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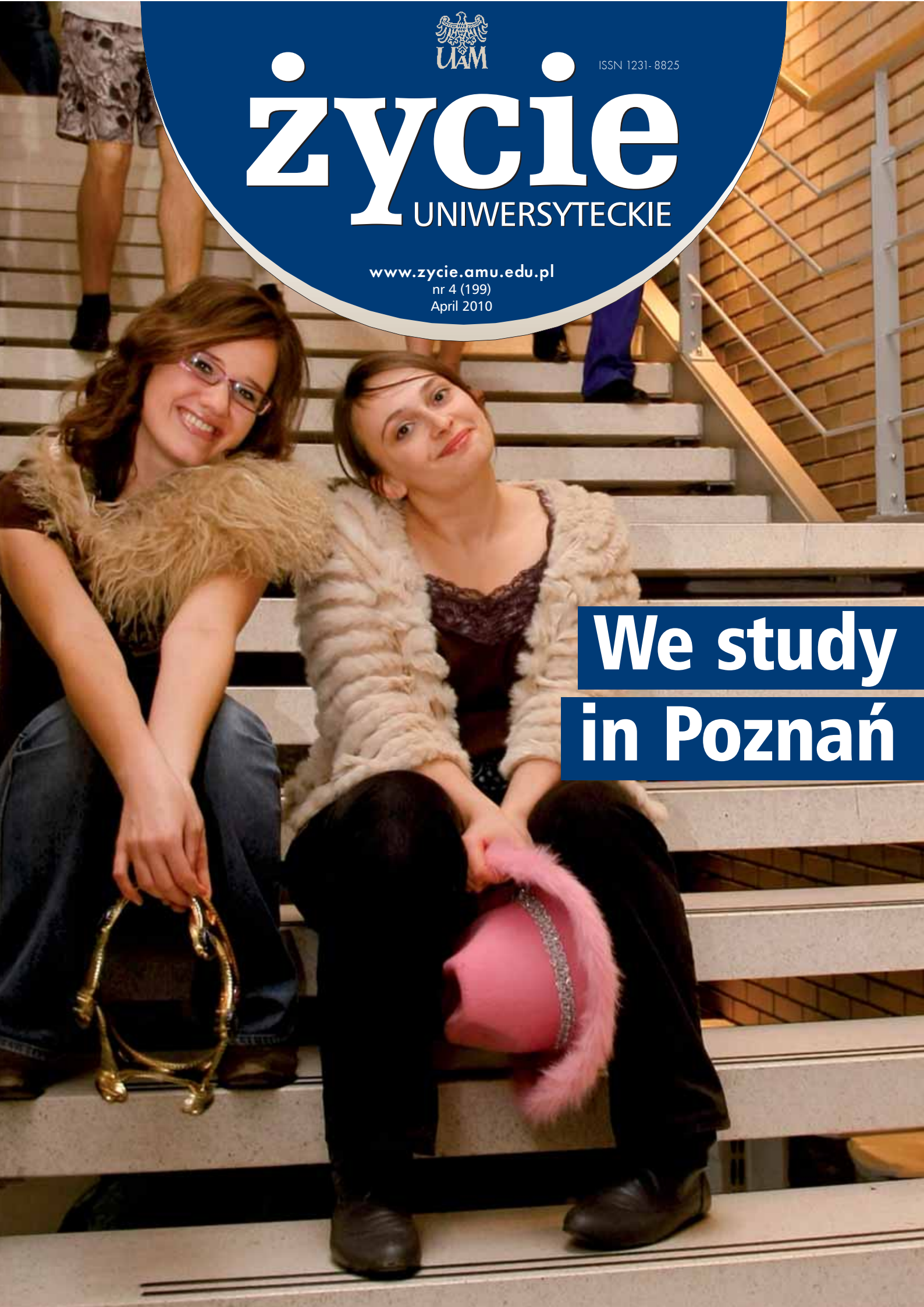
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**We study
in Poznań**





AMU Auditorium, one of Poznań's best concert halls. Apart from regular classical concerts performed by Poznań Philharmonic Orchestra, it hosts jazz concerts, University events, (conferences, closing ceremonies), and large pop music concerts.



At Fredry street, in the former Emperor's District, stands a Neo-Baroque edifice of Collegium Maius



Adam Mickiewicz University. Collegium Minus. The building houses University authorities and administration.



University Library. The edifice built in a late Renaissance style for Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek in 1899-1902; designed by a German architect Carl Hinckeldeyn.



AMU Botanic Garden is a modern teaching and research facility with a plant collections used for internal teaching purposes and general public education.

University's new face

The transformation that Poznań University has been undergoing in recent years can be observed in at least two dimensions. One type of transformation has occurred in the area of programming and organisation of studies with new curricula and new courses introduced. The other one, very much linked with the first, is an array of new spectacular buildings erected combined with revitalisation of the old ones, reminiscent of the University's history. It is particularly the latter that prompts sentimental review of our University's changing faces.

