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NEWSLETTER

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ROMANIAN LANGUAGE ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT XI'AN, CHINA

Xi'an, the ancient capital of China, has — as of this fall — become the second city in China (following Beijing) to offer Romanian language training as part of a graduate 4-year program.



The Academic Year opened on 18 September, with the managing board of Xi'an University of International Studies, the Romanian Ambassador to China, HE Basil Constantinescu, and the Rector of Transilvania University, Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, in attendance.

Under the frame of the agreement concluded this summer, on behalf the two HEIs, by Professor Wang Junzhe, President of Xi'an University of International Studies, and Professor Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, the Chinese learners of Romanian will be

trained *in situ* by a full time Romanian language and literature instructor from the Faculty of Letters of our university.

Transilvania University, in conjunction with the Embassy of Romania at Beijing, that initiated this partnership, intend to support this new Romanian language module with both teaching/learning aid and teacher/student mobility schemes. In this spirit, on the opening day, Dr Corina Micu, the first Romanian language teacher at Xi'an, and the Rector of Transilvania University presented the newly established Romanian Lectorate at Xi'an with a few canonical works in Romanian culture, and made the first contact with the 20 Chinese learners who signed up for the Romanian language module.

One other aim of this partnership between the two universities is to empower the Chinese major undergraduate program already in place at Transilvania University. This involves setting up a Chinese Lectorate staffed by language and literature specialists from the University of International Studies at Xi'an, and by providing our students with learning opportunities there.

Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan
Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov

■ CUPRINS

“ENGINEERING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROMANIA” – SINGRO 2018

Biennially, the General Association of Engineers in Romania (AGIR) organizes The Scientific Symposium of Diaspora Romanian Engineers – SINGRO, a professional framework for collaboration among Romanian engineers abroad.



SINGRO 2018 was organized between 6 and 8 September in collaboration with Transilvania University of Braşov, the Faculty of Product Design and Environment and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, with the support of ASTR Braşov and CRIFST Braşov. “Unification and Innovation” was the motto of the current edition that took place in the context of the celebration of the 1918 Great Union Centennial and the AGIR Centennial.

Sixty participants in this year’s edition came from Romania, France, Switzerland, Germany, and the Republic of Moldova. Among the leading figures present were Dr Mihai Mihăiţă, president of AGIR and ASTR, Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, academic Ion Bostan from the Republic of Moldova, Dr Dumitru Prunariu, Romanian astronaut and lieutenant-general (retired), Dr Alexandru Herlea from France, Dr Paul Olaru from Switzerland, prominent members of AGIR (also members of the AGIR board) and ASTR, members of the engineering academic community from universities in Bucharest, Iaşi, Cluj-Napoca, Timişoara, Braşov, Galaţi, Craiova, Sibiu, the Technical University of Moldova in Chişinău etc.,

research and manufacturing engineers. Ten of all the submitted papers were presented in plenary sessions, while the rest were grouped into five panels: Leading engineers and the valorification and conservation of *the technical heritage, Engineering achievements acknowledged internally and internationally, Engineering Schools and Associations, Romanian Inventions, and 21st century Engineering.*



The discussions following the presentations were useful; they led to a series of conclusions summarized in each section, which AGIR will implement in the near future.



All the participants deemed this edition a success, which guarantees that the following edition, SINGRO 2020, will also raise up to the standards

Dr Ionel Stareţu, on behalf of the organizing committee of SINGRO 2018

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE *STRUCTURE, USE, AND MEANING: LANGUAGE POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS* AT THE DEPARTMENT OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS

The fifth edition of the international conference organized by the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics took place between 13 and 15 September. The event attracted almost 50 academics, researchers, specialists, and practitioners from the United States, Japan, Thailand, India, Great Britain, Italy, Slovenia, Russia, Ukraine and Romania, who presented their work in the vast field of language sciences.



This year's conference had a strong interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary character; its main theme — language policies — reflected once more the diversity of sub-fields of linguistics and related disciplines: phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, philosophy of language, socio-cultural linguistics, identity, multilingualism.

