

Singidunum News 12

**STUDENTS' MAGAZINE
SPRING 2013**

**OUR UNIVERSITY
EXPERIENCE**

**THROUGH A
FOREIGNER'S EYES**

WE ARE WHAT WE LIKE

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ED'S WORD

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In the years of uncertainty, turmoil, economic instability, there are moments of inspiration, devotion and success. The period of the last year or so has been brimming with it. There have been chances, opportunities, late night works, disagreements, rewards, awards, successes.... Although you may feel tired and abandoned at some times, there is more than satisfying compensation in the moments of achievement and recognition, even more so when you know you walked the road with your team-members, your colleagues, your friends.... Plans for the future: We have just started. :)

Ivana Damnjanovic,
Editor in chief



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OUR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE



GREEN PASSPORT SERBIA

Green Passport -Serbia is a guidebook for sustainable travel in Serbia. It is a part of global initiative to promote sustainable tourism, as a new way of travel, which was launched by United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). Serbian issue of Green Passport is first in Europe and sixth in the world (after Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica, South Africa and non-European parts of France). It meets a real need of the country by being an opportunity for Serbian tourism to increase its level of competitiveness.

This guidebook gives advice to tourists in Serbia how to behave before, during and after the trip in order to have memorable experience. It is enriched with lots of author photos and interesting stories about some travel experiences from all over Serbia, about different customs and specific dishes from different parts of the country.

Green Passport-Serbia was created by students of forth year of Tourism and hospitality department and designed by a student of third year of Business informatics department of Faculty of Business Valjevo with help and guidance of their teachers Ivana Damnjanović and Katarina Plečić. This was a great way for students to learn more about sustainability, and to use all knowledge they accumulated during their studies. Working on this project included lot of time for writing and designing this publication, doing field research on different locations (National Park Tara, Kamenicko Lake, Petnicka cave...) and negotiating with different potential partners (UNEP, National tourism organization of Serbia, Ministry of finance and economy – department for tourism), preparing an exhibition stand on Tourism fair in Belgrade in 2012. On this way students experienced how it looks like working on a project. Finally, hard work paid off. *Green Passport-Serbia* was rewarded as one of the most significant projects in Serbian tourism in last year (2012) by portal Visit Serbia.org (one of the important portals in Serbia in the area of tourism).

All of my team members agree on the fact that this has been the “crown” of our studies – a possibility not only to learn, but to pave the road to our future employment and enrich our resumes. The project creator and coordinator, our teacher Ivana Damnjanović, says that this was one among numerous opportunities created to achieve the Faculty of Business Valjevo’s mission - to incite and nurture entrepreneurial spirit of students and give them competitive edge on the market.

As for the Green Passport itself, it is currently available in the Serbian language, whereas its English, German and Spanish versions are expected soon. Finding appropriate source of funding represents current phase of the project, so, it is expected to be printed by the end of 2013. Also, at the moment it exists in electronic form and it can be found on website of Faculty of Business Valjevo, or on Facebook page *Zeleni Pasoš Srbije*.

Join the new energy of travel!



Although it was all about business and promoting our project, we got ourselves from time to time in really funny situations. People who visited this fair as guests can't imagine what is going on at stands during the working hours.

At first we had a lot of people visiting us and taking a short knowledge test about sustainability, all of them were interested in what we were doing and giving us support to continue and we are very thankful to them. However, as the time passed by we had more and more awkward moments. Somehow all these moments happened while I was by the stand.

First, a woman came asking what the prize for participating was. After I had replied that there was no prize she asked me to give her a T-shirt. I politely said that we have only the ones wearing. She accused me of being a liar.

After a while came another woman asking to get our business card. As I was looking for one I asked her a few questions. However, after her question if we were buffing silver it was obvious that we were not on the same page.

There were some more stuff that happened during the fair, but the winner was the guy who asked us to give him also a business card. Luckily, a colleague asked him why he needed it and said that we do not have them currently and offered him a postcard where he could find information about us. The conversation was ended with him saying “But without a business card how will I get a popcorns?”. We looked at each other for a while not saying a word..... Then the laughter came with all of us saying it is time to go home. :)

We have a lot of memories from one amazing day, some which we can be proud of and some of which will always put a smile on our faces.

Milan Plavšić



Jelena Bošković

FOREIGN LANGUAGES DAY

On 25th December 2012, the manifestation named ‘Foreign languages day’ took place at Faculty of Business Valjevo. Its goal was understanding cultural differences through language as a medium of communication. Students participated in a series of fun and educational activities in three languages.

These activities included making traditional dishes that are typical for certain countries where the languages taught to students of Faculty of Business are spoken. For German cuisine students made spetzle with cheese, for English cuisine they made muffins and for Spanish cuisine they made potato tortilla. In this particular activity students were assigned on the basis of foreign language they are learning and showed pretty good cooking skills.