The **Neo-Renaissance edifice of Collegium Minus**, built at the beginning of the previous century, is beyond any doubt the most recognisable landmark of the city. Originally founded as a seat for the Commission of the Royal Academy, it was taken over to in the 1920s to serve the University. At present, the building houses the Rector's office and the University's administration, but not that long ago students of law could be met here. In springtime, just before an examination session, they would relax lying on benches and lawns in the park nearby offering quite an exotic contrast with the busy and noisy św. Marcin and Fredry streets. Collegium Minus has a beautiful, freshly renovated **Auditorium** that has witnessed many great concerts and high-profile events. For many AMU graduates this hall will bring back the memories of the graduation ceremony.

Next door, at Fredry street, in the former Emperor's District, stands a Neo-Baroque edifice of **Collegium Maius**. Originally, it seated the Colonisation Commission convened by the Prussian Parliament. It was only after the Wielkopolska Uprising came to an end that this building became associated with the activities of the University. Since 1950s it has accommodated the Academy of Medicine and some University units. Not until long ago, students of biology or geography could be seen in its corridors. Now, with modern facilities in Morasko put to use, the building of Collegium Maius is being handed over to the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology. This marks a happy end to the "pilgrimage" of students and teachers of Polish studies who have so far occupied the charmless block of Collegium Novum at Niepodległości Avenue. The atmosphere of Collegium Maius, its history and unique architecture, particularly the beautiful marble hall covered by glazed roof, make up an appropriate setting for explorations into the depths of literature.

The **monumental edifice of the University Library**, designed in a late Renaissance style, has been inscribed into the city's architecture for over a century. Originally founded to serve the purposes of the German Kaiser Wilhelm library, the building was, in the course of time, to become part of the newly founded University. The existing book collection was gradually enlarged with Polish volumes, the process being continued up to date. This is one of the

most atmospheric venues of the University. But even here one can see changes forced by the passage of time and technological advancements. The old catalogue with an countless slips has been replaced with computers. The library resources can now be searched conveniently with advanced on-line browsers. Only the reading rooms seem to have withstood time. Here, while sitting over a book amid beautiful historic furniture, one can sense the spirit of the past generations.

Faculty libraries are being modernised at a faster pace. As of late, the spacious and modern **Library of the Faculty of Modern Languages and Literatures at Collegium Novum** has enlivened a little the architectural monotony of the surroundings. It fulfils the vision of a 21st century library combining the comfort of a user-friendly reading room with the convenience of online access.

The new face of the Poznań University can certainly be seen in the ever growing **Morasko Campus**. Over several recent years the Faculties of Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Biology, and, in part, Social Sciences have been moved there. By moving outside the city borders, the University redefines itself as a modern scientific centre. The Morasko complex is an impressive combination of modern architecture and open green spaces, surrounded by woods and natural landscapes. Spacious interiors contain numerous classrooms and laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and comfortable staff rooms.

Photo competition - AMU in the eye of the camera

The photo competition organised by the AMU Promotion Office is open to students of all the University departments, including the field branches, Collegium Polonicum in Słubice and Collegium Europaeum in Gniezno.

The competition jury will select twelve winning photographs to be published in the 2011 University Calendar along with their authors' names. A "photograph of the year" will also be selected out of the twelve and the main prize awarded to a winner.

- We would like to show our University through the eyes of its students, not only to make them discern and demonstrate the beauty of the buildings, normally perceived merely as places of study, but also to make them reflect on the role that the University plays in their lives - says

Małgorzata Nowak from the Information and Promotion Office - I hope that foreign students of the AMU will send their photos, too.

The "University Calendar" will be released every year of the AMU's Jubilee Decade. Successive editions are planned to be promoted with exhibitions of best photographs and prize award ceremonies. Winning photographs will first be displayed in Collegium Minus, then other selected buildings of the AMU. The last year of the Jubilee Decade will see a large outdoor exhibition on the Mickiewicz Square featuring all winning photographs from all editions of the University Calendar.

The opening of each edition and competition rules will always be announced on 7 May through posters, AMU website and other media.



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Sitting in the park

Heliodor Świącicki, founder and first rector of Poznań University, has returned to where he left all his strength and all his hefty wealth. His carved figure, looking at the chief building of the Adam Mickiewicz University, can be seen sitting on a bench in the park close by.

For many years, on the date marking Heliodor Świącicki's funeral, students were given a day off so as to be able to take part in anniversary celebrations. Świącicki was the founder and the first rector of the University. For many years, rectors opening an academic year followed the tradition of reciting passages from his opening speech of 7 May 1919: beware of the drabness of life deprived of the moments of great sunshine and great love.

He was an outstanding personality. Having lost his parents at a very young age, he managed his life on his own and acquired the profession of a doctor. He specialised in gynecology with achievements including development of an innovative device for birth anaesthesia, later applied throughout Europe. He set up his own clinic and proved to be a successful businessman, earning one of the biggest fortunes in the Wielkopolska region. But he lived a modest life sharing his wealth with the poor families whom he visited during his morning walks. He supported education of talented poor children. As a doctor, he introduced an innovative infant care system, with nurses visiting mothers at their homes. He also sponsored Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences, by co-financing construction works, purchasing books and scientific equipment. Poland was not an inde-

pendent country then, its territory partitioned between three neighbours. Prussia, which controlled Wielkopolska, did not allow for a Polish university to be established in Poznań. Therefore, local community decided to set up Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences, a unique undertaking world-wide, a sort of a free civic university with open lectures. It was Heliodor Świącicki who first saw it as a seed of an actual university and tried to make it as modern as possible.

