SAPERE AUDE

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VILNIUS TECH
Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitetas

Sapere Aude

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Dear readers,

The past is not merely time that has slipped away. It is a living, constantly pulsating memory that shapes our everyday lives and inspires us to create the solutions of tomorrow. This anniversary issue of SAPERE AUDE invites us to look at time not as a segment, but as an ongoing narrative in which each generation leaves its mark – creating ideas, making choices, taking bold actions, and innovating distinctive solutions.

This year, VILNIUS TECH celebrates a significant milestone – its 70th anniversary. It marks the journey undertaken and the experience accumulated. In these seven decades, the university has grown together with its community, kept pace with technological progress while always remaining a place focused on its most important element – the individual–their implemented solutions and creative potential.

Each generation that has crossed the university's threshold has brought its own questions and carried away its own answers. For some, it was the first step in a professional journey; for others, it was a space to explore, make mistakes, create, and discover. Yet all are united by a shared experience: the university is a place where not only knowledge is born, but also a worldview is formed along with exceptional decisions made.

When we look at the past, we see beyond dates or facts. We see people – members of the academic community, students, alumni. It is their stories that create the true identity of the university. These stories and accumulated experiences become a bridge between past and future. They remind us that a university is not just an institution – it is a living organism whose main driving force is its community.

In this anniversary issue, different voices come together: alumni share their experiences, current students articulate their perspectives, and lecturers reflect on the changing role of the university. It is a dialogue between generations, experience and expectations, tradition and innovation. Former authors who have contributed to SAPERE AUDE over the years once again reaffirm its core idea-to bring together the experiences of different generations and create a shared narrative.

Neda Cerniauskaite
Editor-in-Chief

This anniversary issue also marks a new chapter for SAPERE AUDE. A refreshed design, new sections, and a broader range of topics create even more space for the voices of the university community. Going forward, we aim to engage students more actively, encouraging them to share their insights, experiences, and ideas. It is precisely the dialogue between diverse perspectives that brings the publication to life and gives the community an opportunity to better understand each other. Therefore, we warmly invite everyone who would like to contribute to the development of SAPERE AUDE to reach out and become part of this story.

Today, as the world changes at an especially rapid pace, the university faces an even more important mission – not only to impart knowledge, but also to cultivate the ability to think critically, create responsibly, and act boldly. Here, the past isn't just nostalgia, but rather a foundation from which we draw strength and nurture our values.

This anniversary issue is not only a glimpse into the past. It is an invitation to consciously shape the future. Every member of this community carries both the honor and the responsibility to continue this story – by generating new ideas, implementing new solutions, and shaping a distinctive perspective.

Inspiring stories,
Editor-in-Chief Neda

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Neda Cerniauskaite

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Content

Rectors‘ archives – from student pranks to the university‘s greatest achievements

A university is not only about academic achievements but also about the visions and memories of the people who helped shape it. On the occasion of VILNIUS TECH‘s 70th anniversary, four university rectors share the defining events that shaped the institution‘s identity, as well as colorful stories from behind the scenes of academic life. We invite you to explore the university‘s history through the eyes of its leaders, where serious and significant decisions intertwine with some of their most memorable student experiences.

Prepared by students Amelija Zaksauskaite (Faculty of Creative Industries, Entertainment Production, 2nd Year) and Joana Dacevic (Faculty of Creative Industries, Creative Industries, 2nd Year)

Prof. habil. dr. Edmundas Kazimieras Zavadskas – the first rector of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, serving from 1990 to 2002, a Lithuanian scientist and engineer. Let us take a look at the key events that helped build the university as we know it today.

Change of status and expansion

„When I became rector, my main goal was to transform the Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute (VISI) into a technical university. Just nine months later, the Supreme Council of Lithuania decided to reorganize VISI into a Technical University. Had we not achieved this, the university would not exist today – it would have long since been merged with another institution. A structure consisting of nine faculties was established. We also succeeded in acquiring the Traku Street complex, a large factory on Naugarduko Street, and a driving school on Plytines Street together with its entire territory. In 1994, the university was granted the name of Gediminas," recalls Prof. habil. dr. E. K. Zavadskas.

These milestones – university status, expanded infrastructure, the creation of faculties, and receiving the Gediminas name – became the achievements of the first rector that shaped the university‘s identity.

An exam that erquired a flight to Kaunas

As a student, E. K. Zavadskas was exceptionally hardworking. He completed his first year studying remotely as he also worked as a mathematics teacher. His second year was done the same way – while working on construction sites during the day and attending lectures in the evenings. During his studies, he was willing to do whatever it took to succeed academically.

He remembers one occasion when strict deadlines were approaching. If he failed to complete his coursework on time, he faced immediate military conscription. As the semester drew to a close, the final obstacle was an unfinished descriptive geometry assignment. Realizing that time was running out and that mailing the drawings was no longer an option, he made an unusual decision: he boarded an An–2 aircraft and personally flew to Kaunas to find the lecturer responsible for accepting the assignment.

„Now it sounds funny – I flew from Vilnius to Kaunas by plane. At first, I couldn‘t find the lecturer, so after obtaining his address, I went to the Julijanava settlement. There I found him outside his house chatting with a chimney sweep and smoking a pipe. I introduced myself as a distance–learning student, explained that I had brought the completed assignment, and that I absolutely had to submit it. The next day, at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, the associate professor confirmed that he had accepted the work, but he organized an unusual exam. He stood me at a drafting table in his office, handed me a large sheet of paper, and instructed me to complete a difficult drawing within a few hours. He wanted to make sure I really knew how to draw the plans myself. After I finished the drawing and answered several questions, he graded the work with a four out of five," recalls Prof. habil. dr. E. K. Zavadskas.

Prof. habil. dr. Romualdas Ginevicius – Lithuanian scientist, economist, and long-serving rector of the university from 2002 to 2011.

The greatest achievement – entering the international research arena

„During my term as rector, Lithuanian science was only beginning to integrate into the international community. Journals began to be established on an international level – international editorial boards were formed, English became the primary language, and international peer review was introduced. We also introduced incentives for prestigious publications – a bonus of 5,000 litas for an article. The results exceeded all expectations. In terms of the number of scientific journals, we matched some of the world's most renowned universities, such as Oxford and Harvard, and the number of prestigious publications increased dramatically," recalls Prof. habil. dr. R. Ginevicius.

The rector emphasizes that financial motivation and the development of high-quality in-house journals were key elements of the university's visibility strategy. This enabled the university not only to receive greater funding but also to become an equal partner on the global scientific stage.

A threat to burn a zhiguli and six debt slips

Working with students left many memorable impressions on Rector R. Ginevicius. One of them involved a student who had failed an exam and angrily told him in the corridor: „Your red Zhiguli parked outside will be burned."

Although the situation sounded dramatic, it ended peacefully in the dean's office, where the student later sincerely apologized.

Prof. habil. dr. R. Ginevicius also recalls another student who surprised him with his determination.

„A student from the Faculty of Electronics wanted to transfer to Business Management. After comparing the study plans, I found six missing courses. The situation seemed hopeless. Knowing this and not wanting to disappoint him, I issued six debt slips and said: if you clear all six within a month, I will approve the transfer. Exactly one month later, the office door opened, and the student placed all six completed slips on my desk," remembers Prof. habil. dr. R. Ginevicius.

Keeping his promise, the dean transferred the student to the desired program. After graduation, the young man quickly advanced in his career, working for some of the country's largest companies. Later, under the supervision of Prof. habil. dr. R. Ginevicius himself, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation. Today, this former „debtor" is recognized as one of the most respected and authoritative specialists in his field throughout Lithuania.

Prof. dr. Alfonsas Daniunas, who served as rector from 2011 to 2021 and now serves as Chairman of the Senate, witnessed the university through many stages of transformation.

Breakthrough in global rankings

One of the most significant achievements during his tenure was the university's success in international rankings. Before 2012, the university was absent from the most influential global rankings. However, thanks to reforms in research and education, in 2018 the university entered the top 600 institutions in the prestigious QS World University Rankings.

„Regardless of how we view them, global rankings reflect a university's overall strength in research and education, as well as its sustainability," emphasizes the former rector. „Thanks to the intensive work of the university community, we also achieved excellent results in individual dis-

ciplines. In 2018, we entered the global top 100 institutions in Civil Engineering."

The new university name

In 2020, a new university name and branding concept was adopted. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University became VILNIUS TECH, with greater attention devoted to branding and communication. Reflecting on these changes, Prof. dr. A. Daniunas stresses that this was an important step toward modernization.

„The university's name is connected to the history of Gediminas and the city of Vilnius. The second part referred to technology. In today's world, the concept of technology no longer covers everything. Centuries ago, it was a clearly defined term. Today, however, technologies have taken root in virtually every field, including social sciences, humanities, and many others. It is important to emphasize that we are more than a traditional technical university, and the new name VILNIUS TECH allows us to unite all areas of development and expand into new fields."

Rector for a day

During Prof. dr. A. Daniunas' tenure, the university maintained a special tradition: once a year, a student would take over the rector's chair for a day. The selected student assumed the role of university leader and experienced firsthand what the position involved.

„It was always a fun day. Of course, the student could not sign official documents, but they solved problems and participated in meetings. It was something of a game, but students always bring enjoyable moments," recalls Prof. dr. A. Daniunas.

Since 2021, VILNIUS TECH has been led by **Prof. Romualdas Kliukas**, also a university alumnus, civil engineer, and Doctor of Technological Sciences.

Hiding from a strict professor

Recalling his student years, Rector R. Kliukas shares an adventure from the laboratory.

„We conducted experiments in the concrete testing laboratory supervised by Prof. G. Marciukaitis. We did not always leave everything perfectly tidy afterward, which made the professor very angry. If we worked without informing him beforehand, he would even shout at us. We were quite afraid of him.

One day, I had prepared samples on the press platform when G. Marciukaitis unexpectedly entered the laboratory. Out of fear, I immediately lay down behind the press on the floor. Seeing my samples, the professor began loudly expressing his dissatisfaction. At that moment, Prof. A. Kudzys entered the laboratory, noticed my legs sticking out from behind the press, covered them with a trash bin, calmed G. Marciukaitis down, and led him out of the laboratory.

When I finally emerged from behind the press, I could hardly recover from the experience. For several days I avoided both professors. Later, when I met Prof. A. Kudzys, he never mentioned the incident, as if nothing had happened," recalls R. Kliukas.

Proud of the Lithuanian Maritime Academy

One of the most significant events of his tenure, according to R. Kliukas, was VILNIUS TECH's expansion into the Klaipeda region. In 2024, the Lithuanian Higher School of Maritime Studies became a division of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in Klaipeda and was renamed the Lithuanian Maritime Academy.

„This change gave young people more choice and an opportunity to continue their studies not only in Vilnius but also in Klaipeda. We began offering professional higher education studies, strengthening educational quality, and contributing to the development of a maritime and engineering-oriented state. This represents a unique opportunity to strengthen competitiveness in international markets.

I am convinced that this merger opened even broader opportunities for the academy, while the university began educating future talent across water, air, and land transport engineering. Connectivity is one of our strategic values, so together through unique experiences we have grown and enriched one another," says the rector.

The life journey of emeritus Prof. Dr. Marija Burinskiene at the university: experiences, different generations, and cherished values

Prof. dr. Marija Burinskiene,
Department of Roads at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering

For several decades in VILNIUS TECH lecture halls and the scientific community, Emeritus Prof. Dr. Marija Burinskiene from the Department of Roads at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering has been one of the most prominent representatives of urban planning and city development in Lithuania.

Today she is a professor at the Department of Roads, Faculty of Environmental Engineering, but her academic path is inseparably linked with the formation and development of urban planning throughout Lithuania.

