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NEWSLETTER

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VALEDICTORIANS OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV IN THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

This special issue of the Newsletter highlights the stories of the worthiest graduates in Brașov's academic community: the valedictorians of the 2025-2026 academic year. Their own accounts will impart to us the journey they covered towards success, but also the pursuits and strive they have undertaken for the next stage.

On 26 June, Transilvania University of Brașov marked a new episode of academic excellence, through the 2026 Gala of Valedictorians, which was hosted in Studio 181 Hall of the Rectorate. In a festive setting, filled with emotion, the best-performing graduates of the bachelor's education cycle were rewarded by our University's Management and the Deans of the 18 faculties.

These youth, who stood out for achieving the highest multi-year average grades of their class, are a new generation of professionals ready to leave an indelible mark

in their field of activity. Their accounts reveal how they capitalised on the acquired knowledge, committed themselves to their research projects, and successfully balanced extracurricular activities and the rigour of study. Their stories remain a model for the entire academic community and a testimony to the high level of education offered by Transilvania University of Brașov. We congratulate them on their achievements and wish them continued success.

Prof. MD Liliana ROGOZEA, PhD
Vice-Rector for Public Relations

Prof. Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU, PhD
Vice-Rector for Students and Liaison with the
Economic and Socio-Cultural Environment

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Faculty of Mechanical Engineering



PAUL ANDREI IVAN
average grade 10

Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management



MIHAI IONUȚ VASILE
average grade 9.73

Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering



DUMITRU SEBASTIAN ENESCU
average grade 9.46

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science



ANASTASIA MORARU
average grade 9.92

Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering



LARISA ȘTEFANIA BURȚICĂ
average grade 9.85

Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering



ȘTEFANIA OBANCEA
average grade 9.80

*Faculty of
Civil Engineering*



NORBERT GOCZ
average grade 9.71

*Faculty of Food
and Tourism*



ANDREEA MIHAELA VOAIDEȘ
average grade 9.64

*Faculty of Product Design
and Environment*



VIVIANA MATEI
average grade 9.95

*Faculty of Mathematics
and Computer Science*



ANDREI PRIBOI
average grade 9.97

*Faculty of Economic Sciences
and Business Administration*



ILKA DEÁK
average grade 9.81

*Faculty of Psychology
and Education Sciences*



GEORGIANA GABRIELA HORJEA
average grade 9.93

*Faculty of Physical Education
and Mountain Sports*



MIRUNA PAULA ZAMFIROIU
average grade 9.87

Faculty of Music



GIULIA FÂȘIE
average grade 9.98

Faculty of Medicine



LARISA GEORGIANA HUDIȚĂ
average grade 9.56

*Faculty of
Letters*



GEORGIAN THEODOR AVRAM
average grade 9.82

*Faculty of
Law*



LENORE LĂZĂROIU
average grade 9.70

*Faculty of Sociology
and Communication*



BOGDAN BENIAMIN MATEI
average grade 9.92

PAUL ANDREI IVAN – Average grade 10

“Trust me, I’m an engineer!”

Through this line which I and my colleagues in Automotive Engineering (English) frequently resort to, I



would like to open the calculation report on the four years I have just completed, and even more. My name is Paul Andrei Ivan and I am a fresh alumnus of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering where, by a lucky twist of fate, I have succeeded in becoming a

valedictorian.

Ever since high school, I have acquired a basic formula for life: *Per aspera ad astra*, which mathematically translates as “Hard work = high performance”. Possibly a rather rough form of the aforementioned Latin expression, this motto of “Dr. Ioan Meșotă” National College has been the source of power for my progress, even after completing secondary education. I attended the Natural Sciences track, Bilingual English, where physics was the decisive factor for the choice of my faculty and future.

Faculty has taught me another basic formula, which I will apply from now on: $\frac{\text{Hard work}}{\text{Team}} = \text{Higher performance}$. I will also specify the transcript of the previous formula to clarify the idea behind it: “Much work shared across a team brings higher performance”. This is one of the engineers’ qualities: to know how to divide a task within a team according to each member’s strengths, in order to achieve performance and peak results as quickly as possible, with minimal errors. To those who don’t believe me, “Trust me, I’m an engineer.”

A Brașov native and resident, I was born, spent my childhood, grew up and studied in this city. Some

might say that, after 23 years of age, there is nothing left to see. However, the city changes not only by itself, but also through the eyes of the seer. You might go to the same place 20 times and still glimpse something new, if you know how to look. And, as for the reader who supposes I’ve never come out of my shell, allow me to contradict you! I travelled through both China and Kazakhstan, not for sightseeing, but for participating in international student olympiads in the field of mechanisms.

That’s about it in this calculation report, rather brief, compared to the faculty projects, and yet quite comprehensive. As regards the ones who believe my sayings, I trust that the knowledge acquired here will prove beneficial. As for those who don’t, they can find me in the master’s studies, at Transilvania University, for more details. And, to those who neither believe me, nor want to look for me, I can only tell “Trust me, I’m an engineer”.