Eventually, in 1918 Poland regained its long-awaited freedom. The University Committee, a body that Świącicki had established with a secret task of preparing the structure of the future university, gathered openly on 9 November 1918. Three months later the Faculty of Philosophy was officially founded. Intensive preparatory works, first of all to complete the teaching staff, began even before the frontiers of the free Polish State were finally set. The crucial thing was to find highly qualified teachers, in spite of strong competition from other institutions, to prevent the University from lowering its level and to discourage all those who might have hoped for the young University to set lower standards for its staff and students. In May 1919, on the opening day, 21 faculties were fully staffed with teachers who came later to be distinguished for their scientific achievements both in Poland

and worldwide. Arranging for offices and classrooms was a struggle. The first rector took this tremendous challenge with all his energy and passion, using his personal contacts.

He supported the University with his own money. There is a well known story of prof. Adam Wrzosek's complaining one day about the lack of funds to support one of the students. In response, Świącicki wrote a cheque. Wrzosek was sure it was for the sum needed, but much to his amazement he saw the amount of one million Polish marks, roughly a tenth of the whole Świącicki's wealth. In his last will he bequeathed all his property to the "Work and Study" Foundation established to support scientific research and provide assistance to talented students.

He was elected rector five times in a row until his death.

He worked extremely hard. Despite all his administrative duties, he releases over 200 publications, many of them reaching beyond the domain of medicine. He held this high spectrum of interest to the end of his life. Hence, his beautiful speeches or a surprising text on aesthetics in medicine where he argues that tidiness in hospital wards affect patients' health.

Świącicki died on 9 October 1923. Since 1946 he has rested in Skalka Poznańska in the vaults of St. Adalbert's Church.

Maria Rybicka

7 MAY - Poznań National Museum opens free to AMU students

AMU Students' Day in museums

The year 2010 is the first year of the Adam Mickiewicz University Jubilee Decade to be crowned with 100th-anniversary celebrations on 7 May 2019.

- We would like the date of 7 May to be well recognised by our students as an anniversary marking the foundation of the biggest and oldest public University in the North-Western Poland - says Małgorzata Nowak from the Information and Promotion Office - Therefore, we are coming up with a proposal that every year on 7 May, until the end of the AMU Jubilee Decade UAM, our students have free admission to permanent and temporary exhibitions in all nine branches of NM in Poznań, including Rogalin Palace, Głuchów Castle and

certainly the Adam Mickiewicz Museum in Śmiełków.

The joint project of both institutions has been called "AMU Students Day in Poznań National Museum - 7 May - Jubilee Decade 2010-2019".

Małgorzata Nowak underlines the important role of Prof. Wojciech Suchocki, director of the NM in Poznań, and Aleksandra Sobocińska, spokesperson of the NM in Poznań, who responded very favourably to the idea and committed themselves to the project. - We don't want the idea of "AMU Students Day in Poznań National Museum" to be limited to free admissions only. We hope that in the future this date will also be associated with

special exhibitions and lectures.

We will keep AMU students and staff informed of all exhibitions currently held in all branches of the Museum through posters displayed in the AMU buildings.

What are students up to this year? The NM in Poznań comprises over 330,000 exhibits, although only part of them are on display. However, with six museum branches being located in the city centre, an ambitious student may decide to visit all them within one day. The best place to start the tour is the Gallery of Painting and Sculpture (NM main building, 9 Marcinkowskiego Avenue, disabled-friendly) inviting all to its temporary exhibition called "Chełmoński Chmielowski

Across universities, across disciplines

The most interesting discoveries of modern times are made on common grounds of different scientific disciplines. For exact sciences, this interdisciplinary cooperation seems to be particularly vital. Science knows no borders, it is international by nature. Therefore, it is so essential to go beyond the limits of particular universities and faculties. And this just what is happening with two unique undertakings which are being led by the Adam Mickiewicz University.

The first of them, the Wielkopolska Centre of Advanced Technologies (WCZT), being compliant with the European priorities of innovative development, will be co-financed through European Funds. The WCZT brings together the whole academic community of Poznań - says Prof. Bogdan Marciniak, a chemist, project manager and coordinator - not only the universities, but also the institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research and development centres, and, as an additional partner, the authorities of city of Poznań. There are 12 participating parties altogether. As shown by specialist analyses, Poznań has an over-average research potential which has failed so far to be sufficiently translated into practical applications. The Centre of Advanced Technologies will see representatives of exact, life and technical sciences work on new materials and novel chemical syntheses that may prove useful for optoelectronics, ceramic engineering, medicine or agriculture. A good example of this may be fine chemicals, sophisticated chemical compounds which are needed in small amounts for many types of syntheses. New cellular therapies may prove important in medicine; application of genetics in

plant breeding - in agriculture; biodegradable packagings - in industry. Scientists from Poznań have remarkable achievements in all these areas. Researchers working in the Centre will also develop technologies for new products, while innovative companies grouped in the Poznań Science and Technology Park - another stakeholder of the Centre - will use these technologies in their production processes. This way knowledge will be "pumped" into the economy. The Centre of Advanced Technologies will employ around 200 people. Job applications are already pouring in from young Polish scientists, now employed abroad, who wish to return to work in Poland - says Prof. Bogdan Marciniak.

