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NEWSLETTER

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FACULTY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING – 75 YEARS 2024 EAEC - CONAT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The 13th CONAT International Congress, organised by Transilvania University of Braşov, SIAR – Romania's Society for Automotive Engineers, EAEC – European Organization of the Societies for Automotive Engineers, SAE International - USA, CRIFST – Romanian Academy, and ASTR – Technical Sciences Academy of Romania, took place in Braşov between 6 and 8 November 2024.



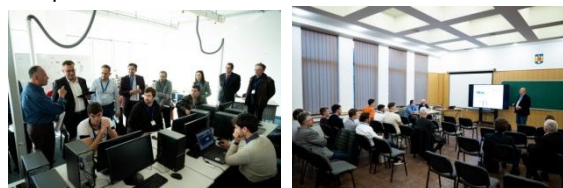
It marked the 75th anniversary of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and of the Automotive Engineering study programme within Transilvania University of Braşov.

The congress activities brought professional satisfaction to the 234 specialists (62 from abroad), researchers and experts in automotive and transport engineering from 14 countries all over Europe, North America, Asia and Africa, and to the 176 automotive students from Braşov, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iaşi, Piteşti, Timişoara, Constanţa, Arad, Oradea, Suceava, Galaţi, Chişinău and Ruse.

In the opening session, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan – Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, Prof. Dr. Eng. Gigel Paraschiv – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Education, Prof. Dr. Eng. Tudor Prisecaru – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Prof. Dr. Eng. Nicolae Burnete – President of SIAR, Marius Pricop – Director of Schaeffler Romania, and Virgil Radu – Director of RAR took the floor and expressed their appreciation for the history and evolution of the Academic Automotive School within Transilvania University of Braşov, and the role of the CONAT congresses in promoting the scientific and technical creations of the Romanian specialists, researchers and students. Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Călin Roşca, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, presented the evolution of the faculty in its 75 years of existence, with an emphasis on the teaching and research

programmes in the fields of automotive and transport engineering.

The event included, after the opening ceremony, three plenary sessions, 23 specialised sessions for researchers and students, a workshop on “Connecting academia with industry through research” and a closing session. The scientific communication focused on current topics for the 21st century automobiles and transportation.



Of the 268 papers proposed to be defended in the congress, 229 were reviewed, 124 accepted for presentation, and 88 for publication in three volumes of proceedings by Springer Publishing.

The professional competitions for students are of high interest and topicality. Therefore, two professional competitions, a scientific congress (15 presented and published papers) and a national “Formula Student” meeting were organised for their benefit.

The EAEC - CONAT 2024 congress provided the organizational framework for a useful exchange of technical and scientific information, the identification of topics for international cooperation and research projects, confirmed the creative potential of the Romanian students and experts in automotive engineering, and contributed to the affirmation of the Academic Automotive School within Transilvania University of Braşov.



Prof. Dr. Eng. Anghel CHIRU
Congress Chairman

Dr. Eng. Eugen Valentin BUTILĂ
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

WORKING MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL PARTNERS' COUNCIL

A new meeting of the Economic and Socio-Cultural Partners' Council took place on 4 December 2024. It was a new opportunity to reinforce the interaction between the university and the economic environment. The discussions between the university's representatives and the economic partners mainly aimed at informing the participants on UNITBV's schedule of events in collaboration with the economic environment for 2025; the presentation of the students' internship portal; the evaluation on the activity of the Advisory Council for the Liaison with the Economic Environment (CONSEC) – at faculty level, and the presentation of the activities specific to the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre of UNITBV.

The university's future events organised together with the economic partners, proposed for 2025, are Graduates in Front of the Companies (AFCO) and the student scientific communication sessions (actions that have already become a tradition within our university), but also the launch of joint volunteering projects, the organization of UNITBV-companies meetings, into working groups formed according to their fields of interest, or of visits to companies (actions proposed within the meeting).

The members of CONSEC noticed the improvement in the organization at faculty level, and the increase in the quality of the discussions on internship, employability, definition of the learning outcomes at the level of both bachelor's and master's study programmes.



During the meeting, the new version of the internship portal was presented – practica.unitbv.ro – which includes new facilities for the employers.



Moreover, the vocational counselling activity conducted through the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre in the 2024-2025 academic year, the conclusions of the "Career Days" and the centre's new future projects were presented, too.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU
Vice-Rector for Students and the Liaison with the
Economic and Socio-cultural Environment
Prof. Dr. Eng. Luminița PÂRV
Coordinator of the Compartment for the Liaison
with the Economic Environment
Prof. Dr. Eng. Bianca TESCAȘIU
ALUMNI Officer

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THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT OF THE FACULTY OF MUSIC



The Christmas Concert of the Faculty of Music took place on 16 December, at 6:00 p.m., in the Concert Hall of Patria Cultural Complex of Braşov. The event was a celebration of cultural diversity, and brought together student soloists in the Music, and both Vocal and Instrumental Performance study programmes, the orchestra of the Faculty of Music – conductor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Traian Ichim, the Folklore Orchestra – conductor, adjunct prof. Amalia Nicolau, and the faculty choir – conductor, adjunct prof. Andrada Mureşan.



