

IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



THE FINAL OF THE 18TH ENGLISH OLYMPIAD FOR STUDENTS OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

The National English Language Olympiad for Students of Technical Universities is an annual event that gathers students who want to challenge their language skills and are ready to compete against the best in Poland. It is organized by the Centre of Languages and Communication, Poznan University of Technology to promote the University and maintain cooperation between universities. The competition has been taking place every year for the last 18 years and it is open to students of all Polish technical universities. The aim is to test students' command of technical and general English as well as their knowledge of the culture of English-speaking countries. The competition is divided into two stages.

The 1st stage of the 18th National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities was held on 2nd December, 2016 at Poznan University of Technology and other Polish technical universities. The best candidates for the next stage of the competition were then selected.

The 2nd stage was held on 21st and 22nd April 2017 at Poznan University of Technology with 90 participants. The audience prize for the best presentation was granted to Sławomir Kulozik from Wrocław University of Technology, the youngest participant was a 20 year-old man – Michał Swierzy from Silesian University of Technology, the greatest enthusiast – Artur Sierpiński from Czestochowa University of Technology and the best female student – Faustyna Krawiec from Poznan University of Technology. After written and oral tests on the 21st April, 10 laureates were selected who delivered multimedia presentations during the closing ceremony on 22nd April on:

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail".

Ralph Waldo Emerson



The Olympiad was concluded with an award ceremony in the presence of university authorities, sponsors and guests.

THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS:

- 1st place – **Sławomir Kulozik**
– Wrocław University of Technology
- 2nd place – **Faustyna Krawiec**
– Poznan University of Technology
- 3rd place – **Mateusz Burzyński**
– Gdansk University of Technology
- 4th place – **Julian Jurec**
– Wrocław University of Technology
- 5th place – **Michał Kret**
– Silesian University of Technology
- 6th place – **Adam Plata**
– Silesian University of Technology
- 7th place – **Filip Mykieta**
– Wrocław University of Technology
- 8th place – **Mateusz Walasek**
– Maritime University in Szczecin
- 9th place – **Tomasz Łyszczczyk**
– Lublin University of Technology
- 10th place – **Michał Gęstwa**
– Poznan University of Technology.

THE FINAL CEREMONY WAS HONORED BY:

- Rector of PUT – Prof. **Tomasz Łodygowski**, D.Sc.Eng.
- Prorector for LLL and international education
– Prof. **Teofil Jesionowski**, D.Sc.Eng.
- Dean of the Faculty of Technical Physics
– Prof. **Ryszard Czajka**, D.Sc.
- Dean of the Faculty of Machines and Transport
– Prof. **Franciszek Tomaszewski**, D.Sc.Eng.
- Vice-Dean of Faculty of Chemical Technology
– **Ewa Kaczorek**, D.Sc.Eng.
- Vice-Dean of Faculty of Computing
– **Piotr Kardyś**, D.Sc.Eng.
- Vice-Dean of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
& Management – **Jan Uniejewski**, D.Sc.Eng.
- Faculty of Engineering Management – **Karolina Andrzejewska**, M.A.
- The Honorary Consul of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, **Włodzimierz Walkowiak**.

THE HOSTS OF THE OLYMPIAD WERE:

- Director of the Center 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, French and Spanish Section at CLC
– **Edyta Olejarczuk**, Ph.D.

The Olympiad would not have been possible if it had not been for the generous sponsors. The laureates received valuable prizes, numerous books, gadgets and gifts from about 22 sponsors. The organizers would like to thank all sponsors for their great contribution which has enabled us to carry out such a prominent event. We are looking forward to an exciting and inspiring competition next year, which will mark the 19th anniversary of the Olympiad.

The organizers of the Olympiad

Justyna Połomka, M.A. (the coordinator)

Karolina Kałużna, M.A.

Karol Matysiak, M.A.

Urszula Pawałowska, M.A.

Impressions of Poland

Christian Shannon, a Fulbright scholar, has been teaching at Centre of Languages and Communication at PUT for almost a year. What has he experienced during this year, what did he learn and what made his life difficult?

Stepping off my train at Główny Station in mid-September, I was completely overwhelmed by the hustle of the dozens of people surrounding me. I clearly stuck out as a foreigner, struggling to carry four bags at once while frantically looking for a sign in English. It was my first week in Europe and I had no idea what to expect in the coming nine and a half months. The first few days in Poznań were like something out of a movie – I had no idea where to buy basic necessities or even get the money to make such purchases. Simple tasks like taking the trash out were an extensive adventure that

involved lots of charades with Poles who did not speak any English, and life was a constant whirlwind of solving problem after problem. What more, it quickly became apparent how lacking other cultures are in this country. However with each awkward encounter I became more confident in my ability to live in Poland.