At the same time, walls of the other facility, the Interuniversity Nanobiomedical Centre, are rising at the Morasko Campus. This project is a fruit of the alliance between the AMU, Poznań University of Medical Sciences, Poznań University of Life Sciences, and Poznań University of Technology. Some of the most talented students from Poland and abroad will take their interdisciplinary M.A. and Ph.D. studies here under tutorship of distinguished professors from Poland and 18 foreign universities. We will search for talents all over the world, says Prof. Stefan Jurga, a physicist, head of the Centre. The first recruitment headed by an international selection committee will begin in May.

Young researchers will have nine laboratories at their disposal: the biological lab, the chemical lab, the medical lab, the microscope lab, the optical spectroscopy lab, the NMR spectroscopy lab, the nanostructure generation lab, the physics of vision lab, and the neuroscience lab. They will also have access to a clean room necessary for certain types of

experiments and measurements. The Centre will be equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment. All costs totalling PLN 111,400,000 are covered through the European Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment, while Ph.D. scholarships are financed in part from the grant of Foundation for Polish Science.

What will the centre focus on? Nanomaterials - says Prof. Stefan Jurga - it's a guiding concept, and how to apply them in biology and medicine, as well as IT tools to be used in this research. Let me give you some examples of research topics: magnetic and electric properties of nanometal molecules, carbon, nanodetection of free radicals, etc. These topics have been highly evaluated by a group of international experts. Each of these topics require interdisciplinary cooperation.

Among foreign collaborators of the Centre are such distinguished figures as Prof. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski from the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, an expert in polymers and a Nobel Prize Candidate; Prof. Markus Antonietti from the Max Planck Institute, a world renowned expert in colloids; Prof. Jacek Klinowski from Cambridge University, an expert in physical chemistry, or Prof. T. Brezowski from the University of Bilbao. They were encouraged to join the project by the scientific authority of Prof. Jurga and other Poznań's scientists.

- While discussing the vision of the AMU development - says the AMU rector, Prof. Bronisław Marciniak - I was not afraid to talk about the competition with other Europe's universities and I am confident that both our modern centres will indeed help us become more competitive.

Maria Rybicka

Witkiewicz". Apart from the three artists' paintings, created in the studio of the Hotel Europejski, Warsaw, in 1874-1883, the exhibition will also feature works inspired by the great Three, including the famous Frenzy of Exultations (Szał uniesień) by Władysław Podkowiński. The painting depicting a naked woman on a horse evoked a scandal in the public and the artist (allegedly driven by rumours of his having portrayed a lady from the high society who rejected his advances) slashed his painting during the exhibition of 1894. While in the main NM building, of note is the permanent exhibition, including an outstanding collection of Sarmatian coffin portraits, Jacek Malczewski's flourishing works, or the biggest collection of Spanish Baroque paintings in Poland (including works of Zurbarán and José de Ribera). The Museum of Applied Arts (1 Górska Street) with exhibitions including "Two Centuries of Fashion". However, the heart of Poznań's museum attractions lies definitely in the Old

Town Market, where three museums are located. Of particular notice is Poland's only (and the second biggest in Europe) Museum of Musical Instruments. Among numerous exhibits is the grand piano used by Fryderyk Chopin during his stay in Wielkopolska. A visit to the Military Museum of Wielkopolska is a chance to learn about the history of Polish militaria, while the Museum of the History of the City of Poznań offers the opportunity to see the historical interiors of the Town Hall. The Ethnographic Museum (entrance from Mostowa Street) is situated in the former headquarters of Masonic Lodge surrounded by a small park. The Museum currently features three exhibitions: "Wielkopolska Folk Costumes", "From a Thread to a Masterpiece. Colourful World of Fabrics", and a photo exhibition called "Tbilisi. For Friends Only". Alongside with various forms of Wielkopolska folk culture which are exhibited on a permanent basis, the museum presents objects from all



corners of the world. All those who feel like a longer trip are welcome to visit the NM field branches - Rogalin Palace (former estate of the Raczyński family with an interesting painting collection), Gołuchów Castle (an impressive edifice, once owned by the Działyński family, home to one of the two greatest museum collections of the pre-war period), and the Adam Mickiewicz Museum in Śmiełków.

Ewa Woznińska

UAM Foundation scholars

Young face of science

Grażyna Barabasz talking with Ph.D. students, scholars of AMU Foundation from the Faculties of Mathematics and Geography, about the essence of science, methods of research work, and future goals

History written in rocks and figures

Paweł Wolniewicz - Ph.D. student, Faculty of Geographical and Geological Science

Thesis topic: Numerical analysis of the anatomy of selected Devonian Stromatoporoidea

Adviser: Prof. Jerzy Fedorowski

What is the subject of your doctoral thesis?

My area of interest is geology, or, to put it more strictly, paleobiology. I do biological research, but on extinct organisms. I focus on extinct Palaeozoic invertebrae. They are intriguing in that the Palaeozoic Era witnessed the formation of interesting reef structures. The process of reef extinction in Palaeozoic Era is an indication of what may happen today with human activity more and more invasive. There were no humans then, but there were other factors that could have had a similar impact on reefs.

