

IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Spring events at CLC

The following months are going to be full of events connected with the celebration of the 65th anniversary of Centre of Languages and Communication. We are also going to continue open lectures. In the following months the PUT faculty and students will learn about the culture of the United States and Ireland, as well as educational opportunities in Germany and the US.

In April we are concluding the next edition of the National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities. There are also going to be two exhibitions: MaluBajka by CLC senior lecturer, Beata Olszewska, and 65

years of CLC history, on the history and activity of Centre of Languages and Communication.

The final and the most important event, is going to be a conference under the patronage of SERMO, The role of CLC in the process of educating the students of Poznan University of Technology – experiences and challenges on 17-18 May.

We hope that you will join us in the celebrations and the events.

Chinese classes at PUT

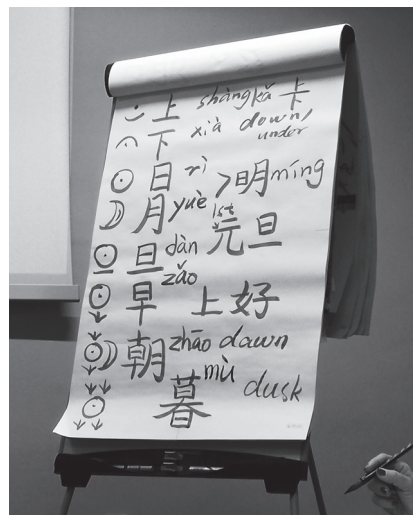


This year PUT employees and students have the opportunity to learn Chinese and learn about Chinese culture. As a part of New Silk Route project and in cooperation with Confucius Institute, two teachers were invited to teach at PUT – Mrs Tao Zhang and Ms Young Huimin.

This project is a significant element of international cooperation of Po-

znan University of Technology, and a wonderful way of promoting Chinese language and culture, which is the main goal of Confucius Institute, established as an important platform and channel for international Chinese teaching and overseas dissemination of Chinese culture.

PUT employees and students can attend classes organized in coopera-



tion with CLC, free of charge. However, Chinese classes are not only for adults, as this February children had the opportunity to learn more about China in a series of workshops and classes on Chinese culture.

Orientation Week

This February we hosted another edition of Orientation Week for Erasmus students at PUT. This year, despite the cold weather, the meetings and events were wildly successful.

This time almost 80 participants from all over the world gathered to learn more about our University and Poznań. On the first day students participated in orientation events – they saw presentations from PUT international office and were given the most important information about their stay in Poznań from ESN organization. They also enjoyed a tour of the most important place during their stay – PUT Library.

The students followed a tightly-packed itinerary. They enjoyed a visit to Festung Posen fortifications and a walk



around Srodka and Cathedral Island, which continued the Old Market. It was a perfect opportunity to show the students the long and rich history of Poznań. The magnificent architecture of the Old Market Square, interesting stories and legends connected with historical buildings surrounding it and, naturally, the story of the goats, made a great impression on everyone. Next day they visited Rogalin palace, after which they had the opportunity to try a traditional Polish dinner.



This year the international students had a unique opportunity to visit Imperial Castle. On the final day they had a guided tour around this historically significant place, currently home to ZAMEK Culture Centre – central to cultural life in Poznań and one of the largest cultural institutions in the country.

Orientation Week presents students with an opportunity to learn more about the place where they will be spending the following semester, but it is also a chance to meet other Erasmus students and find new friends.



Organisers of Polish Week

Barbara Tarko, M.A.

Justyna Połomka, M.A.

Małgorzata Konopko, M.A.

Centre of Languages and Communication

Meet our **teachers**



Ewa Hołubowicz, **M.A.** English Lecturer

I began teaching at PUT while I was still a 5th-year university student myself. Over the years I've had the opportunity to see how the student attitudes to foreign language learning have changed: from rather passive to positive, or even passionate nowadays. This lively interaction with students is what makes the teaching experience rewarding for me, although challenging at times, too. I especially enjoy having classes with multicultural groups of students since I strongly believe that sharing different points of view enriches us all.

