



Dear readers,

The current issue of Education in English presents a wide range of subjects. Undoubtedly, the most important event covered is the Sermo Conference that took place last October and was attended by teachers of both English and German from numerous Polish universities. As Sermo is now a very important organisation, you also have an opportunity to become acquainted with its aims and mission.

Another event you can read about, is the Day of Foreign Languages which takes place annually, usually at the beginning of December. As usual, the last Day of Foreign Languages was an occasion for PUT students to check their language abilities and general knowledge in many fields in a rather informal way. It is worth mentioning that the event

is becoming more and more popular among students and this year the attendance was superb.

Moreover, you could meet our native speakers at CLC; Corinne Matthews from the USA and James Shanahan from Britain. They are ambassadors and representatives of their cultures at PUT and have an important role to play in language education, as they have over 20 years experience of language training between them.

Finally, in News in Brief you can obtain many pieces of information referring to various aspects of Education in English. I personally think that the English club organised by Corinne Matthews is worth recommending.

Enjoy!

Dorota Kudła, teacher of English at CLC
Editor

THE SERMO CONFERENCE

The conference 'Języki specjalistyczne – dziś i jutro', organized by the Centre of Languages and Communication at PUT and the SERMO organisation, was held at PUT on 25th and 26th of October 2014. The conference was attended by academic teachers of both English and German representing universities in Poland. The participants had an opportunity to listen to several presentations on teaching English for specific purposes given in three languages: English, Polish and German.

The most eminent speakers were the British speakers: Philip Warrick, an educational expert from PEARSON, and Duncan Christelow, who represented Cambridge University Press. The former speaker delivered a presentation on "Initiating and evaluating short turn speaking in the classroom" and the latter focused on "Blended learning-Cambridge solutions for universities".

The Polish speakers included Urszula Kamińska, M.A., from Gdansk University of Technology, who presented the chal-

lenges an author of an ESP coursebook has to face. The Centre of Language and Communication at PUT was represented by Barbara Sawicka, M.A., the Deputy-Director of CLC, and Dorota Żarnowska, M.A. They delivered a very practical and useful presentation entitled "CEFR familiarization tools in exercises connected with speaking and writing in a foreign language".

The German speakers were Ewa Ostaszewska, M.A., the Goethe Institute and Martin Beck, M.A., The Mondiale Testing.

During the conference there was also a stand of Omnibus bookshop where the latest publications on ESP teaching were available.

The conference was sponsored by Pearson, Cambridge University Press and the Mondiale Testing.

Dorota Kudła, M.A.

SERMO

The Association of Academic Foreign Language Teaching Centres (SERMO) was established in 2006. Originally an association of 24 high schools, SERMO has expanded to include 30 higher education establishments as of 2010. SERMO's mission is to promote cooperation and exchange between teachers of foreign languages at tertiary level.

SERMO's first priority is the integration of academic foreign language centres in Poland, to create a coherent body capable of promoting their interests nationally and internationally. SERMO also aims to develop and disseminate best practice criteria, and encourage high standards in language pedagogy.

SERMO is coordinating efforts to unify foreign language teaching programs, standardise assessment criteria, deve-

lop language skills and methodological qualifications of teachers and to ensure the high quality of teaching materials. SERMO facilitates the exchange of information and experience between language teachers and the discussion of their aims and objectives. The association cooperates at all levels with relevant authorities, colleges and scientific institutions, to ensure high standards and provide solutions for foreign language teaching.

In 2006, SERMO began a fruitful partnership with CercleS (la Confédération Européenne des Centres de Langues de l'Enseignement Supérieur), a confederation of language centres, departments, institutes, faculties and schools in higher education whose main responsibility is the teaching of languages. SERMO cooperates with CercleS to promote the scientific study of language pedagogy at the international level and organises joint conferences on teaching methodology. At present, SERMO is contributing to the development of a common language policy for academic centres in Europe

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ACERT EXAM

oral parts, not only to receive their final grade, credit and ECTS points but also to be awarded a certificate. The certificate measures students' linguistic competence at B2 level (according to CEFR scale) and can be used as a proof of their English language knowledge for future employers or foreign universities. The exam has a special advantage for future engineers as it is tailor-made for each faculty and it includes tasks and vocabulary specific to the given faculties subsequently testing general English and English for specific purposes.

