

# IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



## Polish Week at PUT

( Department of Modern Languages )



It is already for the 8th time that the Department of Modern Languages at Poznań University of Technology has run Polish Week for foreign students who come to Poznań to study at our University, benefitting from the European Erasmus-Socrates Program.

Every Polish Week, a week before the beginning of the term, is definitely an ideal, unique and reasonable opportunity for students. They can not only participate in different cultural activities learning about Polish customs, history, culture and geography but also explore historical sites and architecture of Poznań and Wielkopolska together with their new fellow

students from other countries and cultures.

Participants of Polish Week discover the beauty of Poland and Polish culture by taking part in different cultural events, sightseeing of Poznań and its neighborhood.

The recent Polish Week was held on February 6 - 10, 2012. There were 17 students from all over the Europe and even the whole world (France, Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Romania, India, Cameroon, China).

The idea of Polish Week was introduced in 2008, and it has been organized twice a year since then (in Febru-

ary and September). Throughout these years Polish Week has gained enormous popularity among students of Technical Universities and has become a fixed point in the academic calendar of Modern Languages Department.

The students enjoyed this time very much and find Polish Week to be an unforgettable experience which will be remembered for a very long time.

Barbara Tarko, M.A.  
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Department of Foreign Languages

# Mother's Day

Since the dawn of the human kind there has existed the natural and unbreakable bond between the mother and her child riveted by maternal instinct and emotion. Throughout centuries it has proven to be one of the strongest and fundamental pillars of our existence. While civilizations declined and fell mothers gave birth to new generations of children to become explorers of the worlds to come. It was not however, until the early years of the 20th century that the idea of establishing a special day to honor mothers emerged and authorities had finally decided to officially praise the mother's effort in both bringing up children and contributing to the development of the human kind.

One of the most famous supporters of establishing Mother's Day was Anna Jarvis from Pennsylvania who was determined to honor her late mother. She wrote letters to congressmen asking them to set aside a day to honor mothers and in 1910, the Governor of West Virginia proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Other states followed a year later.

Various countries celebrate Mother's

Day on different days of the year. The earliest seems to be Norway where this special day falls on the second Sunday of February, whereas in Ireland or the UK it is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Others honor motherhood on June 1st (Mongolia) or as late as on 12<sup>th</sup> August (Thailand), 14<sup>th</sup> October (Belarus), the last Sunday of November (Russia) or even December (the 22<sup>nd</sup> – Indonesia). Nevertheless, most states celebrate Mother's Day in May. The day is celebrated in a multiplicity of ways. Some children invite their mothers to restaurants, others buy them flowers or presents. The youngest ones draw lovely cards, which are later kept as dear souvenirs in their Mothers' special drawers or boxes. All of the children just want to spend time with their mothers and tell them how important they are.

Let us hope mothers will always be loved and honored by their children (not only on Mother's Day) because in the jigsaw puzzle path of our life the mother's piece is of the most vital importance. It is the mother's pain, worry and effort that become our source of life's success. Even though we might not remember the time when our mums held us in their dear arms either to give us a

hug and kiss or to comfort and calm us down, we know we are always special to them. They are the ones who care, ready to lead us in the early years of our clumsy and timid exploration and support us in our adult life. They are at home when we need them, go to work for us when the need arises and mourn when there is nothing but despair left. Even if they are not flawless and make mistakes (who doesn't?), mothers are unique and referring to them as Parent A - as some modern social engineers define them - is absurd and sad.

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sources:

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internet:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/  
Mother%27s\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s_Day)

## FUNNY MOTHER'S DAY QUOTES

A man's work is from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done.

Anonymous

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers."

Jewish proverb

When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts.

A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child.

Sophia Loren

# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## history & geography

How much do you know about this beautiful country? Check yourself!

The answers are given at the bottom of the page.

**1. Which of these American States was born from the first British colony?**

- a. Pennsylvania
- b. Virginia
- c. Massachusetts
- d. New York

**2. How long after its "Declaration" did Britain acknowledge America's "Independence"?**

- a. Two years
- b. Seven years
- c. Five years
- d. One year

**3. Who did Texas belong to immediately prior to joining the USA in 1845?**

- a. France
- b. Mexico
- c. It was independent
- d. Spain

**4. Who did Alaska belong to before it became part of the USA?**

- a. Russia
- b. The United Nations

- c. Canada
- d. Nobody

**5. Who described a democracy as 'a government of the people, by the people, for the people' and was assassinated by John Wilkes-Booth on 15th April 1865 during one of his performances in the Ford's Theatre?**

- a. Henry Kissinger
- b. John F. Kennedy
- c. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- d. Abraham Lincoln

**6. Which town in Michigan is the biggest center for the manufacture of motor cars in the world?**

- a. Lincoln
- b. Detroit
- c. Lansing
- d. Ann Arbor

**7. Which is the freshwater lake with the largest surface area in the world?**

- a. Lake Erie
- b. Caspian Sea

- c. Lake Superior
- d. Lake Michigan

**8. Which city is famous for the Golden Gate?**

- a. New York
- b. San Francisco
- c. Washington D.C.
- d. St. Louis

**9. How many states are there in the United States of America?**

- a. 49
- b. 50
- c. 51
- d. 52

**10. In which city is the Sears Tower located?**

- a. New York
- b. San Francisco
- c. Los Angeles
- d. Chicago

Answers: 1.B 2.B 3.C 4.A  
5.D 6.B 7.C 8.B 9.B 10.D

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# IMPROVING WRITING SKILLS IN ENGLISH -ACADEMIC LEARNING/WRITING CENTRE

**T**he Academic Learning/Writing Centre (ALWC) has been created at Department of Modern Languages to raise awareness of written English and develop the faculty's and students' skills in writing mainly academic forms, such as theses, dissertations, and papers, but also commercial forms of business correspondence, reports, and other written forms.

The main aim for the team, headed by Dr Lilianna Anioła-Jędrzejek, a member of the Board of European Writing Centres Association, is to provide guideli-

nes, support and practical advice on all aspects of writing in English, ranging from the most basic level of grammatical structures, to organising paragraphs and larger parts, stylistic modifications, as well as logical construction and formal requirements of the entire document. The best way to put our aims into practice is to provide the participants not only with theoretical basis, but, most importantly, to provide as much writing practice as possible.

So far the ALWC team has prepared and completed four courses for the facul-

ty of Poznan University of Technology. The duration of the courses varies between 20 and 40 hours depending on the intensity of the course. Each step of the course is prepared according to the aims of the team, ensuring that each participant benefits as much as possible from the classes.

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## News

Prof. Diane Boehm, Director of the Writing Center at Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan, USA, will present a 5-day workshop "Professional Writing in English" between 14 and 18 May 2012, focused on the most frequent linguistic problems Polish writers encounter while composing a research paper in English.

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## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION

### for Students of Polish Universities of Technology

**We have the pleasure of reminding about the 13<sup>th</sup> English Language Competition for Students of Polish Universities of Technology.**

The ultimate contest will take place in Poznań on April 27 and 28, 2012. After the first day of testing and oral exam,

the finalists will face the final challenge and deliver a presentation on "Technical Developments which can be used during Euro 2012 in Poland". We hope for the competitive spirit of the participants and the atmosphere at the finals to be as heated as in Poznań a short time before Euro 2012. Do not miss the chance

of taking part in this great event - we invite all the academic community.

Organization committee  
of the 13th English Language  
Competition for Students  
of Technical Universities.