I travel near and far, often with a group of good old friends but never with a travel company. I love cycling, watching modern ballet performances and playing bridge or Scrabble. ■

Here is the next instalment of the series presenting the CLC teachers. You may think you know them because you see them every day in classes, but there is always more to learn about the people who teach you.



Karolina Całka, **M.A.** English Lecturer

A lot of people ask me: "Why do you stick to the same job for over a decade now?" My reply might seem trivial but that's what I feel: "Do what you love and you will never work a day in your life!" I love to be with people who crave knowledge and are open to learning new things. To see how a student discovers something from a whole new angle is always pure satisfaction. However, I always make my students realize that a great deal of education

burden is on them because the teacher is here to open the door but it is the student that has to enter it.

As for me I try to always put a smile on my face no matter what. Therefore, in my free time I spend a lot of time with my relatives and friends; we love to go out and talk, just talk. Recently, I decided to realize one of my biggest dreams and I became a student again. I study full time at the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology and I discovered poetry from a whole different angle. Namely, from a perspective of a translator and I fell in love with the world I entered. I also love to watch movies, mostly in art-house cinemas. My recent favorites French *Mon Roi* and *Call Me By Your Name* monopolized my top 3, together with the German Netflix series *Dark*. On Saturday I like to visit our National Museum because it is free of charge and not a lot people know about it ! So I recommend it, not only on Saturdays though. So here I am, exploring the world and my student' minds ;-) ■

Five Key Trends in Language Learning

Live video lessons, the hot trend from a couple of years ago that proved to be little more than a flash in the pan, certainly had a chilling effect for edtech [education technology] entrepreneurs and investors in the language learning space.

Today language learning technology is continuously on the upswing, powered by mobile devices as well as better broadband and mobile coverage. This leads to significant developments in the space of language learning and these are five key trends.

MOBILE

Mobile is the rocket fuel for the new wave of language learning products. Smartphones and mobile Internet made it possible to add bite-sized lessons and learning sprints to the daily routine of commuters. From serious approaches based on curated web content, like Voxy or Lingua.ly, to more playful approaches like MindSnacks and Duolingo, mobile is THE learning environment to conquer in the language space.

PERSONALIZED AND ADAPTIVE

One-size-fits-all educational content for language learning will become a thing of the past. Learners today want content tailored to their interest and needs because they are not alike, have different levels at the start and will continue to learn differently throughout the program. Therefore, language learning products need to adapt to the progress of each individual learner, from reinforcing weak points to accelerating topics that are known already or mastered quickly.

CONSTANT FEEDBACK

Learners want to know where they are on their learning path at any moment, not at the end of the month, or after

they have completed a text or exam. Language learning startups, like busuu.com and Duolingo, incorporating a learning path into their products early on, make it easy for learners to visualize their current level. The next step are quick assessments that evaluate the level more precisely. A model for such a feature could be Smarterer, which evaluates the skills of tech workers based on 10 questions.

FASTER RESULTS

Based on personalized learning content, an adaptive learning path and constant feedback, language learners will expect faster results. Overall, our society is being constantly trained for instant gratification thanks to Google, Amazon and other web services that get us answers, solutions or services right away. Startups like Lingvist are working on language learning curricula that will lead users through their learning path in the most efficient way.

LIVE AND ON-DEMAND

Yes, live lessons will also make a comeback in the language learning space. The difference today is that both technology and infrastructure can handle video and audio connections between tutors and students with ease. Edtech startups outside of the language learning space have already built working platforms for on-demand tutoring, with InstaEDU being the most successful one. These impromptu sessions will most likely last under 15 minutes. I doubt that learners will schedule an entire tutoring session spontaneously, as such a setting requires preparation from both sides. So, this could be an interesting service or additional feature for test and exam preparations.

Adapted from: <http://www.edukwest.com/>