Paul Andrei IVAN
Valedictorian
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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MIHAI IONUȚ VASILE – Average grade 9.73

I am Mihai, an alumnus of the Aerospace Engineering study programme; and, if I were to come



up with a visual summary of my career, it would be that famous picture of the fighter pilot in the cockpit, mid-flight, and yet engrossed in reading a textbook entitled "How to Fly". I set out with a very strict flight plan, which I have shifted away from, since the first study year.

However, I have no regret at all.

I grew up in Brăila and graduated from "Gh. M. Murgoci" National College, a high school of tradition and an always high bar. When the time came for me to choose a faculty, my spark was pure adrenaline: I wanted to be a motorsport engineer, specifically in Formula 1. Given the choice between Bucharest and Brașov as regards where to study aerospace engineering, the decision was easy to take. I could never bear with the hustle and bustle of the Capital; therefore, I set the GPS coordinates towards Brașov... and I did well!

I came here, accordingly, with just one direction in mind; and, in my first study year, I immediately joined the BlueStreamline team, working on the BS23 single-seater. It was an intense, but eye-opening experience: I realized that engineering has no strict boundaries. I began to explore new routes. I moved from motorsport to entrepreneurship and innovation, attending a hackathon and business plan competitions in Oradea, only to end up in commercial aviation, where I successfully achieved a project of structure optimization for an Airbus A320 within Airbus Aerostructures. The convergence point of all these detours was my bachelor's thesis: the F1-inspired design of a DRS intended for a modular aircraft, the project in which I finally combined my passion for flight with the one for cars.

If wondering where the textbook "How to Fly", read on the go, makes the scene, the answer is: the last

semester. In March, I was employed as *Junior Project Manager* within Siemens company. Juggling a new job, the bachelor's thesis and the graduation exams meant learning to pilot a complex situation, while I was already sky-high, accepting chaos as a state of mind.

However, no plane flies without the ground support crew, and no single-seater car finishes a race without the garage crew. For me, this team consists, on the one hand, of my parents, who have been my base and compass all these years, and, on the other hand, by my girlfriend, who has counterbalanced all the chaos of the last four years. A special place in this team belongs to my two grandmothers, who have always given 101% to hold me up. Without all of them, I simply could not have achieved any of what I did. I owe my success to them.

And, to make the picture complete, when taking the graduation exam, I also had a surprise co-pilot: Mura, my puppy. Despite entering my life only after graduation, she was physically there, in front of the V building, proudly waiting for me at the finish line.

Today, looking back on this journey, I realize that the most beautiful destinations are the ones arising on unmapped paths. The flight has just begun.



Mihai Ionuț VASILE
Valedictorian
Faculty of Technological Engineering and
Industrial Management

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DUMITRU SEBASTIAN ENESCU – Average grade 9.46

My name is Dumitru Sebastian Enescu and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering within Transilvania University of Braşov, majoring in Welding Engineering.



I was born on 13 January 2004, in the city of Târgovişte. I grew up in Vulcana-Băi village, where my thirst for knowledge made me nurture the pursuits of building, exploring, learning and always outdoing myself. My educational path started at "Elena Donici

Cantacuzino" Secondary School no. 4, in the town of Pucioasa, then brought me to "Constantin Carabella" National College of Târgovişte.

My interest in the field of engineering arose through play and the need of bringing to real life what was already there, in my thoughts. An engineer's role is, first and foremost, creative; and, for me, the greatest satisfaction comes from successfully proving that ideas can become reality. Engineering taught me that the success of a project lies in details: a fair design ensures an impeccable implementation.

Thus, the choice to attend the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering was, for me, the beginning of a beautiful period in which I discovered materials bonding, the role of development and research in this field, and especially the joy of working and developing alongside people eager to create. I also succeeded in seeing beyond the flame, because welding is an art, not just a bright light and heat. Behind any welded

fabrication or structure lie nights of calculations and programming, but the satisfaction of seeing the results truly gives me happiness and proves to me that perseverance and patience are the key to success.

The moment I had the honour of stepping onto the stage, as a valedictorian, in 2026, reconfirmed a simple truth for me: passion is the engine that makes every hour of work bear fruit.

Looking to the future, I am determined to pursue a career in engineering. I want to build and apply my skills and knowledge. I want to contribute to the development of Romania and its industry. Furthermore, I will continue my academic training with a master's study programme in the same field, because I believe in what I do and what I can become.



Dumitru Sebastian ENESCU
Valedictorian
Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering

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ANASTASIA MORARU – Average grade 9.92

I am Anastasia Moraru, a graduate of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. This year I'm the valedictorian, but there were days when I



doubted even that I would successfully complete everything on time.

I have always been a worrier by nature, excessively concerned about everything; therefore, on realizing that I would start my student years in such a remote city, which only

one other colleague from "Petru Rareș" National College of Suceava chose as well, you can just imagine the emotions that took over me!

Somehow, I figured it out. My freshman year was probably my favourite. I had some fantastic, calm professors who did things the right way and answered questions without criticising. My worries dissipated, and faculty became, with each passing day, an increasingly pleasant place. I think of them fondly and am particularly grateful to them.

During my first two years of study, I volunteered within the AIESEC organization, where I met many people from all over the world, a fact that held great significance for my training. I like to delve into new cultures, discover new perspectives, find more about today's global issues, and more; accordingly, it had been the right place for me, until I decided that I would rather do something more engineering-related.