The concert began with a repertoire of traditional songs performed by the Folklore Orchestra and the Vocal Ensemble of Traditional Music, under the baton of adjunct professors Amalia Nicolau and George Muraru. The artistic programme included instrumental and vocal-instrumental songs, but also traditional carols performed by the students in the canto class of professors Monica Oprea, Mădălina Bourceanu and Amalia Nicolau. The vocal soloists Valentina Nimereală – *A-Carolling We Stroll*, Miriam Bloju – *Yellow Quince*, Ioana Micu and Ioana Lucia Berechet – *Oh, What Wonderful News!* were accompanied by professors and students of the Faculty of Music: Jr. Lect. Dr. Botond Szocs (piano), Carina Cataramă (pan-flute), Andreea Voicescu (guitar) and Patricia Nicolau (percussion).

Once the traditional Romanian song-moment closed, the orchestra of our faculty offered another moment, full of energy, under maestro Traian

Ichim's baton, by performing *The Muppet Medley*. Later, the orchestra accompanied the vocal soloists in the classes of both Pop and Classical Music Performance programmes. The students approached a vast repertoire – carols, winter songs, operetta and musical, famous national and international songs. The atmosphere of peace and introspection was thus created by Cătălina Neacşu – *Winter Dream*, Andreea Cristea and Anda Popa – *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, Andreea Hristea and Ciprian Cucu – *White Snows from Heaven*, Cătălina Neacşu and Teodora Corugă – *Hallelujah*, Iulia Neagoe and Bede Laszo – *When the Child Is Born*, and elegance and refinement sprang from the performances of Andrei Bucă and Andra Tudorache – *That's How Love Is* (*Silvia* operetta), Andreea Fazakas – *Little Room* and Robert Kerezsi – *In your lane* (excerpts from *My Fair Lady musical*), Patrick Anton – *Edelweiss* (*The Sound of Music*) and Andreea Lungu – *Once Upon a December*.



Next came another instrumental moment when the orchestra of the Faculty of Music performed other famous pieces – *A Christmas Festival*, *The Christmas Song* and *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*, and the end of the concert brought together on stage the orchestral ensemble with the faculty choir for an exceptional musical moment that mainly included pieces of the traditional repertoire – *Today Christ Was Born*, *Lord, Lord, Let Us Praise Him*, *Potpourri* of traditional Christmas carols, an arrangement by Dan Pavelescu, but also of the universal repertoire – *White Christmas*.

Adjunct Professor Dr. Iuliana ISAC
Faculty of Music

THE EVENING OF SAINT NICHOLAS: MONICA OPRA (VOICE), BOTOND SZŐCS (PIANO) AND JAZZPAR TRIO

In continuation of a tradition dear to the audience of Braşov, the Evening of Saint Nicholas turned the stage of Aula Magna in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre within "Transilvania University of Braşov into a space of creative excellence, offering an eloquent demonstration of the synergy between the art of sound and the academic values.



The concert protagonists, Monica Opra and Botond Szőcs, accompanied by Jazzpar Trio, articulated a complex discourse, in order to establish the premises of a space for artistic expression that fuses classical tradition with contemporary sensibility, redefining the standards of cultural events in the city of Braşov.

The festive dimension of the event was highlighted through an eclectic selection of the repertoire, aimed at exploring a wide range of emotions and cultural contexts. From the baroque rigour (J.S. Bach and Fr. Händel), through the romantic intimacy specific to the creations of Chopin and Schubert, to innovative reinterpretations of songs in the repertoires of Frank Sinatra, Sylvie Vartan, Dalida, Edith Piaf and Maria Tănase, the music programme captivated through its narrative consistency. The integration of the traditional and international carols was like a final outline of the evening's specific emotional spectrum, which amplified the festive atmosphere of the winter holidays.



Monica Opra proved an outstanding artistic maturity, conveying each sound phrase through a deeply expressive interpretive language, which succeeded in resonating with the

audience on a multi-level affective plane. The partnership with Botond Szőcs, whose pianistic style highlighted the subtlety and flexibility of the interpretative technique, fully proved a compatibility in terms of an exquisite musical aesthetics. The two musicians, at different stages of their professional careers, interweaved a singularly complex interpretive dialogue, within a captivating and memorable experience.

