambăruş, Alexandru Ghişa, Dragoş Dragomir, and Horia Andronic and hailed by an enthusiastic public.



### *Demo Metal*

Between 5 and 8 November, Lux Divina played host to the 11th edition of "Demo Metal 2019".

The main theme around which the event revolved was *Smart Factory (Digital Transformation Hub)*, and the context facilitated the contact with professionals and becoming acquainted with the latest in the field of manufacturing processes. "Demo Metal" targets specialists in metal processing and is considered one of the most important events of this kind.

In this context, our team showcased the Formula Student one-seaters BS11 and BS17. This gave us an opportunity to share with technology enthusiasts our goals and the results we obtained over the course of time.



The beginning of November came with a number of changes in the structure of our team: it marked the kick-off of the headhunting season for the BlueStreamline Rookies.

In conclusion, 2019 was an exciting experience; 2020: We are ready. Our dream lives on!

Dr Mihai COMȘIȚ  
BlueStreamline Coordinator  
Faculty of Product Design and Environment  
Mădălina TANSANU, student  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## THE 30TH EDITION OF THE *15 NOVEMBER CROSS-COUNTRY RACE*

For over years the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports has been involved in the organization of the *15 November Cross-Country Race*, an extremely important for the community of Braşov.

The 15 November Cross-Country Race combines the anniversary of the workers' strike of 1987 with the celebration of the sport movement today. In the aftermath of the 1987 strike, seven students who supported the strikers were arrested, expelled from university, sent home, and kept under close watch by the communist authorities. Currently, 100+ volunteer students get involved annually in this sports competition acting as referees, course monitors, etc.



Our collaboration with the Braşov County Athletic Association took the 30th edition of this competition to a different level. It brought in the support of public authorities, which ultimately contributed to the promotion on a larger scale of physical exercise, at both amateur and professional level.



Thanks are due to all the people involved for their commitment and professionalism.

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

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## UNFRAMED EXHIBITION 2019

Between 11 and 14 November, the Faculty of Product Design and Environment played host to Unframed Exhibition 2019, an event which provides the institutional framework for Industrial Design Students to display for the public the work they completed throughout an academic year.



The painting and graphic design exhibition “Unframed 2019” premiered on 11 November, and its venue was a very public space—the hallway of building E on the university’s Hill Campus.



Organizers of the event were 16 senior students from the Romanian and English language programs *Industrial Design*, who showcased an overall of 77 exhibits—graphic art, oil and acrylic painting—that they assembled during their summer practicum. These works combine the strengths associated with a background in design, an artist’s sense of colour and proportion, and creativity. All these are competencies and skills developed by the curriculum of the Industrial Design program.

The date of the exhibition coincided with the opening of the faculty’s Design Club aimed at creating a nurturing environment that would enable students to develop their knowledge and hone their professional skills in a less formal, yet structured

context, with the view of increasing the graduates’ chances of employability.



“Unframed 2019” attracted a large turnout, including representatives of the university and faculty management, whose addresses prefaced this event attended by students and staff from different faculties, as well as a more general public interested in this area of design.



We are grateful for their support and for sharing with us in this experience. Above all, credit is due to the students who made it happen: Denise-Alexandra Bouroș, Diana Ioana Ciocan, Ionela Cătălina Mititelu, Sabrina Ștefania Stroe, Alexandra Papuc, Mădălina Crăciun, Marina Corina Toma, Diana Păpătoiu, Luiza Timofte, Nicoleta Rinjea, Mădălina Gherghiniș, Bianca Lazarencu, Cosmin Ion, Dana Condrea, Andrada Șerban, and Elena Eftodi, incoming Erasmus+ student from Chișinău.

Dr Mihai COMȘIȚ  
Design Club Coordinator,  
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

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## TWO EVENINGS OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE CULTURE AT CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

On 27 and 28 November, The Confucius Institute at Braşov hosted an event dedicated to contemporary Chinese culture. This occasioned the visit of two prestigious guests who responded the joint invitation by The Confucius Institute at Transilvania University of Braşov and The Confucius Institute at the University of Bucharest: novelist Liu Zhenyun, one of the most popular contemporary Chinese writers, and young movie director Liu Yulin.

The poster is divided into two main sections. The top section is for the evening of 27 November at 17:30 h, featuring a portrait of Liu Zhenyun and the book cover for 'NU MI-AM OMORĂT BĂRBATUL'. It lists participants: Luminița Bălan, Adrian Lăcătuș, Roxana Rîbu, and Șerban Toader. The bottom section is for the evening of 28 November at 17:00 h, featuring a portrait of Liu Yulin and the movie poster for 'A word is worth ten thousand words'. The poster includes logos for the University of Transilvania of Braşov, the Confucius Institute, and Humanitas Fiction. At the bottom, it states 'Institutul Confucius al Universității Transilvania din Braşov / Bd Eroilor 29'.

Dedicated to promoting Chinese culture, the first evening was dedicated to a presentation of the novel "I did not kill my husband" written by Liu Zhenyun and published by Humanitas Fiction earlier this year. Besides the author, participants in the discussion were professor Luminița Bălan, Director of The Confucius Institute at the University of Bucharest, as well as Dr Roxana Rîbu and Dr Șerban Toader, faculty staff at Transilvania University of Braşov.

The evening of 28 November was dedicated to viewing the 2016 movie "A word is worth ten thousand words", translated into English as "Someone to talk to", a screen adaptation of Liu Zhenyun's eponymous novel.



