

Dear readers,

As spring has been very eventful, the issue of Education in English presents a wide range of topics.

First, it undoubtedly focuses on a very important national event, the English Language Olympiad, which is organized annually at PUT and involves students from technical universities all over Poland. It is worth mentioning that the concept originated in 1995, therefore the event has a long tradition and it has become a very prestigious one. You can read about the latest Olympiad from the points of view of both the organisers and the participants, meet some laureates and learn about the first Olympiad.

Moreover, this issue gives very detailed accounts of two other recent events: the English for Academic Purposes Conference and Student-Employer Debate on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning.

You can also find out about numerous current events in News in Brief.

Finally, we invite you for personal meetings with English and offer practising your language skills during summer courses.

Enjoy!

Dorota Kudła, teacher of English
Editor

THE FINAL OF THE 15th ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

On the 10th of May, the fifteenth edition of the English Olympiad for Students of Technical Universities came to an end for another year. The first stage of the competition was held in December at 14 technical universities in Poland, with a total number of 449 participants. 89 of them qualified for the second stage of the contest organised at Poznan University of Technology. Having passed written and oral tests on the 9th of May, the first day of the finals, 10 laureates were selected to face the last task of the competition. The challenge consisted of delivering presentations on The Formula for Success in Professional Life. When all the speeches were made, the points were counted by the jury and the names of the winners finally announced.



THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ARE:

- 1st place - **Michał Gawlas**, a student of Computer Science at Opole University of Technology
- 2nd place - **Katarzyna Liszka**, a student of Bachelor in Management at Gdansk University of Technology
- 3rd place - **Alicja Piechnat**, a student of Civil Engineering at Wrocław University of Technology

Among the laureates there were also three students from Poznan University of Technology: Igor Sowinski (Mechanics), Michał Buszkiewicz (Information Technology) and Agata Frajtek (Technical Physics).

We congratulate the winners and wish all the finalists success in the next edition.

The final ceremony was honored by the following guests from Poznan University of Technology:

- Prorector of PUT Professor Stefan Trzeciński
- Dean of the Faculty of Technical Physics Professor Ryszard Czajka
- Vice-dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Management Ewa Dostatni, Ph.D.
- Dean of the Faculty of Machines and Transportation Professor Franciszek Tomaszewski
- Vice-dean of the Electrical Engineering Faculty Jarosław Warczyński, Ph.D.

Moreover, there were also representatives from two universities participating in the competition:

- Małgorzata Nowicka, M.A. from Gdańsk University of Technology
- Joanna Tokarska-Kozłowska, M.A. from Opole University of Technology

The hosts of the 15th edition of The English Olympiad were:

- Director of the Centre of Languages and Communication Liliana Szczuka-Dorna, Ph.D.
- Deputy Director Iwona Gajewska-Skrzypczak, Ph.D.
- Deputy Director Barbara Sawicka, M.A.
- Head of English and French Section at CLC Katarzyna Matuszak, Ph.D.

The Olympiad would never have taken place without the sponsors. We would like to take the opportunity to thank them for the numerous awards and financial support.



More information concerning the competition can be found on the web page of the Centre of Languages and Communication (www.clc.put.poznan.pl).

The organizers of the Olympiad:

- Agata Jankiewicz, M.A.
- Elżbieta Jeziorek, M.A.
- Justyna Połomka, M.A.
- Hanna Samolej, M.A.

Justyna Połomka

OLYMPIAD IN NUMBERS

14 technical universities entered the first stage of the competition, with 449 participants, among them students of all types of courses: first and second-cycle, full-time and extramural, as well as doctoral studies.

The largest group wrote the 1st stage test in Wrocław: 67.

Poznan University of Technology was represented by 61 contestants, the majority of which were Information Technology, Control Engineering, Robotics and Civil Engineering students.

89 students from 11 universities of technology qualified for the second stage of the Olympiad, with 28 from PUT.

49 students came to Poznan on the 9th of May to take part in the final stage of the competition. The youngest participant was 19 years old.

The prizes were funded by over 20 sponsors. During the final ceremony, held on the 10th of May, the best participants of the Olympiad were given a number of valuable prizes, such as tablets or external storage devices, plus over 60 books and lots of small gifts and gadgets from the sponsors.