Jazzpar Trio – formed of Gáspár Álmos (guitar), Gáspár Csaba (violin) and Vitályos Lehel (double bass) – contributed with an additional layer of dynamism and spontaneity. Their homogeneous interaction gave the ensemble a rich sound texture, adequately integrating the various stylistic influences.

This event reaffirmed the important role of the Music Centre within Transilvania University in the cultural and academic context of Braşov. As a platform for intergenerational and intercultural dialogue, the Centre continues to incorporate essential contributions to the objectives that pursue the strengthening of the local cultural identity and the promotion of excellence.



The evening of 6 December 2024 was not only a celebration of the art of music at its highest level, but also a reflection on its potential to transcend predefined frameworks and to constantly remodel values within the community. The audience, in both the auditorium and the online environment, witnessed an exceptional event, in which music, interpretive singularity and affectivity merged towards the perfection of a space of creative beauty and human sensitivity.

Magdalena LAZĂR
Faculty of Music

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"INVESTING 101" – THE FIRST EDITION

On 13 December 2024, the first edition of "Investing 101", the financial education competition for the high-school pupils of Braşov, took place at the Research and Development Institute within Transilvania University of Braşov. The competition, organised by the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, brought together passionate young people, with a solid background in economic sciences, from four high schools in Braşov county, namely "Radu Negru" National College, "Andrei Şaguna" National College, "Grigore Moisil" National College of Computer Science and "Mircea Eliade" Theoretical High-School, and had as its main objective the development of the pupils' knowledge in topical economic-financial fields.

In the first competition test, the local high-school teams obtained score values by answering specific



questions on the fundamentals of the financial education, such as: importance of personal budget planning, differences between the main investment methods,

and various assets traded on the capital market.

The second round of the competition focused on the pupils' innovative and creative skills. Placed in the position of entrepreneurs, they were challenged to devise a business plan that would respond to the challenges of today's society, by developing a sustainable business idea, which would capitalise at the same time on modern technologies. The business plans and innovative ideas sparked real interest among the participants, as well as the jury members' appreciation.



The last test consisted of a Q&A section, with questions formulated by the high-school pupils themselves, addressed to the opposing teams. This test was a real opportunity for debate on current financial and social topics, with the students formulating questions and answers on topics such as: impact of AI technology development on today's lifestyle, on the labour market, climate change and its impact on financial markets, along with the prospects of a career in the financial sector.



Although all teams had a remarkable performance and proved a high level of training in the field of economic sciences, according to the jury's voting, after the three tests, the 1st place was won by "Radu Negru" National College, but the other teams also accumulated significant points. The atmosphere of the event was vibrant, characterised by innovation, commitment and willingness to learn.

This experience had a positive impact on the competing pupils, as well as on the doctoral and graduate students in the jury, and, at the same time, strengthened the ties between the pupils of Braşov and the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration. The feedback confirmed the success of the event; and we, as organizers, can only rejoice, thank all the participants, and look forward to the next edition.

Prof. Dr. Gheorghița DINCĂ
Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business
Administration

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AS-PRIM CONFERENCE - A MEMORABLE EVENT FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Organised by Braşov Association of General Practice in partnership with Transilvania University of Braşov, through the Faculty of Medicine, AS-PRIM Conference was a memorable event for the medical community. Held between 11 and 14 December 2024 in the prestigious "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, the conference served as a platform for scientific dialogue of a high professional class.



The main objective of the conference was to explore the challenges and responsibilities related to medical diagnosis, with an emphasis on the particularities of primary healthcare. The event brought together more than 400 participants and enjoyed the presence of over 100 speakers of distinction from our country and abroad, promoting the exchange of knowledge and fostering interprofessional collaboration.

The conference "Diagnosis in the First Line" was themed on the debate over the challenges in establishing a diagnosis within primary healthcare, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and generating applicable solutions to improve the quality of the medical act. During the four days of the conference, the following took place:

- Plenary sessions, with presentations by acknowledged experts;
- Over 30 interactive workshops dedicated to clinical, laboratory and imaging diagnoses, as well as to emotional health;
- Specialised courses: *Point of Care Ultrasonography (POCUS)*: the introduction to and application of this essential technique in modern medicine, and *Diagnosis and Treatment of Iron Deficiency Anaemia in Women*: clinical updates and modern perspectives;
- A poster competition, as an activity dedicated to resident physicians, doctoral students and

nurses, promoting innovative approaches and applied research in medicine.