During the junior year, I joined BlueStreamline, our University's Formula Student team, whom I helped build their first electric car. I had never been a car enthusiast; however, at some point, I began to feel more confident in myself and, on seeing the registration link, I decided there was no downside. It was a difficult and tiresome year, full of sleepless

nights, perspiration, sometimes tears; however, no one and nothing could stop us. We all had one goal to strive towards, and never even considered giving up. Although the car could not compete in the dynamic tests, our work was not in vain. The lessons we learned, along with the memories and stories we made within this team are priceless.

In the senior year, I chose to focus on my graduation exam, but I couldn't help doing an extracurricular activity; therefore, I enrolled in ESN, the volunteer association that deals with the Erasmus students' accommodation and integration. Back to my old fancies, I had the chance to meet a great many people, all of them fascinating and vibrant with passions and stories.

I eventually graduated as a valedictorian and, most importantly, I am the first in my family to earn a degree. I made friends and family proud of me, while living my youth as best I knew, which is, I dare say, a great success.

I will continue my studies with a master's programme at the same university, and I would like to engage in research projects. I am extremely grateful for all the people in my life, and I look forward to seeing where the next steps will take me.



Anastasia MORARU

Valedictorian

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

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LARISA ȘTEFANIA BURTEA – Average grade 9.85



My name is Larisa-Ștefania, and I am a graduate and the valedictorian of the 2026 class for the Terrestrial Measurements and Cadastre study programme, within the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering. I was born in the town of Întorsura Buzăului, on a cold December night, in 2003. I completed my high school studies in the same town, at "Mircea Eliade" Theoretical High School, Mathematics - Informatics track, an institution which significantly enhanced my intellectual and personal training, and where I discovered my aptitudes for the exact sciences.

I'd like to talk a little bit about a few beliefs according to which, if you attend this faculty, you become a forester; nevertheless, I will shatter these ideas when I say that no, you don't become (just) a forester, but an engineer. As far as I am concerned, after this journey, I am proud to have earned the title of geodetic engineer. The conferral of the academic rank of valedictorian is an honour and, at the same time, a recognition of my unfailing discipline, perseverance and commitment during the years of study.

For me, the academic path meant much more than the acquisition of high-level knowledge and expertise. It was a period of personal and professional growth, of character building, of overcoming challenges and of forging lifelong friendships. I look back with gratitude at every stage of this journey which shaped me into the version of myself I am now.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the University's teaching personnel for their dedication, professionalism and guidance during the years of study. To an equal extent, I am deeply grateful to my family and loved ones, who have supported me unconditionally, given me confidence and encouraged me at every stage of this journey.

In the future, I wish to fully embrace a geodetic engineer's core values and make proof of precision, professionalism, integrity and responsibility. I will hopefully succeed in developing society and creating the best living conditions in terms of infrastructure. Moreover, I confidently look to the future, with the certainty that the information acquired at the faculty serves as a strong foundation for my professional development and for a reliable and firm approach to the direction I might take.



Larisa Ștefania BURTEA
Valedictorian
Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering

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ȘTEFANIA OBANCEA – Average grade 9.80

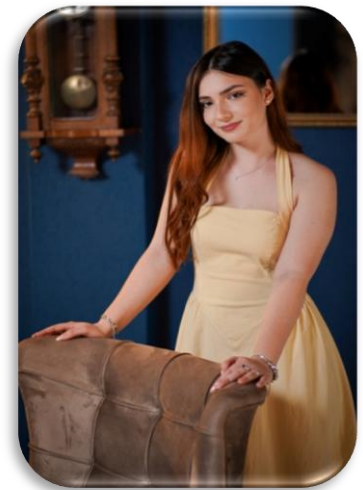
My name is Ștefania Obancea, and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering within Transilvania University of Brașov.



I was born on 28 May 2004, in the city of Brașov, where I grew up and which gave me the opportunity to discover my propensities and develop my creativity. In 2022 I graduated from “Dr. Ioan Meșotă” National College of Brașov, Mathematics -

Informatics track, where I acquired a comprehensive knowledge base and realized the importance of discipline and analytical thinking. I chose to pursue a degree at the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering, out of a desire to master the fundamentals of design and to explore how creativity integrates with functionality and technology. I dare say design is not only about aesthetics, but also about finding innovative solutions that meet people’s needs and valorise the beauty of materials. During my student years, I had the opportunity to participate in an Erasmus+ mobility stage at Mendel University of Brno, Czech Republic, an experience that provided me with a relevant international outlook and opened me to other learning methods, different cultures and modern approaches to design. This experience fostered both my professional advancement and

personal growth, while strengthening the confidence in my strengths. The student years were an important stage in my education, offering me both specialised knowledge and valuable experiences, preparatory for my future career. I have learned that design requires balance between creativity, functionality and attention to detail, and that each project is an opportunity to turn an idea into a valuable product. In the future, I look forward to continuing my professional development in the field of design, gaining more experience, and contributing to innovative projects that combine aesthetics, functionality and sustainability.