Considering that nowadays students are presented with more choices than ever before in terms of international educational opportunities, Richmond Stroupe from Soka University (Japan) discussed increasing student mobility in light of its implications for the global education market. Ioana Jieanu of the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Monica Huțanu of the University of Belgrade (Serbia) dealt with the concept of mediation in the

context of the second language acquisition, focusing on teaching and learning Romanian as a foreign language in non-immersive contexts.



Elena Buja from Transilvania University in Brașov presented a detailed comparative study of Korean and Romanian grammar while providing insights into the profound grammatical structures of the two languages and their use in the context of the cultural values of the two analyzed spaces.



Dr Răzvan Săftoiu,
Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania

Dr Indira Y. Junghare,
University of Minnesota, Duluth, USA

ORIENTATION DAYS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



The 2018-2019 Academic Year kicked off with an array of games, competitions and entertaining activities for the newly enrolled students at Transilvania University. On 30 September all first year students were invited to *Orientation Days* organized for them on the Colina Campus turned, for a few hours, into an *ad hoc* fun zone.

Orientation Days was designed as an event intended to give the newcomers a taste of the campus spirit by bringing them together with older students in an informal context.



The turnout included around 500 first year students who teamed up and enthusiastically lined up for the competitions targeted especially at them: Treasure hunt, General Knowledge Quiz, minifootball, streetball, and chess. All the winning teams were awarded prizes. By far the most popular, *Treasure hunt* attracted over 60 teams of students that competed for the hidden treasure along a clue-scattered track. A highlight of the event was the documentary "Romania Untamed", the latest film about wildlife in our country.



The high point of *Orientation Days* was the live performance by "Vița de vie", a concert dedicated to all the students at our university.



Mirela Cornea

■ CUPRINS

EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2018

European Researchers' Night (ERN) is part of the series of events funded by the European Commission in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), whose objective is to make the public aware of what being a researcher means and of how interesting research work can be. The sixth edition of ERN this year took place on 28 September, and was organised by Transilvania University of Braşov and Andrei Şaguna National College.



In the tradition of the previous editions, our university participated with several stands and workshops targeted at a public of all ages, who had a chance to interact with students, researchers and teachers.



The stands displayed products and technologies developed at the Research and Development Institute of our university or in the research laboratories of various faculties, and the visitors could test and experiment with various interactive exhibits such as: the race car built by university

students, structural frames made of articulated bars, drones, mobile robots, or 3D printers.



The "Little Inventor" is a pilot-project of the Research and Development Institute of our university, targeted at 6- to 15-year-olds, with the aim of shaping a new generation of inventors. The project stems from our interest in stimulating technological innovation and development in Romania. This investment also entails drawing children towards the vast field of science and research from very young ages.

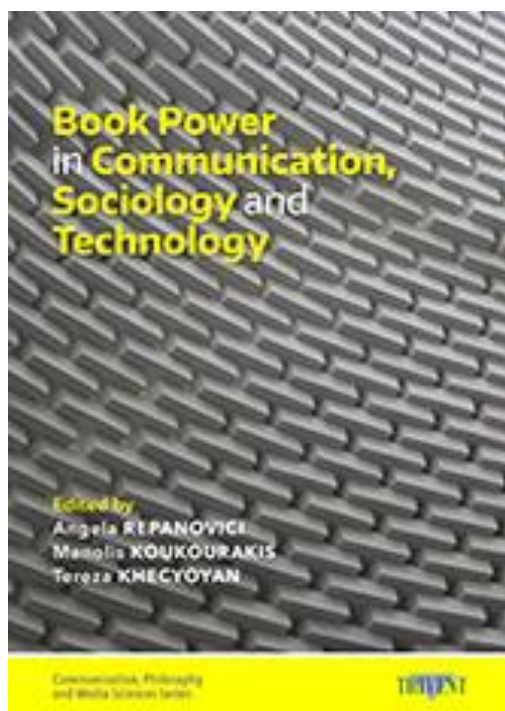


This pilot-project was launched at this year's edition of ERN. The "Little Inventor" stand hosted several activities meant to familiarize children with the field of science. The activities were adapted to the young participants' age and knowledge, based on the principle "science is fun". Children who participated actively in these activities received a diploma of little inventor from our university.

Dr Radu Muntean
Faculty of Civil Engineering

NEW OPEN ACCESS VOLUME: BOOK POWER IN COMMUNICATION, SOCIOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

A book may be seen as a symbol, a product, or even a miracle. It represents the most important element of the spiritual connection between generations, between different professions, between education and multicultural systems.