1st ENGLISH OLYMPIAD,

MAY 19TH/20TH 1995

The Olympiad was organised by teachers from the English department and the participants were solely from PUT. The logistics and smooth running of the event lay in the hands of L.Dorna, M.A., B. Lange, M.A. and W. Tyska, M.A.

The Olympiad was a two stage competition. On May 9th, the students faced the challenge of a written test and on the next day they presented their language skills in front of a commit-

tee that checked their fluency in a talk on a drawn topic. The honorary patron of the Olympiad was His Magnificence, the Rector of PUT, Professor Eugeniusz Mitkowski, Ph.D. Eng., represented by the Rector's Secretary, E. Szmaus, Ph.D.

- WINNERS:**
- 1.Irmina Szcześniak
 - 2.Paweł Jachimowicz
 - 3.Katarzyna Peplińska

MEET THE BEST PARTICIPANTS

Do not be afraid, citizen. I come from the internet! ... whoops, wrong reality. So let's start over.

I'm a student of Computer Science on Opole University Of Technology, with Computer Networks and Database Management Systems as my major. Since childhood I've been fascinated by logic puzzles - upon my first experience with programming, I found it not just a logical extension of that but literally my calling in life: live to code, code for a living.

I didn't really enter this contest in order to win, but to prove a point. Four years ago my former lecturer tried to sign me on without my consent to prove a point - that I would fail because I didn't care about his classes. I've decided to prove

him wrong (about failing, not about caring), and kept attending the competition in subsequent years just to drive the point home. So, if you are reading this, Mr. Kubiak: You. Lose.

There isn't really much more to say - I'm a huge bookworm and my spare time tends to be devoted to reading literary fiction and comic books - particularly anything written by Warren Ellis (Read his books. Do not argue with me, I'm an engineer).

"Trust me, I know what I am doing"

Michał Gawlas

My name is Katarzyna Liszka and I am a 21-year-old bachelor student at Gdańsk University of Technology. To my great surprise and happiness, I ranked second in the 15th English Olympiad for students of technical universities. It is undoubtedly a huge success for me and a great way to satisfy my linguistic ambitions.

I have been learning English since early childhood. Although at the beginning I was not the keenest student, with time I grew to appreciate this language for its richness and intricacies. It is now a prevalent part of my daily life: in my studies, English is the language of instruction and all of my coursework, including writing my dissertation, re-

quires fluency in it; at home, majority of materials that I read is also in English; finally, even in my relationship it is the primary language of communication. In my opinion, nowadays the ability to speak a foreign language is indispensable and comes in handy in many situations. Therefore, it is always worth the effort one has to put in while studying.

My own efforts have certainly been rewarded during this year's Olympiads. I mustered all of my knowledge and skills in order to excel and prove (mostly to myself) that I am capable of being in the national top ten. I almost lost my hope after having written the first part, as it turned out to be more difficult than I had expected. But I still did my best during the oral examination and eventually, I did make it to the final ten. I worked hard on preparing my presentation and it certainly paid off. My overall score as-



sured the second position in the ranking. Apart from that, the audience awarded me a prize for the best speech, a prize very dear to my heart, since it is public speaking (and not technical English) that is my passion.

Overall, I find this year's Olympiad to be well-organised and properly hosted. The organisers were truly helpful and supportive throughout the whole process. My only concern was raised by the technical facilities provided during the final stage; when participants of a national level contest are required to hold presentations, a remote control to steer the overhead projector and a hands free microphone would not go amiss. Other than that, everything was precisely

prepared. I genuinely enjoyed my stay at Poznań University of Technology.

Katarzyna Liszka



Hi! I am 23 years old and I live on the outskirts of Wrocław in my view the most captivating city in our country (but with Poznań being the runner-up, as I found out on the occasion of this year's English Olympiad). Currently I am a 4th-year student of Civil Engineering at Wrocław University of Technology. Although I have yet to decide on my specialty in future carrier, as of today I gravitate towards steel structures and buildings or bridges.

I'm interested in learning foreign languages which, according to some, I have a gift for. Personally, I like to think no such thing really exists and you can always achieve a great deal solely through hard work. Just as Colin Powell once said: "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work".