Recalling the time when she herself was a student, Prof. Dr. M. Burinskiene says that her study years are first and foremost associated with an especially strong sense of community, which at that time was a natural part of student life. Those were years when togetherness, daily shared activities, and simply being together created strong interpersonal bonds that lasted for a long time.

"One of the most vivid memories I have is participation in volunteer work trips. Although from today's perspective it may seem like practical training, at that time it was also a social and cultural phenomenon. Work itself was often only part of the experience – evenings spent together around campfires and interactive communication were just as important. Another memorable experience was counting urban traffic flows. We stood at intersections and manually recorded vehicle movement in different directions. These were long studies, sometimes lasting an entire day or even around the clock, involving the whole group. This activity not only provided practical knowledge about urban planning, but also allowed us to directly observe how the city system functions in real life. It was a kind of science in reality – without digital tools, relying on observation, patience, and teamwork," the emeritus professor recalls.

Cultural activities such as participation in the choir "Gabija' also played an important role. According to the professor, this was not only a musical experience but also an important social space. Trips to concerts, shared performances, and just traveling to another city in general had special value at that time because travel opportunities were rarer and more eagerly awaited.

Having worked at the university for several decades, the emeritus professor notes that her academic and personal path was most strongly shaped by the lecturers working at the university, especially representatives of the Department of Urban Construction: department head Prof. Habil. Dr. Vaclovas Vytautas Sestokas and Associate Professor Pranciskus Juskevicius. They stood out not only because of their professionalism but also their broad thinking, scientific intuition, and ability to inspire students.

"Their attitude toward students was respectful and motivating – they taught and encouraged independent thinking, asking questions, and searching for answers. This became an important impulse in choosing the academic path and remaining at the university," says the professor.

According to her, all of this shaped not only knowledge but also the structure of thinking – the ability to analyze, argue, and present ideas. Even unexpected situations, such as choosing the wrong conference date, turned into valuable life lessons.

"In striving for goals in life, the most important things were determination, a sense of responsibility, consistent work, the ability to stay on your chosen path, and not giving up in the face of difficulties. Personal motivation related to family was also very important. The desire to justify my parents' expectations became a strong internal driving force. This gave additional meaning to the chosen academic path and encouraged me to strive for more. Opportunities within the academic system were also an important factor – the possibility to continue scientific work, return to doctoral studies, and work at the university," explains Prof. Dr. M. Burinskiene.

Speaking about her experience working in the field of engineering, where the majority of representatives are men, the emeritus professor openly shares that she never felt fear or discomfort in such an environment. Nevertheless, the beginning was not easy – at that time there were only a few women in the department: two were doctoral students, one worked as a secretary, while all lecturers were men.

Since after graduation she began working in the same department she had previously attended as a student, at first she was viewed rather cautiously – as a young and still inexperienced specialist. However, consistent work, good results, and effort gradually changed her colleagues' attitude. According to her, diligence and professionalism helped prove her value and earn the trust of colleagues.

> It is especially important not to fear unconventional or even crazy ideas, because very often they become the beginning of innovation and progress.
>
> Marija Burinskiene

"The greatest challenge awaited me when I became head of the department. At first there was no shortage of tension – meetings caused stress, and colleagues often compared me to the previous head, emphasizing 'how things were done before.' Nevertheless, over time the situation improved. I am convinced that the most important thing in such situations is not to give up, to work consistently, and to see yourself as an equal partner. This is how authority and recognition emerge," the emeritus professor notes.

Speaking about changes, she points out that today the situation is already different – in some departments there are even more women than men. In her opinion, balance is the ideal situation, although it is not always easy to achieve. As the environment changes the most important thing is the ability to accept it and remain open-minded.

"Although until now the university has only been led by men, the situation may change in the future. In my opinion, the first female rector should come from the field of engineering, considering the university's identity. True, this may require generational change or an exceptional personality who earns broad recognition through her achievements. Although the university is ex-

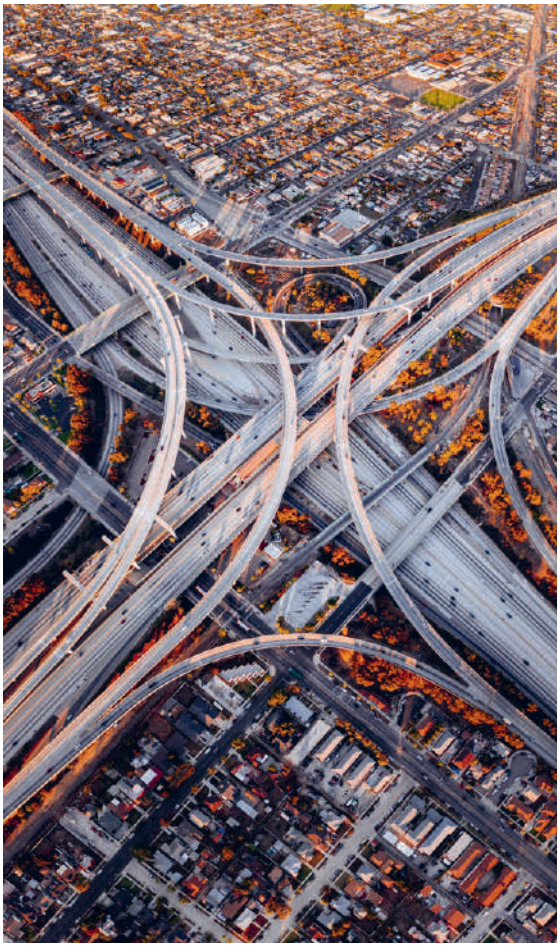
panding and various study fields are becoming stronger, engineering still remains the central axis, so changes may take time. I believe that in the future a person will emerge who surprises the community and becomes a symbol of significant change," shares the professor.

Evaluating today's student generation, the professor openly states that this generation is highly dynamic and strongly influenced by the technological environment. These are young, brave people focused on goals, naturally living in the digital world, quickly mastering new tools, confidently using technology, and easily integrating artificial intelligence and other digital solutions into their learning process.

According to her, this mobility has two sides. On one hand, it means great freedom and opportunities; on the other hand, weaker attachment to organizations and sometimes a weaker sense of long-term responsibility. Nevertheless, she emphasizes that students remain very different from one another. Master's students stand out because of their higher motivation. They usually return to university already having a clearer understanding of what they want, their questions are more precise and more focused on practical or scientific results. These are people who consciously choose their academic path rather than simply finding themselves in it.

Speaking about developing courage in presenting ideas, the emeritus professor emphasizes that courage is developed through consistent work and confidence in one's knowledge. By spending a long time deepening expertise in a field, analyzing, gaining experience, and relying on science, internal confidence is naturally formed. In such a case, presenting ideas becomes not an emotional challenge but a natural and logical part of the work process. If a person truly believes in what they are doing, additional courage is no longer necessary – they simply present their point of view confidently and with arguments.

"To today's students I wish courage, creativity, and openness to new ideas. It is especially important not to fear unconventional or even crazy ideas, because very often they become the beginning of innovation and progress. Also nurture a sense of community – learn to work together, trust one another, share ideas, and create a strong academic environment. Finally, do not forget the university, your Alma Mater, which is not only a place of study but also an important part of life and professional identity," wishes Prof. Dr. M. Burinskiene.



> We stood at intersections and manually recorded vehicle movement in different directions. These were long studies, sometimes lasting an entire day or even around the clock, involving the whole group.
>
> Marija Burinskiene

From Logo to Values: How We Built Our Identity

University identity before 2019

For a long time, the university's visual identity was based on academic traditions and symbols that reflected the continuity of knowledge, the courage to pursue wisdom, and achievement. Faculties and departments used their own versions of logos, while communication focused on reliability and academic maturity.

Slogan

Sapere Aude encouraged people to pursue their goals, boldly enter the world of knowledge, and continuously improve themselves. It became an important part of the university's identity, conveying academic ambition and intellectual curiosity.

Latin: Sapere Aude. Lithuanian: Siek išminties
English: Seek Wisdom

The coat of arms is still used today. It is a heraldic element of the university, reserved for special occasions, official university publications, and documents of symbolic significance, such as diplomas. This helps preserve its higher meaning and value.
The university's coat of arms was designed by artist Irena Vabaliene.

1969-1996 period

1996–2019

VILNIAUS GEDIMINO
TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS

The university logo consisted of:
The Mobius strip – symbolizing the pursuit of infinite knowledge and continuous improvement.
Sapere Aude – a slogan encouraging the pursuit of wisdom.
The laurel branch – a symbol of honor, youth, and achieved results.

Together, these symbols created a clear message: the university is a place where tradition and modernity meet, and where knowledge becomes the foundation for personal growth. The blue color symbolizes intellect and thought.

Logo Evolution

Faculty and department logos before 1996
The system was diverse and fragmented – different departments used different visual interpretations.

Faculty logos 1996-2019
by a symbol and different colors reflecting its field of activity.

VILNIAUS GEDIMINO
TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS
STATYBOS FAKULTETAS

VILNIAUS GEDIMINO
TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS
ELEKTRONIKOS FAKULTETAS

VILNIAUS GEDIMINO
TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS
MECHANIKOS FAKULTETAS

VILNIAUS GEDIMINO
TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS
ARCHITEKTŪROS FAKULTETAS

University identity since 2019

In 2019, a new chapter began. The university introduced the slogan For the Creators of Tomorrow and became VILNIUS TECH, clearly defining its technological profile and connection to Vilnius. This change was not only visual but also strategic. The university aimed to strengthen its visibility, highlight its focus on engineering, technology, and innovation, as well as increase international recognition.

The new visual language reflects the belief that students are not merely passive recipients of knowledge. They are active participants in the learning process, solving real-world challenges and creating solutions needed for tomorrow. As a result, the identity became bolder, cleaner, and more focused on creativity and future-oriented competencies.

Slogan

The slogan emphasizes active engagement, creativity, and future competencies.
Lithuanian: Kuriantiems rytojui
English: For the creators of tomorrow

New logo system

Main logo since 2019

VILNIUS TECH

Unified faculty logo system

The new system unified faculty branding, created a clear hierarchy, and strengthened the university's image as a single, cohesive organization.

VILNIUS TECH
Statybos fakultetas

VILNIUS TECH
Elektronikos fakultetas

Advertising campaigns after 2019

A new Council of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University has been elected

On March 31, 2026, the members of the Academic Community Council were elected. On April 14, the Senate elected the external members of the Council, while the Student Representation, in accordance with the applicable procedures, elected a student representative and one external member. Thus, a new Council of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University was formed–the University's highest strategic governance body. The Council shapes the University's vision, mission, and strategic direction, approves key operational and financial decisions, appoints the Rector, and ensures the University's accountability.

The following members have been elected to the new Council of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH):

1. Darius Bačinskas, Professor at the Department of Reinforced Concrete Structures and Geotechnics, Faculty of Civil Engineering, VILNIUS TECH;
2. Darius Bazaras, Professor at the Department of Logistics and Transport Management, Faculty of Transport Engineering, VILNIUS TECH;
3. Dainius Dundulis, Director of Rivona Ltd.;
4. Arnoldas Gabrėnas, Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, VILNIUS TECH;
5. Audrius Guzikauskas, Board Member and Director of KG Constructions Group Ltd.;
6. Gabrielė Kovalevskytė, President of the VILNIUS TECH Student Representation;
7. Dionis Martsinkevichus, Head of the CIS Countries Department at Transekspedicija Ltd.;
8. Laurynas Paškevičius, Chief Executive Officer of Scenos techninis servisas Ltd.;
9. Justė Rožėnė, Associate Professor at the Department of Mechatronics, Robotics and Digital Manufacturing, Faculty of Mechanics, VILNIUS TECH;
10. Andrius Stasiukynas, Director of Stamita Ltd.;
11. Rima Tamošiūnienė, Professor at the Department of Financial Engineering, Faculty of Business Management, VILNIUS TECH.