Your work is of an interdisciplinary nature: the topic relates to geology, the research goes into biological processes, while data analysis is made with computer software. What is the objective of your work?

The objective is to develop new research methods for fossils that formed Palaeozoic reefs. These are first of all methods involving computer-based image analysis, text analysis and general application of statistical methods. The project includes development of IT software to be used in this sort of research.



How does your research work look like in practice?

I begin my work by choosing specimens to examine. I collect my materials in Poland, in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and Krakow Upland regions, but also in France and Belgium. Then comes the laboratory work, I prepare ground glass joints for scans and digital photographs. Basing on the photographs and scans, I examine images and textures, and make statistical analyses. Then I compare the results received through computer-based analysis with those obtained earlier by more complicated or more time- and energy-consuming methods. The final goal of my thesis is to develop a method that will allow researchers to perform those analyses with computer software and simple equipment instead of more difficult and advanced tech-

niques requiring a heavy workload. Take this example: previously, mechanical analysis of a single specimen took several hours to complete; this application achieves the same result within seconds. In the past, research was based on 200-300 specimens, whereas, using my software, I could examine as many as 1,000.

Where else can this research method be applied?

I hope it will prove useful in geology and paleobiology. But I also work on extending its applicability so that my image analysis software could be used in other areas unrelated to geology, such as education where it might serve as a kind of an interactive blackboard.

Geology, when did it become your passion?

Well, it's hard to say exactly. Certainly, I was interested in geology back at secondary school when I was taking part in a national geography competition. At that time, I was fond of geographical sciences in general, but I remember I always got best results with tasks somehow relating to geology. Perhaps this was the reason why I decided to study geology.

What opinions do you hope to read in the reviews of your work?

First of all, I would like to see my work in practical use, at least in geological sciences, but also beyond. This is the most important thing for me. I would be truly delighted to find out that there is a number of people who apply my methods in practice in their own work.

Most PhD-friendly again

"Nothing is impossible in Poznań"

The Adam Mickiewicz University has been again awarded the title of Poland's most PhD-friendly university. The decision of the Selection Jury reconfirmed and enhanced the last year's success. The title was officially granted at the ceremony attended by Ph.D. students from all around Poland.

- This event has gained high recognition - says Prof. Krzysztof Krasowski, AMU's Vice-Rector. - Having explained the reasons for the Jury's verdict, the Minister of Science and Higher Education, Ms. Barbara Kudrycka, commented: "I can see nothing is impossible in Poznań"

If last year the competition between the leading Polish universities was very close, this time Poznań was far ahead of the rest.

Personally, I was very satisfied to hear many people stressing that Ph.D. students from other universities use our example as a strong argument in discussions with their own rectors and decision-makers: 'Why is it impossible' - they say - to do this or that, 'if they could do it in Poznań... Why not us'. For me - adds Krasowski - it is like a perfect bottom line of what we have achieved.

- And what have we actually achieved? What did we score for?

The brain wakes up when ideas come knocking

Joanna Berlińska - Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Thesis topic: Homogenous divisible task scheduling in heterogenous distributed systems
Adviser: Prof. Maciej Drozdowski



The topic of your work is quite complicated. Could you please explain it?

It is about task scheduling, that is finding the fastest possible way to perform computations with a computer network. The objective of my work, on one hand, is to develop algorithms allowing the best possible practical application of results received or, in other words, telling us as fast as possible how to distribute work to achieve high efficiency computations. On the other hand my aim is to obtain theoretical grounds for differentiating the problems under examination by their level of difficulty.

How does your research work look like in practice?

It depends on whether we are in the theoretical or experimental domain. As regards the theoretical part, it mostly involves mathematical operations - designing algorithms; checking how fast they work and when they deliver best; developing mathematical evidence for certain problems to be too difficult to be solved effectively within a reasonable timeframe. In the experimental part we primarily focus on analysing the systems we use. Some analyses are based on common sense, others on analytical data. Building on our findings, we design an algorithm, then we estimate its quality and make a large number of calculations and simulations to be able to compare our results to estimations or results received by other methods.

Where can your research results be used?

Applications are multifold as distributed systems are being used in numerous fields of science, including problems of linear algebra, DNA sequence matching, or processing all kinds of measurement data.

When did the world of mathematics become your passion?

Basically, I have liked science since I was a child, especially mathematics. Then I developed interest in computer science. Back in my primary school I took part in all sorts of maths competitions, and then during my studies I participated in international contests in mathematics and team programming.

And algorithms? When did you start your interest in them?

Actually there were two moments: in the first year of my studies we had this subject Algorithms and Data Structures. It was my favourite class. Then in the fourth year, I took Task Scheduling as an optional course and all of a sudden it occurred to me that I found the area I would like to work on and the person I would like to work with. The same teacher is my thesis promoter now.

What is the role of science in your life?

On one hand it's my passion. It is something you can't just switch off, because it's always on your mind whatever you do. I'm busy with something else and then suddenly an idea flashes in my mind and I have to write it down quickly.

What do you do then?