Besides English, I have a good command of German, Spanish and Russian. During my high school days I also had my fair share of Hindi classes- I found them really compelling and the progress immensely rewarding. However, I wish I had more time for learning mentioned languages now.

Apart from this, I like doing yoga and traveling in my spare time. In my opinion traveling, with the right attitude- a pinch of open-mindedness and eagerness to learn, is the one thing worth spending your money on. I also think that the world is far too big for a person to be settled down in one place all your life. Hence, I'm enter-

taining an idea of moving abroad and exploring the world after I will have received my Master's degree.

Alicja Piechnat



Funny. As I place Bowie's recent record, „The Next Day” into my prized music player's CD tray and hear the first sounds ringing out, a smile surfaces on my face...which lies in sharp contrast to how I fared at the olympiad finals; twisted with fear, I imagine I must've been anything but cheerful. Trial by fire it was, all the more glad I managed.

I am a sophomore, studying Mechatronics at the Poznan University of Technology. Up until now I've been living in Szczecin, where I was born. I'm fond of it, especially as my home's away from the city centre, situated in a green, chilled-out district.

I've attended extracurricular English classes for around six



picture a daily life without English coming in handy one

years, letting go after Upper Intermediate (must've been the second year of secondary school). I am obligated to thank my parents here for making me take them; I can't

way or another. Classes are one thing, though. Much of my tongue was shaped by playing foreign video games and participating in gaming-oriented communities. I still grind my teeth when I google my old nicknames: some of my posts are genuinely i n s c r u t a b l e.

I play the guitar, I strain to learn German. I'll get back to Japanese one day. As for the next olympiad, I'm getting first place.

Igor Sowinski,
the best PUT student

PARTICIPANTS' OPINIONS

(original students' spellings)

Participating in this contest was a great opportunity to test my skills in English. Different tasks, both in written and oral parts, made competing a pleasant and inspiring challenge. The organization was well-planned, which allowed me to spend my time in Poznań fruitfully and cheerfully. I am looking forward to next year's edition and was glad to take part in the Olimpiada.

Joanna, Gdansk University of Technology

Considering it being the first time I have participated in this event, amount of experience could be a little bit overwhelming. I must say I wasn't sure if the English Olympiad is good place for me to be, so it took a lot of convincing to made me apply. There are however no regrets today. Poznań -a beautiful, clean city with helpful people appeared to me, well, one of the best cities I have visited and I am not overreacting here. What can I say about competition itself? Well held, good organization, challenging level, a lot of interesting people. I am glad I could be a part of it. Maybe it is the first of many times?

Mateusz, Politechnika Śląska

In my opinion this event is well organized. The organizers know everything, they are reliable and polite. I must say I am quite amazed. The city is beautiful and your University of Technology as well. The only problem is the distance between our cities but there is nothing we can do about it. I want to thank you for invitation, I'll do my best to be here next year.

Igor, Silesian University of Technology

I really like choice of a subject in a final of the Olympiad 'My formula for success in professional life'. It is always

nice to a point of view shared by young people which is not tainted by mundane reality burden. I really liked presentations which were not pompous, solemn and giving unique life advice but those more personal, coming from own experience.

Bartosz, Politechnika Wroclawska

This year's event is really well-organized. I am pleased to have an opportunity to take part in competition. This event enables us to check our English knowledge as well as to broaden our context by listening to presentations. Students in the final 10 are well prepared, their presentations are professional and it is a pleasure to listen to them.

Maria, Poznan University of Technology

I think it was fun. The best part was listening comprehension where one of the speakers was reading information about alien plant species with the funniest accent there could ever be.

Karolina, Politechnika Opolska

Poznań has yet again given me a warm welcome, this time during the English Language Olympiad. I was pleasantly surprised by the host' care and willingness to answer any questions. The contest run smoothly and proved to be very well- organized. The grand finale was an exciting event, slightly nerve-wrecking for me due to stress and excitement mingling in me before my speech. As of now, I'm still waiting for the results, but I can already say that I've enjoyed myself tremendously.