Now almost nine months into my stay, Poznań has become a second home away from Texas. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching over 150 students in classes covering a variety of topics. They have always stuck with me when things

haven't gone to plan, and we have often laughed together or shared expressions of confusion when nobody knew what to do next. These students taught me just as much, or more, than what I taught them. I only hope one day they will have the opportunity to come visit me in the US, if I didn't make it seem like a terrifying place for them. As for my fellow lecturers, I am incredibly grateful to those that went out of their way to help me. There were countless times they found me aimlessly walking down a hallway and pointed me in the right direction, or saw me desperately smashing buttons on the photocopier.



the course of these nine months, and one day hope to return to see old friends.

Though I have found Polish to be a quiet, very reserved culture, I have also discovered they are some of the kindest and most genuine people when you take the time to speak to them. I will miss Poland more than I can sufficiently express, and my goal is to take my experiences back

Thank you to everyone at PUT for welcoming me and allowing me to be part of your community for this past year, and if I was able to positively impact at just one person while here then my goal has been met.



The British – the globetrotters?

The holiday season is getting closer and it is time to start making plans where to spend the precious free days. The British might just have some ideas where to go to enjoy themselves and unwind. The Sunday Times travel writers Mark Hodson and David Wickers revealed top 10 holiday destinations for Brits.

SPAIN opens the list as a long favourite of British travellers. It attracts tourists not only with the wonderful beaches Balearic and Canary islands, but also with more active ways of spending time, such as walking holidays and cycling in Catalonia.

Another obvious choice is **FRANCE**. Despite good and bad times in British-French relationship, Brits have a lot of love and appreciation for French landscapes. Favourite holiday spots are the beaches, but the French Alps also make a great destination in summer. The appreciation of French landscapes and countryside also extends to events such as a wine tour or a champagne weekend in beautiful Burgundy or Provence.

Despite the recent economic crisis **GREECE** is still a hot destination that keeps Brits coming back every year. Places like Corfu, Kos, Crete offer a wide range of attractions like great food, water sports and stylish accommodation, appealing especially to the package holiday crowd.

The **USA** is still on the top of the list of long-distance trips! Brits start with New York to explore its diversity, yet a lot of trips start and finish in Boston, sometimes Niagara Falls or Washington D.C.. However, the West also offers as many attractions: Las Vegas and Grand Canyon on a fly-drive, the great National Parks or Route 66.

No list of holiday destinations for UK travellers could be complete without the **UK** itself! The UK's most popular highlights include London, Devon and Cornwall, the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, East Anglia, Scotland – and the list goes on and on....!

The next place on the list is occupied by **ITALY**, tempting tourists with ancient culture and great culinary experiences. The magnificent views might draw package tourists, however the rich cultural heritage is appealing to a more discerning crowd.

Italy is followed by **CROATIA**, with one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world, and the historic city of Dubrovnik (called the Pearl of the Adriatic).

The British also select more exotic destinations, namely **THAILAND**, **TURKEY** and **EGYPT**. While prices may be a significant factor in choosing these countries, the Brits are also fascinated by the views and historic sites, and – more recently – culinary adventures.

Where are they saying?

Summer is the time of holidays, of rest and relaxation. This is also the time to put into practice the language skills we have been acquiring throughout the year. In our travels we hear phrases that are repeated with great frequency, and we should be able to recognise them. Please look at the phrases below and try to guess their meaning.

1. A person asking for 'A single ticket to Glasgow, please.' is going to:

- a) travel alone to Glasgow,
- b) stay in Glasgow for a week,
- c) travel in one direction only.

2. When a person says: 'Could you pick me up from the airport tomorrow?', they mean:

- a) Could you make me happier tomorrow?
- b) Could you come to the airport and drive me back home?
- c) Meet me at the airport for coffee?

3. When you hear 'Flight 734 to Bogota is now boarding' at an airport, it means that:

- a) you can get on the plane,
- b) the technicians are changing the floor on the plane,
- c) the plane has just left.

4. When you ask a receptionist at a hotel 'Do you have a room with a view of the sea?'

- a) you want a room with a painting of the sea,
- b) you want the windows of your room to overlook the sea,
- c) you want to take a picture of the sea.

5. When a customs officer at an airport asks you: 'Have you got anything to declare?'

- a) they want to know your political opinion,
- b) they want to know whether you're carrying guns,
- c) they want to know if you need to pay duty on any goods you have with you.

KEY: 1c, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5c