The book is the oldest economic model developed by libraries, an investment in a product that benefits as many people as possible. In 2012 The Library of Congress (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) had the initiative of organizing an annual meeting which

would disseminate the vision of library leaders on the importance of books. The meeting would gather all the categories involved in the book industry: writers, publishers, editors, professors, librarians. The goal was to create a platform for discussions on how to promote the book as a crucial element for culture and education enhancement. The power of information and its dissemination was discussed at the first edition, with books holding center stage in all the debates. After first edition, the Summit of the book was organized yearly in different locations throughout the world: Singapore (2013), France (2014), Egypt (2015) and Ireland (2016).

In 2017 the 6th summit took place in Brasov, Romania, being hosted by Transilvania University. The volume "Book Power in Communication, Sociology and Technology" is a collection of the most valuable contributions to the 6th Summit of the Book, where experts reported on the best practices and expertise in the history and technology of book production, knowledge support, and book dissemination.

More information is available at <http://trivent-publishing.eu/powerincommunication.html>

Dr Angela Repanovici

■ CUPRINS

GLOBALIZATION AND TRADITION IN BRAȘOV SUMMER SCHOOL

For two weeks, from 10 to 21 September, the Faculty of Letters at Transilvania University of Brașov, together with Otaru University of Commerce (Japan), organized a summer school entitled *Globalization and Tradition in Brașov*, which was attended by six Romanian students and five Japanese students. The project came together as a corollary to an extensive collaboration between the two universities, being primarily aimed at fostering the exchange of cultural information and the improvement of intercultural communication skills through the use of English.



To this end, the summer school activities were designed to familiarize the Japanese students with various aspects pertaining to Brașov's ethnic diversity, traditions and industry and, to a larger extent, to the history and culture of Romania. Additionally, the lectures which the students attended also tackled issues such as education, the Romanian language, Romanian humour, indigenous folklore and mythology. All of these lectures provided the Japanese students with the opportunity to gain new insights into the Romanian culture, but also to transfer knowledge about the Japanese culture via daily Powerpoint presentations.

The lectures were accompanied by visits to several museums in Brașov, to Bran Castle and Peleș Castle, and to the Musashino Centre. Furthermore, the students were involved in an interactive traditional cooking demonstration, and participated in a

workshop dedicated to the restoration of wooden artifacts, which was organized by the Faculty of Wood Engineering at our university.



As a participant in the summer school, it is my belief that, beyond the educational component of this project, its most striking accomplishment was perhaps the strengthening of interpersonal skills, coupled with the participants' successful attempts to transcend cultural barriers and strike up authentic friendships. I can only hope that the positive outcomes of this project will be followed by similar fruitful collaborations in the future.



Vlad Babei, MA student

STUDENTS AT THE FACULTY OF LAW PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST “YOUTH FOR PEACE”

Our participation in the 13th edition of the International Contest “Youth for Peace” at International University Mitso in Minsk, Belarus, between 24 and 28 September, was a great opportunity to consolidate the principles of international public law, to appreciate team work, and to prove the importance of critical thinking and our ability to apply theoretical knowledge. With a view to promoting diversity and understanding, we connected with new friends and learned about the traditions of other states and legal systems.



This experience proved a unique opportunity to learn a lot in a short time both about law and about people. We noticed the constant use of the term “olympiad” with reference to this competition, which is how we perceived it.



From this experience we gained new knowledge, fun memories, a chance to interact with students from nine other countries, but also for us, team members, to return home as good friends.

Our involvement in this competition was a true intellectual challenge, especially with regard to our ability to apply theoretical knowledge, but it also enabled us to discover new perspectives for the application of legal mechanisms to various societies and to learn how to organize a team by coordinating all the members towards a common goal, namely arguing a certain topic by combining ideas so that every participant can present a strong point of view.

The participants in this competition were the students Claudia Cozma, Mălina-Alexandra Șerban, and Sebastian-Gabriel Tacea, supervised by Dr Roxana Matefi.

