



POLITECHNIKA POZNAŃSKA

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CENTRUM JĘZYKÓW
I KOMUNIKACJI
CENTRE OF LANGUAGES & COMMUNICATION



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On Saturday, 22nd April 2023, the Centre of Languages and Communication hosted the Final of the XXIV Olympiad of the English Language for Students of Technical Universities. Every year The Poznan University of Technology acts as the host of this event. There were always hundreds of students from different universities from all over Poland, lots of sponsors and special guests taking part in the Olympiad. This year almost each part of the Olympiad was held on-site, at the technical university in Poznan, including the second stage and the finals on 21st April and 22nd April respectively. In the semi-final stage, ten students who proved to be the best after writing the test on 21st April, were asked to prepare a seven-minute presentation for the given topic. It was then presented in front of examiners.

Students were invited to show their presentations on one of the following citations for this year:

“There is no reason and no way that a human mind can keep up with an artificial intelligence machine by 2035”. (Gray Scott)

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step”. (Lao Tzu)

“The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark”. (Michelangelo)

The final stage of the Olympiad took place on 22nd April, in which ten best laureates were asked to present their viewpoint in an Oxford debate with reference to the role chosen the day before.

They formed two teams, A and B, which were the proposition and the opposition teams respectively. The task for both groups was to provide some arguments, in favor of or against the given topic: **Social media and human rights – a contradiciton in itself?**. Team A was to come up with some arguments on the following thesis: *Social media corrupts human rights* whereas team B had to stick to the topic of: *Social media helps defend human rights*. The Oxford debate has been held for the second time in the final stage of the Olympiad at the Poznań University of Technology. It was run by the chairlady, Weronika Krzebietke, MA and the secretary, Agata Janicka, MA.



Fortunately, there were no technical problems and all students managed to present their arguments and points of view successfully. In the debate there was voting session cast twice, before the debate started and before the results were given. It was also thanks to the audience who had been given some white and blue cards to vote in between. The arguments were presented to jury members and organizers gathered in a lecture hall at PUT. Jury members, gathered in the state-of-the-art building of Faculty of Architecture and Management Engineering at the Poznan University of Technology were Joanna Tokarska-Kozłowska, MA from Opole University of Technology, Ewa Hołubowicz, MA, Nuala Mederski, MA and Barbara Tarko, MA from Poznan University of Technology, Małgorzata Szumilas-Iltner, MA and Justyna Schneider, MA from Silesian University of Technology, Małgorzata Strach-Drabina, MA Gdansk University of Technology, Paulina Turska-Malata, MA from The Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology from Gdansk, and Joanna Pabjańczyk-Musialska, MA from Czestochowa University of Technology. After assessing all arguments and speeches, the jury composed of English lecturers from all over Poland made the following verdict:

MIEJSCE	Nazwisko i imię studenta	Uczelnia
1	Cieślak Adam	Politechnika Poznańska
2	Sujata Olaf	Politechnika Wrocławska
3	Ostrowska Marta	Politechnika Wrocławska
4	Natalia Czyżyk	Politechnika Wrocławska
5	Dominiak Nikodem	Politechnika Poznańska
6	Respondek Michał	Politechnika Częstochowska
7	Tustanowski Anton	Politechnika Wrocławska
8	Gerlicz Wiktoria	Politechnika Łódzka
9	Parandyk Michał	Politechnika Świętokrzyska
10	Karasewicz Angelika	Politechnika Śląska

They all got loud cheers from their supporters and the prizes were handed in to them by the members of the jury and the organizing team. Among sponsors who contributed to the prizes or donated some money on prizes were Rector of Poznan University of Technology prof. dr hab. inż. Teofil Jesionowski, prof. dr hab. inż. Paweł Śniatała, dr inż. Janusz Napierała, Grzegorz Musioł, Rector of Lodz University of Technology, Rector of Lublin University of Technology, Rector of Kielce University of Technology, Rector of Opole University of Technology, Rector of Gdansk University of



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Technology, Rector of Wrocław University of Technology, Rector of Maritime University of Szczecin, Deans of Faculties of Poznań University of Technology, and a few companies such as, Santander Universidades, National Geographic, Centrum Szkoleniowo-Doradcze Dr Kurnicki Sp.k. and a language company, Language Cert, which offered 5 vouchers for language exam sessions for students.

This year, prizes constituted mainly money prizes for all ten laureates, dictionaries, books, bags, mugs or pens. The organizers wish to thank sponsors for all valuable prizes!

Radio Afera as well as a language tutor from the Centre of Languages and Communication, Marta Strukowska, Ph.D. provided the media coverage of the Olympiad.

The honorary patronage of the Olympiad was taken by Rector of Poznań University of Technology prof. dr hab. inż. Teofil Jesionowski, President of Poznań Jacek Jaśkowiak, Honorary Consul of Great Britain Włodzimierz Walkowiak, Honorary Consul of Ireland Artur Sikora and Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission, Justyna Janiszewska.

The whole event was organized and managed by a small team of English lecturers from Poznań University of Technology with Edyta Olejarczuk, PhD as a coordinator, Agnieszka Łukasik, MA, Elżbieta Jeziorek, MA, Hanna Nowak, MA as team members. The Organizing Team of the Olympiad cooperates with coordinators from other technical universities from Poland.

Mgr Hanna Nowak