The film viewing presented us with the opportunity to meet the author/screenwriter Liu Zhenyun and young director Liu Yulin, acting as ambassadors of the Chinese culture and answering questions from the audience at the end of the movie. Thus, we found out that the sets and the scenes were filmed on real locations with real practices and local people, which enhanced the authenticity of this audio-visual adaptation of the novel.

The story in "Someone to talk to" references one of the chapters in the novel "I did not kill my husband", the story of a marriage set against the background of a small provincial town in China.

Overall, the most important aspect of the movie relates to its purpose: highlighting the serious consequences that the lack communication in a relationship has and the people who can be impacted by break-ups—a real and increasingly common issue in today's society.

Sebastian DUMITRAȘCU and Ionuț-George CIUREZU  
1st year students, Digital Media

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE SCIENCE OF MUSIC – EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE

Between 30 October and 1 November, the Faculty of Music at Transilvania University of Braşov organized the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Conference “The Science of Music – Excellence in Performance”. The papers covered topics related to Musicology, Composition, Music Education, Vocal Arts Performance, Ethnomusicology and Ethnology, Cultural Management.



The participants were teaching staff, doctors in music from higher and secondary education, as well as doctoral students from Romania and abroad: Portugal, France, Germany, and Hungary. To promote our Faculty of Music, guests at the conference were also music teachers from music high schools in Slobozia, Focşani, and Bacău.

Among the special guests from abroad were Dr Liliana Bizineche, a Braşov-born professor at University of Évora in Portugal and an international soloist who impressed the audience with details about the professional collaboration with Maestro Yehudi Menuhin, George Enescu’s favourite pupil. From the same university was also Dr Marcos Alexandre Freire dos Santos, a tenor with a rich international performing and educational activity. Equally interesting were the papers of the other participants from abroad: Dr Théodora Psychoyos, musicologist from Sorbonne University of Paris; Dr Reka Palocz, professor of canto, folklore, and music education from Franz Liszt Music Academy in

Budapest; Dr Sam Chapman, professor of lute at Berlin University of the Arts.

A special presence in the conference was Dr Jean-Christophe Frisch, performer of baroque flute and professor at Sorbonne University in Paris. Participating in the conference for the second time, he performed a concert-lesson about baroque performance of brass instruments. The topic sparked the students’ interest in instrumental performance in various eras and aesthetic trends.

Minutely organized Dr Ioan Oarcea and Dr Mădălina Rucsanda from the Faculty of Music in Braşov, the international conference enjoyed great popularity and interest among the participants. The diverse and complex topics approached by all the participants, which were presented in English, Romanian, Hungarian, French or German, were followed with interest by the participants in the conference, a large number of students at the Faculty of Music in Braşov, and teachers at “Tudor Ciortea” Music High School in Braşov, who appreciated the quality of the information, as well as the presenters’ knowledge.



The conference was a good environment for the development of both professional networks and friendships, and the invited professors from Romania and the European university centres expressed interest in returning to Braşov and continuing this important intercultural exchange.

Teodor-Aurelian SOPORAN, doctoral student  
Transilvania University of Braşov

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOOD SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING – ICWSE 2019

Every other year, in November, the traditional *International Conference of Wood Science and Engineering* (ICWSE) takes place at the Faculty of Wood Engineering.



This year, the conference reached its 12th edition under the aegis of elite organizations like *Forest Products Society* (FPS), *The International Union of Forest Research Organizations* (IUFRO), and *The Society of Wood Science and Technology* (SWST), as well as four partner universities, namely *University of Tennessee Knoxville*, *Salzburg University of Applied Sciences* (FHS), *Stellenbosch University*, and *Shizuoka University*.

The conference brought together 100 participants from 24 countries on four continents: Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Lithuania, Great Britain, Nigeria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, and Romania.

The 75 presentations and 10 posters took place on 7 and 8 November; they were streamlined into eleven panel sessions covering a wide range of wood-related subjects, such as “Wood structure and properties”, “Wood drying and heat treatments”, “Wood-based materials”, “Mechanical wood processing”, “Surface quality”, “Wood preservation, chemical wood modification, wood gluing and coating”, “Conservation-restoration of furniture and wooden objects”, “Furniture design”, “Wood constructions”, “Renewable energy from wooden biomass”, and “Economics in wood industry”.

Adding to the quality of the presentations were four plenaries by prominent researchers: Dr Mark Irle, research director at *Ecole Supérieure du Bois*, Nantes (France), and president of InnoVAWood, Dr Peter Rademacher, international expert in research and affiliated to *Mendel University Brno* (the Czech Republic), Dr Timothy Young, professor at *Centre for Renewable Carbon - University of Tennessee* (USA) and former president of *Forest Products Society*, and Dr Marius Cătălin Barbu on behalf of Transilvania University of Braşov, coordinator of IUFRO Division 5 and of *Forest Products Society* – Europe section.

Supported enthusiastically by its participants, the conference has been gaining popularity with every edition, becoming one of the forums for professional discussion that specialists gladly return to.

Dr Lidia GURĂU  
ICWSE 2019 Coordinator

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## CIBV 2019- INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CIVIL ENGINEERING & BUILDING SERVICES

On 1 and 2 of November, the Faculty of Civil Engineering in collaboration with the Academy of Technical Sciences of Romania - Civil Engineering and Urbanism Section, and Shenyang Jianzhu University, China organized the 14th International Scientific Conference CIBv ([cibv.unitbv.ro](http://cibv.unitbv.ro)). The event invited professors, master students and doctoral students, as well as practitioners in the field of civil engineering from ten countries: Romania, China, Serbia, Russia, Japan, Slovakia, Croatia, Finland, Norway and Germany.