Claudia Cozma
Mălina-Alexandra Șerban
Sebastian-Gabriel Tacea, students

■ CUPRINS

ART EXHIBITION BY DUMITRU ȘCHIOPU AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

Simplicity. Structured abstraction. Honesty. These are the features that best describe Dumitru Șchiopu's exhibition which premiered on 26 September at the university's Multicultural Centre.

The geometry in the artist's work is almost unintentional: it is meant to prove that mathematical preciseness and artistic versatility can coexist, blending like the abstract and the concrete in our daily lives.



The mystery exuding from his art may be misconstrued as ambiguity resulting from the artist's apparent non-involvement with his work. And yet, in each piece there is more than meets the naked eye. The perceptive viewers can still grasp

the artistic intentions from behind the colours, the straight or wavy lines, as well as from whatever their imagination can summon — from critters, urban bustle, peace, order to chaos and mental collapse.



Simplicity is evident in the different media used (charcoal, pencil, print); the structured abstraction bridges between objectiveness and subjectivity, while honesty comes across in the artist's attempt to search beyond the surface in order to highlight the essence of things.

Daniela Macarie, student in Letters

BOTOND SZÖCS, THE YOUNG PIANIST WHO WON THE HEARTS OF THE CHINESE AUDIENCE

"For me, this has been a fantastic opportunity, a celebration of music, friendship, and teamwork. I have always admired the Chinese pianists, such as Yundi Li, Lang Lang, Juja Wang, but now I have realized that their strength resides in their unique perseverance, in their determination to build a musical career. It has been a decisive moment in my training to have the inner strength to play in concert halls with such a long-standing tradition. I am very happy that I could share my success in China with Professor Stela Drăgulin, who has been my teacher for nearly eight years now."



This is what the young Romanian pianist, Botond Szöcs, stated at the end of a series of concerts held between 3 and 21 August in some of the most important Chinese provinces. A student at Transilvania University of Braşov, Botond Szöcs, is considered one of the most promising pianists of the 21st century. He performed from Beethoven, Liszt, and Rachmaninov across a number of prestigious cultural establishments in the Chinese provinces, and made the Chinese public resonate to his art. His remarkable piano recitals were hosted by the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, by

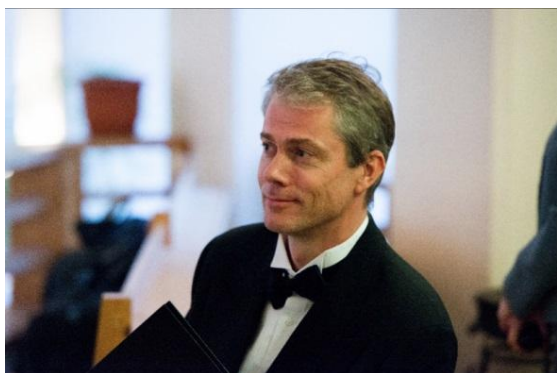
two of the largest hospitals and the Capital Club, an exclusivist club of the business, cultural and media elites in the Chinese capital, by the Zhejiang Music Conservatory in Hangzhou, the capitol of Zhejiang province, by the concert hall of the Shenyang Conservatory of Music, in the capital of Liaoning province, and by Zhongjie Youth Palace in Cangzhou, Hebei province. "Music in the soul can be heard by the universe", said Lao Tzu. The concerts of classical music given by pianist Botond Szöcs in China were organized by the Romanian Embassy in Beijing, as part of the events which marked the Romanian Centenary.

Guided and supported by Professor Stela Drăgulin, the young artist won the hearts of the Chinese audience, and offered a remarkable performance of complex musical pieces, which require great artistry. A very talented artist, he demonstrated his virtuosity, grace, strong desire to bring out the beauty, elegance and refinement of classical music, and his passion for and devotion to art. At the Shenyang Conservatory of Music, where pianist Lang Lang began his career, Botond Szöcs received great reviews from the public, who compared him to the famous Chinese pianist. Moreover, the artist proved to be an excellent ambassador of the talent and values promoted by the Romanian music school.

Nina F. Gherman, journalist and media expert
China Radio International – Romanian language
Dr Stela Drăgulin

TELEMANN FESTIVAL – A PROGRAM OF SACRED CANTATAS AND LIEDER

Between 24 September and 2 October, the Faculty of Music hosted an educational and artistic event, Telemann Festival – a program of sacred cantatas and lieder composed by G. Ph. Telemann. The daily program included canto classes and German diction for stage performance, classes of initiation into Telemann's sacred music through lectures such as: the Lutheran divine service and calendar in the 18th century; Telemann - today; the ornaments of the recitativo secco, the Baroque style, the text, as well as the importance of understanding German in creating the musical phrases and in identifying the nature of the repertory approached.