Also students prepared a short play, in English, “Kiss me, I’m Irish”, about national prejudices and young in general.

There was also karaoke competition in which all students enjoyed. There was also a New Year quiz, “Who brings presents? ”, about traditions of celebrating New Year and Christmas where highlight was on German, English and Spanish customs though which students learned some things about these cultures that they might have not known before using fun and interactive methods.

One of these interactive methods that students found very amusing was the “Find your couple” game, in which all participants got cards, some got New Year greeting cards written in different languages and others got cards that had names of these languages, so they had to find their couple to complete the game. This gave students great opportunity to get to know each other.

All students who participated in this manifestation were having a good time and enjoyed spending time together and the winners of the above-mentioned activities won certain prizes.

The whole day went by in great atmosphere and awakening good spirit and friendship among all participants as we got one day closer to beginning of Christmas season.



We talked with students who participated in cooking, karaoke and quiz. And here are their impressions.

Sanja Gojković, student of third year, winner of karaoke competition. She sang song “Bring me to life” by Evanescence with her friend, Marko Jakić.

How did you feel when you won?

I have to admit that I was really surprised but happy at the same time when Marko and I won at the competition. My colleague Marko gave me a huge support, so maybe that was crucial for winning the competition. I don’t feel myself as a great singer, though I love singing. My father is a musician and maybe that’s the reason why I love music so much. Generally, music inspires me a lot.

What do you think about other competitors and this karaoke competition?

As for the karaoke competition I think it was well organized and I like the idea of having that kind of activity during the whole event. Other competitors were also good, some of them had a nice performance on the stage and it was fun!

What do you think of this entire event?

The idea of having a celebration for the “Days of languages” was excellent! I liked all activities. It would be great if we repeat this event again!

Snežana Djokić, student of second year, she prepared muffins with her colleagues.

Was this your first time preparing muffins?

Yes, it was. However they were really good. :)

What are your impressions of this day?

Everything was wonderful. This is the great way for students to get to know each other better. We should do this more often.

We also talked to Sanja Lukić and Marko Jakić, students of third year, they were members of winning team in quiz “Who brings presents?”.

Where the questions difficult?

Marko: Well, some of them, mostly Spanish questions, but, then again, I don’t speak Spanish, so that could be the reason why I found them difficult.

Was the quiz useful, did you learn something new?

Sanja: Quiz was very useful because it gave me the chance to learn something about Spanish tradition and to develop my knowledge about Christmas in England and Germany.

Your impressions about the whole event.

Sanja: I really enjoyed and I think that events like this one should be organized more often. In my opinion, this is the best way to learn something new and to spend wonderful time with your friends.

Marko: It was well thought, well organized and fun. Food was excellent, quiz was very interesting and karaoke contest was hilarious. It was truly amazing.

Jelena Bošković
Željko Čančarević

FIRST ACADEMIC THEATRE OF VALJEVO

First Academic Theatre of Valjevo premiered with their first play “Mandragola” by Niccolo Machiavelli. The performance was on Wednesday, 17th of April 2013, at 20h in a packed hall of the Cultural Center of Valjevo, after five months of intense preparation.

The play was directed by Marko Jakic, a third year student of Business Informatics at the Faculty of Business Valjevo, with the help of Mr. Miroslav Trifunovic. The actors were also students and teachers of the Faculty of Business, and the majority of them have never appeared on stage before. Despite the present stage fright, which was expected, performance received positive reviews from the audience.



At the end of the play, the director showed his gratitude to the Faculty of Business for giving them every possible support, to Mr. Trifunovic for advising them, Abrasevic Theatre for their generosity regarding costumes and set design, all the schools and their students, as well as other various audience that contributed to the success of this initiative of young people in Valjevo.



Academic Theatre of Valjevo plans to perform at festivals and theaters around the country, and hopefully abroad.

Marko Jakić

WE TRIED TO CLEAN UP OUR MAGICAL SERBIA

In June 2012, our students volunteers supported the action of the Ministry of Environment and joined the cleaning the village of Pocuta. This year 301,345 volunteers participated, or 4.23 percent of the population, in 4,318 locations in all municipalities. We tried to be a part of that conscientious team. I think these days, we all know the importance of a healthy environment in which we should live, breathe and eat. To support and expand the importance of the ecology in our town and surrounding, our students were happy to support the World Cleanliness Day. We joined the initiative of the “Green Bike” in cleaning the vicinity of Valjevo - Pocuta village, and removal of two illegal, wild dumps that were located in the forest. Although, it was not possible to eliminate all waste, volunteers removed a large amount and hope to contribute to spreading awareness of what needs to be done. We have to maintain a healthy and clean environment. It is a wonderful feeling when you do something good!