The conference is one of the most important scientific events in the field of civil engineering and building services in Romania, and has over the time become increasingly visible internationally.

The conference aims at offering an open working platform to researchers, academics and worldwide professionals. Additionally, the conference becomes a hub for exchanging ideas and practical experiences, as well as for identifying partners in view of future collaborations.

Among the session topics approached were the *structural analysis and optimization, reinforced concrete structures, steel structures, timber structures, computer-aided design of structures, railways, roads and bridges, geotechnics and foundations, consolidation of buildings, experimental methods in investigation of structures, advanced energy design for HVAC installations, energy*

*performance of buildings and installations, efficient buildings based on renewable energy, high performance lighting systems for buildings, new materials and technologies in building industry, fire safety of buildings.*



The first scientific event organized by the Faculty of Civil Engineering was held in 2002, at the initiative of the late professor Atanasie Talpoși, and was entitled Anniversary Scientific Session – Building Services (CIB 2002). Since 2012, the event has been organized annually under the title *International Scientific Conference (CIBv)*.



Dr Radu MUNTEAN  
Faculty of Civil Engineering

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## 5th EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC THERAPY THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC AND WORD

Between 15 and 17 November, our university played host to the 5th edition of the International Conference on Music Therapy, an event which brings together specialists from Romania and abroad. Like with previous editions, this year's event was a forum fostering the exchange of information on the latest developments in musical therapy, sharing research results, expertise and practice in the field.



The highlight of the event was the presence of three invitees from India: prof. Mamatha M.N. from BMS College of Engineering in Bangalore, prof. R.K. Bharati from Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering at Mysore and prof. Geetha Kiran from Malnad College of Engineering at Hassan. Their talks highlighted the role of music and of Indian ragas in traditional healing methods that make use of musical therapy.

Among the Romanian and foreign speakers were Dr Stela Drăgulin, Dr Doru Ursuțiu, Dr Ecaterina Unianu, Dr Daciana Lupu, Dr Alina Alexandrina Babii, Dr Valentin Munteanu – all from Transilvania University, Dr Florin Munteanu from the Centre for Complexity Studies UNESCO), Monica Szabo (Centre for Inclusive Education no. 1, at Oradea), psychologists Dr Cristina Sava, Fulvia Anca Constantin, musical therapists Hazel Child and Alexia Quin from *Music as Therapy*, U.K.



The conference format consisted of conference presentations delivered in the first half of all three days and workshops run in the latter half of the first two days. The presentations were focused, among others, on the instrument systems in musical therapy, therapy from an info-energy-material perspective, and the importance of language in diagnosis. The workshops gave participants an opportunity to experiment with novel techniques and work methods that make use of sounds and music in professional therapeutic practice, management of emotions via musical therapy, ways to conclude a therapy session, etc.



The conference also afforded our master students in musical therapy the opportunity to share their thoughts and experience on the beneficial effects of music in therapy.

Noémi KARÁCSONY  
Doctoral student  
Faculty of Music

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## PSI WEEK AT BRAȘOV – A TRADITIONAL EVENT

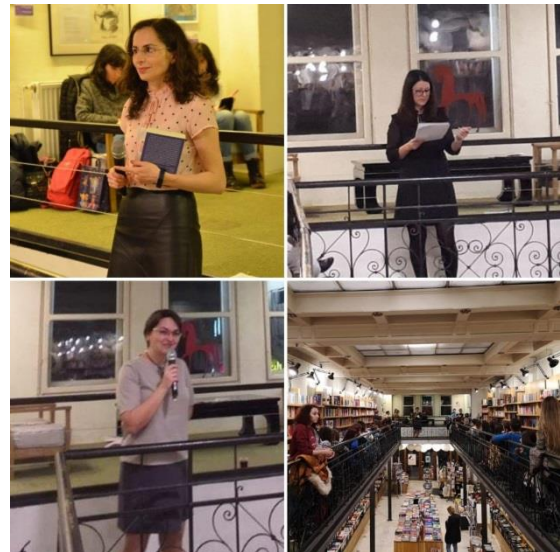
It has already become a yearly tradition that, at the beginning of November, the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences co-organizes, with TREI Publishing House and Cărturești Bookstore the "PSI Week".



Therefore, between 11 and 15 November, the people who came together on the premises of Cărturești Bookstore had a chance to find out answers to questions such as "How do we cope with physical or emotional pain? Are we strong enough to pull through? How do deal with people who make our lives miserable? How to say 'no' effectively and with as much damage control as possible? Is digital technology changing our way of thinking? Is the internet addictive? Are fairy tales the most basic reflections of a collective subconsciousness? Does understanding symbols provide us with a key to understanding popular wisdom, arts and literature? What gestures and facial expressions are potentially misleading in face-to-face interactions? Are bedside manners universal constructs? If so, can they be learned from books? What books? How useful are such soft skills in private and professional life?