The third edition of AS-PRIM Conference offered all participants a valuable experience, with an impact both on their professional development and on the academic environment. Nationally and internationally acknowledged experts shared theoretical and practical perspectives, contributing to the development of rapid and accurate diagnostic skills. One of the most important results of the conference was the strengthening of the professional networks, which created opportunities for international partnerships and collaborations. The scientific quality of the event, reflected in the high level of the presentations and activities, was appreciated by the participants, who confirmed the significant educational impact of the conference.



The next edition of the conference, planned for the spring of 2026, promises to continue the series of valuable debates and to bring to the fore topical issues in the medical field. The 2026 event promises to be a dynamic and innovative platform, which will contribute to an enhanced quality of the medical services through practical solutions and effective collaborations.

AS-PRIM Organizing Committee
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrea NECULAU
President of Braşov Association of General Practice
Chairperson of AS-PRIM Conference

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EDUTECH HACKATHON, THE FOURTH EDITION



Between 18 and 20 November 2024, the Student Entrepreneurial Society (SAS-UNITBV), with the support of Transilvania Star Group (TSG) and Smetytech, organised and held the EduTech Hackathon of UNITBV (in its fourth edition), an educational experiment in which the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students came up with technological solutions to meet the business needs.

Over the three days, each of the 17 competing teams developed an idea, starting from a need identified on the market, eventually settling upon a product that brings real value to a specific segment of customers.



During the 36 intense hours of work, in a creative environment, the participants tested their skills and applied their knowledge acquired during the courses. Under the guidance of their mentors, experts in various fields of activity, the participants created complex technical products that incorporate modern technology and bring real value to a specific customer segment, while also creating a vision of entrepreneurship.

At the end of the event, each team presented their product to a seven-member jury made up of entrepreneurs, academic community members and representatives of the local institutions. The participants received prizes consisting of tablets, speakers, and headphones.

The participation in this event gives the teams the opportunity to continue the development of their product within the Innovation Labs programme, a business pre-accelerator with which SAS UNITBV is in partnership.

The final ranking was:

- First prize – Chainsaw team, who brought innovation to the field of tourism, by including the VR technology in the service of guided tours by bus;
- Second prize – Adonis Software team, who proposed a change in the way cybersecurity is learned, by integrating intelligent and automated solutions to create security exercise.
- Third prize – Nutrify application, which proposed a solution to the problem of the difficulty and high costs in maintaining a healthy diet.
- Jury prize - BlueScreen InKa team, who proposed an educational platform that connects the students interested in practice and internships with startups and SMEs



We can conclude that EduTech Hackathon UNITBV was a real success, fostering the students' creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, as they proved capable of providing innovative solutions to real-world problems, with transformative potential upon various fields, from tourism to education and health.

Prof. Dr. Oana BĂRBULESCU
Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business
Administration

WORKSHOP - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

On 3 December 2024, the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management hosted a captivating workshop dedicated to the applications and applicability of artificial intelligence in research and education.

The event brought together experts in various fields and participants eager to explore the innovations brought by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The series of presentations provided valuable insights into how AI is transforming key sectors.



Victor Buta, Managing Partner ISERVICES, opened the series of presentations with the topic "Research and Content Generation for Digital Marketing", explaining how AI can simplify and optimise the creative processes in this field.



Adrian Dragomir, founder of Termene.ro and Sferal AI, drew the audience's interest with two innovative topics: customization of AI agents for specific needs and efficient methods for extracting structured information from complex documents.

George Manole, technical consultant - CAD Subscription, and Daniel Boriceanu, business development director - CAD Subscription, concluded

the session with a joint presentation on AI in computer-aided design, offering practical examples for the integration of advanced technologies in engineering.



Daniel Boriceanu is an alumnus of the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, more specifically of the Production Systems Engineering and Management study programme (class of 2002), and currently holds the position of Business Development Director within CAD Subscription company.

The participants had the opportunity to ask questions after each presentation, turning the event into an interactive and constructive dialogue.



The workshop focused on the importance of artificial intelligence as an indispensable tool in education and research, while also highlighting the need for collaboration between the experts in order to capitalise on the full potential of this technology.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioana Mădălina PETRE
Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial
Management

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DIGITAL METHODS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING – RE-GRAD PROJECT TEAM MEETING

The University of Sannio (Italy) was the host of the meeting held within the Erasmus+ KA2 "Reforming Undergraduate Education for Green and Sustainable Development in Armenia and Moldova" (RE-GRAD) project, which took place in Benevento, Italy, from 2 to 6 December 2024.



Within the project, the various methods by which artificial intelligence and digital platforms can be used to achieve various results in the field of sustainable development, environmental projects and restoration of various art objects or furniture items were presented. The training sessions and presentations aimed at presenting the various digital

tools used by the University of Sannio, the University of Strasbourg and Transilvania University of Braşov for teaching, learning and evaluation, but also the ones for the research, administrative and management activities in the three university centres. The theoretical information was accompanied by examples of good practice in the field of digitalization of the academic activities. The UNITBV team and the participants from the Republic of Moldova and Armenia could see the Hydrogen Zero Energy Building achieved at the University of Sannio.