Ștefania OBANCEA
Valedictorian
Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

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NORBERT GOCZ – Average grade 9.71

My name is Norbert Gocz, and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, majoring in Building Services. I



am from Târgu Secuiesc, the town where I grew up and attended high school.

I've always been curious to understand what lies behind things that work well. I dare say it is precisely this curiosity that drove me towards

engineering, a field where, as I now know, every detail matters, and performance occurs when all elements work in harmony.

Since the sophomore year, I have had the opportunity to work in the field of design. The growing expertise naturally complemented my academic training and reaffirmed my belief that coursework has real-world applicability. I have come to understand that theory and practice are not two different directions, but they complement each other in an engineer's training.

Apart from the professional activity, sport fills an important place in my life, and tennis is the passion that fuels my continuing self-improvement. It has taught me that progress doesn't happen overnight and that the most important competition is with oneself. I try to bring the same mindset into my daily life, always striving to become better than I was yesterday.

During my studies, I had the opportunity to participate in research projects, conferences and industry-specific competitions; moreover, these experiences strengthened my knowledge and reassured me on having chosen the right path. Above any results, however, my university years taught me how to think, collaborate and always look for better solutions.

For me, the title of valedictorian is not the end of a journey, but the beginning of a new one. My goal is to continue my development, while contributing to projects with real-world impact, and never stop learning. I believe that success is not about being better than others, but about becoming, every day, a better version of yourself.



Norbert GOCZ
Valedictorian
Faculty of Civil Engineering

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ANDREEA MIHAELA VOAIDEȘ – AVERAGE GRADE 9.64

My name is Andreea Mihaela Voaideş. I am 22 years old, and I graduated from the Faculty of Food and Tourism,



majoring in Food Engineering.

It is a field that I chose out of a desire to delve into the technological processes in the food industry, and out of a real interest in the essential role that nutrition plays in the lives of each of us. I dare say this field perfectly combines the technical, scientific and practical aspects, offering the opportunity to help

develop safe, cutting-edge and high-quality products.

I was born in the municipality of Piatra Neamț, county of Neamț, and completed secondary education at "Carol I" High School of Bicaz, humanities track. Although my high school journey was different from the technical field I would later choose, I have always believed that true development comes when you have the courage to explore new directions and to step out of your comfort zone. The choice to study in the city of Brașov came naturally because, ever since my first visit to this city, I have been deeply impressed by its unique beauty, harmonious combination of nature, special architecture and peaceful atmosphere, but also due to my always having wished to be part of a strong academic environment, recognised for its high standards and development opportunities offered to the students.

I consider myself ambitious, persevering and highly committed in everything I undertake. By nature, I set myself clear goals and constantly put in efforts to achieve them, regardless of the challenges encountered along the way. I love learning new things, challenging myself, and, I dare say, progress always comes from hard work, patience and unfailing desire to become the best version of myself. Beyond my university path, I personally value the balance between professional growth and self-improvement. I love travelling, discovering new places and meeting various people, cultures and experiences, because I believe that each such venture shapes who we are as human beings.

My four student years were a milestone period in terms of both professional and personal development. During the studies, I acquired extensive knowledge in the field of food

engineering; I succeeded in developing essential skills such as discipline, organization, team spirit, analytical thinking, as well as the resilience in front of newly emerged situations.

All my work, commitment and dedication during these university years were rewarded with one of the greatest achievements so far: the graduation as a valedictorian, which distinction is for me not only an acknowledgment of my academic results, but also a proof that reliability, discipline, and perseverance always pay off.

The university experience meant for me personal growth, overcoming my own limits, building beautiful friendships, accumulating valuable experiences and discovering my own potential. I am deeply grateful to the professors who guided me and contributed to my professional growth, but also to my family, who offered me support, trust and the motivation to move forward.

Genuine success, I dare say, does not lie only in our outcomes, but also in the journey that defines who we are and in the lessons that we learn along the way. I strive for ongoing development, boldness of accepting new experiences and valorization of every opportunity that might enhance my personal and professional growth. As far as I am concerned, all my achievements so far are proof that, through work, determination and confidence in our own strength, we can make it exactly where we want to reach.



Andreea Mihaela VOAIDEȘ
Valedictorian
Faculty of Food and Tourism

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VIVIANA MATEI – Average grade 9.95

My name is Viviana Matei, and I am a graduate of the Medical Engineering study programme within the Faculty of Product Design and Environment.



I have always nurtured the belief that the greatest achievements build up through perseverance, discipline, and passion for continuing learning. I nurtured these principles throughout my academic journey; and they motivated me to turning each challenge into a

development opportunity, both professionally and personally.

Although born in Iași, to then grow up and spend my childhood in Italy, where I graduated from *Liceo Scientifico Statale "Gregorio Ricci Curbastro", Scientifico Classico* track, I felt that the next stage would be for me to return in Romania, my native country. I wished higher education would mark not only the beginning of a career, but also a return home, to a place where I would succeed in building my future and capitalising on the knowledge accumulated so far. Therefore, I opted for Transilvania University of Brașov, specifically the Medical Engineering study programme, as a field which combines technology, research and medicine, and which gave me the opportunity to turn my passion for exact sciences into a profession.