That incredible day, we waking up very early, drinking strong coffees while waiting for our bus looking like from a fairytale. With a bit “tight accommodation” and with few traffic violations, we arrived to Pocuta, a village 15 km away from Valjevo. When we arrived, we breathed in with full lungs clear and untouched nature. The view was amazing! In the end we felt the consequences of fatigue and long work but our mood and the results were still excellent.



Comments of our volunteer team

Immediately we have pulled up our sleeves and went to the woods. We worked with dedication and diligence, regardless of the heat. Some of us felt the charm of rural living and all the benefits of our tradition for the first time. Although dirty and sweaty, we didn't stop laughing and having fun. It was a wonderful experience!

Katarina Kovačević

OUR RURAL EXPERIENCE - GOSTOLJUBLJE

Tourism is one of the most dynamic and prosperous industries in Serbia. Also, Serbia has excellent conditions for development of rural tourism. Intact nature, rural way of life, cultural heritage, rich flora and fauna, climatic conditions suitable for recreation are just some of the factors that allow the development of rural tourism. Rural tourism and recreation in the countryside have become attractive both for domestic and foreign guests, but still we have to resolve some financial and material issues for which quality of service can not be raised on a much higher level. Development of eco-tourism villages in mountainous areas which offer a healthy environment, organic food, cozy atmosphere, an active outdoor holiday, ethnographic and other cultural and historical values is especially emphasized.



In this regard, great example is ethno village Gostoljublje. It is located 140 kilometers from Belgrade, in Mionica near Kosjeric, only an hour and a half from the city. Nature here is wonderful and it's great for all the tourists who want an active holiday and who have a desire to get to know the way of life and work in the countryside.

Katarina Kovačević

I will start with our impressions when we stepped out of the train. We had a unique way of transportation to the household - a small truck (known as a TAM truck) which waited for us at the train station. This was definitely one of the most memorable moments of our trip.

Day one

When we arrived to the household, with a cup of coffee, we enjoyed the fresh country air and the view of the backyard. After unpacking our stuff, we went for a walk. The overall impression is – breathtaking nature and amazing landscapes, although it was a bit too windy. Considering that the topic of this trip was “Autumn school of sustainable development”, we had various educations – first, Željko (the host of the household) presented their participation in the project “Sustainable tourism for rural development in Serbia”. Then, our professors Ivana Damnjanović and Filip Djoković talked about corporate sustainability and BSC (Balanced scorecard), and after them, our colleague Nenad Ikonić presented his experience in free biking through the example of sustainable trip.



Day two

After breakfast, we walked for several hours through the meadows, enjoying the charms of nature, and in the evening there was a great party.

Day three

Third (and the last) day of our trip was used for taking photos, playing football, drinking coffee in the backyard and of course - giving the certificates to all the participants of the Autumn school (about 30 of us). Those three days I could sum up in a few words: an idyllic nature, great time, a lot learnt, friendly hosts, excellent food, and (even though it was a bit cold) – nice, traditional accommodation.

Nataša Mićević



INTERSHIP

How interesting, difficult and helpful could an internship be...

Now I'll tell you something about my internship experience.

In July 2012 I finished third year of studies of Tourism and Hospitality at Faculty of Business Valjevo, Singidunum University in Valjevo. To get my certificate I was able to go to internship and I decided to apply for „Hotel Vrujci“. I learned much about hotels at lectures but I couldn't imagine how it was to work in a hotel.

My internship began in late July. That was my first day at the reception and also my first day at spa „Vrujci“. I didn't know anything about the spa, only where the spring was. I never saw the swimming pools – outdoor and indoor, didn't know anything about the hotel – there were only my knowledge about hotels and hospitality from my studies.

The first day was difficult. A girl, she had worked there for a year, showed me where the keys are, introduced me a bit to the working program „Hotelijer“, showed me how to welcome, check in and checkout guests, told me how I should answer the phone and I heard her a few times how to manage a phone call. After four hours, the telephone rang again and she told me „It's your turn now“. The first time it was difficult and I was a bit afraid because I didn't know anything about the spa and the hotel, how many rooms they have, how the rooms look like, where the swimming pools are and so on. But I did it well and every next time it was less difficult.



The second day was easier. I did all operational work, prepared statistics from guests – who came, who left, how many of them had meals and so on. Every day I had more and more self-confidence and learned more about the place and the hotel so I was able to answer every question. Helpful for that was: my colleague let me a few times alone at the reception and I was on my own and forced to do everything. But the most important thing was: it was interesting and we had fun at work. After one week I did everything and it was nice to speak with guests – some were very friendly, spoke with you about their life, family, gave you gifts, but some were very unfriendly and it was stressful to communicate with them.