From Monday through Friday, readers of all ages, students, practising psychologists, pre-university teachers took part in lectures and debates on highly

topical issues approached by faculty staff and experts in psychology:



- Who am I, what what is my part in my own life and in the lives of others? – Roxana Ioana Hosu;
- How to cope with toxic people? – Mariela Pavalache-Ilie;
- The online brain and the absent-minded mind: how do solutions that are a click away affect our way of thinking? – Ana Maria Cazan;
- Fairy tales and stories – the children's word and their way of expressing themselves – Ramona Henter;
- Interpersonal communication in professional and in social settings – Marcela Rodica Luca.

In a casual, relaxed atmosphere, the public joined the ensuing discussions, showing interest in the topics approached.

Dr Laura-Elena NĂSTĂȘĂ

Dr Ana-Maria CAZAN

Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STUDENTS OF TOURISM AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT (MEKST)

As the absolute winner of the international competition *Turizmijada - Tourism Case Study Challenge - The hotel of tomorrow* (Budva, Montenegro), the team from the Faculty of Food and Tourism was the special invitee of the international conference of Students of Tourism and Hotel Management (MEKST).



The MEKST conference was held between 22 and 24 November at Novi Sad, Serbia, and brought together specialists and researchers who shared their expertise with the 1,000 participant students. The three conference panels focused on Applying digital marketing in tourism; New trends in hotel management – group discussion on “Are we ready to become the digital travellers of tomorrow?”; MICE tourism.

Our team was made up of Teodora Maria Pănoiu and Natalia Rus (Crihălmean), 4<sup>th</sup> year students in Engineering and Management in Tourism (IMIT) and their mentor, Dr Diana Foriș.



Regarding the participation in the conference, Teodora Maria Pănoiu confessed: “It was indeed a highly useful experience, one of the best of my academic experiences”, and Natalia Rus (Crihălmean) concluded upon returning: “Novi Sad impressed me with its hospitality and youthful atmosphere, enhanced even more by the successful participation in an event exclusively dedicated to students who are keen on hospitality industry and tourism.



The discussions during the conference approached highly topical issues, providing me with a new perspective on things and added to my previous knowledge.”

This was a view shared by all participants, who regarded the conference as a truly engaging and enriching experience.

Dr Diana FORIȘ  
Faculty of Food and Tourism

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## CAREER DAYS 2019

Between the 25 and 27 November, our university hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Career Days, an event organized by the Department of Information, Counselling and Career Guidance (CICOC) in partnership with the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences. In line with the previous editions, students and field specialists shared the ingredients of success as far as finding workplaces is concerned.



The event program included two workshops each day, with the following topics:

- Making informed career decisions;
- Becoming an indispensable employee;
- Best practice at job interviews;
- A successful interview and the communication with the employer;
- Managing stress and making a good impression during the interview;
- Do's and don'ts at the beginning of one's career.

This year's guests were Roxana Elena Beleaua and Raluca Keresztes from Schaeffler Romania, Mioara Pascal on behalf of Fan Courier Braşov, Dumitru Ciolan from Halian Luxemburg, Raluca Proca and Alexandra Topală representing Lugera Romania.

The 150 students who attended the event had the opportunity to also discuss privately with our guests about their career choices.



The students' opinions, collected via feedback forms, showed their appreciation for this useful event and for the professional competence of the trainers.

This feedback will assist us in improving all the services offered to students and alumni.

The event was organized with the support of volunteer students from the Psychology study program as well as from the Work and Organizational Psychology and Human Resources master program.

Dr Camelia TRUȚA  
CICOC Coordinator

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## NEWS FROM CICOC

This semester, the Department for Information, Counselling and Career Guidance (CICOC) launched two new services for students and alumni, *CV Feedback* and *Career Self-kit*, meant to support them in the process of improving their vocational self-management skills.



*CV Feedback* is a fast, online method by means of which students and alumni can get instant recommendations on how to improve their CVs when they apply for a scholarship, internship, or a job.

This service uses an online form (<https://www.unitbv.ro/cicoc.html>) to which the CV can be enclosed. Students will get feedback from CICOC vocational counsellors, specialists from the economic environment and CICOC volunteer students.

*The Career Self-kit* is an informative booklet for senior students which includes details about educational or professional options after graduation: enrolling in further study programs and complementary training, volunteering and internship, employment, entrepreneurship. The students are also advised on how to promote themselves in order to reach their short term goals. The booklet was designed in collaboration with volunteer students from the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences and the Faculty of Sociology and Communication.

*CV Feedback* and *Career Self-kit* have been developed within the framework of the CNFIS-FDI-2019-0237 project: *Combining classical and online methods in view of increasing the convergence, coherence and efficiency of the communication between university, students and the business sector*, with Dr Bianca Tescașiu as project manager.

Dr Camelia TRUȚA  
CICOC Coordinator

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## EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES -"SOCIAL WELFARE, BETWEEN CHALLENGE AND CERTAINTY"

On 13 November, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication in partnership with the local branch of The National Association of Social Workers in Romania (CNASR) organized an exchange between academics and practitioners—an event that will hopefully become a tradition—titled "Social Welfare, between Challenge and Certainty".



Among the participants were social workers Nicoleta Meret, and Daniela Bayer, president and vice-president, respectively, of the local branch of CNASR, nine social workers practising in public institutions, in a private practice and in various local NGOs; on behalf of our university, the participants included Dr Mihaela Gotea and 40+ undergraduate students enrolled in the Social Welfare program.