The years spent at Transilvania University of Brașov meant much more to me than just accumulation of knowledge. This was a time when I acquired responsibility, teamwork, adaptation to newly emerged situations and resilience through hardships. I did my best to capitalise on every opportunity offered by the faculty, actively engaging in academic and practical activities, out of the belief that performance comes from consistent hard work and honest commitment.

During the studies, I had the privilege of participating in two Erasmus+ mobilities, which had a significant

impact on my training. The former took place in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, where I had the opportunity to discover an international academic environment and to interact with students from various cultures; this experience expanded my perspective on the field of engineering, while reinforcing my commitment to continuous self-improvement. The latter took place at Boğaziçi University of Istanbul, where I gained a deeper insight into the biomedical field, by participating in hands-on and research activities that developed my technical skills and adaptable mindset in an exceptional academic environment.

Looking back, I am grateful for every experience, professor and colleague that contributed to my training. Every project, exam and challenge played a key role in shaping me as I am today, and taught me that success comes when passion goes hand in hand with hard work and perseverance.

Next off, I intend to pursue the master's study programme "Mechatronic Systems for Industry and Medicine", as I firmly believe that the learning process does not end at graduation. I am committed to continuing self-improvement, to helping build next-generation medical technologies and to forging myself a career based on professionalism, reliability and willingness to positively impact on society.



Viviana MATEI

Valedictorian

Faculty of Product Design and Environment

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ANDREI PRIBOI – Average grade 9.97

My name is Andrei Priboi, and I am a graduate of Transilvania University of Braşov, specifically the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, majoring in



Applied Computer Science.

I grew up in Braşov, where I attended "Andrei Şaguna" National College. Nevertheless, although my propensity for computers and informatics had already become manifest, I only discovered my passion for mathematics after the baccalaureate exam. It seems to be the

distance from this one that revealed to me how much I had missed it.

Prior to being admitted to the university, I had lived an altogether different life. I was an international professional sportsman. I practiced dancesport, or rather the art of dancesport, which has taught me that real progress comes from constant discipline, not from moments of inspiration. Although no longer practicing dancesport, I have been striving ever since to apply this lesson in everything I do.

My student years were for me a period of active search, not only of accumulation. I chose to combine study with research and professional activity, deeply convinced that the three feed off each other. I succeeded in turning my bachelor's thesis into a manuscript submitted for publication, I collaborated with a researcher, PhD candidate, and I won awards at five student conferences and many hackathons. This industry-relevant activity was not at all a distraction, but a parallel and related development; and the formal study, in its turn, helped me better understand what I was building in the real world. I didn't see this combination as a compromise on my studies, but as a natural extension.

It is not the competition with others what was keeping me motivated, but the joy of being able to help them in my turn. Earlier in my journey, I realized that the best way to really understand something

implies an effort to explaining it to others; and the willingness to be of service to others has become one of the most constant drivers of my learning. Informatics, in its most interesting form, is an ongoing conversation between theory and reality, and I wanted to be an active participant in this conversation.

I now intend to pursue a research master's degree in artificial intelligence and machine learning, continued with doctoral studies. I have set myself a clear research direction, and this is the scientific branch I feel most drawn to. I am particularly interested in kernel methods and representations for self-supervised machine learning. In the long term, I wish to pursue a career in research, either in academia or an artificial intelligence lab. Or, who knows, maybe both.

I take this opportunity to express gratitude to my professors, who treated me like a colleague of theirs, even though they had no obligation in this regard, to my vocational mentors, who challenged me with real-life problems, and to my family, who always knew when to support me and when to let me make my own mistakes.



Andrei PRIBOI

Valedictorian

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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ILKA DEÁK – Average grade 9.81

My name is Ilka Deák, and I am a graduate of the International Affairs bachelor's study programme within the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business



Administration, with the honours of being designated the valedictorian.

Ever since the beginning of my university path, I have been guided by curiosity toward the world, by interest in cultural diversity and by desire to grasp the mechanisms governing contemporary society. I chose the field of economics since I had always regarded economic sciences not only as a field of study, but also as a tool for understanding the world and the international relations.

During my student years, I had the opportunity to participate in three Erasmus+ mobilities, two of study, at Helsinki and Porto, and one of internship, in Portugal. These experiences opened up new perspectives for me, got me acquainted with various people and cultures, and thus significantly contributed to both my academic and personal development. During the semester spent in Helsinki, I travelled to many countries of northern Europe, visited the North Pole, swam in the Arctic Ocean, hiked in the Lofoten Islands, as well as admired the Northern Lights and spectacular waterfalls of Iceland. In Porto, instead, I took up a new sport, surfing, and fell for the rhythm of

life by the ocean, admiring the sunsets over the Atlantic Ocean almost every evening.

This summer I completed my bachelor's studies with a grade of 10 in both the written graduation exam and the final thesis. Beyond the results, however, I dare say the most important change brought along by these years has a personal note: I have gained more self-confidence, as well as learnt to take the opportunities that arise and to assume the responsibilities that emerge along the way.