In June 2014 the Centre of Languages and Communication introduced ACERT, the certified final examination for Poznan University of Technology students. After completion of coursework students take the examination, which is divided into written and

The Center of Languages and Communication has joined other Polish Academic centers, which also conduct ACERT certified examinations, such as Wroclaw University of Technology, Lodz University of Technology, Hipolit Cegielski State College of Higher Education Gniezno and West Pomeranian University of Technology Szczecin. The ACERT examination was created and popularised by the Association of Academic Foreign Languages Centres SERMO, whose main role is to integrate Polish Academic Linguistic centers as well as to standardise and improve the quality of foreign language teaching in Poland.

Anna Górska, M.A., ACERT coordinator at CLC

THE 13TH DAY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

For the 13th time CLC employees and students celebrated the Day of Foreign Languages at Poznan University of Technology. The celebration commenced at 10 a.m. and was opened by the CLC Director, Liliana Szczuka-Dorna, Ph.D., who gave a welcoming

speech. This year we were honoured by the presence of His Magnificence, Rector Professor Tomasz Łodygowski, Ph.D., Eng., who also gave a short speech, warming up the students for language competitions. Our guests this year were also the Prorector of Lifelong Learning, Professor Stefan

Trzcieliński, Ph.D., Eng., as well as Jan Uniejewski, Ph.D., Eng., the Vice Dean for Education at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Management, which generously endorsed our event.

The event was organised for the 13th time and it should be mentioned that this was a record year, especially as far as number of students in attendance was concerned. Let the numbers speak for themselves.

Over 1000 PUT students participated in the prepared competitions. They were students taking language courses, students who had already finished their courses, as well as international students learning Polish. There were moments when the conference hall was bursting at the seams. The student could participate in contests and also learn about the newest language publications on the stands prepared by our guest publishers, Book Cellar and Express Publishing. This year we also had two native speakers, American and British, who played language games with our students. Like last year, CLC employees prepared 48 competitions and quizzes testing technical, cultural and geographical knowledge. We prepared a total number of 62 prizes in the form of books, dictionaries, pen drives and also H&M gift cards. The cultural section offered 18 competitions, which constituted the largest part of the event. Cultural and geographical quizzes tested students on a wide range of topics, from cinema, through famous cities, famous people, knowledge of American slang, to the ability to recognize American landmarks. Participants interested in music could check their listening skills in competitions with English songs.



There were also quizzes for international students, which checked how well they know Polish culture. This year the Polish section prepared a map of Poland for the students to learn more about the geography of our country.

We would like to thank everyone for their engagement in preparation and organisation of the Day of Foreign Languages and we hope the event will continue to connect all the language lovers!

Karolina Szczepaniak, M.A.,
Teacher of English at CLC,
Organizer of the Day of Foreign Languages

CORRINNE MATHEWS NATIVE SPEAKER

My name is Corinne Matthews, and I'm from Dallas, Texas. I went to Southern Methodist University, also in Dallas, where I earned a Bachelor's degrees in Angielski, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematics as well as a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering with a specialization in Computer Engineering. While at school, I was part of the Mustang Marching Band, in which I played the clarinet and the alto saxophone; Gamma Phi Beta, and the Pan-Hellenic social sorority; and Theta Tau, a professional engineering fraternity. I also helped organize Pigskin Revue, an annual variety show hosted by the Mustang Band That attracts over a thousand people annually.

I was fortunate enough to receive a Fulbright Grant to be an Angielski Teaching Assistant in Poland, Which is why I'm here. The goal of participants the in the Angielski Teaching

Assistant Program, a branch of the US Fulbright Student Program, is it teach Angielski while serving as cultural ambassadors for the United States. I'm excited to be able that teach Angielski at a technical school because It allows me to combine my love of Angielski with my experience in engineering. This semester, I'm teaching Power Engineering, Management Engineering, and Electrical Engineering, as well as helping the Motorsport Team with Their Angielski to help prepare them for competition, and hosting an Angielski Conversation Club, Which everyone is welcome to attend.