These meetings were very interesting and instructive for all participants.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona LACHE

Prof. Dr. Eng. Codruţa JALIU

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela CIOBANU

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PUPILS OF "MIHAIL KOGĂLNICEANU" ECONOMIC COLLEGE OF FOCSANI ON A VISIT TO TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

On 16 December 2024, a group of 50 pupils of "Mihail Kogălniceanu" Economic National College of Focșani paid a visit to Transilvania University of Brașov, with a view to getting acquainted with our academic institution's educational offer. Accompanied by teacher Cristina Neaguț, the pupils got to know our university's study opportunities and vibrant atmosphere.



The visit started in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre with a general introduction to Transilvania University of Brașov, which included information on the fortunate choice of our city as a destination for higher education, the university's international openness, and the opportunities for personal and professional development.



Afterwards, the pupils watched the presentations made by representatives of the Faculties of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Food and Tourism, Economic Sciences and Business Administration, Psychology and Education Sciences, Law, Sociology and Communication. Moreover, the faculty representatives answered the pupils' questions and gave them detailed information on the study programmes, modern facilities and career prospects.

Such initiatives offer the pupils valuable insights into student life, help them better understand their educational options and thus make an informed decision as regards their academic future.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Victor BRICIU

Coordinator of the Compartment for Marketing
and Image

Prof. Dr. Ioana CHIȚU

Coordinator of the Compartment for the Liaison
with the Pre-University Environment

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"BEYOND THE SCREEN. EXPLORING DISABILITY THROUGH FILM AND ACADEMIC DIALOGUE", AN EVENT ORGANISED ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On 3 December 2024, Studio 181 Hall, Rectorate building, Transilvania University of Braşov, hosted the event "Beyond the Screen. Exploring Disability through Film and Academic Dialogue", in order to celebrate the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*. The event was organised in the framework of the project CNFIS-FDI-2024-F-0397 – "From access to success. Creating an accessible and inclusive academic environment for students with disabilities", coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela-Veronica Necşoi.



The project goal was the creation of the institutional and educational framework for ensuring high-quality inclusive and equitable education for the students with disabilities of Transilvania University of Braşov.

3 December was proclaimed the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* by the UN General Assembly, in 1992. The celebration of this day aims at promoting understanding for the disability-related issues and at mobilising support for the dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities, as well as at raising awareness of the benefits that

might result from the integration of people with disabilities in each political, social, economic and cultural aspect of life.

The event "Beyond the Screen. Exploring Disability through Film and Academic Dialogue" started with the screening of the feature film "Front of the class", (2008), a touching production about neurodiversity, based on the true story of Brad Cohen, a young man with the Tourette syndrome. The movie authentically portrays his challenges and triumphs in the struggle to fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher, the teacher "whom he himself had never had". The touching scenes highlight the difficulties that disabled people face in school and in society, but also their strength to overcome obstacles.

After the screening, the discussion moderated by Lect. Dr. Nicoleta-Raluca Lupu, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, created an open space for reflection and dialogue. The participants - students, professors and community members - shared personal experiences and analysed some of the most valuable lessons this movie offers: personal challenges can become sources of strength if viewed from a different perspective; success is not easy to achieve, hard effort and perseverance are key elements in overcoming obstacles; education can change lives – authentic education involves empathy, understanding and support; family support can make a difference in the lives of those experiencing hardships; education about people's differences facilitates the creation of a more empathetic and inclusive society.

Not least, the dialogue highlighted the academic community's responsibility to support inclusion and create an accessible and supportive educational environment for everyone.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ed. Sc. Daniela-Veronica NECŞOI
Vice-Dean, Faculty of Psychology and Education
Sciences

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GINGERBREAD GALA - TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN SWEET CAKE



On 6 December 2024, the Faculty of Food and Tourism hosted an original contest dedicated to the high school pupils and students of Brașov, which had a double purpose, that is, to promote the faculty among pupils in a high

school - university participatory framework, and to liaise high schools and Transilvania University of Brașov.

The contest took place in partnership with Sweet Desert company, an economic partner always present at the events of the Faculty of Food and Tourism, and with the support of CNFIS-FDI-2024-0419 e-Destin project team. The sponsors of the event were Transilvania School and Brașov Milk Factory.