As a next step, I would like to pursue a master's degree and build a professional career in the field of international relations, diplomacy or within international organizations, as fields that allow me to combine my interest in economics with my passion for cultural diversity and international cooperation.



Ilka DEÁK

Valedictorian

Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business

Administration

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GEORGIANA GABRIELA HORJEA – Average grade 9.93

My name is Georgiana-Gabriela Horjea, and I have the special honour of representing the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, specifically the Pedagogy of Primary and Preschool Education specialization.



I look back, with gratitude and emotion, on the journey I have taken in these three years of study, and realize that every step has shaped who I am today. Within this faculty, my journey began with a dream: to become the teacher I myself would have needed as a child, a dedicated, empathetic

and passionate teacher, successfully reaching not only the children's minds, but also their hearts. Today I can say that this dream is closer than ever to becoming a reality.

Originally from the village of Brebu, county of Prahova, I take my roots in a modest family, but rich in values. My parents have taught me that education is one of our most important investments, and that work, respect, faith and perseverance underlie any success. Their unconditional support watched over each step of this journey, and I owe them a great part of who I have become today.

Behind this success lies much more than an average grade of 9.93; that is, a lot of study time, apprehension, sleepless nights and many sacrifices hide underneath. There were days in which I felt myself incapable of going on, but I could also find enough reasons to keep going. I have learnt that success doesn't mean perfection, but the courage to keep going even when the road becomes challenging.

I have never liked comparing myself to others. The only competition ever accepted was with myself. And perhaps this is the most difficult of all.

My thoughts of gratitude go to my parents, the ones who have always believed in me, even when I doubted my own strengths. I thank them for all their sacrifices, for every encouragement and for their unconditional love. At the same time, I thank my friends and everyone who has been by my side through these years. It is a true blessing to meet people who remain steadfast in both the good and the bad times.

My sincerest thanks go to the academic teaching personnel who were more than just professors, as they were mentors, role models and sources of inspiration. They not only provided us with information and answers, but also lessons of responsibility, dignity and empathy.

I will conclude with the quote that has guided my steps these years and keeps inspiring me: "Don't climb mountains so that the world can see you. Climb mountains so that you can see the world."



Georgiana Gabriela HORJEA

Valedictorian

Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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MIRUNA PAULA ZAMFIROIU – Average grade 9.87

My name is Miruna Paula Zamfiroiu. I am 23 years, and I was born, raised and live in Braşov. I am a



graduate of the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports, majoring in Kinesiology and Special Motricity. My path towards physiotherapy started with a little detour, as I completed secondary education at "Unirea" National College of Braşov, known for its

humanities track. Late in the 12th grade I was focusing on the admission examination to "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Police Academy, but this path closed for me; therefore, in the autumn of 2022, I began my studies at the Faculty of Law, within Transilvania University of Braşov. Although I had a good background, this faculty no longer suited what I had become that year. The 11 years of competitive swimming, the active life I was leading, and the interest in the anatomy and biomechanics of the human body made me choose kinesiology. Thus, ever since the first week spent at the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports, I have felt myself belonging there.

The three years of the bachelor's degree programme lay the foundation of my future career in physical therapy. It is here that I capitalised on my interest in the anatomy, biomechanics and physiology of the human body. Moreover, I was fortunate to have reliable professors who committed themselves and made me better understand the need for advanced study of this profession. Due to my internship, I realized that there is no greater joy than coming to the aid of people in distress, of the children who wish themselves just like anyone else, or of the athletes who would do anything to return to their physical condition before an injury.

Although I had never even dared to dream of the "valedictorian" academic title, it came as a reward for all the sacrifices and efforts put in over the years out of a desire to become the best version of myself. I have long given up comparing myself to others, and chosen to focus on my own evolution, always looking

for ways to develop as much as possible, both personally and professionally.

I have been practicing natation since the age of 4, and competitive swimming since the age of 11. This sport has left its mark on me, shaping me into an organised, persevering, strong and hard-working person. The last few years have brought me the most beautiful memories, but also the top achievements in this sport. Moreover, I succeeded in promoting the faculty as well, by obtaining, for two consecutive years, the second place in an individual competitive event and the first place in the university relay. Currently, I continue to practice swimming because it contributes to my wellbeing, and I earn my living as a swim coach, working with both children and adults.

I would not have made it without the unconditional support of my family, friends, professors, coaches and, above all, God. Throughout this journey, there were countless moments when I felt His presence and guidance, and it was then that I understood how my achievements were not a mere result of my efforts or a pure coincidence.

To conclude, I can definitely say that I am proud of my journey and my achievements. I look forward to the future with confidence, and I want to become a genuine professional in the field of physiotherapy, regardless of the field I will choose, and to keep sharing to people, with the same passion, the joy and benefits of swimming.



Miruna Paula ZAMFIROIU

Valedictorian

Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

GIULIA FÂȘIE – Average grade 9.98

My name is Giulia Fâșie. I am 21 years, and I come from the town of Buzău. I am an alumna of the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Brașov, majoring in Music.



My musical journey started in childhood. I have always been drawn to music; therefore, I chose to take singing classes in Romanian folk music at the age of six. A year later, I deemed it necessary to learn how to play an instrument, and accordingly started taking violin lessons, which I did up to my freshman year.