The term of office of the Council is five years.

A new study and research space opened

The VILNIUS TECH Library is expanding the university's study and research infrastructure – a new space, the Reading Room for Mechanical, Electronics, and Transport Sciences, has opened its doors in Building P-2 at Plytines St. 25. The modern reading room was established through cooperation between the Library, the deans of the Faculties of Mechanics, Electronics, and Transport Engineering, and the university architect. This space will contribute to strengthening the university's image as a knowledge-creating and collaboration-based institution.

Visitors at the reading room can use publications related to mechanical, electronics, and transport engineering, comfortable workspaces, and wireless internet access. In the near future, computerized workstations with specialized software are also planned. The new reading room will host studies, scientific activities, and community meetings.

The 22nd Career Day „GRAVITY“ took place at VILNIUS TECH

The 22nd Career Day “GRAVITY” took place at VILNIUS TECH – one of the largest events of its kind in Lithuania, bringing together around 10,000 visitors and nearly 100 Lithuanian and international companies. This year’s event theme, social connections, highlighted the importance of direct communication with employers. This was reflected in the program, which included presentations, discussions, and various practical activities helping participants better understand professional opportunities.

During the event, students and school pupils had the opportunity to meet employers in person, establish valuable contacts, and better understand labor market needs, while companies had the chance to present their activities and attract future employees. According to VILNIUS TECH Rector Prof. Dr. Romualdas Kliukas, in the future there will continue to be strong demand for specialists in various fields – especially engineering, IT, energy, transport, and mechanics. This is why such events provide students with a real opportunity to take their first career steps already during their studies.

International Staff Week „Internationalisation 360°“

The annual International Staff Week, organised by the VILNIUS TECH International Relations Office, attracted this year record interest, with 66 representatives from 24 countries and 42 universities participating, including lecturers, scientists, and administrative staff. Throughout the week, participants had the opportunity to become more familiar with the university’s activities – study programs, scientific research, projects, cooperation with business, and initiatives for the city and community, all of which were presented during interactive activities.

The event received highly positive feedback from participants, who highlighted not only the professional organization but also the warm and engaging atmosphere, meaningful discussions, and opportunities to establish new connections. Creative workshops, discussions, and joint activities helped strengthen existing partnerships and create new contacts that may develop into joint international projects in the future.

Future Professions: The Perspective of Lecturers and Students

Lecturers at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, who this year received special badges at the „As Destau VILNIUS TECH“ Best Lecturer Awards, share their insights on how the fields they teach will change over the coming decades and how study content should evolve to meet the needs of future professions that are only now beginning to emerge.

Students, meanwhile, reflect on their careers 10-15 years from now and identify the qualities and skills they believe will be most important for future professionals.

How will the field you teach change over the coming decades?

Ass. Prof. Dr. Vytautas Abromavicius, Faculty of Electronics

First of all, we should talk about the impact of AI on electronics. There is no doubt that AI will become an inseparable part of electronic systems, but integrating it will remain a complex engineering task. Implementing AI in electronics requires not only specific hardware knowledge but also the ability to ensure optimal energy consumption and performance.

I believe that the field I teach (programming and algorithms) will undergo significant changes – we will move not only toward higher-level abstractions and broader problem understanding, but also toward a deeper understanding of subtleties that AI often overlooks. Domain-specific knowledge, which is usually accumulated only by experienced specialists, will remain especially important.

Dr. Zita Savickiene, Faculty of Electronics

I have spent my entire professional career working as a lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, so over the years I have had the opportunity to closely observe how rapidly the field of electrical engineering is changing and improving. It is obvious that in the future the labor market will increasingly need electrical engineers capable of creating, implementing, and managing modern smart electrical and automation systems.

Renewable energy solutions – solar, wind, and other sustainable energy sources – are also becoming increasingly important. This direction has already become an inseparable part of electrical engineering and will undoubtedly remain one of the most important future trends.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Olga Chabarova, Faculty of Civil Engineering

I believe that over the coming decades, digitalization, modeling, and AI applications will become stronger in mechanics and engineering. Already today we see a transition from traditional calculations to complex simulations, automated design, and data-driven solutions. Interdisciplinarity is also increasing – engineers are increasingly working with information technologies, biomaterials, and sustainability issues.

Prof. dr. Arturas Jukna, Faculty of Fundamental Sciences

In the future, physics studies will focus even more on a deeper understanding of natural phenomena – students will analyze more thoroughly why certain processes occur and how their efficiency can be improved. Fields such as thermodynamics, electrodynamics, radioactivity, and quantum phenomena will contribute to the development of advanced medical technologies and space research.

Lecturer Mantas Makulavicius, Faculty of Mechanics

The field I teach, which includes mechatronics, robotics, and applied AI technologies, will become even more interdisciplinary in the future.

Already today we see robots and automated systems increasingly combined with AI, computer vision, sensors, and data analysis. Therefore, future specialists will need not only to design or program systems, but also to create advanced, adaptive technological solutions.

How should study content change so that students are prepared for future professions that are only now emerging?

Prof. dr. Darius Plonis, Faculty of Electronics

It should be emphasized that study content should become more flexible, more focused on interdisciplinary skills and lifelong learning abilities, because future professions are still taking shape.

It is important to combine a strong theoretical foundation with practical skills, especially programming, data analysis, AI applications, and working with real-world signals.

There should also be more project-based and problem-solving-oriented learning that allows students to work with uncertain tasks. For this reason, I believe that new technologies, embedded systems, and real-time solutions should be integrated into the study process.

Finally, it is important to develop students' critical thinking, creativity, and ability to adapt to a rapidly changing technological environment.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zaneta Karazijiene, Faculty of Business Management

Study content should move away from narrowly defined theoretical knowledge transfer and focus more on developing analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving competencies.

Future professions will often be interdisciplinary, so economics studies must strengthen connections with data analytics, information technologies, public policy, and environmental protection. Students should be systematically introduced to big data analysis, software implementation of economic modeling, scenario development, and risk assessment.

In addition, it is important that study content be flexible and continuously updated according to changes in the labor market and society.

Practical projects, case studies, and cooperation with business and the public sector would enable students to gain the ability to apply theoretical knowledge in real situations. In this way, studies would not only provide an academic foundation but also develop the ability to adapt to newly emerging professional roles and a constantly changing economic environment.

> It is important to develop students' critical thinking, creativity, and ability to adapt to a rapidly changing technological environment.
>
> Prof. dr. Darius Plonis

Lecturer Mantas Makulavicius, Faculty of Mechanics

Study content should focus more on practical projects in which students create, program, test, and improve real prototypes.

More attention should be paid to AI, robot programming, sensor systems, data analysis, and digital tools. This would better prepare students for future professions that will be unimaginable without the ability to adapt quickly and solve new technological problems.

Assistant Dr. Vilma Nekrasaite-Liege, Faculty of Fundamental Sciences

The application of mathematics in study content should increase, especially when working with data, algorithms, and modeling tasks.

The integration of mathematics with programming and digital tools is already actively applied in the study process, as these are becoming an inseparable part of modern professional activity.

Considering the rapidly growing use of AI during studies, assessment methods should also change – with more emphasis placed on oral examinations, which allow for a more reliable evaluation of a student's knowledge.

To mark the 70th anniversary of VILNIUS TECH, a gallery of student works has been opened in Saulėtekis, showcasing visual projects created by third-year students of the Multimedia and Computer Design programme. Through their works, the young creators offer imaginative interpretations of the University's past, present, and future, employing photography, graphic design, 3D modelling, and artificial intelligence tools. While developing these projects, students not only enhanced their technical skills but also learned to justify their creative decisions, adhere to copyright principles, and effectively present their ideas. Some of the exhibited works will be transformed into commemorative VILNIUS TECH postcards. This initiative not only fosters creativity but also strengthens the sense of community and deepens students' connection with the University.

1st Place – "Toward the Harbor of Wisdom" by Gabriele Gilyte, Darija Aurelija Jurevic, Kamile Sinkeviciute, MKDp-25

1st Place – "Where Tomorrow Was Yesterday" by Emilija Chorsevaite, Beata Balnaite, Meda Pikciunaite, MKDf–23

1st Place – "The Evolution Theory of a VILNIUS TECH Student" by Domantas Skruibys, Donat Dominik Sznicki, Kasparas Matonis, MKDf–23/3

1st Place – "Is It Real or Cake?" by Ausrine Kunigelyte, Austeja Sutkeviciute, Austeja Lazickaite, MKDf–23/1

How do you imagine your future profession in 10-15 years?

Gabija Zibutyte,
second-year student of Building Energy Systems Engineering, Faculty of Environmental Engineering

Interdisciplinarity will become a necessity for future specialists – it will no longer be enough to understand only heating or ventilation systems; specialists will also need to master programming basics, data analysis, and the integration of renewable energy solutions.

Flexibility and continuous learning will be equally important, because technological change is already happening faster than current standards can adapt.

Aurimas Ramanauskas
first-year Software Engineering student, Faculty of Fundamental Sciences

I believe that as technology rapidly advances, the field of information technology will change the most. Although various assumptions are circulating, I do not think specialists in this field will become unnecessary – only the nature and specifics of their work will change due to AI development.

AI will undoubtedly make everyday work easier, especially when performing simple, repetitive, and clearly structured tasks. However, the human ability to evaluate situations from different perspectives, think creatively and critically, and make unconventional decisions will remain irreplaceable. These qualities are precisely what are essential for IT specialists.

Valdemaras Volodkevicius,
third-year Avionics student, Antanas Gustaitis Aviation Institute

In my opinion, the field of avionics will become even more based on automation and AI systems.

Aircraft will use increasingly advanced sensors, self-diagnostic systems, and remote maintenance solutions. It is likely that avionics specialists will need to deepen their knowledge in advanced electronics, specialized software, and AI solutions.

Guste Mackonyte,
first-year Air Traffic Management student, Antanas Gustaitis Aviation Institute

AI and advanced automation will be integrated into air traffic management. The biggest change will be that systems will perform routine tasks and complex calculations.

Air traffic controllers will become more like strategic coordinators responsible for managing the flow of drones and traditional aviation within a single airspace.

Nevertheless, in my opinion, human intuition, the ability to make important decisions in unexpected situations, and taking responsibility will remain the most important qualities – qualities that no algorithm will ever fully replace.

Liepa Henrieta Rubikaite,
fourth-year Architecture student, Faculty of Architecture

I think there will be challenges in the field of presenting visual information, and architectural trends will also change – current modernism will be replaced by new directions and fashions to which specialists will need to adapt.

> In my opinion, human intuition, the ability to make important decisions in unexpected situations, and taking responsibility will remain the most important qualities – qualities that no algorithm will ever fully replace.
>
> Guste Mackonyte

Domas Launikonis,
second-year Information Systems Engineering student, Faculty of Electronics

I imagine my future profession as one of the most important in the field of technology. Understanding information systems logic, creating architecture, and critical thinking will remain extremely important. Although AI will be able to generate code or create system foundations, it will not always understand how changes in one area may affect another. It will lack the ability to see the overall system picture and ensure that the final product functions consistently and reliably.

The nature of work itself will change the most. Previously, specialists had to create systems, integration solutions, or search for areas requiring modifications themselves, but in the future AI will be able to perform many of these tasks in a very short time. Therefore, the role of information systems specialists will increasingly involve system supervision, verification of AI solutions, evaluation of their behavior, and ensuring overall system performance.