Katarzyna, Politechnika Gdańska

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES CONFERENCE

On April 5th, 2014, the PUT Centre of Languages and Communication, along with SERMO (the Association of Academic Foreign Language Teaching Centres) and Cambridge University Press organized a mini-conference entitled "English for Academic Purposes". The Conference, held at the PUT Lecture Centre, was divided into two parts. The guest speaker in the first half was Professor Martin Hewings, Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham, where he is involved in teaching English for Academic Purposes and research on ESP teaching. Professor Hewings delivered two lectures:

1. "Using online resources for EAP materials development: the importance of teacher expertise"

2. "What makes the grammar of academic English different? From research to classroom practice"

After the lunch break the next guest speaker was Professor Krystyna Drożdżał-Szelest from Adam Mickiewicz University. Her lecture was on "English as an International Language/ Lingua Franca: some implications for teaching".

More than two hundred and thirty participants could not only listen to interesting and inspiring lectures, which un-



doubtedly contributed greatly to the art of learning and teaching, but could also ask questions concerning various issues in foreign language teaching. The participants were mostly academic teachers from all over Poland.

Helena Paczuska, ELT Sales Manager at Cambridge University Press, spoke at the beginning of the Conference, briefly presenting the publisher and its latest publications.

The Omnibus Bookshop had a stall with the latest language teaching publications offered at reduced prices. The Conference ended with a prize draw of five books funded by Cambridge University Press to participants who submitted completed questionnaires.

These short questionnaires clearly show that the conference was a great success and the subject matter, as well as the high professional qualifications of the speakers, were duly appreciated. Consequently, it has been decided that such mini-conferences will become a permanent fixture in the April calendar, which was enthusiastically acknowledged by all the participants.

Translated by Maria Kmiecik, M.A.

STUDENT-EMPLOYER DEBATE on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning

The ninth edition of a student/employer debate entitled "Key Competences for Lifelong Learning" was held on the 8th of April in Aula Magna.

The debate was organized by the PUT Centre of Languages and Communication and IASTE, an international student organisation associated with CaseWeek, and was very pop-

ular, with PUT students flocking the venue.

- Poznan University of Technology was represented by:
- Professor Tomasz Łodygowski, PUT Rector
- Professor Jacek Goc, Vice Rector
- Dr Hanna Włodarkiewicz-Klimek, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Management Engineering

- Dr Jarosław Bartoszewicz, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Machines and Transport

The following companies accepted the invitation to participate in the debate:

- Navic Engineering Poland, represented by Agnieszka Janaś, HR Manager and Grzegorz Dembski, Discipline Leader,
- BPK Poznań represented by Mieczysław Szymański, Board Spokesman,
- Solaris Bus & Coach S.A. represented by Anna Łobaczewska, Senior Recruitment and Development Specialist,
- Phoenix Contact represented by Marcin Łaciak, Development Manager,
- Pas Poland represented by Jarosław Szaga, Personnel Manager,
- Pearson represented by Anna Kowalczyk, Sales Manager,
- Fundacja Rozwoju Talentów represented by Anna Dyl
- IAESTE represented by Olga Legacka.

The debate was covered by Radio Eska and Radio Afera.

Dr Liliana Szczuka-Dorna, CLC Director, opened the debate by giving a presentation on the following eight key European competences that should be acquired by young people starting their careers:

1. Communication in the mother tongue
2. Communication in foreign languages
3. Mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology
4. Digital competence
5. Learning to learn
6. Social and civic competences
7. Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
8. Cultural awareness and expression

The experts followed up the presentation by commenting on how entrepreneurs understand the value of the competences for the labour market, how they evaluate the level of key competences of PUT graduate students and how they perceive the role of their companies in shaping these competences.

They highlighted the ability and determination to learn which are necessary for acquiring the competences. They also stressed the significance of teamwork and communication skills and agreed that all of the key competences are crucial to a rapidly changing labour market, pointing out that it is difficult to determine which ones may prove indispensable.

The entrepreneurs also noticed that the competences are not equally important for different positions and there is no ideal graduate equipped with all of them. However, they went on to say that graduates with fewer competences would also be welcome and offered suitable training or internship. In order to meet the requirements of a modern

labour market where knowledge has to be assisted by vocational training, many companies help students develop practical skills while they are still at university. Dual studies, a unique educational project, are offered by PUT with the cooperation of Solaris Bus & Coach S.A., Phoenix Contact Wielkopolska Sp. z o.o. and Volkswagen Poznań, where students both study and work, acquiring the best practice and qualifications in order to make a smooth transition from studies to professional work.