The event began with shortlisting the students' expectations and interests related to social work, followed by talks given by the professionals present, each outlining their job description and the nature of their work in close connection with their respective workplaces, sub-field of social work and target groups. The speakers related useful information about their beginnings in the profession, to the landmark moments on their career path, the obstacles they met on the way, the strategies used to circumvent them and the self-protection mechanisms typically resorted to under such circumstances.

Referring to the students' practicum, the social workers representing the local public administration recapped the elements that make up a successful practicum and the difficulties that students may come across in the process. They emphasized the importance of volunteering in the students' training and explained some specificities related to gaining employment in the social work system. This has led to discussion about employer expectations, competitive advantages in acquiring a job, the entry level employment, the stages in the professional competencies required, the payment in the public and the private sectors.



At the end of the exchange, the participating students received advice relative to their prospective careers, while the social workers outlined the plans for their own future professional development. A proposal was made to organize more such exchanges in the future, on topics relevant to our students.

Dr Mihaela GOTEA  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## ON DOCU-EDUCATION – WHAT DOCUMENTARIES CAN TEACH US

The cinema is an important facilitator in the attempt to understand the social, political, and cultural particularities of the XXth century. This was the premise for an event involving the screen projection, between 4 and 7 November, of four documentary films of relevance to students from three faculties: Law, Letters, and Sociology and Communication.



The event was a retrospective view of the *Festival International du Film d'Histoire de Pessac* which kicked off in 1990, becoming a fixture in the cultural landscape in France ever since. The topics approached are highly relevant to the viewers, which allows a fresh view on the evolution of public reception.



The organizers of the first two days were *Asociația Mioritics* and *Festivalul de Film și Istorie Râșnov*. The documentaries were particularly relevant to the students at the Faculty of Law, as they told the stories of the capture and trial of war criminal Klaus Barbie. Following the viewing, Liviu Tofan (Radio Free Europe journalist between 1974 and 1992) and Cosmin Budeancă (Managing Director of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania), shared the

Romanian perspective on the secret services between 1970 and 1980, formulating answers to the question whether or not crimes against humanity should have a statute of limitations.

The documentary *The Island of Light* (2017, director Nicolas Jallot) was targeted at the students in Sociology and Communication. It related the tragedy of refugees fleeing from the communist regimes in Vietnam and Laos or the terror of the Khmer Rouges in Cambodia. The debates generated by this documentary extended well beyond the allocated time, which is unsurprising, considering that the guest was film critic Irina-Margareta Nistor. The discussions touched upon the day-to-day life under a communist regime, and the productions that should be the staples of a student's film culture.



Screened at the university's Multicultural Centre, *Jurnalul familiei -escu* (The Diary of the Doe Family) told the story of millions of Romanians who, under very difficult circumstances, had no choice but to co-exist within the same space and put up with one another, just like with a large family. Șerban Georgescu, the director of the documentary, searched for data together with Ioana Pârvulescu, Mihaela Miroiu, Sorin Ioniță, Stelian Theodor Paleologu și Vintilă Mihăilescu, and tapping into the personal archives of scores of anonymous informants.

Dr Florin NECHITA  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## STUDY TRIP OF STUDENTS FROM THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

On 14 November a group of business students enrolled in the undergraduate programs *The Economy of Commerce, Tourism and Services*, and *Marketing* took study trip to Bucharest in the company of four faculty staff. The aim of this trip was to allow the students to see how some of the theoretical concepts acquired in school are put into practice. The places visited were the Tourism Fair and the Romanian Athenaeum.



This gave our students an opportunity to interact with different kinds of tourism operators and to analyse the content of their respective business offers. The students were also able to see the actual promotion strategies used in the field of tourism.



As a result of the visit, the students were able to perform a comparative analysis of the operators' stands, and of the ways to describe and promote the tourist destinations and, on this basis, to make suggestions for improvement.

Dr Ioana CHIȚU, Vice-dean,  
Dr Codruța BĂLTESCU  
Dr Alina TECĂU  
Dr Cristinel CONSTANTIN

Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business  
Administration

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## THE DOCTORAL STUDENT 2019 EVENT AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY

On 15 November the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (SDI) within Transilvania University of Braşov opened officially in the context of *Doctoral Student 2019*, an event held at the university's R&D Institute. The event brought together the management of TUB and of SDI, teaching staff, and new enrollees in various doctoral programs who are expected to devote the next few years of their lives to developing as top ranking professionals. Here are the first thoughts imparted by some representatives of the latest cohort of doctoral students at our university:

*"The representatives of the university management gave us a warm welcome, introduced us to the services relevant to our needs, and took us on a guided tour of the research institute—a generous campus for interdisciplinary research, for testing and experimentation, an infrastructure providing the researcher with a suitable work environment in which novel ideas can be developed and implemented. Welcome to all my fellow doctoral students and good luck with to us all!"* (Andreea Dobre, doctoral student in Philology, advisor prof. Marinela Burada).

*"The host of the event, prof. Maria Cristina Timar, director of the doctoral school, introduced us to the services available to the graduate students. Prof. Carmen Buzea, Vice-rector, gave us an outline of the Research Policy at TUB, highlighting its two main parameters: internationalization (via research mobilities) and excellence in research. Also, prof. Mircea Ţierean, President of the Senate, encouraged the new doctoral students to avail themselves of the research equipment in place at the research institute, to take part in conferences and dissemination events, and to publish the results of their work.*

*Prof. Monica Răileanu Szeles designed an optional course in Politics and European regional development for novice doctoral students that touches upon such topics as the Erasmus program, project writing and team work, EU politics, etc., while prof. Camelia Drăghici described the benefits of the Erasmus+ program".* (Lucia Chitul, doctoral student in Philology, advisor prof. Ovidiu Moceanu).

