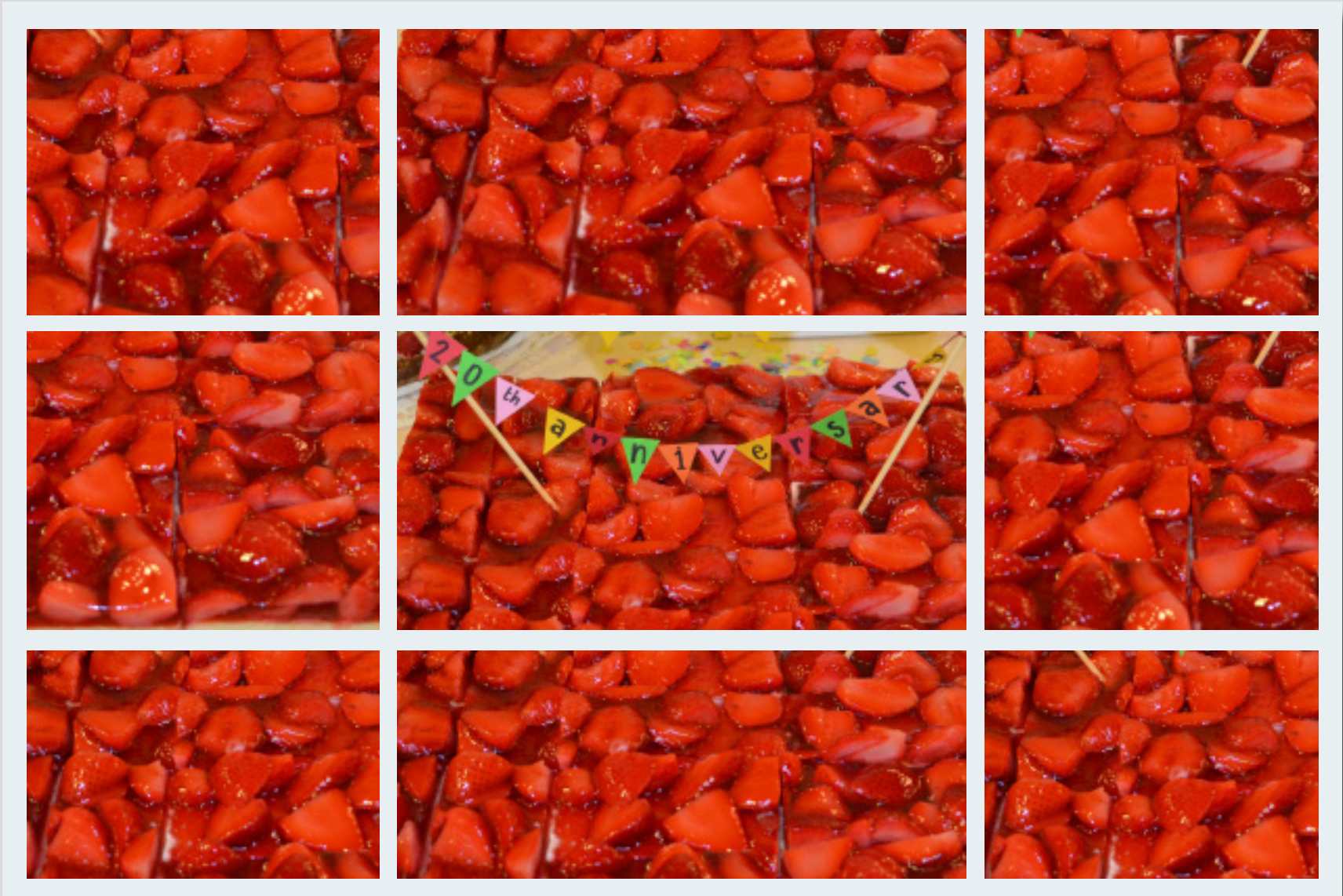


ENJOY

ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU



PUBLISHED ONLINE

EnJoY (English Journal for You)

JOURNAL ON STUDENT'S CREATIVITY

ISSN 1339-7370

PUBLISHED ONLINE:

Once a semester, twice a year

PUBLISHED BY:

Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies,
Faculty of Education,

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

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Take it easy!
EnJoy!

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Dear EnJoyers,

We are somewhere in the middle of the winter semester, the majority of the lectures are behind us and our minds are getting full of thoughts on upcoming exams.

Sounds horrible, I know, but don't worry, be happy and don't forget to EnJoy!

Enjoy "What happened" because it's still good to be informed about what's going on at our department.