It depends; I wake up, read a book, try to elaborate on the idea. It seems to me that I don't think about it but an idea just appears out of nowhere. It's like a moment of revelation. When an idea comes to you, and it turns out that it moves you forward, you feel this amazing rush of adrenaline, a strike of satisfaction that you made it. I think it's comparable to the feeling you have after winning a sport competition.

What opinions do you hope to read in the reviews of your work?

I hope to read that it is a good work, an important contribution to the area it deal with, and that I came up with good algorithms that could be used in practice.

Stating their reasons for the verdict the Jury put a particular stress on the following aspects: high percentage (73 per cent) of Ph.D. candidates taking Ph.D. studies, maximum admissible share of Financial Assistance Fund allotted to Ph.D. students, Ph.D. students' own projects funded by the University and the authorities of the city of Poznań. In addition, a wide range of additional scholarships offered from such sources as the AMU Fund, the Kulczyk Fund, the Władysław Kuraskiewicz Fund, or the European Funds. Ph.D. students at the AMU are also fully exempt from fees and expenses

related to post-graduate studies and language courses. Their conferences and publications are co-financed by the University. Ph.D. students may also participate in trainings organised by the AMU's European Integration Centre and enjoy preferential treatment while running businesses in the newly opened AMU Academic Preincubator. They are entitled to train ticket discounts, Christmas and holiday allowances, and a subsidy of EUR 100 euro for trips taken under the Erasmus Programme.

Jolanta Lenartowicz

Convention, interdisciplinarity and scholarships

Professor Zbigniew Pilarczyk, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, on students' scientific clubs



Can any student establish a club?

Yes. All that needs to be done is to write a club policy to be approved by the University and indicate an academic or a lecturer who has agreed to perform the function of a tutor. There are no requirements as to a minimum number of members, although some clubs regulate this matter themselves. At present, there are 110 clubs operating at the AMU. However, this number varies. Some clubs are seasonal in character and the University accepts this as the price that has to be paid for keeping students active. What worries me though is that some clubs of similar profiles are not even aware of each other.

How can this be changed?

To this end, we have reactivated the Scientific Club Council (SCC). It consists of 14 stu-

dents, club members, representing each of the faculties. The Council does not intend to reduce anybody's autonomy. What we want is to encourage students to undertake interdisciplinary projects, involving several clubs. The Council will also issue their opinions on requests concerning assistance for students' projects, where I have doubts myself how to evaluate them. The Convention of AMU Scientific Clubs, to be organised by SCC in May and held in the University Auditorium will also be a kind of a baptism of fire for the new body. Selected clubs shall develop papers and presentations, while the others will prepare so-called "business cards", that is one-metre posters describing their achievements and objectives. We want this event to take place annually.

Which faculty shows the highest activity of scientific clubs?

I think it's hard to point at a single one. Certainly mentionable are the International Sessions of Archaeology Students or conferences organised by students of English studies (Young Linguists' Meeting in Poznań). The Faculties of Mathematics and Political Science also have their share of interesting initiatives. Let us not be fooled by bare figures though. If we were to believe in numbers only, students of the Modern Languages and Literature with 22 scientific clubs should be regarded as much more active than those of Biology with only one, but a multi-section club. To tell you the truth, I like the latter structure better. A club and a section are equally positioned to apply for financial support, but it is easier to build your prestige basing on large brands, which are recognisable also beyond the University. We also hope for a pan-University magazine co-

produced by all the clubs. A good example in this respect is set by "Aurora", a joint project of the Faculty of Social Studies and the Faculty of Political Studies and Journalism.

We are living in dynamic times. Does the role of scientific clubs change, too?

They still serve as a meeting place for students who want to do more than required by curriculum. The clubs' activities are naturally focused on conducting additional research, as well as organising and participating in conferences. However, with students' self-awareness gradually growing, the clubs might also have their say in development of the curriculum, for example by notifying institute authorities of their interest in specific courses. A club would also like the clubs to take the task of encouraging talented students to apply for scholarships. This year AMU students have received 54 subsidies from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. It turned out that universities of comparable potential obtained much more applications. As club members seem to be natural recipients of scholarships, they should be made more active in this area.

You have mentioned students asking you for support. What kind of support do they need?

Mostly financial. In my capacity, I am responsible for distributing the amount earmarked for scientific clubs. The University supports primarily projects related to conferences, working visits, and fieldwork both in Poland and abroad. I believe, by the way, that many a club have been established just because of the funding opportunities. We should bear in mind, however, that the budget is limited and the quality of the project is what matters most. Sometimes, support is also awarded to individual projects. In this context, I always recall a student of Tourism and Recreation whose research trip was co-financed by the AMU. Tomek Kowalski climbed the mountains for the purpose of his MA thesis. In return for the financial assistance of PLN 1,500 he raised a pennant with the AMU log on the top Aconcagua, the peak of the Andes.

Did you belong to a club as a student?

No, because I was heavily engaged then in another type of activity. But to my defence, let me say that, as an AMU teacher, I was for many years a tutor of the Section of Military History Students.