All things considered, it was a great time where I learnt a lot. I also welcomed foreign guests to whom I spoke English, German and Italian, got experience and learnt how to work in my profession. After two weeks they asked me to work after my internship and I agreed. So, after four weeks of internship, I worked at the beginning at the reception but now I am responsible for sales management.

Due to this experience I would advise every student to seek for a good internship because it could be the best and easiest way towards your career.

Marija Dobrivojević

VISIT - ENEL COMPANY

Last December, Faculty of Business' students made a study trip to Enel company in Valjevo. This visit's purpose was obtaining general knowledge in functioning of a medium sized company and demonstration of entrepreneurial knowledge needed for starting personal business.

Enel company was founded in 1994 and since then became important name in industrial automatics domain. Their operating range is making projects for industrial systems, production and selling components for process automatisisation.

Company owner, Mr Radiša Srećković, welcomed students in the presentation room. During his presentation, he introduced students into the history of Enel company, its organisation and all big suppliers they have agreement with. He was talking about his experiences in working with big customers, which make a big share of turnover. He emphasized that since beginning, company works without bank loans. After presentation, students took part in active discussion of entrepreneurship abilities importance in managing private business.

After the meeting, students visited entire company including workshops and sectors for projecting, marketing, sales and accounting.

This visit was organised as part of Faculty's efforts in obtaining practical experience and knowledge for students.

Marko Marković



MY AIESEC EXPERIENCE

The reasons why I decided to go EXCHANGE and come to Serbia are quite straightforward. I just want to experience European culture different from Asian countries, polish my English skills, and try to be more independent. Before I came here, I knew little about the Balkans countries. However, living in Valjevo makes me gradually fall in love with this place. The kind people, awesome traditional food, and exotic scenery make me enjoy the life here. Having a cup of coffee, chatting with friends, everything here is quite simple. I can slow down my pace to recharge myself.

During my stay at the faculty in Valjevo I take active part in a project. Our project is to give presentations and do workshops to high school students. We have various topics, such as AIDS, abortion, human trafficking, harmfulness of cigarettes and so on. These are not in our professional field, not to mention knowing the situation about these topics in Serbia so well. However, through gathering information and discussing with one another, I learned a lot and discovered things that I never knew before.

The first week of our project in High School of Agriculture was a good start. Students were energetic and creative though some of them didn't understand English. They loved dancing. Apart from presentations, we taught them Sumba, belly dance, and "Taiwanese dance", and they taught us Serbian traditional dance. I even taught them a famous Chinese song, and the response was great. During the workshops, they shared their point of view, played short drama, drew logos... etc. They were very willing to interact with us. Although sometimes we were not so good at controlling the atmosphere, the tempo of the procedure, we still had a great time with these students.

Donna Liu from Taiwan



IMPRESSIONS ON SERBIAN HISTORY

In Brazil, when I started to read about Serbian history, I developed the interest to know Serbian people and culture. This is one of the reasons that brought me to Serbia. However, some things impressed me very much when I put my feet on this land.

I study History, and my focus is the Ex-Yugoslavia History. I read many writers that analyzed the question of the construction and invention of the social memory. In other words, I study how the Serbian History was taught in different moments. Many times I saw books by foreigners or Serbian authors speaking about Serbian nationalism, the Great Serbia, and the last war.

However, when I arrived to Serbia, I didn't see nationalism, and many times I didn't speak about politics, for example, because many Serbs don't have interest in politics. They talk about politics, but I think that they don't believe very much in the actual politics. This was a great surprise, because in a country like Brazil I learnt that Serbs are very nationalist and militant people, which is not reality here in Valjevo. I know that these things exist in Serbia, but I expected that was a very serious situation.

When I went to other ex-Yugoslavian countries, I saw extreme nationalist flags. In the three cities that I visited in Serbia - Belgrade, Valjevo and Novi Sad - I saw few flags, and I never saw pictures of their leaders and generals. This is interesting because, when a ex Serbian general was arrested, in Brazil I saw news of Serbian people protesting against the prison of the supposed "war hero".

These impressions are not only results because I live together with AIESEC people that experience a cosmopolitan experiment and don't have many prejudices because of that. My friends from my house and my friends from inns too cannot be considered nationalists, and none of them celebrate the generals.

Again, I know that these things exist in Serbia. In Belgrade I saw a graphite with the inscription "1389" or "Kosovo is Serbia", but I didn't see more than that. Other ex-Yu countries seem more nationalistic than Serbia, of which we are taught at schools and even at university that is a nationalist country.



These two things and many others have changed my conception about Serbian History, and have given me many questions for my future studies. Meanwhile, I can only say that the Serbian people are very kind people, people who have the same joys and tears that we have in Brazil, and my friends in Serbia are different from my friends in Brazil only because of the language and passport.

Nicolas Rocca Bragaia from Brazil

THE GREAT SLOVENIA

Like every trip that your writer Milan attends, concerning vehicles used for traveling, something has to go wrong.