Vincentas Jarusevicius
first-year Construction and Real Estate Management student, Faculty of Civil Engineering

I imagine that in the future this will be a dynamic and versatile profession mainly involving planning, coordination, and responsibility. It would be connected to the construction sector and work on construction sites, but since the study program also includes real estate subjects, the profession would also be closely related to real estate development, administration, and supervision.

In my opinion, the balance between the engineering component and real estate market and economics knowledge will change in the future. However, engineering will remain the foundation of this program.

Ugnė Talitaite,
second-year Sustainability Technologies student, Faculty of Environmental Engineering

In 10-15 years I will work as an environmental engineer in a field where technologies will be far more advanced, but the main goal will remain the same – reducing pollution and solving environmental problems.

Milda Strokova,
first-year Logistics and Transport Management student, Faculty of Transport Engineering

I believe my profession will not change dramatically because it is a job where human connection and direct communication are extremely important. However, I believe many processes will become more automated, and new technological tools will help simplify certain tasks.

Justė Strainytė,
first-year Port and Shipping Engineering Management student, Lithuanian Maritime Academy

In my opinion, the work environment will become even more technologically advanced, so one of the main changes will be the simplification of complex processes through new technologies. Nevertheless, continuous professional development and the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing environment will remain extremely important.

Rugile Svagzdyte,
second-year Entertainment Production student, Faculty of Creative Industries

I think it will attract even more attention from everyone. Due to greater opportunities and technological development, projects, events, and shows will look incredible, making it difficult for people to take their eyes off them.

Although this may sound somewhat unrealistic, while studying I understand that people already need entertainment and increasingly stronger engagement. Achieving this is not easy, but at the same time it encourages specialists to think more broadly, aim higher, and not limit themselves to conventional solutions.

Today it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep people's attention, so it is necessary to constantly look for ways to interest and engage them. On the other hand, technology can also simplify this process. Therefore, I believe the goal of captivating audiences and creating solutions that leave a strong impression will remain important.

The world of science moves fast – and we are part of it. „Global News“ opens a window into what our partners around the world are working on: what research they are conducting, what ideas they are developing, and what kind of future they are creating today.

National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

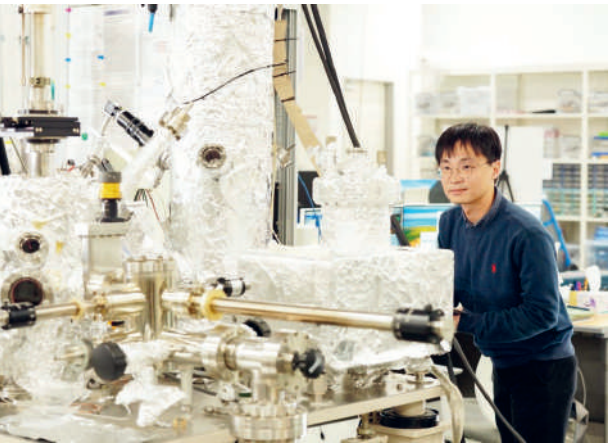
National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) has opened the Joint Semiconductor Technology Laboratory, which will become one of the university‘s most important centres for innovation and technological development. Around 800 million Taiwanese dollars (approximately 23 million euros) are being invested in the creation of the laboratory. The modern centre will carry out semiconductor manufacturing, packaging, testing, and material analysis activities – developing and improving technologies used in the production of chips and other electronic components.

One of the most important features of this centre is the large-scale semiconductor packaging and testing laboratory established in cooperation with the global technology company „ASE Group.“ The laboratory will focus on three main areas: development of new devices, research into technical properties, and advanced material analysis.

The laboratory is expected to attract more than 5,000 students, researchers, and industry specialists annually, and during its first decade of operation it is expected to help train more than 1,200 highly qualified experts. This initiative is important not only for Taiwan, but also for the global technology market.

As demand for chips continues to grow, the university aims to contribute to the preparation of new specialists and closer cooperation between science and business. In this way, NSYSU strengthens its position as one of the world‘s leading centres of innovation and semiconductor technologies.

POSTECH, South Korea



As POSTECH approaches its 40th anniversary, the university is not only reviewing its achievements, but also preparing for a new phase of development – "POSTECH 2.0," referred to as the university's second founding stage. Its goal is not to follow already existing scientific directions, but to create new ones and become a leader in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and biotechnology.

The most important part of this transformation is the belief that talented people are the university's greatest asset. POSTECH is actively working to attract top-level researchers from around the world and provide them with conditions that allow them to focus entirely on bold and innovative scientific research.

Professor Youngjoon Choi, who recently joined the university, is conducting advanced research on graphene-based quantum materials. It is expected that this work will help create more stable qubits – the core elements of quantum computers required for next-generation quantum technologies. Meanwhile, Professor Luke Lee leads interdisciplinary research on brain waves and non-invasive sound therapies. He is also developing K-BIGHEART, a new international biomedical innovation research centre.

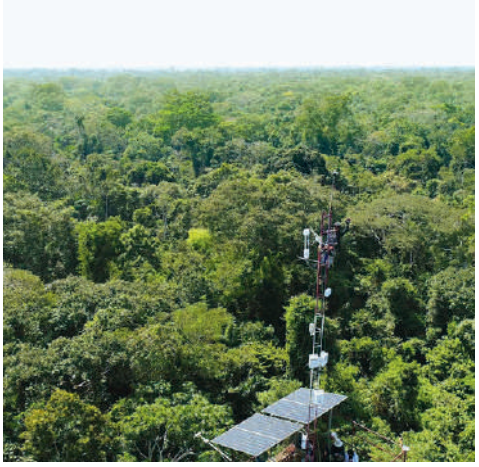
University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

The university's Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism is strengthening its international leadership role in design research by presenting the new international publication „Community (&) Design: Material, Spatial, and Social Encounters." In this publication, prominent international scholars explore how design can encourage human connection, community spirit, sustainability, and the creation of a more inclusive future in different countries around the world.

An important role in this publication is played by Professor Maria Cecilia Loschiavo dos Santos – a FAUUSP professor who is one of the book's editors. Together with Tom Bieling and Wolfgang Jonas, she wrote the publication's introduction. The professor's internationally recognized research in social design, sustainability, and urban culture was essential in shaping the publication's interdisciplinary and socially responsible direction. This further strengthens FAUUSP's role as an important global centre for critical design research.

This achievement also reflects the university's broader international recognition. In the 2025 Times Higher Education Latin America University Rankings, the university was recognized as the best university in Ibero-America and is consistently ranked among the world's leaders in higher education.

Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, Peru



University researchers are leading an international research consortium investigating the deteriorating condition of the western Amazon – one of the planet's most important ecosystems. The „AndesFlux" project includes a network of four measurement towers located across three regions of Peru. Here, scientists measure in real time the exchange of carbon dioxide (CO_2), water vapor, and methane between the forest and the atmosphere.

Researchers Eric Cosio and Norma Salinas found that the loss of large and old trees in the Amazon is accelerating. In addition, at certain times the forests no longer function as a carbon-absorbing ecosystem and instead begin releasing CO_2 into the atmosphere themselves.

These studies are extremely important for the entire region because the water evaporated by Amazon forests sustains more than one-third of South America's water cycle. For this reason, changes in the condition of the Amazon may have a direct impact on water security even in cities such as Lima.

„AndesFlux" is part of the global „AmeriFlux" network and collaborates with research institutions from the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Germany.

Instituto Superior Tecnico, Portugal

The Lisbon-based university continues to strengthen its international role by developing strategic partnerships, participating in European university alliances, implementing international mobility programs, and carrying out joint research projects.

One important example of this direction was the International Staff Week and International Day organized in 2026. The event brought together participants from 23 countries and became another opportunity to strengthen cooperation with partners in Europe, Africa, and South America, who all shared experience and examples of best practice in higher education.

International activities also significantly expanded during 2023-2025, when „Tecnico" coordinated the Erasmus+ capacity-building project I-MAT (Innovative Mobility Attracting Tools for Latin America). This project, implemented together with international partners including VILNIUS TECH, aimed to strengthen international mobility opportunities and cooperation between higher education institutions in Latin America through innovative and digital solutions.

Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU), Greece

The university is becoming one of the strongest examples of higher education in Greece due to its achievements in research, innovation, and internationalization.

In the field of research, as many as 19 HMU lecturers and researchers – around 10 percent of the entire academic staff – were included in Stanford University's list of the top 2 percent of scientists worldwide. The university received a 4-star QS Stars rating, confirming the high quality of its studies, research, and management. Such an evaluation is especially significant for a university that is regional and only established in 2019.

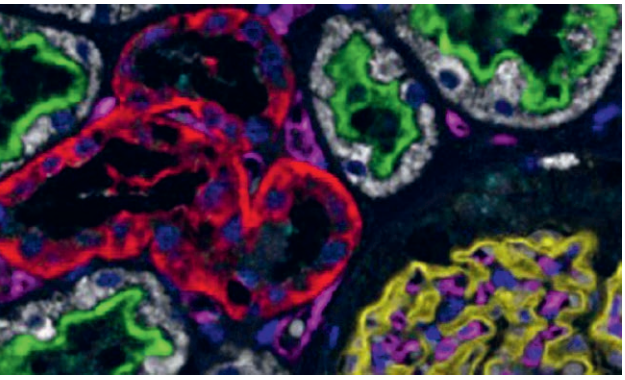
In the field of innovation, HMU participates in the European research infrastructure projects EMERGE and "InfraChip," is a partner in the European university alliances ATHENA and HEROES, and contributes to the implementation of the Erasmus Mundus master's program EMINENT.

In terms of internationalization, the university is also demonstrating significant growth. During the 2024-2025 academic year, more than 1,000

international mobility participants arrived at HMU, while in 2025-2026 their number exceeded 1,200. According to these indicators, the university ranks between 4th and 5th place among 25 public higher education institutions in Greece.

HMU coordinates two virtual exchange programs, 12 blended intensive programs, and organizes the "ATHENA Colloquial Talks" discussion series, which involves more than 120 researchers from around the world. The university's thirteenth International Week attracted as many as 420 participants.

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden



The „Human Protein Atlas" is one of the world's most advanced scientific initiatives aiming to map all proteins in the human body. This project helps scientists betterunderstand the development of diseases and create more precise treatment methods – from cancer to neurodegenerative diseases.

The project is led by Professor Mathias Uhlen from KTH Royal Institute of Technology. In the latest version of the project, artificial intelligence plays an especially important role – it is used for protein structure analysis, evaluation of genetic mutations, and identification of disease markers in blood samples.

These technologies allow faster and more accurate diagnosis of diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often even without invasive procedures. Scientists hope that the combination of artificial intelligence and biomedical research will in the future allow not only early-stage disease detection, but also personalized treatment tailored to each patient.

VILNIUS TECH alumnus Robertas Dargis: “A leader cannot avoid making decisions, even if they aren’t perfect”

Robertas Dargis is a co-owner and chairman of the board of EIKA Group, one of the largest real estate development and management groups in Lithuania. In his professional path, he relies on engineering thinking, business experience, and active public engagement.

The VILNIUS TECH alumnus (formerly Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute) openly speaks today about the importance of his studies in shaping his worldview, principles of leadership, and the transformation of Lithuanian business over several decades – from a centralized system to a dynamic, constantly changing market economy.

According to him, it was during his university years that a fundamental shift in thinking began – from a closed, single-truth model to a broader perspective that encourages critical thinking, independence, and the ability to see the world in a complex way. At the same time, values instilled in the family had a strong influence – responsibility, respect for work, discipline, and the understanding that long-term results are achieved through consistency, not quick decisions. These experiences later became the foundation for both professional decisions and his understanding of leadership, where the most important thing is not perfect decisions, but the ability to make them and move forward.

