

# Education

IN ENGLISH

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



## CLC 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

Earlier this year we had the pleasure to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the foundation of the Centre of Languages and Communication.

The main celebrations took place in mid-May; however, some events took place in April as well. Starting April 17th, we organized an art showcase of one of our lecturers – Beata Olszewska. Later that month PUT students and employees had the rare opportunity to participate in a lecture conducted by Cambridge's own Alexander Bleistein from the Department of Engineering. On May 7th and 10th we organized two sets of culture-related events. The former was a workshop devoted to Irish legends and culture, while the latter, a lecture about American culture. Finally, the main celebration commenced on May 17th as we opened a conference focused on various approaches towards educating students in the context of a specialized, tech university. This was followed by a birthday celebration the next day! The conference itself was attended by circa 100 visitors. The birthday celebrations that took place the following day attracted twice as many attendees who had the opportunity to indulge themselves in a classical music concert! Powerful speeches delivered by representatives of Poznan University of Technology, including the Rector Professor Tomasz Łodygowski and Liliana Szczuka-Dorna, PhD, encapsulated the value of higher education in the ever-changing XXI century. Additionally, Professor Krystyna Łybacka, the renowned Polish politician and mathematician highlighted the role of linguistic skills in the modern, European workplace.



We are very proud of our accomplishments throughout the last 65 years, and the turnaround during our celebrations allows us to look brightly into the future, already planning our 70th birthday!

## XV CERCLES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Broad Perspectives on Language Education in the Globalized World

6-8 September 2018, Poznan University of Technology



The event was preceded by a series of pre-conference workshops, which were carried out on September 5. The conference was attended by representatives of 23 countries from around the world.



**O**n September 6-8, 2018, Poznan University of Technology held the 15th International CercleS Conference (the European Confederation of Language Centers in Higher Education) organized by Center of Languages and Communication at Poznan University of Technology.

The conference topics included issues in the following areas: adaptation of curricula to the needs of digital natives, changing teacher's role (LSP, CLIL), evaluation, self-assessment and certification, European projects in higher education, the role of non-governmental organizations in building intercultural awareness, supporting intercultural interactions among students, building communication competences among students, contemporary trends in language education, preparing students to participate in international programs, managing language centers, promoting self-awareness and self-discipline in acquiring a foreign language, discovering new paths in glottodidactics, challenges in developing specialized language areas, the role of e-learning learning and new media in language acquisition.



---

# Meet our **teachers**



## **Artur Urbaniak, PhD**

Working at the university as an academic teacher seems one of the most exciting jobs one can imagine. But actually, it's not only a job, throughout years it becomes part of your life. Being offered an opportunity to help people grow, broaden their horizons and build up their mind is one of the most intricate and intriguing processes, and as a teacher, you can stimulate it and influence it in different ways. It's about making a difference!

In my work I strongly believe in the long-forgotten Socratic method which is a cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals. It's more about asking questions than offering ready-made solutions. Personally, I've never stopped learning and I follow an old Latin rule that says *non scholae sed vitae discimus* (which means we do not learn for school but for life).

Besides work, I enjoy traveling, listening to classical music, especially opera arias, and reading modern Iberian literature. My life motto is a sentence by José Mujica, a former president of Uruguay, *poor are those who need too much - because those who need too much are never satisfied.* ■



## **Dominika Łęska, M.A.**

It has been 10 years since I started teaching English at PUT and it is still something I thoroughly enjoy. It is a great pleasure and honor to work with young, enthusiastic and hard-working people. When I started working here I quickly realized that it was a new adventure and a whole new world to discover and while I could help students develop their language skills, they often helped me with complex technical matters. This two-way interaction is what I enjoy the most as well as developing my skills, learning new things and broadening my horizons. I have just comple-

ted postgraduate studies in translation and interpreting at Adam Mickiewicz University.

To recharge my batteries, I usually travel. It may be simply a walk in the park, an excursion to a place of interest in the Wielkopolska Region or holidays in the south of Europe. My one and only addiction is reading, and I cannot imagine spending a day without reading at least a few pages of a book. This summer I have read, apart from some thrillers, a book by Siddhartha Mukherjee "The Gene: An Intimate History", which I strongly recommend to anyone interested in biology and genetics. ■



## **Zuzanna Drajerczak**

If someone, two (and soon to be three!) years ago told me I would be working full-time as a teacher of English I would have laughed at them making such a ridiculous statement. Not only due to the fact that, like some of my colleague-

---

es, I did not take into consideration the prospect of teaching English to others, but also because I didn't believe I was the right person for this type of job.

Teaching for me is an interactive experience – the key component of which is trying to convey your knowledge, in a manner that is readable and understandable for your students. This was something I have always struggled with, because I found speaking in front of a large group of people to be a particularly stressful and horrifying experience. Aside from that I am quite self-critical about my

performance as a teacher (and generally in some other areas I take interest in). Thankfully, as time went by and my work here continued, I not only found that some of the fears and doubts I had about myself were completely unfounded, but also with each class I became more comfortable with students. What I especially found useful, was the fact that many of the people I taught are close in age to myself, which certainly does help with creating good rapport, as well as bond with them over similar experiences and shared interests and knowledge of current technology.

Speaking of interests, aside from teaching, I also love creating artwork and cosplay (portmanteau for „costume play”) both of which are largely inspired by the fandoms (fan communities based around media such as books, comic books, films, TV series, video games and cartoons) I follow, especially the television science-fiction series called „Star Trek”. Examples of my work can be seen at fan conventions, such as Poznań's own Pyrkon, where I attend in company of Greater Poland's Starfleet Division (pl: Wielkopolski Oddział Gwiezdnej Floty) – a fan community/initiative of „Star Trek” I am a member of. ■

# Centre of Languages and Communication

Centre of Languages and Communication (CLC) at Poznan University of Technology (PUT) is involved in numerous activities and events related to foreign languages and language teaching. First and foremost, we are focused on teaching languages for specific purposes, which translates into teaching technical language at PUT.

Our activities, however, reach far beyond mere language teaching. We always strive to offer more and provide support in a wide range of areas. We organize nation- and university-wide events for students.

Every year we organize National Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities; we also celebrate European Language Day with our own Day of Foreign Languages. We also teach Polish to international exchange students and organize events to teach them about Polish culture during Polish Week.

CLC organizes commercial, often custom-made, courses in several languages, and prepares and conducts language examinations such as BULATS or LCCI. We also have teams of qualified translators and a team of specialists in topics related to various aspects of academic writing. CLC teams also train students in soft skills and operate and develop e-learning possibilities.

We hope this year brings a lot of new events and challenges that the students will be happy to enjoy and face with our continued and enthusiastic support!