Fourteen teams of pupils at five high schools in the city of Brașov: "Andrei Bârseanu" Economic National College, "Maria Baiulescu" National College, "Nicolae Titulescu" College, "George Moroianu" Technical High School and "Unirea" National College, along with five student teams attended the contest. The team names referred to either Christmas holidays (Christmas Staff, Christmasaurus, Spirit of Snow, Santa Claus' Elves, Santa's Helpers, etc.), or the displayed product (Gingerbread Elves, Fairytale Cakes, Cinnamon Team, GingerDream, Three Sweet Cakes, Cinammoncottage).

After the pupils' presenting the story and recipe of their gingerbread delis, the products were assessed in terms of aspect and taste by a jury made up of specialists with a rich expertise in the culinary sector (*pastry chef* Georgian Tufă and *lady șef* Cornelia Ghișoi).



The participants had the opportunity to contribute with original and bold ideas to preparing and obtaining "delis" that remind us of the childhood joys and flavours, or the excitement of the meetings with Santa Claus. Delicious, interesting dishes, made with passion and care, were presented. The following stood out in terms of aspect and taste: A Story with Gaze, Christmasaurus, Cinnamon Team; and the most interesting story belonged to Santa Claus' Elves. Moreover, a popularity prize was also awarded, by public votes, to Gingerbread Elves. We firmly believe that each participant was a winner, because all of them invested work, ideas and creativity, and thus interesting, appetising, delicious products were obtained. Therefore, we hope that such events will be organised in the future as well.



We congratulate all the participants in the contest and wish them the best of luck in their future culinary events!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Chem. Carmen Liliana BĂDĂRĂU
Jr. Lect. drd. Eng. Roxana Andreea ICHIM MUNTEANU
Jr. Lect. drd. Eng. Adelina Ioana MOJA
Jr. Lect. drd. Eng. Ana-Maria MANOLICĂ

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THE NINTH EDITION OF FSC CHRISTMAS FAIR



On 16 December 2024, at the Christmas Fair organised by the students of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication (FSC), "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov was enveloped by the magic of the winter holidays. The event, which has already become a tradition, brought together students, professors and local community members, offering a special opportunity to contribute to a noble cause.



The fair was a real display of creativity and generosity. The exhibitors brought handmade products, from festive decorations and personalized greeting cards to traditional sweets. The atmosphere was filled by carols performed by student bands, which delighted the participants and brought the spirit of Christmas closer to everyone's soul.

Due to the organizers' enthusiastic involvement and the visitors' generosity, the collected funds were donated to White Staff Association, for the visually impaired people's support. This gesture reaffirmed the solidarity and empathy of the FSC community, who succeeds year after year in combining the holiday cheer with the desire to do good.



The success of the event would not have been possible without the commitment of the volunteers, who made sure that every detail was perfect, without the creativity of the exhibitors, who impressed with the diversity of their products, and without the carollers who brought emotion and warmth through their songs.

We look forward to the year ahead with the hope that future events will continue to bring the FSC community together and inspire new initiatives.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabela BRICIU
Vice-Dean for Internationalization and Public
Relations
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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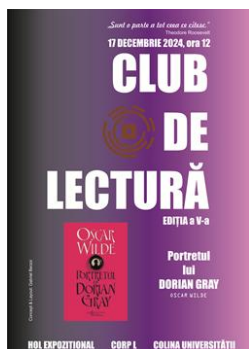
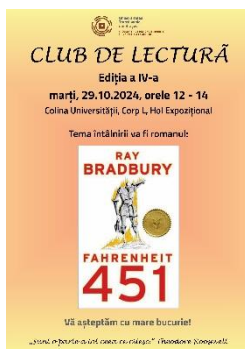
"I AM A PART OF ALL THAT I READ"

In 2024, the reading club of the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering started with five editions full of enthusiasm. Taking inspiration from the belief that reading broadens our horizons, enriches our vocabulary, and helps us better understand cultural and social contexts, I invited the students to participate in a challenge: to discuss and share ideas about books, thus discovering new perspectives and ways of expression.

The first edition of the reading club was hosted by Braşov Art Museum and was themed on the novel "When I Was a Work of Art" by Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt, a captivating story about identity and transformation.



The following meetings took place in the Faculty's Exhibition Hall, L building, exploring various literary genres, through the titles "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, a deeply moving science fiction, "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig, a philosophical reflection on life choices, „Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury, a classic dystopia about censorship and freedom of thought, and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde, a masterpiece about vanity and morality.



Each edition was promoted among the students through a poster graphically designed by the club members. They also compiled a list of books, based on their preferences, out of which, at each meeting, they choose the title of the volume to be read and discussed in the next edition.



We aimed at expanding the club's community by attracting a larger number of students, especially first- and second-year students, with a view to encouraging stable connections and lasting friendships within the faculty.