“A key role at the university was played by its lecturers – broad-minded people who did not limit themselves to engineering knowledge and spoke about what was happening in the world and how society was changing. The study environment encouraged not mechanical repetition of knowledge, but the ability to think, collect, and systematize information. This sharply contrasted with the school model, where knowledge repro-

duction, not understanding, was usually rewarded," recalls the VILNIUS TECH alumnus.

He also notes that after finishing school, moving from the smaller town of Mazeikiai to Vilnius was not only a geographical change, but also an important stage of personal growth. Studies at VILNIUS TECH provided more freedom as well as responsibility: one had to independently seek knowledge, attend seminars, communicate, and learn autonomously.

Speaking about his professional path, he shares that his engineering education became an important foundation for thinking. It taught him to structure problems, break them into parts, evaluate them, and solve them consistently. According to him, such an analytical approach is universal and applicable beyond managing an organization and affects everyday life.

"At the time when my professional journey began, the concept of business in Lithuania was still forming. There were no private companies or individual initiatives. The entire system functioned in a centralized way, and work took place in a state-regulated environment. Only after independence was restored did the real period of business formation and learning begin. This transformation was not easy – everything had to be learned from scratch: what share capital is, how the market works, what risks and business models are. Mistakes were inevitable, but it was precisely by making and correcting them that experience and understanding were formed," notes the co-owner of EIKA Group.

An important experience for him was also working with people. Although his engineering education provided a strong technical foundation, in practice he initially lacked psychological and social skills. As a young specialist taking on managerial roles, he had to quickly learn how to work with a team, motivate it, and make decisions in real conditions.

"The essence of leadership is the ability to make decisions. A leader, in my view, cannot avoid responsibility, even if decisions are not perfect. Often one has to choose between bad and worse options, but the most important thing is to make a decision and move forward," says R. Dargis.

The VILNIUS TECH alumnus also emphasizes that flexibility and quick response are equally important – the ability to adjust decisions when circumstances change. Excessive attachment to one option can hinder progress.

"Throughout my professional journey, I have been guided by the understanding that public activity and social connections are inseparable from professional growth. Participation in various activities, working with people and communities helped form social capital, which later became an important part of my business and leadership," says R. Dargis.

In recent years, according to him, one of the most important changes has been digital transformation and the development of artificial intelligence. This is fundamentally changing business processes, consumer behavior, and organizational structures, making adaptation a constant necessity.

"Today universities should educate not only specialists, but also broadly thinking individuals who can understand the principles of how the world works and changes, think creatively, and solve complex situations. For students seeking their path, I advise taking an interest in the world, but not forgetting that creating value for society is an important part of personal growth. The ability to be useful to others often becomes the foundation of professional success as well," advises the VILNIUS TECH alumnus.

Finally, reflecting on his path, he emphasizes one of the most important lessons – continuous forward movement.

"Even if decisions are wrong, the most important thing is not to stop. Mistakes and failures are part of the process, and the ability to learn from them and move forward determines the final outcome," says R. Dargis.

> For students seeking their path, I advise taking an interest in the world, but not forgetting that creating value for society is an important part of personal growth.
>
> Robertas Dargis

The University of Tomorrow: A Dialogue Between Lecturer and Student

How does the role of a university change when viewed from two different perspectives: that of a former student who has now become a lecturer, and that of a current student just beginning their academic journey? How does university appear to someone who started there as a student and today teaches others, and how is it perceived by a student only taking one's first independent steps in life?

Representatives of the VILNIUS TECH Faculty of Electronics – Prof. Dr. Andrius Katkevicius from the Department of Electronic Systems and electronics engineering student Nojus Balciunas – are two different generations taking a fresh look at today's university and its future.

Prof. Dr. Andrius Katkevicius,
Department of Electronic Systems, Faculty of Electronics

How has your view of the university changed from your student years to now as a lecturer?

My perspective has changed significantly over time. When I studied electronics engineering at the Faculty of Electronics, I only saw a small part of university activity – mostly the teaching process. At that time, the university was associated with lectures, laboratory work, practical

Nojus Balciunas,
3rd-year Electronics Engineering Student, Faculty of Electronics

How would you describe the university and the significance of studies?

For me, the university is first and foremost a community. Members of the VILNIUS TECH community are very warm and supportive people who constantly encourage participation in various activities organized both within and outside the university.

classes, and exams. During my bachelor's studies, I naively believed that successfully passing all exams was enough to secure a future in engineering career. Practice showed that in order to become a professional in your field, it is necessary to do extra work and actively participate in the chosen area of electronics, deepen your knowledge independently, and continuously improve yourself. Only during my master's studies did I begin to clearly understand that active scientific work is also carried out at the university.

Today, after completing all stages of higher education and gaining pedagogical and scientific experience, I see the university as a multifaceted institution encompassing a wide range of activities and opportunities – from educating first-year bachelor's students to carrying out scientific and commissioned projects with local as well as international partners.

How are student generations and their relationship with learning changing?

Today's students are more focused on practical benefits and quick results. They have much broader and faster access to information, so they are increasingly less limited to material presented during lectures. At the same time, however, they face challenges related to information overload and evaluating information quality, especially when many answers can be obtained through artificial intelligence. There is a growing need for practical learning, understanding how knowledge is applied in real contexts, and seeing the value of studies in future professional activities. Students' expectations toward lecturers are also changing – dialogue, feedback, and a clearly structured learning process are increasingly valued. Although some students lack patience for long-term and consistent work, they are also more open to new technologies, digital tools, and flexible forms of learning. This encourages

Studies at VILNIUS TECH are an extremely significant stage of life. I can acquire not only academic knowledge but also practical skills, while developing critical thinking, independence, and responsibility. Of course, it is also a kind of transition into adult life, but even more importantly, it is a stage of growth, self-improvement, and self-discovery. I believe this is one of the most important periods in life.

What expectations do you currently have for the university, and are they different from what you imagined before starting your studies?

When I started studying at the university, I expected to gain more practical experience during lectures, but I soon realized that opportunities to gain such experience are provided beyond lectures. The university offers various additional activities, programs, and internships that students can join to deepen their knowledge and become more involved in practical activities. These opportunities are one of the university's greatest advantages – it provides space to grow, improve, and shape your own study path.

What experiences or skills gained during studies are the most valuable?

I believe the most important acquired skills are the so-called soft skills: being proactive, the ability to present your work and ideas, adapt to new environments, and respond quickly to changing situations.

lecturers to constantly review and update their teaching methods.

If you could compare the university from your student years with the current one, what has changed the most?

One of the most noticeable changes is the study and research environment. A few years ago, after moving into new facilities, a m odern and well-designed infrastructure was created, which clearly focused on study quality, scientific research, and collaboration. This environment not only improved technical possibilities but also changed the academic culture and daily work at the university. Fundamentally, the understanding of the university's role has changed – from an institution mostly focused on the study process, the university has become a much more active center for science, innovation, and project-based activities. Today, the university creates opportunities for students to participate in scientific, applied, and international projects, something that was previously less visible or accessible.

Another important change is the advancement of learning tools and technologies related to digitalization as well as the application of artificial intelligence. Today, students have access to advanced digital learning platforms, virtual laboratories, simulation tools, and AI-based support systems that can help analyze, model, and deepen their knowledge. This fundamentally changes the learning process – from passive absorption of information to active, independent, and individualized learning.

What should universities do differently today to better prepare students for the future?

Universities should enhance the connection between studies and real practical experience even more, so that students can more clearly understand how acquired knowledge will be applied in professional activities. This includes closer cooperation with businesses and scientific partners, project-based learning, and involving students in applied and scientific projects as early as possible.

It is important to develop not only subject-specific competencies but also general abilities – critical thinking, independence, responsibility for the learning process, and the ability to adapt to constantly changing technologies. Universities should encourage students to learn throughout life, experiment, make mistakes, and learn from experience, while also providing a suitable academic environment, which encourages that.

How do you imagine the university of the future – what should be different there compared to today?

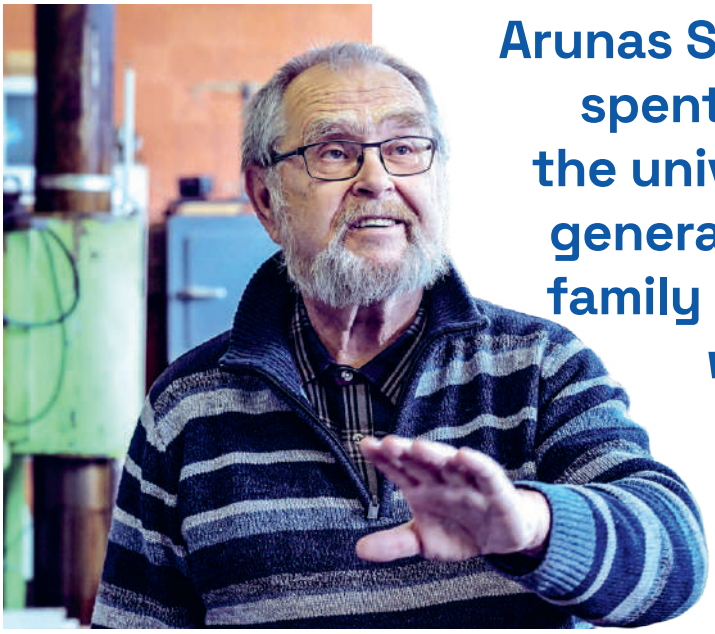
It is difficult to imagine the university of the future being very different from what it is now. Of course, laboratories and the equipment in them will become even more modern over time, but even today it is clear that VILNIUS TECH is constantly updating, expanding, and implementing the latest technologies.

However, I believe that in the future laboratories will become even more open, giving students more opportunities to independently work on projects and implement their ideas outside of study hours.

What motivates you the most today to study and improve yourself?

What motivates me the most is my love for electronics and the desire to understand things I do not yet understand. And there are still very many such things.

> Studies at VILNIUS TECH are an extremely significant stage of life. I can acquire not only academic knowledge but also practical skills, while developing critical thinking, independence, and responsibility.
>
> Nojus Balciunas



Arunas Speicys, who spent 60 Years at the university: four generations of the family studied and worked here

Arunas Speicys

Prepared by: Lina Mustafinaite

This September will mark a jubilee – the sixtieth year – since Arunas Speicys has been rushing to the university every morning. For the first five years he used to come here as a student, and since 1971 he officially became a university employee. Four generations of the Speicys family are connected with VILNIUS TECH: Arunas's father started working there in 1956, later Arunas himself, then his two sons studied here, and later his granddaughter joined the family tradition as a student.

"I joke that four generations are connected with the university, but everyone called it by a different name. My father taught for several years at the Vilnius branch of the Evening Faculty of Kaunas Polytechnic Institute (KPI). Some time later, I enrolled at the Vilnius branch of KPI, and during my third year of studies it became the Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute (VISI). Later, my son graduated from Vilnius Technical University, a few years later another son graduated from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, and my granddaughter graduated from VILNIUS TECH. Everyone studied in the same place, only the name kept changing," Arunas laughs.

Researching metal fatigue

A. Speicys studied at the Faculty of Mechanics and later received an offer to work at the newly established Machine Dynamics Laboratory. The laboratory researched metal fatigue – wear occurring under certain conditions.

"We made the testing devices ourselves at first, and later we started purchasing them. The laboratory flourished, employing around 20 staff members. We researched fatigue in metal and construction structures, conducted tests, had many contracts, and impressive equipment.

I remember when our laboratory moved from Vilnius Old Town to Sauletekis – at that time it was completely on the outskirts of the city. We had to install our equipment before the new building even had walls, otherwise it would not have fit inside. Later we had to demolish walls more than once so newly acquired devices weighing several tons could fit into the premises. Eventually we got tired of demolishing walls, so we installed gates that are still there today," the technician recalls.