In 2023 I graduated from “Margareta Sterian” High School of Arts, in Buzău, where I advanced into the study of Romanian traditional music. During all these years, I have participated in many competitions and festivals. Within their framework, I received many awards, with the most important thereof in my collection being the third prize at the National Olympiad for Instrumental and Vocal Performance and Music Theory Studies, which took place in the city of Timișoara, in 2022.

My passion for music brought me to Brașov. When I first stepped into the faculty halls, I felt myself belonging there. During my three student years, I participated in the relevant Scientific Communications Session, where I won first and second prizes in 2025

and 2026. Furthermore, I attended as a volunteer all the conferences organised by the Faculty of Music, out of a desire to acquire as much information as possible in this field. Transilvania University of Brașov and the Faculty of Music offered me manifold opportunities, including two tours that will stay forever in my heart: to Kenya and Japan. I take this opportunity to thank the University’s Management and the academic teaching personnel for supporting me, and for believing in me and my potential.

I am sure to have made the best decisions for myself, and trust that my path will continue in the field of music.



Giulia FÂȘIE
Valedictorian
Faculty of Music

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LARISA GEORGIANA HUDIȚĂ – Average grade 9.56

My name is Larisa-Georgiana Hudiță, I am 25 years of age, I was born in Brașov, and spent my childhood in the town of Ghimbav, where I still live now.



Since early childhood, I have felt that study is a special tool that provides you with the opportunity to turn your goals into a rewarding journey.

This belief took concrete form during the high school years. I

attended the exact sciences track, natural sciences major (intensive English), within “Andrei Șaguna” National College of Brașov – a special academic environment, which brought a significant contribution to my education. In high school, my path unfolded step by step towards medicine, out of curiosity and with much courage, to then discover how the passion for life sciences can turn into an opportunity of healing and restoring joy.

A first confirmation of this ideal came during my participation in the event “Become Yourself a Medical Student!”, a project that encouraged us, high school pupils, to take in the atmosphere of our Faculty of Medicine. In this event, I won first prize in the anatomy test, and this was an early achievement that boosted my courage to follow this path.

I enthusiastically stepped into the Faculty of Medicine, highly committed and eager to receive training for this profession and, from one year to another, to make sure that I will have developed and become better. All through these years, I have participated in many medical workshops and congresses; and, in 2022, within the National Congress of the Romanian Society of Anatomy, I even obtained the first prize with the scientific paper “Anatomical Characteristics of Traumatic Liver Ruptures”.

Thus, my student years proved to me once more that medicine is a non-stop job, and that discipline, dedicated effort and ambition underlie high performance. Beyond the hundreds of pages in the medical treatises, medicine brought me closer to people, taught me how to overcome my limits and keep fighting, even when feeling incapable of going on.

The path to becoming an exceptional doctor is both of study and knowledge, as well as of maturation, empathy and dedication – given that, to protect someone’s health is both an honour and a great responsibility.

The title of valedictorian which concludes this chapter is the culmination of a constant effort, but above all a promise: the one of carrying further the same rigour and responsibility to my future career as a doctor.

I would like to thank everyone who has stood by my side during these six years, especially my parents, who provided me with support and contributed to this effort becoming a reality.



Larisa Georgiana HUDIȚĂ
Valedictorian
Faculty of Medicine

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GEORGIAN THEODOR AVRAM – Average grade 9.82

My name is Georgian Theodor Avram, and I come from the municipality of Râmnicu Sărat, county of Buzău. This



is where I spent my childhood and adolescence, and where I took the first steps in my academic training. I graduated from “Alexandru Vlahuță” National College of Râmnicu Sărat, philology track (intensive English).

My pursuit of foreign languages started from early childhood, in a peculiar way. Video games were what first brought me into contact with various languages and cultures, sparking my curiosity to understand what I was reading and hearing. Over time, this curiosity turned into a genuine willingness to learn and discover the world through foreign languages.

With a view to furthering my knowledge and turning this passion into a career, I decided to attend the Faculty of Letters within Transilvania University of Braşov, specifically the Applied Modern Languages programme (French – English). These three student years were one of the most beautiful and prominent stages in my life. The University offered me not only specialised knowledge, but also the opportunity of personal development, as well as of growing a more open mind and looking at the world from new perspectives. An essential role in this experience was played by the academic teaching personnel of the Faculty of Letters, who stood out for their professionalism, commitment and willingness to

constantly support the students. I am grateful to them for their patience, confidence and guidance during these three years. My colleagues contributed withal to this academic experience, and moreover, to a significant degree: we went through challenges and memorable moments together, and the relationships built during this period made the college years truly special.

I wouldn't have made it so far without my parents' unconditional support. They have always been by my side, encouraging me to follow my passions, and trusting my choices. Their freedom for me to build my own path and their constant support have been one of the most important motivations in my academic journey.

The fact that I graduated as a valedictorian is an honour and, at the same time, a responsibility. This achievement, I dare say, reflects not only my hard work and perseverance over the years, but also the support of the people who have contributed to my training. It is a result that drives me to keep learning and developing.