We invite you as well to take part in this year's literary meetings. These non-formal events take place monthly, during the periods of didactic activity, and offer the opportunity to develop the participants' critical thinking and analysis skills, encouraging them to explore various topics and express their opinions through well-defined arguments.



Sr. Lect. Dr. Eng. Antonela LUNGU
Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

CHAMBER JAZZ WITH SAMUEL BLASER AND MARC DUCRET

On 15 December 2024, the Multicultural Centre hosted the third Chamber Jazz @ Transilvania University concert within the 2024-2025 season, which was performed by the duo consisting of the composer and trombone player Samuel Blaser (CH) and the guitar player Marc Ducret (FR).



Acknowledged for his technical mastery and the way he tries to push the conventional limits of guitar in jazz, Marc Ducret has collaborated, since 1975, with Larry Schneider, David Friedmann, Michel Portal, Joachim Kuhn, Franco Ambrosetti, Didier Lockwood, Eric Barret, Miroslav Vitous, Enrico Rava, Adam Nussbaum, Django Bates, David Sanborn, Joey Baron, Michel Godard, Louis Sclavis and Dominique Pifarély's Acoustic Quartet.



In 2024, the composer and trombone player Samuel Blaser was designated by Jazz Magazine as "the year's foreign trombone player". He was also awarded, in 2019, "Prix du Musicien européen" by the Jazz Academy of Paris. Born in 1981, in Switzerland, he had lived in New York for several years, before moving to Berlin. He collaborated with Art Orchestra and European Radio Big Band. In 2020, he launched his own record label, Blaser Music, and his recent collaborations feature Michel Portal, Daniel Humair and Marc Ducret.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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ROMAN TOLICI – NEW HOPE

Opened on 7 December 2024, at the Multicultural Centre, *New Hope* exhibition of painting belongs to the contemporary artist Roman Tolici and is achieved in partnership with Mobius Gallery.



New Hope features a selection of recent canvases, which are a deep reflection on the major transformations that have redefined the contemporary world, both at the macro level, socially and politically, and at the micro level, of individual experiences. Exploring the relations between man and Earth's history, *New Hope* becomes a real space, built on human vulnerability and resilience alike, at a time when both physical and spiritual limits are constantly challenged.



"The new hope that Roman Tolici invokes in his paintings can be a paradoxical concept, which contains, from the beginning, the boundless, but slightly dreamlike horizon, of a «healed» planet and of an «adequate» mankind, but also the indisputable limits of a projection fractured by the actual reality in the field – the realm of imagination contaminated by apocalyptic scenarios and visible

existential tensions. [...] Painting is therefore hope, and the act of painting is the activation of a whole arsenal of survival strategies." (Diana Marincu, art critic and curator)

Roman Tolici was born in 1974, in the village of Ghetlova, Republic of Moldova (former USSR). In 1990, he came to Bucharest, "Nicolae Tonitza" High School of Art, through a study scholarship granted by the Romanian State. Still in Bucharest, he completed his studies at the University of Art. In the late 1990s, Tolici experimented in the fields of literature, illustration and animation, comics and photography alike, but made himself a name as a painter, later on, starting with the 2000s, through personal and group exhibitions.



He has exhibited in Romania, Germany, the Czech Republic and the United States. Associated to a photographic realism infused with lyricism and a surrealist sense of daily existence, Roman Tolici is one of the representative artists for the generation of the 2000s. He has had numerous personal and group exhibitions in the country and abroad, as well as public space interventions and context-parasitism situationist actions.

The exhibition was open to visit until late January 2025.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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ANDREI BODIU | POETIC OEUVRE

On Friday, 29 November 2024, the volume holding the writer Andrei Bodiú's complete poetic oeuvre, a volume edited and prefaced by Simona Popescu and issued under Rocart Publishing House, was launched.



Poets and literary critics, close acquaintance of the late poet and professor, participated in this literary event, organised by the Faculty of Letters in partnership with the Multicultural Centre.

Simona Popescu, Caius Dobrescu, Svetlana Cârsteian, Romulus Bucur, Georgeta Moarcă and Adrian Lăcătuş spoke of Andrei Bodiú's creation, from the particularities of construction to the ever-present relevance of the poems; and, at the same time, they brought it closer to the audience, through readings of the poems that marked them and evocation of common memories.

Simona Popescu, the editor of the volume, recalled the school years spent with Andrei Bodiú and spoke about the arduous process of material collection: the collection of critical texts and poetic creations took three years. At the same time, the poet confessed that Andrei Bodiú's poems are a starting point, a *direction*, for the poetry apprentices in the courses of creative writing.