The laboratory tested metal and equipment used in nuclear power plants, nuclear submarines, aviation, shipping, and industrial sphere. After Lithuania regained independence, a Lithuanian-American working in the mining sector contacted university scientists. A. Speicys and his colleagues tested metal intended for powerful mining machinery in the laboratory.

Becoming a witness to a historic event

After work, the technician also found time for hobbies. He actively participated in rally competitions, became Lithuanian champion several times, and once even Baltic champion. Later, when the university received a sea yacht named "Ragana" as a gift, he got interested in sailing and accidentally became part of a historic event. In August 1989, he sailed a Lithuanian delegation to the island of Gotland, where the European Lithuanian Studies Week was taking place.

During the event, the Gotland Communique was signed, which became an important step toward Lithuanian independence. The document signed by Lithuanian politicians and members of the diaspora stated: "The vital goal of all Lithuanians around the world is the restoration of an independent Lithuanian state." The communique demonstrated agreement among opposing Lithuanian political forces.

"It was the first time everyone agreed on Lithuania's future. People were surprised that such a document could be signed both by Antanas Terleckas, leader of the Lithuanian Freedom League, and Justas Vincas Paleckis, head of the Ideology Department of the Communist Party, along with other Lithuanian public figures holding different views.

As for me the realization that it was a historic event came only after I returned," admits A. Speicys, who became both a participant and witness.

Responsible work

Asked how the university changed before his eyes over several decades, Arunas says that the university always kept pace with innovation and progress. However, he is saddened that today's students want to find all information on the internet rather than in laboratories.

While showing his workplace and the equipment there, A. Speicys picks up a huge bolt.

"This is a bolt from the Mindaugas Bridge. The entire bridge is reinforced with such bolts. I had the responsibility of calculating the force with which each bolt had to be tightened. We also tested the durability of the structures of the Lyduvenai Bridge, the longest and highest bridge in Lithuania. We determined that the metal used in construction was extremely durable and would last a long time.

Once, when the roof of the Ice Arena in Vilnius collapsed under a heavy layer of snow, we investigated where mistakes had been made and provided recommendations so that such a disaster would not happen again," the technician lists the projects he worked on.

He tested both quail eggs and human bones

A. Speicys also remembers several particularly unusual assignments.

"Once a school student came wanting to test the strength of quail eggshells. We conducted tests, pressed the eggs, and made calculations. Another time two students – one from our university and another future medical doctor – came to me with pig tendons. They were working on a joint project about tendon stitching. They brought pig tendons, stitched them together, and I stretched the tendons and tested their strength," A. Speicys recalls with a laugh.

Using equipment designed for metal testing, he also had to test the strength and flexibility of human bones.

"The bones of a living and deceased person differ greatly. Once we tested the bone of a person who had died only the previous day, as it was most similar in properties to the bone of a living person. We also had to test the strength of human spinal vertebrae. Such tests were needed by medical students and scientists specializing in traumatology," the technician recalls these unique cases.

A. Speicys's loyalty and decades of dedicated work were also recognized by the university community. In 2022, by order of the rector, he was awarded the First Degree Honor Badge for his merits to Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

University Diary

Between 1990 and 1996, the university was called Vilnius Technical University. Before that, study programs in civil engineering, architecture, urban engineering, and mechanics were the most popular – these were the fields in which the university had the strongest expertise.

In 1996, Vilnius Technical University was granted the name of Grand Duke Gediminas of Lithuania. This decision was not accidental: Gediminas is regarded as the first builder of Lithuania and a patron of crafts – the ruler thanks to whom Vilnius became a center of medieval European architecture and culture in the 14th century. This perfectly reflects the university's mission – to educate creative engineers and innovative technology specialists who create and shape the environment around us.

More than 50 years ago, a complex of six dormitories rose in Sauletekis, which looked futuristic at the time and, therefore, called by the students "New York". These 16-story buildings were the tallest in all of Vilnius, and in that context their scale resembled the skyscrapers of the United States.

What can be seen today is part of the student campus in Sauletekis that began to take shape half a century ago. Its goal and vision was to create a separate space for students combining living, studying, and leisure in one place.

Since its establishment, VILNIUS TECH has been known as a beacon of engineering sciences, while humanities, social sciences, and management studies remained less visible for a long time.

The Creative Industries study program, introduced in 2008, was a completely new concept that even experts did not understand. The program was initially rejected, but after an appeal, the decision was reversed. After long discussions and persuasion, and following a strategic and forward-looking decision, the Faculty of Creative Industries was established in 2012. Today, it is the second-largest faculty at VILNIUS TECH and one of the university's greatest success stories. It was a bold

experiment by visionaries that changed the university's identity and inspired the entire creative industries sector in Lithuania.

The history of “Siupinys” began in 1975, when a student variety miniatures theater was established at then the Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute (VISI). The abundance of humor, satire, and various performances gave the group the name “Siupinys.”

Although the theater was born at the university, its activities quickly expanded beyond Vilnius – the troupe performed in many Lithuanian cities and abroad. Thoughts conveyed through Aesopian language allowed them to subtly speak about topics that were often left unspoken at the time. Last year, the theater celebrated its 50th anniversary.

VILNIUS TECH sports began in 1961 with a small group of students, and just a year later the first men’s basketball team was formed – this marked the beginning of the university’s sports history.

Soon football, athletics, and skiing appeared, and students began achieving their first victories across Lithuania.

The year 1965 was one of the most significant in the university’s sports history: the Department of Physical Education was established. As the number of students grew, so did the number of sports disciplines. Sport became not only a popular activity, but also an important part of the university’s identity.

Later, even more sports were introduced – from judo and rowing to rugby, whose team became national champions shortly after being formed.

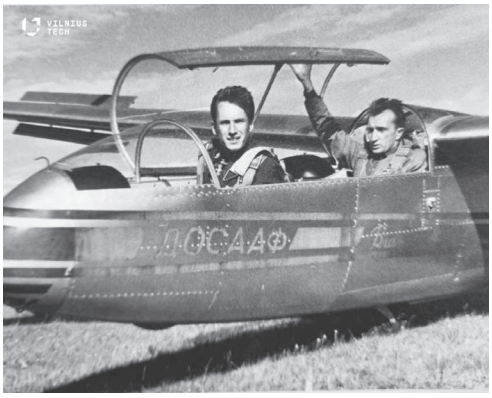
In 1983, the first large sports hall was opened in Sauletekis – a space where new generations of athletes grew and trained.

In the 1990s, the university increasingly achieved high-level results, while the sports community became even stronger and more active.

More than 60 years ago, anyone who wanted to learn to fly in Lithuania had to become a part of an aviation sports club. It was a semi-sporting, semi-military training system where pilots, parachutists, and technical specialists were trained.

Algirdas Smilgevicius, professor emeritus at VILNIUS TECH, was also a member of this club. Flying was his dream – although at the time, due to limited technical capabilities, it was far more difficult than it is today.

To take off, one needed knowledge and endurance – glider flights lasted 6–8 hours, often without the possibility of landing or eating.

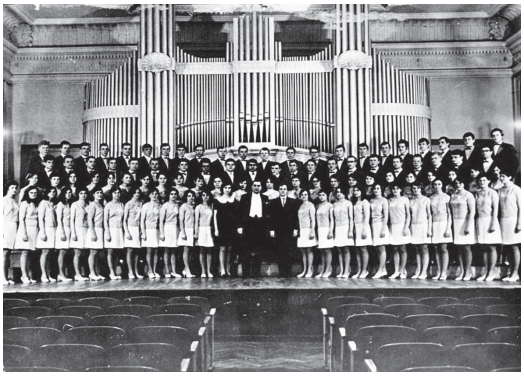


The beginnings of VILNIUS TECH artistic activities date back to the mid-20th century, when the first student art groups started to form at the university.

From these emerged the academic choir "Gabija," which in the 1960s and 1970s became a permanent university choir and began actively performing.

An especially important period was 1964, when the choir came under the leadership of Klemensas Griauzde – at that time the group strengthened, expanded, and established itself in the Lithuanian choral music scene.

In 1968, the folk dance ensemble "Vingis" was also established at the university and quickly became an important part of student cultural life. The ensemble started with a small group of dancers but soon grew into a strong collective that fostered Lithuanian stage dance traditions and participated in national and international programs.



In 1999, the theater studio "Palepe" was founded at the university, initiated by the VILNIUS TECH community and director Olegas Kesminas. The studio quickly brought together students interested in acting, and by 2000 the first performances had already been presented.

During formal celebrations held at the university, "Gaudeamus igitur"-the student anthem-is sung.

"Gaudeamus igitur, luvenes dum sumus" translates into English as "Therefore, let us rejoice while we are young!" It reminds us that youth and the years spent studying do not last forever, so it is worth cherishing companionship and the friendships that are formed along the way.

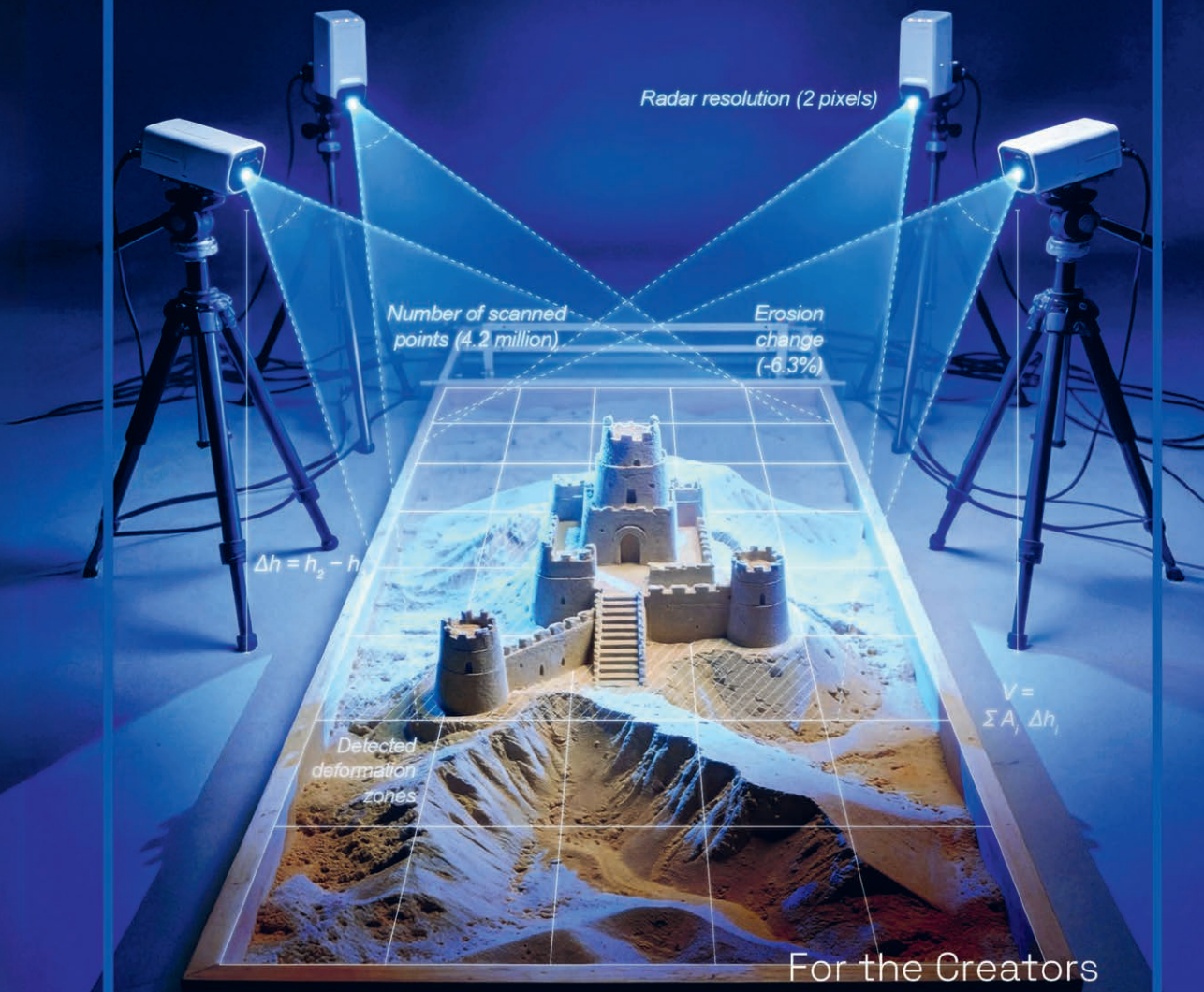
The anthem contains a fair amount of irony and humor as well. Some verses reflect on the brevity of life, the fleeting nature of youth, the inevitability of aging, and ultimately the certainty of death.