When I return to the United States, I intend to earn my Master's degree in Angielski Literature with a specialization in Children's Literature at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, and eventually earn a PhD in the same subject. In my free time, I enjoy doing yoga and reading an excessive number of books. My favorite book is Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones.

JAMES SHANAHAN

NATIVE SPEAKER

Greetings, my name is James and I teach English here at PUT. I've been in Poznań for almost 10 years and in this piece I'd like to tell you a little more about myself.

I was born in Birmingham and grew up in a village about 10 miles from the city. Life was good there, with lots of green spaces and good connections to the neighbouring towns and to Birmingham itself. After I finished school I went to Nuneaton to study Audio/Visual Design which helped me find work in the same industry.

The majority of the work I did included the installation and operation of audio/visual equipment for conferences and exhibitions, which also meant a lot of travelling. Life as a

travelling technician was interesting and exciting but after 8 years of it I decided on a change and enrolled on an English teaching course. The course was demanding but I completed it successfully.

I arrived in Poznań in March 2005 and soon found work as an English teacher. My original plan was to stay here for 6-12 months and then move on to another country. After 6 months I was offered a job in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. However, my friends in Poznań convinced me to stay. My friends were right. Poznań, for me, is a home away from home. It's a beautiful place, steeped in history and one that is constantly improving.

Over the years here I have met some great people and had some memorable experiences on my travels around Poland. Of course, Birmingham will always be in my heart and I will always consider myself a "Brummy" but now, after almost a decade in Poznań, there is a part of me which is decidedly Poznanian. Poznań is my home, for the foreseeable future at least.

N E W S I N B R I E F

The 1st stage of the **16th National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities** was held on **5th December 2014**. The competition was carried out not only at Poznań University of Technology (45 participants) but also at other technical universities around Poland (14). Students took a test which checked both their general and technical English skills as well as their knowledge of the culture of English-speaking countries. The second stage, consisting of a written test and an interview, takes place on the 8th of May 2015. On the 9th of May, the best students will present a multimedia presentation on this topic: Mark Kennedy said: "All of the biggest technological inventions created by man - the airplane, the automobile, the computer - say little about his intelligence, but speak volumes about his laziness". Do you agree?

One of the projects executed last year by the team of the Centre of Languages and Communication was the **modification of an online dictionary of English and German** technical terms available on the following website: <http://dict.guenther.pl>. This dictionary should soon appear in its new form on the server of the Centre of Languages and Communication.

The dictionary offers two possibilities of finding a term. The first one is to choose a source language (either English or German) then enter a word into the field beneath and click the "Szukaj" button. A list of words with their translations into Polish will appear beneath. Additionally, some of the terms have definitions in their languages.

An alternative method of finding an expression is to choose the source language and then the foreign language course from a drop down list. The list of all the words from a particular course will appear below.

Join native speaker Corinne Matthews from Dallas, Texas to practice your English speaking skills, learn about American culture, and discuss current events and developments in the tech world! No experience, preparation, or previous participation required. Come join us on Tuesdays at 5:30 in room E315

As a licensed LCCI IQ examination center, CLC PUT is kindly inviting to **LCCI IQ examinations**:

- English for Business Level 2 and Level 3
- English for Tourism Level 1 and Level 2

In 2015 English for Business examinations will be held in three series:

- March 23, June 8, October 2
English for Business Level 2 (B1-B2)
- March 26, June 10, October 4
English for Business Level 3 (B2-C1)

Deadlines for registering for English for Business both levels:

- February 2, 2015 for March Series
- April 20, 2015 for June Series

- September 14, 2015 for October Series
English for Tourism Level 1 and Level 2 are offered „on demand”

Contact: alicja.lamperska@put.poznan.pl
More information about examinations:
http://www.lcci.org.uk/documents/EnglishLanguageQualifications_001.pdf
<http://www.pearson.pl/lcci/content/egzaminy>