Enjoy "CreARTivity" because life is better with art. Isn't it?

Enjoy "Interview" with a young American because you never know when a different thinking and life perception could open your mind.

Enjoy EnJoy :)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR KLIS HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Text by Viktória Štefeková

YES!!!! It happened. Our beloved department celebrated its 20th anniversary and we couldn't miss the opportunity to arrange a huge party. And let's be honest, it was the party of the year. I love these kinds of events when students, teachers and even different departments work together to create something amazing. The Department of Art was so kind as to lend us their gallery for our celebration.

Many talented students performed that day in various musical performances. A very interesting part was “the block of success” of the former students who had graduated either in the field of English Language and Culture or Teaching English Language and Literature. How many stairs do we have to climb to get to the classroom? Approximately how many steps do we have to take to reach the nearest bus stop? Or who has been teaching at the department from its beginnings? These were some of the challenging questions in a quiz which gave a hard time to the competing groups. We also had a raffle with amazing prizes to win but what I found the very best part of this party was the FOOD CONTEST—of course, you needed to taste everything. The winner was the most delicious raw chocolate cake brought by the former student Miška Kališová.

To sum up, everyone who wasn't there can regret it because we had a perfect time together; the food was excellent and the raffle prizes were worth the tickets :D.

So be sure not to miss our next wonderful event ;).

Viktória Štefeková



IN THE AFTERNOON

Sun shine through the windows of a tiny teashop, making the room feel warm and welcoming.

Accompanied by inaudible murmur of customers,
filled with happy chatting of a group of friends.

Followed by a petty laughter and a quite sipping of warm and sweet cup of lemon tea.

Three friends sharing a huge worn-out fluffy blanket,
hunched over a dusty wooden board game.

The soft sound of dice hitting the cardboard and flipping the cards can't interrupt the seady atmosphere of the room.

That' s the wonderful time spent at my tiny humble teashop on Sunday afternoon.

Patrícia Pastuchová



Picture sources: <https://unsplash.com/photos/qPQKd1tjdtE>

WALKING THROUGH A NIGHT FOREST

Misty dark, trapped in the silence,
cracking needles on the ground,
leaves rustling under my feet,
and occasional owl hooting.
The smell of air is fresh and crystal clear.
I breathe it and don't have enough.
Trees standing silently like soldiers in the dark,
and a moon-lighted fog trying to capture them.
The veil of lighters spreads over the trees on the sky,
like shining guards of the forest.
It is charming, it is mysterious, it is seductive.
It is the kingdom of the night.

Kristína Zátková



Photo sources:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/DV-Z0Wa8l98>

IMPRESSION POETRY

The last lights of the sun shine through the glass door of the room.
I encourage myself and slowly touch the handle. It is cold and steel.
The door squeaks as I open it and gets out of the way.
I make a step and my bare foot bogs down to the white fluffy rug.
I take a deep breath and enjoy the smell.
It is her smell. I can hear again her laugh and feel her warm embrace.
It is the first time I am here after her death.
A lonely tear falls down my cheek and suddenly I feel weak so I carefully sit on her bed.
There are still the same soft cotton sheets as always, her favourite.
I pick up myself together and whisper last goodbye.
It is time to leave, it is time to move on.
She would say that too.

Margaréta Jungová



Photo sources:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/ZC0EbdLC8G0>

RIDDLES

I flow like water through your life. Waves of my ocean, powerful and strong, rushing against tender walls. Living inside of your body I am here from everyone's first frosty breath which fulfil alive lungs. When years pass away I bite into skin and leave a scar in beauty. Precious but cruel in everyone I leave an eternal mark. I am fair and I never stop.

Hours, days and years – ticking in every piece of soul. My hands hugging your heart. Nails diving deeper and deeper into veins and mind. With very light touch I poison your blood and under my spell your bones can be weaker, colder. Until you fall onto the ground I am part of your life. The lively river flowing down, your last desire flies, beating dies and tips of fingers cannot ever yet touch the sky; I will tell you my last goodbye.

Patrícia Chudáčková

(The answer is: AGE)



Picture sources: https://unsplash.com/photos/y00Amd_COUM

I am bowing down to the ground.
Of my majestic dress I am so proud.
My body fully green and slim is enjoying the sun.

And my jewels gently and kind
are trying to touch the blue sky.

We are hiding if the weather is not fine.
Frosty bites of cruel wind can break our lively lines.
Shining beauty of mine is glowing brightly inside human's eyes.

I rise my head up against gold waves
which are flowing from ocean's sun.