*"As with every school opening, this was an emotional moment for me. Entering the institute, I was impressed*

*with its architecture. The wide and well-lit space made me think of an airport. This is the image that I took with me back home. We were introduced to the different doctoral domains, the doctoral advisors, the outgoing mobilities available, and even to the new optional course in European projects. All this chimed with the idea of journey—a journey of discovery to the world of science; it was as if everyone of us was preparing to embark on a plane bound for a completely new but always wished for destination. This said, I wish all the doctoral students what I wish for myself: enjoy your flight!"* (Gabriela Tutunea, doctoral student in Philology, advisor prof. Marinela Burada).



*"My heartfelt thanks to the SDI team and to all those involved in organizing the memorable Doctoral Student 2019. I use the word 'memorable' because to me, a newly enrolled doctoral student, this day has been an eye-opener to the opportunities that both SDI and TUB have in store for me, as well as a joyous new beginning on the path of research, a joy that will stay with me, I am sure. My enthusiasm, the hearty welcome, the smiling faces and the impeccable planning of this event are the best words to describe this event. The badges, the useful briefings, the break, the guided tours and the festive atmosphere created the impression that I now belong to a wider family. In short, Doctoral Student 2019 was a necessary and very useful event for a neophyte like me!"* (Mădălina Elena Roşcăneanu, doctoral student in Philology, advisor prof. Marinela Burada).

Dr Maria Cristina TIMAR and the SDI team

## STUDENTS WELCOMED BEHIND THE SCENES OF VITESCO TECHNOLOGIES ROMÂNIA

How is life in a production plant? This was the question that inspired the study trip that 60 undergraduate students from Transilvania University took to Vitesco Technologies. In this context, two visits coordinated by Dr Georgiana Limbășan, on behalf of Transilvania University of Brașov, were organized on 28 November and 3 December, respectively.



The students had the opportunity to find out the technical details behind the fuel units and the AdBlue fluid transfer units. These details were supplied by TUB graduates currently working for Vitesco Technologies România.

The students were provided with first-hand information about the production flows, the technical risks on the production line, quality-related issues, and the technologies used.

The highlight of the tour was, as expected, the robots, a cutting-edge technology that piqued everybody's interest.



Apart from the guided tour, the students learned about the internships available with the company, as well as about the opportunities to draft their Bachelor or Dissertation projects under the supervision of mentors from among the company's specialists.

In brief, the two study trips were informative because they allowed the students a glimpse into the main production processes; they were also useful and relevant because they gave the students an idea of what the labour market can offer them at this time.

Roxana GABOR and Ștefana CEANGĂU  
Vitesco Technologies

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## STUDENTS PRACTICING TOLERANCE

Any form of expression, whatever its colour, tradition, meaning or message or, in a word, diversity commands our respect and appreciation, and requires open-mindedness, freedom of thinking and of speech. It is nurtured by a sense of justice, harmony and cooperation.

Around 16 official documents related to the issue of tolerance were identified in 1995, when UNESCO declared 16 November The International Day for Tolerance. We live in a world of increasing threat, abuse, fear and tension, a world in which globalization itself becomes a backdrop for intolerance. What can we do about it?



Our belief, at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Science, is that one readily available solution is education; as Nelson Mandela stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world".

In this spirit, our faculty is committed to taking every opportunity to promote tolerance by creating a teaching and learning environment apt to enhance awareness and to allowing for the practice of tolerance. Appropriate contexts were therefore created to help participants to internalise the

essence of tolerance and how it can mediate our interaction with people from vulnerable groups, promoting in this way the fundamental principles of inclusive education.



The activity on 16 November was cast in the format of poster presentation. Five themed posters were introduced to the public: (1) What is tolerance? (2) A short history – when is the notion first introduced? (3) Who declared the International Day for Tolerance? (4) Trivia and (5) Integration strategies of special needs persons for the use of teachers and pupils in public education.

At 11.20 a.m. on 16 November the student organizers knocked on the door of every class at our faculty inviting everybody to join in this celebration of Tolerance Day. This was the first test of tolerance and it worked. While reading these lines the readers might feel inclined to ponder on what tolerance is to them and how prepared they are to exercise it.

Dr Nicoleta LUPU,  
Dr Oana Alina BOTA,  
and the 1st year student organizers from the  
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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## LITERARY-MUSICAL IMPRESSIONS AND IMPROVISIONS WITH KABARETT KAKTUS AT ETNOVEMBER 2019

On Sunday, 17th November 2019, the Etnovember Festival closed its second day at the Transilvania University Multicultural Centre with a unique artistic moment presented by the Kabarett Kaktus ensemble—a scenic reading with a parody tone, with a musical accompaniment.



Founded in 2011, Kabarett Kaktus consists of the couple known on the local music scene as Duo Cristian: Elena Cristian (violin) and Paul Cristian (piano) and Carmen Elisabeth Puchianu, professor of German literature and Creative Writing at Transilvania University of Braşov, writer, and German language theatre performer.

As stated at the beginning of the performance, this was not to be a play, but a poetic-musical improvisation supplemented by short choreographically moments, based on the latest novel by Carmen Elisabeth Puchianu, *Die Professoressa. Ein Erotikon in gebundener und ungebundener Rede* (POP Verlag, Ludwigsburg, Germany, 2019). The volume is the artist's self-portrayal under the sign of femininity and the connection between Eros and Thanatos.