Thank you for the interview
Ewa Woźnińska



Half of the Scientific Club Council featuring: Maria Kurasz, chairperson; Radosław Ambrozik; Michał Kościukiewicz; Krzysztof Dudek; Janusz Górny; Błażej Osowski; Mariusz Węclawiak

AMU School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreign Students

Foreigners' interest in Polish language on the rise

Learning Polish as a foreign language has been growing more and more popular in the recent years. For many foreign students studying at AMU, Polish is the passport to a world of new opportunities and career advancement. It wouldn't be possible if it weren't for AMU School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreign Students by the Institute of Polish Philology.

The changes that took place in Poland over the last ten years and the rise of interest with our country around the world have brought about the willingness to learn Polish as a foreign language among more and more people. Not only are foreigners who intend to study in Poland interested in learning Polish, but also those who are staying in Poznań for vocational reasons. Thus, it comes as no surprise to learn that the number of students at AMU School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreign Students is growing by the year. Almost 500 people from over 60 countries such as Germany, Russia, France, Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Belarus, Great Britain, Australia, USA, Cameroon, Algeria, Brazil, the Philippines, Vietnam, Columbia, Egypt, Chad, Dominican, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand or Tunisia, among others, took part in the courses run by the School in 2009 only. Much indicates that in 2010 the numbers are yet to increase.

An extensive offer

Foreigners learning Polish in the School are above all scholarship holders of such educational programs as LLP Erasmus, the Lane Kirkland Program, the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission's Programs, GFPS, the German Academic

Exchange Service (DAAD), Scholarship Program of the Polish Government for Young Academicians, but there are also exchange students from Korean, German and Ukrainian universities, regular foreign students at AMU who attend obligatory course of Polish, AMU employees i.e. lecturers of foreign languages at AMU and, last but not least, people outside the University who want to learn the language from the very beginning or improve their Polish. The latter constitute one third of all course participants, about 100 persons per semester. We are very pleased with this number increasing systematically, because it is a clear sign that the School's offer is attractive for foreigners from outside the academic environment as well, says Agnieszka Mielczarek, Ph.D., the chair of AMU School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreign Students. The offer of our Polish language courses is targeted at a large group of prospective students and meets the current market demands. We organize various courses: 2, 4, 6 and 10 hours per week on semestrial and yearly basis, on six main levels of language advancement. Also, we run the one-year preparatory course for candidates who are planning to study in Poland, explains Agnieszka Mielczarek, Ph.D.

In addition, the School's employees are lecturers at the Postgraduate Studies of Teaching Polish as a Foreign Language, which prepare to teaching Polish to foreign students, and they also conduct classes during the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture at AMU. It is worth pointing out that some of our teachers are members of 'ZAZiE' (The Group of Tasks' Authors and Examiners) of the State Commission for the Certification of Polish as a Foreign Language. Hence, we help in conducting the Certificate Exams of Polish as

a Foreign Language in Poland and abroad, and we also participate in the organization of this exam in Poznań, adds Agnieszka Mielczarek, Ph.D.

A new dimension

According to Professor Józef Tomasz Pokrzywniak, the dean of the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, the importance of the School has increased over the recent years. The Polish law to a greater degree than before regulates the matter of having the Certificate of Polish as a Foreign Language by foreigners who undertake work in Poland. Furthermore, the fact that Polish is one of the European Union's languages adds a new dimension to its learning, says Professor Józef Tomasz Pokrzywniak.

Within the structure of the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, the School, due to its specific character, is obviously open to developing international connections. This enables us to promote not only Polish language and culture among foreign students, but also degree programs proposed by our faculty. It is conducive to tightening international cooperation between our faculty and research centers around the world, claims Agnieszka Mielczarek, Ph.D. Thanks to the School's engagement, in 2012 Poznań will host an international conference of Bristol Association of Polish and Foreign Teachers of Polish Language, the largest organization of Polish as a foreign language teachers. In autumn this year we are planning to organize a Poznań-Szczecin Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, adds Agnieszka Mielczarek, Ph.D.

All information about AMU School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreign Students may be found at www.schoolpl.amu.edu.pl

Watch us on EDUSAT

Soon, we are going to be present on the digital TV platforms of CYFRA +, "n", Polsat Cyfrowy, as well as 164 regional cable TV networks!!!

In late February 2010, an agreement was signed between the authorities of our University and the EDUSAT satellite television on non-commercial transmission of programmes and films produced by the AMU University Film Studio.

The Adam Mickiewicz University is thus winning an access to a well-profiled channel of distribution of information, teaching and scientific contents, covering the whole of Europe, North Africa, part of Asia and Canada. Our programmes on EDUSAT may also be received free and

uncoded directly from HOTBIRD 9 satellite. EDUSAT TV is estimated to be available for around 5 million households throughout Poland. In 2008, our new partner in educational mission was selected winner of the prestigious HOTBIRD Awards in the culture and education category.

The long-term cooperation agreement between the AMU and the EDUSAT satellite television provides for transmission of documentaries and popular science films shot by the AMU University Film Studio. For detailed TV schedules of the EDUSAT satellite TV see www.edusat.pl and AMU websites.

Stefan Habryło

Head of the University Film Studio,
Teaching and Multimedia Centre

200 'Academic Quarters' make more than 50 hours

The AMU is one of few universities to boast its own professional and self-made TV programme.