The invited teachers were Szabó Levente, theologian – organist, and Valentin Lanzrein, coordinator of the canto program at the music department of Soochow University in China. Born in Switzerland, a graduate of Julliard and with a PhD from Stony Brook University of New York, Valentin Lanzrein presented his book, *The Singer's Guide to German Diction*, published earlier this year by Oxford University Press. This is the latest publication in the field of diction and phonetics in vocal interpretation – a fundamental textbook for the teaching of German diction to lyrical singers in the international academia, also used within the Faculty of Music in Braşov.

The program's corollary was a concert held at the St George Lutheran Evangelical Church, where each participant performed a piece they had studied during the program: second year student Kitti Székely performed the cantata TWV 1:1511; third year student Bianca Timaru interpreted the cantata TWV 1:1502, while first year master student Corina Purcărea successfully performed the cantata TWV 1:471.

Each cantata included two arias da capo preceded by recitativo secco, and were accompanied on the organ by Szabó Levente, who together with Mihaela Buhaiciuc – the coordinator of the event – published last year in the United States the transcription for organ and voice of the Harmonischer Gottes-Dienst collection of the liturgical year 1725-6 – which was the source of these cantatas. The biblical theme was complemented by the lieder composed by Telemann in the Hamburg period, interpreted by first year students Valentina Popa and Andreea Sandor. The evening ended with a diploma award ceremony and a festive dinner.



Dr Mihaela Buhaiciuc

EVENTS ORGANIZED IN BRAȘOV WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE FRAMELOG PROJECT

On 27 and 28 September, the partners of the FRAMELOG project held the fifth transnational meeting at our university. They presented the final form of the document Guidelines for Addressing Quality Assurance and Assessment Challenges. Our university's team will subsequently coordinate the process aimed at validating the previously obtained results, and the Manual for assessment and quality assurance, a useful instrument at the European level.



Organized within the frame of the FRAMELOG project, the European seminar “Networking and Managing Knowledge for Logistics: a European Perspective” on 28 September addressed the evolution of the Logistics sector, with a focus on the challenges of networking and managing knowledge. Experts, companies from the Logistics and Supply Chain Management Area, as well as students participated in the Seminar which focused on the current technical solutions and futurperspectives for professionals.

FRAMELOG is an ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership Project co-funded by the European Commission. Implemented from September 2016 to August 2019, the Project is coordinated by the University of Pisa (Italy) in collaboration the University of National and World Economy (Bulgaria), Transilvania University of Brașov (Romania), the European Logistics Association, the Italian Association of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, the Bulgarian Logistics Association,

and Finances & Banking - Association for Organizational Development and Human Resources (Italy).



In keeping with the priorities on the 2011 EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Educational Institutions, the FRAMELOG Project aims to enhance the contribution of higher education to the job-market and to boost the development and international appeal of Logistics by creating close and effective links between education, research, and business – the three sides of the “Knowledge Triangle”. By tradition, Higher Education Institutions integrate two—research and education—of the three core elements of a knowledge-based society. The establishment of a “Knowledge Triangle” cooperation in Logistics & Supply Chain Management within the FRAMELOG Project will support the development of innovative academic supply and qualifications, more relevant for the labor market in terms of knowledge, skills and competencies required by business companies. The qualifications, designed according to the Lifelong Learning European principles and criteria, will also contribute to increasing students’ employability and professional mobility in Europe. More information is available on the project website, at www.framealog.eu.

Dr. Cristina Nicolau

VISITING PROFESSORS AT THE FACULTY OF WOOD ENGINEERING

FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Every year the *Fulbright Specialist Program* sends US academics and professionals to academic institutions from abroad in order to serve as experts in research and curriculum, in the development of institutions, but also to perform teaching-research activity for 2 to 6 weeks.



Prof. Hiziroglu during a lecture at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering

Under the framework of this prestigious program, from 15 May to 25 June 2018, the Faculty of Wood Engineering and the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering have been hosts to Prof. Dr. Salim Hiziroglu from Oklahoma State University, *Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management NREM*.