Our bus had to stop only 100km away from Belgrade, and we had to wait approximately for 3 hours for a new one to come with a proper windshield as the previous one almost fell off. :)

Not only had the border made it clear that we are in Slovenia, but also the clearness around us. Every green area was surrounded with fence which made it garbage-free.

We had to make a stop in Ljubljana, as there's no direct line from Belgrade to Nova Gorica - our final destination. As we arrived to the city, which on the first sight was beautiful, we had 7 days to make sure of it.

As every tourist, our first day was all about sightseeing. Sightseeing concerning the two of us means going thoroughly through every store. The town is nicely arranged, the centre has a lot of space to take walk and look around but also many stores and coffee shops. A little further from downtown are big supermarkets like Hofer, Mercator, Spar and Qlandia.

The next day we visited the Bled Lake. The lake and its surroundings cannot be depicted with words. The picture says a thousand words.



During our visit, we had to try their famous desert – Kremna rezina (Bleds cream cake), which was fantastic. It's needless to say that we were really sad when we had to leave the beautiful Bled.

Our other tourist visit was a beautiful city on the seaside of the Italy – Trieste. As we were without a tour guide, it was really hard to know where we were headed to. The city is spread in length, with really similar small streets which makes it hard to get around. Nevertheless, we were really impressed by its looks. During our walk through the center, we could see that it was a mixture of old architecture and exclusive shops so it is interesting to all types of tourists.

All in all, if you're not persuaded in the beauties of the sights we visited, you are more than welcome to join us in our 2013 visit!

Milan Plavšić & Nataša Mićević

WHO'S THAT DRACULA?



I always dreamed about visiting beautiful Romanian castles, and discovering the mystery of Vlad Tepes, best known as Count Dracula.

So, this year I decided to go with my friends and be part of big Halloween masquerade there. Our tour included visiting Brasov, and two castles – Peles and Bran.

Peles is located in Sinaia, and it is one of the most beautiful castles in whole Europe. I must admit that I was little skeptic because of that, but Peles made me fall in love with it at first sight. It is fabulous and magical. For me, the most fascinating thing is library with its secret passage. There is also a gallery of mirrors and interesting legend which says that every girl who looks at one of those mirrors will stay pretty forever. With its 160 rooms, Peles is most powerful and fabulous building I have ever seen.

Bran Castle, commonly known as Dracula's Castle didn't impress me that much, but it's interesting because of the legend of Count Dracula. Here is the legend:

A long time ago Bram Stoker wrote a terrifying story about Count Dracula. A century later, there are still people who believe in it. Even researchers are trying to find out the truth about Dracula. All are trying to clear the mystery: was there or wasn't there a vampire in Transylvania?

*Stoker's story is based on the life of Vlad Tepes. The historians nicknamed him Vlad Tepes while people say he was Count Dracula because he used to sign with his father's name, Dracul "The Devil". Dracula is derived from the Romanian word for devil or dragon. This word alone carries with it magic and mystery. His castle is supposed to be Bran's Castle since its narrow corridors constitute a mysterious labyrinth of ghostly nooks and secret chambers easy to hide a "vampire".**

Brasov is also interesting, and has its own beauties. It is a tourist city, and it is in my top three cities I visited. I have a plan to go there again, and enjoy good food and great shopping, and most importantly, awesome night life!

*Taken from - www.brasovtravelguide.ro

Dejana Mališić



LITHUANIA

Lithuania is a country in Northern Europe. The largest of the three Baltic states, it is surrounded by Latvia, Belarus and Poland. Lithuania has a population of 3 million, and its capital and largest city is Vilnius.

The Lithuanian language is the official state language of Lithuania and is recognized as one of the official languages of the European Union. Lithuanian is a Baltic language. The Geographic Centre of Europe is in Lithuania, this point is located 26 kilometers north of its capital, Vilnius.

79% of Lithuanians belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, 4.9% are Orthodox, 1.9% are Protestant and 9.5% have no religion.

Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the country. The Lithuania national basketball team has had significant success in the international basketball events. Having won a total of 9 medal in the Euro Basket, the World Championships and the Olympic Games, it is ranked 5th worldwide in FIBA Rankings. In 2011, Lithuania hosted the men's European basketball Championship „Euro Basket” 2011. The final took place in the newly built Zalgiris Arena which is the largest arena in Baltic. Many people say that Lithuania is the synonym for European basketball, together with Serbia.



I think that everyone should visit Lithuania. It has beautiful sandy beaches, and it's perfect to go there with your family for holidays. Visitors can also try the Lithuanian national dish, Cepelinai. You can also join the Lithuanians on some streetball, they are very nice and friendly people and they would love to have you on their team. Like I said before, basketball is for Lithuanians like a second religion!