It was first transmitted on the PTV-TVP3 regional TV, then the Wielkopolska Cable Television (WTK).

- We have a professional filming equipment, a regular production cycle, and our own studio. We prepare and broadcast, on a regular basis, four TV series: Academic Magazine - originally known as Academic Quarter, University's Outstanding Figures, and UAM Archives, as well as speech presentations, including a series of TV lectures entitled Masterpieces, Master Thoughts... - proudly recall the studio team members on the occasion of the 200th edition of Academic Quarter.

The 200 Quarters have given a comprehensive account of the University's history recorded on film tapes. Over the ten years of its activity the studio has made around 1,000 transmissions, including documentaries, popular science shows, promotional materials, lectures (or even plays) relating to various fields of science. The Archives also contain records of major ceremonies, honorary degree awards, concerts, etc.

- We introduce to viewers some of our outstanding personalities and provide high quality lectures to a large number of Poznań households. This way, people with no academic links whatsoever are given the chance to participate in the University life or in what is the most typical part of it - a lecture. Its role is of great importance - said Stefan Habryło, head of the University studio. But we could not achieve that much without a right team, without the people working for and supporting the Film Studio. Recently, we have managed to gather a team of high-class specialists, including film editors, sound designers, lighting engineers, camera operators, electronic engineers, IT experts, voice talents, well-known journalists, cinema and TV producers, etc. Owing to the strength and commitment shown by this group we are able to overcome difficulties, but also to set ever more ambitious objectives. For that reason, recent years have been the best period in the history of the University Film Studio and its mission of promoting the Adam Mickiewicz University. **len**

AMU students sweep the web

On 13 December 2009 a group of students from the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, following the example of their colleagues from other countries, shot a LipDub which soon came to be a smash hit on the web, attracting thousands of viewers.

The term LipDub has been coined by Jakob Lodwick as a blend of two words: 'lip' and 'dubbing'. This is how he explains the origins of his idea: "I walked around with a song playing in my headphones, and recorded myself singing. When I got home I opened it in iMovie and added an MP3 of the actual song, and synchronized it with my video. Is there a name for this? If not, I suggest 'lip dubbing' [...]"

The file posted on the Internet triggered off a staggering avalanche of comments and videos inspired by Lodwick's LipDub. The idea was picked up by both corporate workers and university students all over the world. All you need to make a LipDub is a camera, a catchy song, a group of people who get on well together, and an idea how to make the most of your campus facilities. What sets video clips like LipDubs apart from regular TV clips is the single shot principle: one unedited shot. Students of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism decided to follow the example of their Canadian, French or Brazilian counterparts and produced their own LipDub. Time: mid-December; place: AMU Faculty of Political Science and Journalism.

- I'm very happy that Kamil Szymański, my first-year mate, talked me into this project. Actually, it's hard to find right words to describe the atmosphere we had on set. "220 people dressed up as all sort of characters, like Charlie Chaplin, Marlin Monroe, or Superman or what have you. We wanted to show that the University is not only about studying, but also about good fun. The video may look crude, as if shot hastily, without any preps, but this impression is deceptive. The University was our second home throughout the shooting" -

says Marcin Robakowski, the originator of the project. As a background music, we used Fascination by a Danish band called Alphabeat. Beyond any doubt, the LipDub made on the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism became a smash hit in the Net and contributed to a global promotion of our University. Looking for evidence? See how many comments have been posted to our website. Here are some of them: "This one is a way better than all the other Polish stuff, REALLY. I'm impressed". - writes jarring, while a user by a mysterious nick dziecko ziemi (Earth's child) adds: "My old university! :D I feel so proud! ;) Terrific job, well done!!!". Mattsstudio writes this: "After I watched this film I understood that the University of Warsaw, where I live, is not for me. I'm going to study in Poznań!!! :)"

The clip is very popular, up to date, the counter is indicating hundreds of thousands of viewings. By comparison, Saint of Me by Rolling Stones was watched only 80,000 times. Certainly, these figures are hardly comparable, but the fact is, that the number of viewings for is huge and still counting. Our LipDub has also been noticed by national media. It was described by Natalia Mazur in Poznań's edition of Gazeta Wyborcza. At Christmas, TVN 24, Polish news channel, showed a short interview with the LipDub crew: the director, Marcin Robakowski, camera operator, Artur Przyszczykowski, and Kamil Szymański, Katarzyna Janicka, Agata Kwiatkoń, and others. What really surprised us was that Alphabeat put the clip on their Danish and English websites. Nobody expected that and I can't think of a better recognition of the efforts and commitment of the whole team - adds Szymański.





Słubice. AMU Collegium Polonicum is a joint research centre of two Universities: the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). The mission of Collegium Polonicum is to develop scientific and cultural cooperation between Poland and Germany.



Kalisz. The Faculty of Pedagogy and Arts is an integral part of the Adam Mickiewicz University structures. It conducts courses in Pedagogy, Modern Languages, and Arts



Sport complex in Morasko. The academic community may use the University Swimming Pool. A modern gym is under construction, tennis courts, basket-ball pitch, and athletic stadiums are planned.



Gniezno. John Paul II European College is one of AMU's field teaching centres. The College is home to the Institute of European Culture carrying out teaching and research activity.