Although the anthem's roots date back to medieval student traditions, the

VILNIUS TECH community continues to sing it during celebrations, graduation ceremonies, and other events. It remains a proud symbol of the academic community.

VILNIUS TECH
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

Play is where invention begins



For the Creators of Tomorrow

Core values and a professional team: Alvyde Palaimaite's path to the top of European marketing

Prepared by: Kristina Lazickiene

Entrepreneurship, leadership, continuous growth, and the ability to adapt to a constantly changing environment are today inseparable from a successful career. The story of VILNIUS TECH alumna Alvyde Palaimaite shows that the courage to try, creative problem-solving, and connections formed during studies can become a strong foundation for an international career.

Today, Alvyde holds a responsible position at the European Marketing Confederation and vividly remembers her first lessons in her parents' business as well as through the experience of the student representation. We speak with Alvyde about her professional transformation, the teachers who believed in her, and the modern specialist's need for constant change.

Alvyde, let's briefly go back to your student years. You completed a bachelor's degree in International Relations Management and later a master's degree in International Business at VILNIUS TECH. Why did you choose these studies and this university?

From an early age, I observed and contributed to my parents' small business, so I realized quite early that one day I would want to also create my own. In 2004, when choosing my studies, I understood that modern business requires not only managerial but also technological knowledge. That is why I chose VILNIUS TECH, which offered the opportunity to combine these fields.

How do you remember your student years today?

I am a very active person, so I quickly got involved in both my study group and the student representation. I especially enjoyed the team in the student representation as we were full of meaningful ideas. Although we had a minimal budget, we still managed to implement many wonderful projects. Even then, I realized that with a good team nothing is impossible!

What knowledge, skills, or values acquired at university do you consider the most important in your professional work today?

The knowledge and practice in management, economics, technology, and finance acquired during my studies were also useful when I started working. The university taught me how to search for information, systematize it, and solve problems creatively. These skills are still valuable today.

Interestingly, during my bachelor's studies I focused on institutional management, choosing the field of international relations management. In my second year, I became marketing manager of the student representation, and during my master's studies I chose international business. At the time, I did not expect or plan that I would work in this field in the future. While finishing my master's studies, I created the international startup Beta.lt, which I successfully sold. Then I started looking for meaningful projects and got involved in the non-governmental sector: I led the Lithuanian Marketing Association (LiMA) for 8 years, and now I serve as Executive Director of the European Marketing Confederation.

Both my parents' example and my studies showed that the most important thing is to believe in what you do, work consistently, and never give up, because there are no situations without solutions. I am a dedicated person, and a strong value base is very important to me, so I am glad that my experience allows me to choose meaningful projects. Of course, wherever you go, the most important thing is the team. I am extremely happy that I met so many wonderful people at the university with whom I still keep in touch, collaborate, and support each other.

> In the age of artificial intelligence and digitalization, critical thinking, creativity, values, curiosity, and continuous learning are more important than ever.
>
> Alvyde Palaimaite

How did your first steps after graduation look? Was it difficult to enter the labor market?

While representing the student organization, I actively contributed to organizing Career Days, so I was already noticed by potential employers during my studies. Because of this, after graduation I did not need to look for a job myself – several companies participating in the events offered me positions. However, I chose to work in a newly established marketing and communication company because, aiming to create my own business in the future, I wanted to see closely how a company is built and learn from real situations and others' experience.

What is your relationship with the university today?

During my studies I met many excellent lecturers and fellow students, some of whom I still communicate with today. One of the most significant experiences was working with my bachelor's and master's thesis supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asta Radzeviciene. Her highest-level professionalism, attention to quality, sincerity, and ability to reveal a student's potential – sometimes believing in them more than they believe in themselves – led not only to excellent results but also to a long-term friendship. She was and remains an example of a personality of a great lecturer and mentor for me. For many years, through LiMA, we were partners of VILNIUS TECH, and today I actively contribute to the university community as an alumna.

You are the Executive Director of the European Marketing Confederation. Alvyde, what decisions or experiences were essential in reaching your current position?

For eight years I represented the European Marketing Association (EMC) and was a member of its board. Three years ago, I became EMC Vice President, and last year I became Honorary Member. Throughout these years, together with the team, we significantly contributed to the organization's growth, created and implemented various projects. Therefore, it is especially meaningful for me to return to the organization and become part of its administration, as this role will allow me to further develop initiatives more effectively, strengthen member growth, and contribute to the advancement of the marketing profession internationally.

How do you evaluate current marketing trends, and how will they change in the future?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is influencing the marketing and advertising sectors, so those who can effectively use AI tools in their work will gain the greatest advantage. This will not only increase efficiency but also strengthen the role of marketing within organizations and create even greater value for consumers.

What skills are becoming especially important for young professionals today?

In the age of artificial intelligence and digitalization, critical thinking, creativity, values, curiosity, and continuous learning are more important than ever. It is said that today's students will change about five professions during their lifetime, so I encourage everyone to choose what they like, learn a lot, and pursue their dreams.

> Both my parents' example and my studies showed me that the most important thing is to believe in what you do, work consistently, and never give up, because there are no situations without solutions.
>
> Alvyde Palaimaite

Time-resistant student love: VILNIUS TECH couples who found each other

Love from university days does not rust – this is something the heroes of this article unanimously agree on. For them, VILNIUS TECH (then Vilnius Gediminas Technical University) provided not only education, a circle of long-lasting friends, and countless beautiful memories, but also love.

Prepared by: Egle Kirliauskaite-Blazeviciene

Emilija Gaveniene and Marius Gavenas not only met here, but also got engaged during the diploma awarding ceremony – an event later even broadcasted on national television. The acquaintance of Indre Jure and Donatas Juras during a first-year student camp, which seemed like "just a summer student romance," has already lasted for twelve years. What were their love stories like and how do they live today? We talk about this with the couples that are a part of a large group of university graduates who happened to meet their significant other at VILNIUS TECH.

EMILIJA IR MARIUS

First of all, tell us how you met each other and your love story began.

Emilija: Our story began completely by chance. In the summer of 2013, after finishing school, I received a call from the Student Representation of the Faculty of Transport Engineering. They invited me, a first-year student, to a freshmen camp. Without much hesitation, I agreed, although I had been admitted to the Entertainment Industries study program at the Faculty of Creative Industries. I clearly remember seeing Marius on the main university stairs when I arrived – his appearance and self-confidence caught my attention.

At the first-year student camp, there was a presentation of the student representation. After the event, we sat together on a bench and talked for about half an hour about the representation and life choices. After the camp, we each returned to our student routine, until we met again on May 8, 2015, at the student representation anniversary. That evening we danced, and since then we've been inseparable.

Marius: Emilija still does not believe it, but I noticed her during the very first introduction game at the freshmen camp in Aukstadvarys. The shy Samogitian girl somehow caught my attention, and in the evening sitting on the bench was not quite as accidental as it seems.

Marius, you proposed during the graduation ceremony. Why did you decide to propose in this way? Were you nervous in front of such a large audience?

Marius: It turned out that this proposal perfectly summarized the study cycle. We met on Emilija's first day at the university and committed to each other on the last. I was not only studying but also actively involved in the student representation, so I felt a special connection to the Alma Mater.

As for the idea itself, I was never afraid of attention, and I was not scared by it until the very last moment. Only when I was already kneeling and people started cheering did I become very emotional, and I am not even sure if I managed to say the standard "Will you marry me?" Also, I must thank the university staff who encouraged me when I doubted whether it was a good idea.

Emilija, was this move unexpected? Or did you suspect something?

Emilija: At that time we were living separately, so it was a complete surprise. We had been together for about three years, so I secretly sometimes dreamed about engagement. The only small hint was that the evening before the proposal Marius asked what my favorite song was. But I really could not have guessed it would happen during the graduation ceremony.

Your proposal video became very popular on social media and was even featured in various media outlets. Did this bring additional emotions?

Emilija: The emotions were overflowing! We also received a lot of media attention – we were shown on LRT news, on the show "Good Morning, Lithuania," and radio stations called us. We were happy to share our joy.

Marius: The attention was unexpected. When planning it, I definitely did not think it would become so public. Friends joked that I should have put an advertisement on my back and monetized it.

Photos: from personal archive

How did your story continue?

Emilija: Soon after the engagement we moved in together into our first shared apartment. A year later, in 2018, we had a big wedding, where Marius prepared a slideshow presentation telling our story. It was the highlight of the celebration. Later we bought our first home, and five years later we had our daughter Beata. She fills our lives daily with laughter, joy, and maturity.

How do you live now? How has your love grown? What is your professional field?

Emilija: We are currently in a mature stage of love – family health and peace have become the most important things. We enjoy parenthood but still make time for each other. Our daughter Beata is 2.5 years old, so we are growing together with her. I recently returned from maternity leave and work as a senior customer service manager at Lindstrom. Like many mothers, I combine work and family.

Marius: A friend wished us at our wedding: "May you always have something to look forward to." That really helps. We have future plans and are moving toward them. Thanks to Emilija's enthusiasm, we travel a lot, and traveling strengthens our relationship and deepens love. Professional-

ly, I develop technical sales projects, where my engineering education and confidence gained in student representation help a lot.

Do you think university love really does not rust? Do you know other couples who met at university and are still together?

Emilija: I think we are living proof that it truly does not rust – on the contrary, it only gets stronger. We have many friends who also met at university and are still together.

Marius: Where else do people meet anyway?

What would you wish to the VILNIUS TECH community as former students?

Emilija: We wish current and future students to be curious, active, and boldly engage in university life. Do not overthink every life choice, but rather enjoy everyday life – you never know where or when you might meet your life partner.

Marius: I highly recommend using student status. While being a student, a lot is allowed and much is forgiven, so it is the best time to try yourself in different fields, go on Erasmus+ exchange, work different jobs, and try hobbies.

Indre and Donatas Jurai

INDRE IR DONATAS

Let's start from the beginning – how did you meet and what does the university have to do with it?

Indre: Our meeting was quite unexpected. Donatas helped the curators of the Student Representation of the Faculty of Creative Industries invite first-year students to the freshmen camp by making phone calls, and he called me specifically. When I answered, I thought it was one of my friends, so I spoke very casually.

Donatas: At that time, as a second-year student, I helped organize the freshmen camp. As Indre mentioned, invitations were made as phone prank calls. It just so happened that this random call became the beginning of a beautiful story.

Indre: We first met in person at the freshmen camp in Aukstadvarys, when during a night orientation hike I recognized the same voice from the phone call. The next morning we properly got to know each other.