If you like to travel, and if you want to meet friendly and nice people, just go to Lithuania, you will not regret. Lithuania is waiting for you.

Ivan Ilić



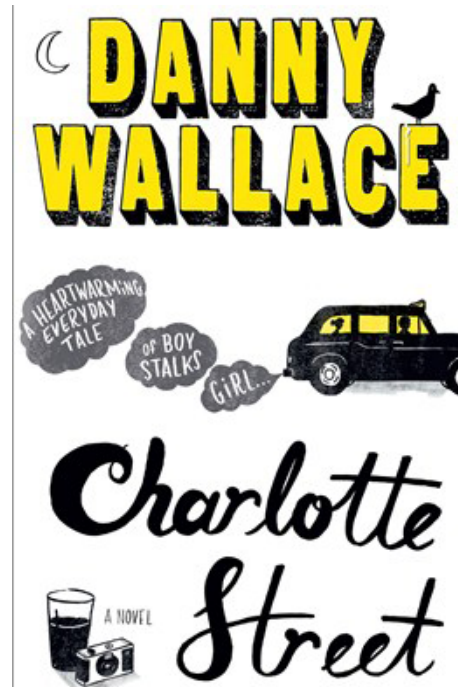
DANNY WALLACE AND THE CHARLOTTE STREET

Daniel Frederick Wallace, known as a Danny Wallace, is a British journalist, author, script-writer, producer and a really interesting person.

He was born on 16th November 1976 in Dundee, Scotland. At the age of 13 he was working for the couple games mags. He wrote articles for the magazine about computer games. Danny Wallace attended Westminster University and does the Media Studies Course and he claims that it was the best decision that he ever made. In 1998 he applied for a position of BBC trainee producer in radio comedy. His broadcasts are still very popular. Since 2007, he has written a column in the free weekly magazine 'ShortList'. Danny was announced for PPA columnist of the year 2011.



In 2002 he realised that he didn't enjoy working in the office so he left the BBC and started writing books. His first book is 'Are you Dave Gorman'. After this book he wrote 'Random Acts of Kindness: 365 Ways to Make the World a Nicer Place', 'Join me', 'Danny Wallace and the Centre of the Universe', 'Yes Man', 'Friends like These', 'Awkward Situations for Men', 'More Awkward Situations for Men', 'Charlotte Street' and the book 'What Not to Do (And How to Do It)'. By his book 'Yes Man' a film was made and Jim Carrey had a leading role in it.



His book 'Charlotte Street' is a combination of pure British humour and simple but very deep truths about life. It is about men who met a girl one night. He helped her with boxes that she carried while she was trying to get in the taxi. After she left he realised that he has her disposable camera. He decided to develop the film and to find her. That was the beginning of one interesting adventure. 'Charlotte Street' isn't a typical love story. It is a type of story that uses love story as a base for telling simple truths about life and people on a funny and interesting way. There is a surprise for the reader at the end of the book but my advice is – Don't look for it before you read the whole story! If you find it too early it will spoil the fun. Read the whole book, realize how many life truths you already know and have fun in the Charlotte Street.

Sanja Lukić

RUDOLPH'S COUSINS

We all remember Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer which leads reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh. Red glowing nose makes him special and famous, but he is not so different from his cousins, other reindeers that are found in northern regions of North America, Europe, Asia, and Greenland

Caribou is the other name for reindeer. Reindeers live in northern regions so they migrate as summer approaches. They may travel more than 965 kilometres along their well trod annual routes. During the summer, they live in tundra areas. Adult reindeers can eat 5 kilograms of grass and plants each day. With the first snow reindeers turn south and they complete their 2.574 kilometres long trip. Even though according to the legend they are helping Santa bring gifts to the children around the world, reindeers actually spend winter in more sheltered climate and survive by feeding on lichens and mushrooms.



Reindeer is the only deer which male and some females both have antlers. Reindeer's feet are quiet big so they give the animal good purchase on rocks or ice. Colour of their fur varies from mostly white to dark gray and black depending on the area where they live. Their nose is specialised to keep their lungs and body from cold air and water from the snow. Reindeers live about 15 years in wilderness and they weigh between 109 and 318 kilograms. According a study by researches from University College London in 2011, reindeers are also thought to be only mammals that can see ultraviolet light. Reindeer is a respected animal in northern cultures and it is vital part of their tourism and economy.

Reindeer is endangered species so people should take care of them and love them as they love Rudolph and his friends that are helping Santa during holidays.

Sanja Lukić



ONE MORE SKILL TO BE DEVELOPED

Being empathetic is the key of successful business communication

It is very hard to develop successful communication when you work with different people. Sometimes conflict is simply unavoidable. It is very important to learn how to deal with conflict in order to have comfortable working atmosphere. The most important thing in communication with your coworkers is to be empathetic. If you are not naturally empathetic you can learn this skill quite easily. Yes, it is a skill and it isn't so hard to learn it. You need to follow some simple rules while you deal with your colleagues or other people around you.