I look forward to the future with confidence, as I intend to pursue a master's degree at Transilvania University of Braşov, specifically in the Studies of French Language and Culture programme. I am sure that the new step will give me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and continue my development, both professionally and personally.

Georgian Theodor AVRAM

Valedictorian
Faculty of Letters

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LENORE LĂZĂROIU – Average grade 9.70

My name is Lenore Lăzăroi, and I am a graduate of the Faculty of Law, Transilvania University of Braşov. Looking



back, I realize that my choice for this faculty was not accidental. I have always been drawn to the idea of fairness, the responsibility of making the right decision, and the desire to understand people and the situations they face.

As far as I am concerned, law is not only a field of study, but also a way of learning how to think, analyse and look at the world with greater objectivity.

My student years were undoubtedly a time of growth and discovery. They weren't without challenges – tough exam sessions, long hours of study and moments when it all seemed too much. However, each overcome obstacle has taught me to be more disciplined, organised and confident in my skills. I have realized that good results are not a matter of luck, but build up step by step, through perseverance, patience and hard work, on a daily basis. I have found a genuine interest in legal analysis and case settlement, but also the contentment that comes from having found the right solution, based on both law and the principles of righteousness.

The title of valedictorian is, as far as I am concerned, a great honour and withal responsibility. Above the average grade, this distinction reminds me that every effort I put in and every challenge I overcame shaped me both as a future professional and as a human being.

At the same time, I have come to understand that a career in law requires much more than knowledge of statutory rules. It requires integrity, reliability, patience and the ability to listen closely. I hold the conviction that every human being is entitled to respect and impartial treatment, and this is one of the principles that I will abide by throughout my career.

One of the best gifts that my student years brought to me are people. I had the chance to meet professors who inspired me through their professionalism and dedication, as well as colleagues with whom I shared these years' both challenges and successes. Every course, project and experience shaped me into who I am today and helped me clearly define my goals for the future.

I am deeply grateful to my family, who has been my unconditional support at every stage of this journey. Their trust, patience and encouragement motivated me to move forward even in tough moments. Looking ahead, I would like to keep learning, improving myself and building a career based on professionalism and respect for people and the values that law represents.

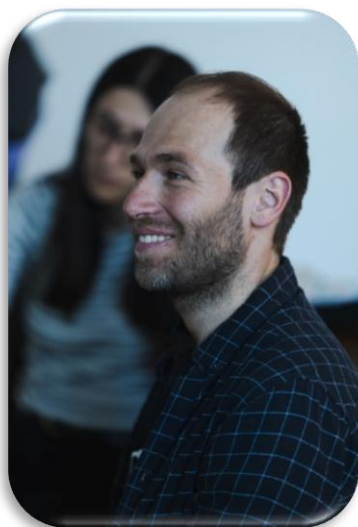


Lenore LĂZĂROIU
Valedictorian
Faculty of Law

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BOGDAN BENIAMIN MATEI – Average grade 9.92

My name is Bogdan Matei, and I am from a hilltop village in the county of Buzău, which I left from at the age



of 15 to attend high school in Bucharest. I spent 12 years in the Capital studying and working, before moving to Braşov in 2018 and getting married.

Had anyone told me, at the age of 20, that I would become the valedictorian of the Sociology class, I

would have smiled at him in disbelief. At that time, I was dropping out of the Faculty of Automatic Control and Computers within "Politehnica" National University of Science and Technology - Bucharest, after the first two years of study. It was a difficult decision, which I have felt for a long time as a huge personal failure... After the "Politehnica" episode, I refocused on freelancing in the field of graphics and design, an activity that gave me the freedom to explore my passions. Since 2015, I have been travelling on two wheels all around Europe, on bicycle touring routes, the first of which was a three-month round-trip expedition from Romania to Spain. Out of a desire to transpose the world seen from a bicycle onto paper, I started writing, and have already released five self-published books, the most recent thereof this year: "Romania, All the Way Across".

The accumulated experiences led me to entrepreneurship as well; and, in 2023, together with my brother, I founded an electric bike rental business in Braşov, a project which we set up ourselves and which continues successfully. In parallel, I stayed connected to writing through two personal spaces: a personal blog on Substack and a platform dedicated to financial education and stock market investments,

which has become, in the meantime, a part-time project dear to me.

The decision to enroll in the Faculty of Sociology and Communication initially came out of a desire to overcome a plateau and obtain a degree, like everyone else. However, once at university, I realized that the field really fascinated me. I gradually reduced my graphic design projects to make room for learning and academic rigour. These three years were the best from an intellectual point of view: the faculty provided me with the necessary framework to be methodical in reading, as I succeeded in going through over 200 books, both specialised and in other fields. My interest and reliability directly reflected in the bachelor's thesis, a project close to my heart, completed on the route, while spending a month in a tent, on a bicycle, along Via Transilvanica, with a view to creating an X-ray of Romania's ecclesiastical heritage.

Today, at the age of 34, the title of valedictorian stands proof that learning is not a race against time, and detours can also be valuable. Sociology has not only redefined my direction, but taught me how to look at the world and how to ask the right questions, which I can only be grateful for.



Bogdan Beniamin MATEI

Valedictorian

Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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