Donatas: I did not take our first conversation too

seriously, although we laughed about it the next day when we exchanged contacts.

Did you immediately go on your first date after that?

Indre: For the first year of acquaintance we kept in touch but only casually. We met at events and trainings, but did not go on official dates. However, after one such event we decided to try.

Donatas: I invited Indre to a concert for our first date. It seemed we agreed, but in the end we did not go, which slightly offended me. However, after a few months of silence we decided to have dinner together. That is how everything started.

Did you think this person would be "the one"?

Indre: I did not think so. I thought it would be a nice summer student romance. But that romance lasted quite long – this June it will be 12 years.

Donatas: I did not think about it that way. I tried to enjoy the moments we created together. And I still believe we should value moments and the process, not just the outcome.

How did your story continue?

Indre: We dated for two years when Donatas proposed to me in southern Italy and asked me to become his wife and build a family together. At that time, no one would have believed he would be one of the first among our friends to put a ring on his fiancée's finger.

Donatas: I only remember that I was very nervous, although I did not expect a negative answer. I had already informed both my and Indre's parents about my intentions – it was a big step and commitment for me.

Indre: We did not rush the wedding. We did not follow the tradition of marrying within a year after engagement. We wanted to finish our studies and start our careers first. The wedding took place in 2019, among family and friends. Many of the guests were people we met during our studies at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

What study programs did you choose?

Indre: In 2017 I earned a bachelor's degree in Entertainment Industries, and in 2022 I completed a master's degree in Communication of Creative Societies. I suggested Donatas continue studying as well.

Photos: from personal archive

Donatas: In 2016 I graduated from the Faculty of Fundamental Sciences, studying Information Systems. I did not plan to pursue a higher degree, but after some time I became a master of aviation management in 2022.

Did you have other activities at the university besides studies?

Indre: We both belonged to the student representation and worked in marketing committees. Donatas was one year ahead, so he worked in the central office, while I worked at the faculty level.

Donatas: During my bachelor studies I was heavily involved in student representation activities. We worked with the then president Dionis, represented students internally, and built connections with other universities' student organizations. Together with the team we organized various events such as Gediminas Days, the legendary VGTUSA, and International Students Day, which united students from all over Vilnius. For some of these we also received municipal awards. My time at VILNIUS TECH was not only full of warm memories but also friendships and connections I still value today.

I understand you found not only love but also many close friends at university.

Indre: Many of our closest friends are people we met at university. We celebrate important life events together. Our wedding witnesses were

from university, and our daughter's godfather is also from university.

Donatas: We have many friend couples who met at university, built families, and are now raising children. Greetings to all of them!

How do you live now? How has your love grown? What is your professional activity?

Indre: Our love has grown and became another person – our daughter Ula. That is what we live for now, striving to raise an empathetic but strong citizen of Lithuania. Who knows, maybe even a future VILNIUS TECH student.

Donatas: I currently develop a globally well-known sports brand in the Baltic region and am responsible for its expansion and image. After work I try to help Indre as much as possible. Before our daughter was born, she worked as an employer branding partner in a Lithuanian capital company.

Do you think university love really does not rust?

Indre: It rusts much less than school love. University brings maturity and responsibility, which are needed in relationships.

Donatas: In my opinion, university opens many doors not only academically but also socially. I am glad that our friends, like us, can confidently say that university love truly does not rust.

Do you feel sentimental about the university?

Indre: Yes, definitely. That is probably why we chose master's studies as well. Sometimes you miss the academic environment and the buildings. We even had our wedding photoshoot at VILNIUS TECH Kyviskes airfield.

Donatas: Of course, we have not only sentiments but also stories and lessons that stay with us. I am happy to share them with former lecturers, colleagues, and friends.

Finally, what would you wish for the VILNIUS TECH community?

Indre: To learn throughout life! Everyone, even professors, can learn something new and improve not only themselves but also the university and, most importantly, the students.

Donatas: I wish strong connections, community spirit, and continuous improvement. Cooperation and ambition are the driving force that proves we can achieve great things together if we truly want to.

> In my opinion, university opens many doors not only academically but also socially. I am glad that our friends, like us, can confidently say that university love truly does not rust.
>
> Donatas Juras

Internships That Transform Careers: From Experience in the U.S. to Startups

The success stories of our alumni and researchers, now spread across the globe and speak for us. Their journeys are a continuation of our story. Their achievements were shaped not only by the knowledge gained at the university, but also by the opportunities they took advantage of during their studies, which included scholarships and internships abroad.

Internship and exchange programs in the United States (USA) are strategically important for VILNIUS TECH, as they contribute to increasing the university's international visibility and improving the quality of studies as well as research. These programs also strengthen the university's reputation: participation in exchanges with US academic institutions demonstrates the university's openness and international credibility. This helps attract talented students, lecturers, additional funding for projects and other joint initiatives.

NASA

VILNIUS TECH is particularly proud that every year students leave for internships at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States. Students work on a wide range of projects at various facilities and divisions. This includes anything from developing satellite systems to creating sensors capable of monitoring astronauts' health in space. This type of experience opens doors to the world's leading technology companies and inspires them to create their own innovations. Below are the experiences and achievements of several alumni who completed internships at NASA.

Doc. dr. Laurynas Mačiulis

Photo from personal archive

Associate Professor Dr. Laurynas Maciulis, who studied Aviation Mechanical Engineering at the Antanas Gustaitis Aviation Institute (AGAI) and later earned his doctoral degree there, worked at the Ames Research Center in 2012, analyzing thermodynamics, flight dynamics, and heat transfer processes. Today, he leads the Lithuanian space and defense technology company Astrolight and shares his experience with the younger generation at AGAI.

Vytenis Buzas

Photography: J. Stacevicius

Another Aviation Mechanical Engineering student, Vytenis Buzas, also went to the Ames Research Center in 2012. He analyzed advanced nanosatellite propulsion systems and their applications for orbit maintenance and payload recovery. Today, Vytenis is the co-founder and CEO of the unmanned defense systems manufacturer UDS.

Thanks to Laurynas Maciulis and Vytenis Buzas, Lithuania became a spacefaring nation. They ini-

tiated and led the project of Lithuania's first satellite, LituanicaSAT-1, in 2014 and also co-founded the space technology company NanoAvionics.

Lukas Jakas Photo from personal archive

Lukas Jakas, who studied Aviation Mechanical Engineering at AGAI, completed an internship at the Ames Research Center in 2017. Most of his time there was spent conducting phased microphone array tests. He currently works as a freelance engineer, providing 3D modeling, design-for-manufacturing, project development, and related services to companies in the US market.

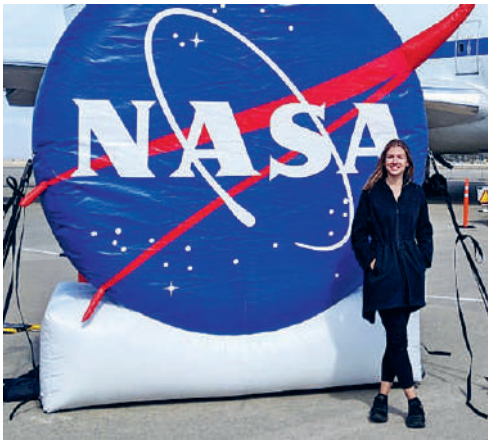
Julija Semenenko Photography: VILNIUS TECH

Julija Semenenko, who studied Engineering Informatics at the Faculty of Fundamental Sciences (FMF), went to NASA for an internship in 2016. Together with her team, she developed a mobile application for satellite monitoring that allows users to view all satellites orbiting Earth in real time.

Photo from personal archive

Narunas Kapocius, a Telecommunications Engineering student at the Faculty of Electronics, went to the Ames Research Center in 2017.

There, he contributed to the CHOMPTT 3U CubeSat space technology project and worked on CAD design, electronics development (PCB), data processing software, engineering simulations, and testing. He currently serves as Senior Engineering Project Manager at the cloud optimization platform Cast AI.



Justina Gineikytė Photo from personal archive

Justina Gineikyte, who studied Bioengineering at FMF, completed her internship in 2019 at the Ames Research Center's Nanotechnology Center, in the Biosensors Laboratory. Together with

her team, she worked on developing a sensor designed to measure human hydration levels.

She now works as a microfluidics engineer at the biotechnology startup Atrandi Biosciences, founded by scientists who returned to Lithuania from abroad.

The company recently secured a new USD 25 million investment from Lux Capital and other venture capital funds.

Paulina Draugelyte Photo from personal archive

Paulina Draugelyte, a graduate of the Aerospace Engineering Master's program at AGAI, contributed during her 2024 internship to the transformation of NASA infrastructure into modern unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) research and flight training facilities.

Her input also benefited scientific mission planning and other initiatives. These efforts included programs such as Smart Mobility, FireSense, ACERO, UTM, ATM-X, PAAV, and others. She is currently the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of a stealth startup.

BAFF

Another exceptional opportunity to gain professional experience in world-class companies is through a scholarship from the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation (BAFF), which enables participants to undertake internships at various US businesses, corporations, and organizations. Through these opportunities, students expand their professional networks and gain firsthand experience of American culture and lifestyle.

Dr. Agne Vaiciukeviciute

Photo: Ministry of Transport and Communications

One of the participants was Dr. Agne Vaiciukeviciute, an alumna of the Faculty of Business Management, who took advantage of this opportunity in 2019.

At the time, she was pursuing doctoral studies and completed a one-year internship at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Dr. Vaiciukeviciute taught at VILNIUS TECH for nearly ten years, served as a member of the Senate, worked as Vice Minister of Transport and Communications of Lithuania, and currently serves on the Vilnius City Council.

Photo from personal archive

Dr. Vytautas Tumulenas

In 2016, Civil Engineering alumnus Dr. Vytautas Tumulenas also completed an internship in the USA, working as a BIM/VDC Engineer at Skans-

ka. He now works at SRP Projektas, a transport infrastructure development company, where he serves as Head of the BIM Department.

Dr. Povilas Dabrila Photography: A. Jaunius

Another alumnus of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Dr. Povilas Dabrila, gained VDC professional experience during an internship at Skanska in 2024. He continues his research activities at VILNIUS TECH and serves as an advisor at the Lithuanian Armed Forces Defence Staff.

Povilas is also the founder of the construction process analysis company ReframeBIM.

In addition, he has been pursuing the rank of lieutenant through the Junior Officer Command Training Program (JKVM) for the past three years.

Fulbright Program

Scholarships and international internships are not only created for students but also for experienced researchers. The Fulbright Program is one of the world's most prestigious academic exchange and scholarship programs, funded annually by the United States to support researchers in conducting studies and carrying out professional projects. Recipients include Nobel Prize winners, heads of state, renowned scientists, artists, and entrepreneurs. VILNIUS TECH can proudly say that two of its researchers have received this unique opportunity.

Photo: VILNIUS TECH

Prof. Emeritus Dr. Habil. Gintaris Kaklauskas

The first was Professor Emeritus Dr. Habil. Gintaris Kaklauskas from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, who completed an internship at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1996. There, he carried out the project „An Inverse Physical Modeling Method for Cracked Reinforced Concrete in Tension Using Experimental Data from Reinforced Concrete Beams." The university offered him a permanent position, but the professor says he always wanted to live in Lithuania and work at his Alma Mater.

Photo: S. Bernotas

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Skirmante Mozuriunaite

In 2025, Associate Professor Dr. Skirmante Mozuriunaite from the Department of Urban Design at the Faculty of Architecture was awarded this prestigious scholarship. She went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to prepare a scientific monograph manuscript entitled Rebuilding Sustainable and Smart Cities After the War.