First you should stop talking to people and let them speak. Soon you will notice that person is telling you more than you expect. The best way to learn something about someone in business or in private life is to use silence. Listen actively and try to understand what other people are actually saying to you. Since misunderstandings are the worst enemy of successful communication you should always ask open questions when you don't understand something or you want to hear more from people because "yes-no" questions kill conversation. You will develop your business communication empathy by exercising general interpersonal communication skills. Smiling and referring to people by name will make you approachable to others. It is also very important to pay attention on body language because most of what we communicate is in it. You can also improve empathy through giving praise freely and developing relationships with people around you.

Since we all know that conflicts are normal part of our life we should remember these simple pieces of advice for dealing with conflict:

- The best way to defeat your opponent is by being calm.
- Be open and ready to ask, explain and discuss about problems and to cooperate in finding the best solution.
- Stay cool. First think, then you speak.
- Find a common ground to you and your coworkers.
- Telling a supervisor is not so bad idea if all other methods fail. You won't betray your colleagues if you explain the problem to the supervisor and ask him for help.

Finally, it is crucial to remember that being empathetic is a skill which can be developed. We just need to have a will and to remember that it is better to win a friend than win an argument because, as Jo Owen said, winning a friend is the best way to win the argument".

Sanja Lukić



THE WITCH OF WALL STREET

When we think of the founders and major players on Wall Street, we usually imagine men in expensive suits. It is believed that history has not recorded a woman who deserves a place among the most successful investors. However, they were and will be, but it has a special place eccentric Hattie Green, better known as the “Witch of Wall Street”.

Hattie Green was born as Henrietta Holland Robinson in 1834 in Massachusetts, in a wealthy family of ship-owners and retailers. She showed her inclination to the world of finance when she was only 6 years old. Her grandfather was nearly blind and she was reading him the newspaper every day, especially financial topics. Even before reaching the age of 15 years, she knew about stocks and bonds more than anyone in the business. When she was 30, she inherited a 7,5 million dollars of family wealth, which opened her doors to the world which her already knew. Her investment strategy was conservative and wise, she invested in government bonds, shares, real estate and railways stocks. In addition, she always held significant currency reserves in cash, in case that the market experiences broke down.



At one occasion, she said to the New York Times: “I buy stocks when their price is low, and when no one wants it. Then keep them while the price does not jump so much that people become eager to buy them.” If you find this statement familiar, you’ve probably heard it from Warren Buffett, who used the same investment principles and today, 100 years after Hattie Green.

She never took money to loan but gave it gladly, with considerable interest. In the 1898, the City of New York was on the edge of bankruptcy. City leaders knew who always had money. Hattie thus became the creditor of the city which, thanks to her, stayed on the surface and was saved from bankruptcy for two more times.

To her contemporaries she was known as the richest woman in America. Her ability to make money, however, has remained in the shadow of the many stories about her stinginess, why her name was in the Guinness Book of Records.

Hattie spared at everything. She would wear a black dress until it fell apart. When dress became dirty, she had only the dirtiest parts washed, to save on soap. She worked in a transient room on Wall Street, surrounded by boxes of documents, because she did not want to pay for own office. Every day she would eat oatmeal, warmed by the radiator in the neighboring offices. The most famous story is related to her refusal to pay any state taxes. In order to avoid tax collectors, she often moved to cheap parts of the city, and lived in apartments without heat and hot water. According to the testimony of one of her neighbors, instead of her name on her door there stood an unknown name, Mr. Dewey, the name of her little Scottish terrier.

Thus Hattie Green, because of her appearance and character, is remembered not as a wisest investor of that time, but as the “Witch of Wall Street.”

Katarina Kovačević

PINTEREST MY NEW TRADITION

Do you know about Pinterest? Are you one of us? If your answer is no, than read this article, and find out some interesting things about this popular social media application.

What is Pinterest? For me it’s my happy place. When I get bored, or need some inspiration, I just go there and everything is much better. It’s my own world full of things I love, I dream about, and I admire.

