



VG TU RECTOR ALFONSAS DANIŪNAS – ABOUT THE LAST YEAR AND THE UPCOMING CHALLENGES OF 2019

As the year is coming to an end, it is a good time to take a look at some of the key milestones of 2018. The most important activity of the year – the enhancement of quality in higher education. The development of quality in studies and research took two main directions. First, strengthening the network of higher education institutions in Lithuania. The underlying reason for this change is, of course, the demographic shift. It is obvious that there are too many universities and colleges; thus, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has taken significant steps to optimise the network of higher education to utilise the full potential of research. Another direction for quality enhancement – assessment of study programmes in higher education institutions and an attempt to reduce the number of study programmes in Lithuania. It was a good step forward, though not everything has been achieved yet. During the years, many similar study programmes have been offered to students, but the global trends suggest, that they need broader education.

What are the main challenges for higher education and VGTU the next year? Our university should focus on 2019 student admission and further enhancement of the quality. We must keep the trend of growing research, concentrate on international projects and on high-level publications, and continue our successful cooperation with business in the area of applied research. Undoubtedly, the merger with MRU is among the largest challenges of the next year.

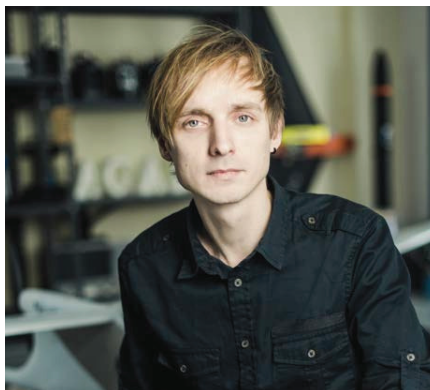


TOWARDS AESTHETIC WELFARE AND THE QUALITY OF MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

Is synthesis of industry and art possible? A rather new area of studies at the Faculty of Architecture at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) – industrial product design – provides answers to this question. “The society feels the consequences of an incongruous, environmentally unfriendly, destructive, impractical design, architecture or other forms of applied art. In other words, if design, as an area of applied art, does not meet the needs of society or a particular user, then it's not a design,” says prof. Jonas Jakaitis, the Head of Design Department. Together we discuss the biggest issues and problems of industrial goods and, in general, design; their roots, current situation in Lithuania and, of course, future prospects. and interesting for a wider audience.

ALL THE BOYS WANTED WAS... OR HOW TECHNOLOGIES CHANGE OUR DREAMS

While talking with Aleksandr Lapušinskij, Head of the Laboratory of Aeronautics at the Antanas Gustaitis' Aviation Institute (AGAI) at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) and his students, a popular Lithuanian song about boys dreaming about flying is playing in my head. The dreams of our protagonists have been altered by passing time and the latest technologies: today they dream about unmanned aerial vehicles. Moreover, their dreams have become actions. Together with other scientists from VGTU they have built a pioneering solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle "Solarwing" – the first of its kind in Lithuania and the Baltic States. We have discussed the latest developments of the industry of unmanned aerial vehicles and reasons why human being may become the weakest link in it.



WE ARE PART OF THE GLOBAL IT MARKET

The latest developments in the market of information technologies promise us that the work will become more efficient and faster, life – more comfortable, and our leisure activities – richer. The innovations in IT are created by professionals all over the world, including Lithuania. "Information technologies develop at an enormous rate. There is not a single area, where IT is not in use," – says prof. dr. Dalius Mažeika, Head of the Department of Information Systems at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU). He shares insights on new trends in the IT world, opportunities and challenges that come hand in hand with innovations.

VGTU CHAPLAIN M. ŽITKAUSKAS ON COMING BACK TO VGTU FAMILY

Sometimes it feels like university and religion have a lot of in common, but priest Marius Žitkauskas, who returned to Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) not as a construction engineering student anymore, but as the university's chaplain, has his view on such stereotypical presentation. As festive season is upon us, we talk about his path from VGTU to Vilnius St. Joseph Seminary, his memories from student times and an opportunity to celebrate the festive season a little bit differently this year



THE NEW PRESIDENT OF VGTU'S STUDENT ASSOCIATION D. TVASKA: "TODAY STUDENTS NEED THE SAME THINGS AS YESTERDAY"

Being a president is big responsibility and hard work trying to meet trust and expectations of your electorate. Working as a President of VGTU's Student Association is not an exception. Students of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) have recently casted their votes for their new representative, who will represent their interests for the next two years. The new President is Dominykas Tvaska, the fourth year student at the Faculty of Fundamental Sciences. He agreed to share his thoughts about the upcoming challenges and future plans.