A visit to Gliga Violins at Reghin with the teaching staff from the Faculty of Wood Engineering

Professor Hiziroglu was welcomed by the two faculties, where he performed teaching activities in the field of forest exploitation and wooden composites. Moreover, Dr Hiziroglu assisted doctoral students in the field of Forest Engineering. Together with the teaching staff from the Faculty of Engineering, Dr Hiziroglu took a summer field trip, visiting some production units in Reghin and Braşov. This cooperation was successful; it is consistent with the institutional efforts to extend the collaboration between Transilvania University of Braşov and Oklahoma State University.

Dr Emilia-Adela Salca

■ CUPRINS

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSILVANIA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

“Transilvania Fellowship Program” is a scholarship scheme launched by our university; its main goal is to develop international collaboration and to foster mixed research groups, while also promoting new research topics and directions.

In 2018, a recipient of this fellowship, Prof. Pavlo Bekhta from the Ukrainian National Forestry University in Lviv, conducted his research activity at the Faculty of Wood Engineering, in the Laboratory of Composites, where he worked in a mixed research team for two months.

Prof. Bekhta (left) and Prof. Lunguleasa (right) in the Laboratory of Composites



Visit at the Prejmer Fortress – Prof. Hiziroglu (left) and Prof. Bekhta (right)

Besides the research activities carried out within the framework of the program, Prof. Bekhta gave a lecture to the doctoral students from the Faculty of Wood Engineering, attended the oral presentations of graduating students, performed professional visits at local industries, as well as cultural visits, meant to put him in touch with the Romanian history and traditions. This collaboration contributed once more towards strengthening the academic relationships with the Ukrainian National Forestry University in Lviv.

Dr Emilia-Adela Salca

■ CUPRINS

PROFESSOR ELEONOR CIUREA IS AWARDED THE DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE

On 24 September, Cornel Simionescu lecture hall at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science hosted a festivity in honor of Dr Eleonor Ciurea for his entire university career, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.



On this occasion, Dr Liliana Rogozea, Vice-Rector, presented, on behalf of our university, Professor Ciurea with the Diploma of Excellence. In her speech, she outlined the work and career of Dr Ciurea, highlighting the special instances in their direct professional collaboration.

Dr Ciurea was also commended by Dr Ioan Tomescu, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, Dr Sabin Tăbîrcă, Dr Mircea Lupu, and Dr Adrian Deaconu. Dr Eugen Păltănea, the Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, talked about the professor's valuable scientific and managerial contribution, in his capacity as doctoral advisor in the field of Computer Science (since 2002), member of computer science committees of C.N.A.T.D.C.U. (2005-2010) and A.R.A.C.I.S. (2005-2016), Vice-rector of Transilvania University of Braşov (2000-2003), and head of the Department of Computer Science (1991-1995 and 2004-2008). Professor Ciurea is considered one of the pioneers of the school

of computer science in Romania, having contributed to the foundation of the first study programs in this field in Romania.



Professor Eleonor Ciurea taught many of us, current faculty staff, guided us in our careers, and often guided our personal development. Graduates, students, academics — we all owe him a debt of gratitude.



Thank you, Professor!
Happy Birthday!

Dr Eugen Păltănea, Dr Anca Vasilescu

SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI - PEDA ALINA SÎNZIANA



Preda Alina Sînziana graduated from the Faculty of Food and Tourism, the study program Engineering and Management in Food Service and Agri-Tourism

(2010-2014), the Faculty of Law (2010-2014), the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the study program Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy (2013-2016), and the Master's program Business Administration in Tourism at Transilvania University of Braşov (2014-2016).

She started out as a receptionist (2012-2014) and went on as an event planner (2014-2016) at Vila Alina Inn in Moieciu, combining her passion for tourism with teaching at the local school. Her constant desire for self-knowledge and self-improvement enabled her professional development in different directions, with synergic effects in all the activities she embarked on.

Since 2016 she has acted as manager of *Crăiasa Zăpezilor* Tourist Complex, which is one of the most important service providers in the food and tourism industry in and around Moieciu Bran.

Dr Bianca Tescaşiu

■ CUPRINS