But for everyone else, here is a definition: “*Pinterest is a tool for collecting and organizing things you love.*”

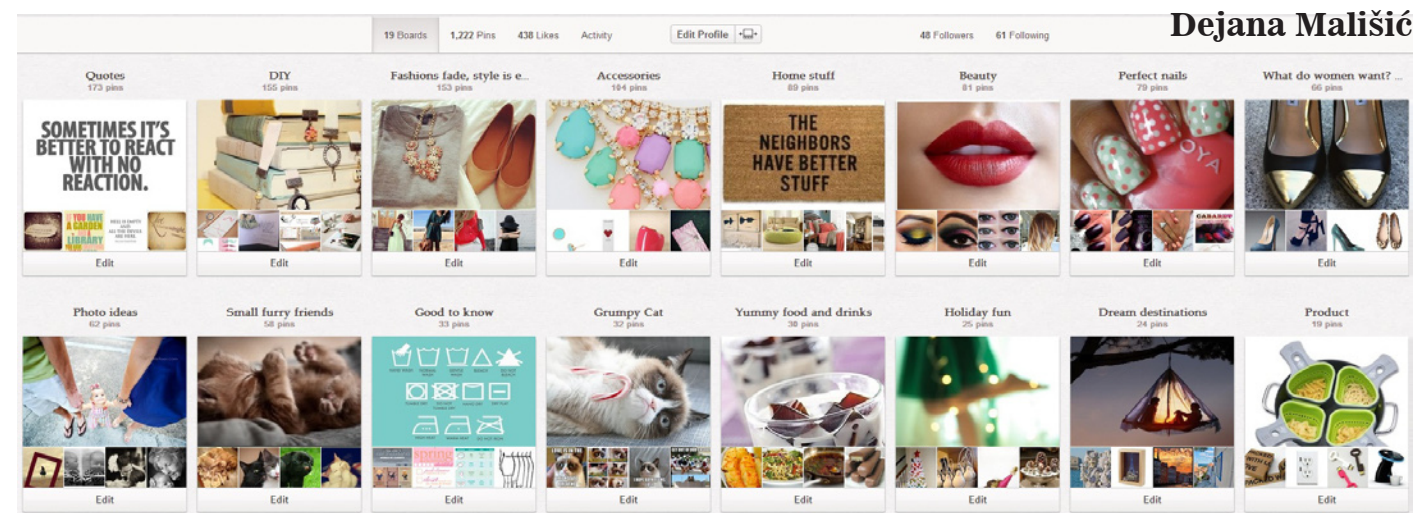
Whatever your interests are, you will for sure find it on Pinterest. It offers you bunch of categories and allows you to upload your own work or stuff you love. You can categorize things on different boards and name them as you wish. You also can follow your friend and other users. Most popular categories are DIY and crafts (do it yourself), travel, fashion, and design.

Whole idea of Pinterest is to give people chance to express themselves and to show who they really are and what they really like.

Here’s an interesting fact – in 2012, it was reported that 83% of the global users were women. However, that doesn’t mean that men are not welcome on Pinterest.

So, now when you have a clue what Pinterest is, and how it works join your friends on Pinterest and create your boards, share what you like, and see who shares your interest. Maybe you’ll be surprised.

Don’t waste your time? Start pinning today!



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR MESSAGES

The most famous symbol of internet communication - Smiley emoticon - first saw light of day exactly 30 years ago, precisely on September 19, 1982, in the exact time at 11:44 pm. The creator of Smiley was the Professor Scott Fahlman, a scientist from Carnegie Mellon University of Pittsburgh. In order to communication between teachers and students make easier, Scott Fahlman suggested that in everyday conversation introduce "smileys".

- I suggest the following label use for jokes :-)

- Read from the side - Fahlman wrote in the document.

"Smiley" in a short time became very popular, and today it is an essential element of e-mails, instant messages, chat and tweets. In use are others emoticons that represent a variation on the theme, and it is interesting that they are called "emoticons", even when you are sad or angry face.

I came to the startling surprise, I'm an addicted to smilies! Also, you should try it. Count how many times during the day you type this miraculous sign and how you will be surprised! Maybe it's illness of a new era, smiley sickness? Maybe it is time to come up with a cure for this sickness or maybe not? Perhaps, it is easier with them? I agree, because imagine if you get a serious message without these buddies. I say, no thank you!

Research has shown that our favorite smileys are:

- :) 46,5%
- :D 22,4%
- :P 13,2%
- :-) 12,8%
- B-) 3%
- :O 1,2%
- :(0,3%



Try to count how many times during the day you type this miraculous sign! You will be surprised!

Smiley celebrates 30th Birthday!

Katarina Kovačević

DID YOU KNOW

- :) If you try to say the alphabet without moving your lips or tongue every letter will sound the same.
- :) The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet.
- :) Word "stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with the left hand only.
- :) An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- :) Goldfish can see infrared and ultraviolet light.
- :) Giraffe can clean its ears with its 21 inch tongue.
- :) Bear has 42 teeth.
- :) Lemon contains more sugar than strawberry.
- :) We always see the same side of the Moon.
- :) Months that start on a Sunday will always have a Friday the 13th.
- :) There are 1.929.770.126.028.800 different colour combinations possible on a Rubik's Cube.
- :) An average person will spend 25 years asleep.
- :) Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch TV for 3 hours.



Sanja Lukić



The Riddle of Strider

All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.

J. R. R. Tolkien

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