Caius Dobrescu spoke about Andrei Bodiú as a Man, about the spontaneity and balance of his personality, about the seriousness, exigency and honesty he had always evinced. Andrei Bodiú's poetry is a form of affirmation of his dignity, but also, as Caius Dobrescu states, "an inexhaustible source of balance and calmness, a feeling of

certainly without big words, being an effective formula to pull through trying times".

Svetlana Cârsteian insisted that Andrei Bodiú's poetry is *essence*, a proof of laconic poetry, the stake of which is discretion, *unadornment*, thus being an acute, always relevant and timely poetry, in which we discover something different every time.

Romulus Bucur sees in Andrei Bodiú "a Zen master who had never practiced Zen", with a poetry totally committed to the present, by blurring the line between self and world, between perception and expression. In this way, the poet reinvents the literality, and the factual and the fictional are no longer easily distinguishable.

For Georgeta Moarcă, Andrei Bodiú was and remains a complex poet, a very generous and nonconformist professor, a transitive poet, with a literary creation of extraordinary openness to reality.



Adrian Lăcătuş emphasized the ironic dimension of Andrei Bodiú's creation, but also its ambiguity, given precisely by the writer's quality of maximum precision and authenticity in the act of writing.

Through the launch of the volume, the event once again brought into the limelight Andrei Bodiú's contribution to modelling a certain poetic sensitivity, in his capacity as both a writer and a professor within the Faculty of Letters.

Gabriela LUNG

2nd-year graduate student, Cultural Innovation,
Faculty of Letters

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PROFESSORS WE TAKE PRIDE IN

A CAREER OF EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING AND EDUCATION – PROF. DR. ENG. ROMEO CIOARĂ



Born in January 1958, at Comarnic, county of Prahova, Prof. Dr. Eng. Romeo Cioară is an alumnus of Transilvania University of Braşov. Very fond of engineering and innovation, Professor Cioară graduated from

Transilvania University of Braşov, majoring in Machine-Tools, as the valedictorian of the 1983 class, a first significant step in a notable career.

His entire teaching career has been conducted, since 1985, exclusively within Transilvania University of Braşov, where he advanced from Lecturer to Professor (2006). Since 2008, he has assumed the role of doctoral supervisor, guiding many research scientists towards excellence. Thus, to date, five doctoral theses were successfully supervised and validated.

With a doctorate in technical sciences, themed on Machine Tools and Integrated Machine Tool Systems, completed in 1998, within Transilvania University of Braşov, Professor Romeo Cioară made major contributions to the field of machine tools, publishing reference works and developing innovative methods in engineering.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Romeo Cioară authored 12 specialised monographs, treatises and higher-education textbooks, which were issued with ISBN, by prestigious publishing houses, some of them some unique in the Romanian literature (Cioară, R.: *Couplings and Brakes for Deformation Processing Machine-Tools. Calculation, Design, Construction*. Matrix Rom Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005, ISBN 973-685-857-X; Cioară, R., Pisarciuc, C.: *Non-circular Gears and Gear Cutting Machines on Non-circular Contour*. Publishing House of Transilvania University of Braşov, 2001, ISBN 973-8124-29-8), or single-authored works with a high degree of originality (Cioară, R.:

Specialised and Special Machine-Tools. Publishing House of Transilvania University of Braşov, 2005, ISBN 973-655-508-X; Cioară, R.: *Machine-Tools for Deformation Processing*. Publishing House of Transilvania University of Braşov, 2008, ISBN 978-973-655-598-306-2; Cioară, R.: *Mechanical Hand-Crank Presses*. Matrix Rom Publishing House, Bucharest, 2015, ISBN 978-606-25-0191-4; Cioară, R.: *Kinematic Bases of Machine-Tools*. Matrix Rom Publishing House, Bucharest, 2019, ISBN 978-606-25-0481-6).

His impressive list of publications also includes 186 scientific articles published in specialised journals and volumes of conference proceedings, as well as 32 national invention patents. Some of these patents, highly appreciated at international salons of inventics, brought him over 40 medals, including 19 of gold, two of which at the renowned *Salon International des Inventions* of Geneva.

Moreover, 12 patent applications are filed with OSIM in various stages of examination. Over time, eight patent applications were rejected, but two of them participated in international salons, bringing him five medals (four of gold), awards and diplomas of excellence.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Romeo Cioară is the initiator and editor-in-chief of RECENT® (Our Technical Research Results) an IDB journal, which has been issued since 2000. The title of the journal is a registered trademark within the heritage of Transilvania University of Braşov.

Through his outstanding activity in education, research and inventics, his tireless commitment to excellence, Prof. Dr. Eng. Romeo Cioară is a source of inspiration and a role model for the entire academic and technical community.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioana Mădălina PETRE
ALUMNI ITMI Officer

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