Asked if the knowledge of foreign languages is important in their companies, the entrepreneurs agreed that fluency in a general and technical foreign language is absolutely necessary. Professor François Béguin, one of the guests, remarked how important it is to communicate in a target language supporting his comments with some personal experience in France and Poland.

The debate was summed up by Professor Tomasz Łodygowski. He thanked the guests for their participation in the debate and cooperation with PUT. He encouraged the



students to be industrious and honest and to pursue their personal improvement. He also pointed out that PUT graduates receive profound technical education which, combined with personal ethics, are sure to bring about professional success.

Finally, dr Liliana Szczuka-Dorna thanked the debate moderators, Waldemar Korczyk, CLC Lecturer and Arkadiusz Czarnecki, IAESTE Chairman.

The debate was organized by the Center of Languages and Communication team headed by:

- Dr Liliana Szczuka-Dorna with Iwona Flieger M.A.
- Waldemar Korczyk M.A.
- Alicja Lamperska M.A.
- Małgorzata Tomaszewska M.A.
- Aleksandra Nikiel M.A.
- Irena Waškowiak M.A. in cooperation with IAESTE at PUT with Arkadiusz Czarnecki, Chairman

Reported by Irena Waškowiak
Translated by Alicja Lamperska

NEWS

in brief

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POLISH WEEK

Between the 24th and 28th of February this year, the Centre of Languages and Communication at PUT organised **Polish Week** for international students who came to Poznan to study at our university. Nearly 50 students had the opportunity to discover some of the most important historic sites both in Poznań and the Wielkopolska region.

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INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS

The **Academic Writing Section** at CLC announces that individual consultations are provided again this semester. Academic and administrative staff, as well as doctoral students, are all invited. We are glad to help you revise drafts of your research papers, business correspondence and other documents.

Contact: Lilianna.aniola-jedrzejek@put.poznan.pl

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BULATS EXAMINATION SESSIONS THIS SPRING:

25th April, 23rd May, 13th June

Detailed information: www.clc.put.poznan.pl

Coordinator: edyta.olejarczuk@put.poznan.pl

Enrolment: henryk.szymanski@put.poznan.pl, room 305 of the Electrical Building of PUT

LECTURES

Several lectures on **AMERICAN LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS** were given by E.VENDOME, M.A in the beginning of May /5-8.05.2014/. Students and academic staff members were given an opportunity to listen to a wide range of interesting topics for example American lifestyle, British and American language varieties, education in the USA, business culture in the USA. They could both broaden their mind and experience the beauty of American English.

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"THINKING IN EFL CLASS"

workshop run by Tessa Woodward

IATEFL Poland in collaboration with Centre of Languages and Communication at PUT recently held a workshop for teachers of English. The event was held at Poznan University of Technology on March 16th, 2014. The workshop entitled "Thinking in EFL class" was run by Tessa Woodward, a teacher, teacher trainer and the Professional Development Co-ordinator at Hilderstone College, Kent, UK. Tessa also edits The Teacher Trainer journal for Pilgrims. She was President of IATEFL from 2005-2006 and is now one of IATEFL's international ambassadors. She is the author of many books and articles for language teachers and for teacher trainers. IATEFL Poland workshop run by Tessa Woodward took place only in two cities in Poland, those being Wrocław and Poznań.

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LEARN ENGLISH WITH CLC AND RADIO AFERA

The cooperation between CLC and Afera Radio has brought you the opportunity to learn idiomatic expressions since last December. These short radio programmes are now being broadcast from Monday to Friday at 5.30 pm. Tune in to 98,6 MHz and get familiar with new English idioms.

SUMMER WITH ENGLISH

The Centre of Languages and Communication organizes summer courses of English and other foreign languages. As summer is a perfect time for investing in one's personal development and improving one's language skills we offer you a variety of courses.

More information concerning the available meetings with foreign languages can be found on the web page of the Centre of Languages and Communication www.clc.@put.poznan.pl

ENJOY PRACTISING ENGLISH IN SUMMER!