The author gave a German language reading of a selection of poetry and prose, being supported by piano and violin, the entire program revolving around

the theme of personified death as central figure of the performance.

Thus, the writer embodied the figure of death - not before highlighting its elegance and grace by wearing a black tailcoat - in several situations: entertainer Death, (Entertainer Tod), Death, the nuisance (Plagegeist Tod), blabbermouth Death (Palaverer Tod), gourmand Death (Feinschmecker Tod), Death as a voyeur (Voyeur Tod), womanizer Death (Lustmolch Tod). Out of consideration for the non-German-speaking public, the author also read a poem written in Romanian (Micăsasa). The musicians kept the music in the sphere of black humour and parody by accompanying the reading with pieces like Chopin's Funeral March by Leo Kempinski, Stampede by Simon Walter, Verdi's Miserere by Leo Kempinski, Toreador Song by Bizet, Mendelssohn's and Wagner's Wedding March, Romance from "Gadfly" by Sostakovich, Sleepyshores by Johnny Pearson and Cavatina by Stanley Myers, all adapted and performed in the characteristic style of the Kabarett Kaktus ensemble.

The applause at the end of the performance and the fact that the audience was still discussing the show after leaving the Multicultural Centre can only confirm the success of the performance.

Larisa PIOARU,  
Doctoral student,  
Faculty of Letters

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## BLUE BIENNALE. THE FIRST EDITION OF THE VISUAL ARTS BIENNALE IN BRAȘOV

Between October 20 and November 20, 2019, at the initiative of Artessentia, a cultural association, the most important exhibition spaces in Brasov hosted contemporary art exhibitions within the Blue Biennale – The International Biennale of Visual Arts Brasov 2019. With the cooperation of several institutions and organizations in the city (the Multicultural Centre of the University, KunSTadt Cultural Association, Amural Association, Tipografia, UAP Brașov, Casa Mureșenilor Museum, Brașov Opera, Brasov Philharmonic, Sică Alexandrescu Theater, Humanitas Bookstore, etc.), the Blue Biennale brought together nearly 200 exhibiting artists, with more than 700 works of visual art, in 21 spaces in the Centre of Brasov.



At the Multicultural Centre, the Blue Biennale featured works by Eran Shamgar (Switzerland / Israel), Felicia Ionescu, Epaminonda Tiotiu, Marcela Rădulescu, Iosif Stroia, Luca Matei Stoian, Bianca Paraschiv, Martina Przinska (Poland), Ekin Su Koc (Turkey / Germany), Natalia Brezinska (Poland), Pia Morgenthum, Ezimo Reinhard Bienert (Germany), Dana Constantin, Teodora Pica, Nicolae Nerțan and

Nicolae Truțiu, selected following a competition initiated and judged by the event organizers.



A drawing and painting exhibition by Elisabeth Ochsenfeld (Germany), titled *După obcini*, opened on the same day, on November 21, at the Multicultural Center and was presented by curator Cristina Simion (Tiny Griffon Gallery, Nuremberg). She characterized "the elegant precision and elegance of the contours and color declensions" as defining elements of the works presented by Elisabeth Ochsenfeld in "cycles with themes and sources of inspiration anchored in an ethos to which she feels symbolically and deeply linked with the attention of a talented and fine observer of details: the birch forests, the childhood hills, the flower circlets of the Banat region or the wooden spindle are symbols that the artist rediscovers and repeats as if in an incantation, in works both different and similar."

Dr Maria GHIURȚU  
The Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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## CLASSIC UNLIMITED. A PIANO RECITAL BY BOGDAN VAIDA

On 7 November, the third edition of the Classic Unlimited project reached the Multicultural Centre. Classic Unlimited is a national tour of piano concerts in unconventional cultural spaces, in an attempt to bring classical music closer to the young audiences. Bogdan Vaida, the pianist at the centre of the project, performed pieces by Brahms, Ciprian Pop, Rachmaninoff and Schubert in art galleries, in print shops, car repair shops, in co-working spaces and even at Petrila coal mine.



Bogdan Vaida was born in Cluj-Napoca in 1981. He graduated from the Sigismund Toduță Music High School in Cluj, and then continued his studies at the "Gheorghe Dima" Music Academy under the guidance of Professor Ninuca Osanu Pop.



In 2002, he moved to Freiburg, Germany, where he studied at the Musikhochschule as part of an Erasmus scholarship, and he remained there until graduating. He is still living in Germany and has performed in several countries in Europe.

Currently, Bogdan Vaida is the soloist of the *Klassik mittendrin* tour, which debuted in October 2015 in Germany.

This year's concerts focused on the theme of "hero's journey", with a musical repertoire built around Schubert's *Wanderer Fantasie*.

Dr Maria GHIURȚU  
The Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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## CHAMBER JAZZ@UNIVERSITATEA TRANSILVANIA. FREE FALL

With its numerous concerts of jazz music in November, Brasov had the opportunity to welcome some of the most talented artists today, among whom pianist Lucian Ban and clarinetist Alex Simu, in a celebration of the release of their new album, *Free Fall*, at the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University. The concert in November 13 attracted a very large audience who was drawn in by the magic atmosphere created by the two artists.



Having a rich musical experience, Romanian-born Alex Simu is known internationally for his clarinet and saxophone skills, as well as for his work as a composer. At the age of 22, Alex Simu moved to the Netherlands to continue his musical studies. Since then, he has received numerous awards and distinctions and his collaboration projects led to his international fame. Since 2015, he has been a professor at Codarts University in Rotterdam, within the departments of jazz and world music.



Lucian Ban is nowadays one of the most important jazz musicians born in Romania. Upon completing his musical studies in Bucharest, he moved to New York in order to play and study the particularities of jazz in its place of origin. His music has been described as "a triumph of emotional and musical communication" (*All About Jazz*).

The collaboration of the two musicians resulted in the project *Free Fall*—a tribute to the iconic clarinetist Jimmy Giuffre, pianist Paul Bley and bassist Steve Swallow—whose outcome was the 2019 album with the same name.

The audience had the opportunity to attend a perfect show, impressive in the way the two musicians completed each other in the field of improvisation. The quietness combined harmoniously with the sounds modelled by the two artists brought a sense of bliss and delight to the evening of the event.

Andra BRÎNZĂ, student  
Faculty of Letters

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## A RECITAL BY ALINA BERCU

### COMPLETE PIANO SONATAS BY LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN – IV AND V

In November, *Aula Magna* played host to two impressive recitals given by the well-known pianist Alina Bercu.



A unique musical event in Romania, *The Complete Piano Sonatas* by Ludwig van Beethoven also represents a peak in Alina Bercu's career.

The special connection that Alina has with Beethoven's music seems to grow stronger, with each new recital. The fourth one, given on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, included *Sonata No 12 in A-flat major, Op. 26*, *Sonata in Mi major, Op. 27, No 1*, *Sonata in D major, Op. 28*, and the famous *Moonlight Sonata*. *Sonata No 12 in A-flat major, Op. 26*, with its sadness and mourning tone anticipates *Eroica* Symphony, composed between 1803-1804. Entitled *Sonata quasi una fantasia*, *Sonata in Mi major, Op. 27, No 1* is unique with its contrasting moments while *Sonata in D major, Op. 28* is inspiring in its calmness. The *Moonlight Sonata* is always a sublime and melancholic musical instance.

Alina Bercu's performance skills and exquisite technique are undeniable, and stem from a wonderful mix of sensitivity and technical virtuosity,

an imperative when it comes to approaching such musical pieces.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, the recital program included *Sonata No.16, Op.31 No.1*, with its highly sensitive *Adagio*, the tragic and profound *Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2*, and the deeply empathic *Sonata No. 18 in E $\flat$  major, Op. 31, No. 3*. *The three musical pieces stand proof of Beethoven's innovative and unconventional ideas.*



Going against the constraints of the classical style, Beethoven alters it, and eventually achieves what we call today the genuine Beethovenian style.

As for Alina Bercu's performance, we must make a note of the precision of her musical discourse, the clarity of sounds, and particularly the interpretation suffused with emotion.

Noémi KARÁCSONY, doctoral student  
Faculty of Music

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## ALUMNI DAYS

On 7 and 8 November the second edition of Alumni Days gave our students the opportunity to meet with over 40 successful Transilvania University alumni in the context of individual activities taking place on location, at various faculties, and collectively, at Aula Magna.



On the first day of the event TUB alumni shared their success stories with our students and answered pointed questions from senior students.



The second day was devoted to meetings between all our students and the following guests: Dr Gabriela-Nicoleta Chihai (judge, Chair of the local Children's and Family's Court), Mihai Ioan Rozorea (General manager R.S. Activ SRL), Valentin Munteanu (composer), Monica Jiman (Chief Customer Success Officer Pentalog Europe & Asia), Emilia Jercan (CEO & Partner with High Contrast SRL) and a group of successful graduates from the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences: Dr Ana Maria Cazan – Vice-dean, Dr Oana Bota – Vice-dean, Dr Daniela Necşoi, Dr Marius Bazgan, Dr Camelia Truţa, Dr Ecaterina Unianu, Dr Ramona Henter, Dr Daniela Popa, Dr Daniela Porumbu, Dr Ioana Topală, Dr Nicoleta Lupu, and Dr Alina Turculeţ.



Dr Bianca TESCAŞIU  
ALUMNI Office Coordinator

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## SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI - ENG. LAURA-VALENTINA COSTACHE



Eng. Laura-Valentina Costache is a 2014 graduate of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment. In 2016 she earned a master's degree in *Virtual Engineering in Automotive Design* at our university. Her decision to specialize in the auto industry was motivated by her interest in the field of tribology.

Upon the completion of her undergraduate studies in 2014 she found employment with Schaeffler Romania. She began work in a novel project involving the investigation of Schaeffler gearbox components and aimed at validating the products across different stages of implementation, after customer testing. This activity is called "Returns Analysis". Laura's

inclusion in the team was due to the practicum she had performed at Schaeffler in 2013.

In 2016 she was appointed team leader, which required her to act as both technical coordinator and liaison with the customers.

In 2017 Laura took on the responsibility to coordinate a team of seven. She subsequently worked towards developing the team and new projects. Currently her team consists of 12 members who investigate over 16 Schaeffler products designed for the auto industry.

Apart from these, Laura conducts work and holds responsibilities in the area of career orientation and in-service training - Schaeffler Trainee; organizes professional events and workshops.

Laura spends her personal time drawing pictures, reading books or cooking for friends.

Dr Bianca TESCAȘIU  
ALUMNI Office Coordinator

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