Patrícia Chudáčková

(The answer is : FLOWER)

Always in a pair,
 to be without them you don't dare.
 Closed and you'r powerless,
 if you have them, it's a bless.
 Show you good and bad around,
 not connected to the sound.
 Always reflect truth not lies,
 of course, because they're your
 (EYES)

Margaréta Jungová

If you want the answer fast,
 don't pick me.

I will make the silence last,
 kids still keep on loving me.

I'm right in the middle
 of this tiny easy little riddle.

I make people kinda lost,
 they see me as a problem, too.
 Please, take a seat, I'll be your host
 am I still confusing you?

(The answer is: RIDDLE)

Patrícia Pastuchová

If you take me, you won't regret it,
 I can show you thousand worlds.
 No big magic, no smart tricks needed,
 I can charm only with words.

My words will get under your skin,
 I can make you smile or grin.
 You may be sad, maybe you'll cry.
 or over the moon you will fly.
 Maybe I can make you bored,
 don't allow it! O, dear Lord!

You like to hold me in your hands,
 then on the shelf you let me rest.
 I can say it, we're good friends,
 I'm your friend. The very best.

Please, don't judge me by my look,
 I am unpredictable, I am your.....
 (BOOK)

Kristína Zátková

COMPLAINTS FROM FAIRY-TALE CHARACTERS

Dear Mr Ollivander,

I am writing in order to complain about a magic wand I purchased in your branch in Diagon Alley last Full Moon.

I acquired this magical instrument in your shop as its history dates back to 382 BC and you are regarded to be a distinguished wandmaker. I believed the item I purchased to be a flawless product. However, I am forced to lodge a claim as the wand appears to give off sparks of pink colour, which detracts from my dignity when I face Lord Voldemort .

I believe you understand my agony and will deal with my complaint with all the seriousness it deserves. Please find enclosed the wand in question for a thorough scrutiny by an authorised expert.

I suggest a full refund to be sent to my account in Gringotts Wizarding Bank – Vault 687. Should this not be feasible, please deliver a replacement of the faulty product at your expense to the Gryffindor House of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry without delay.

Yours sincerely,
Harry Potter

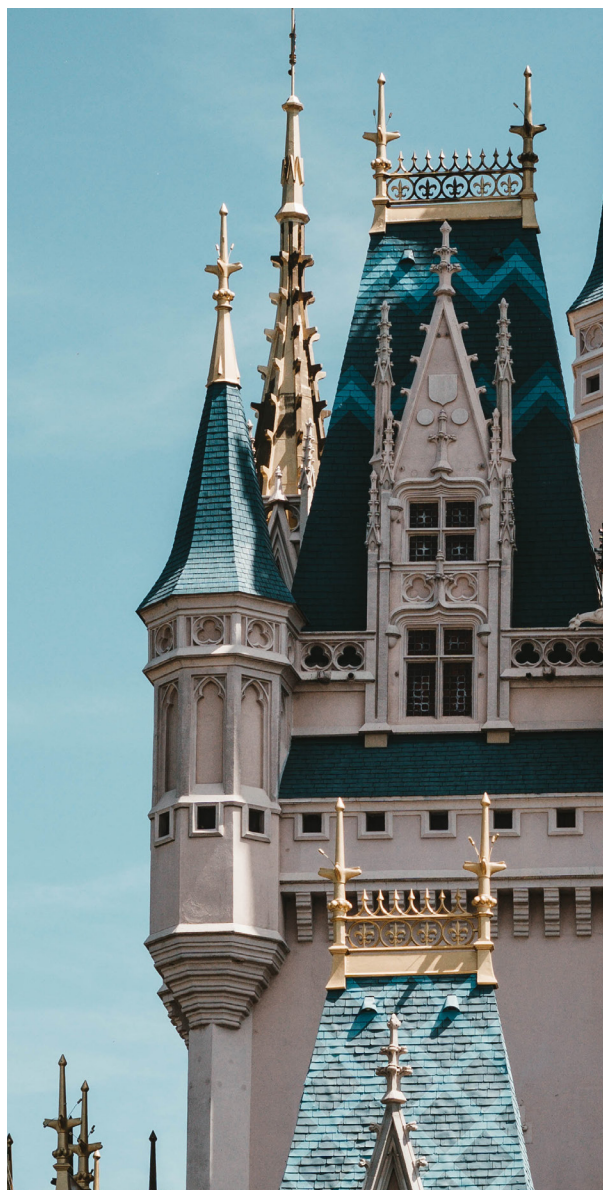
(Lenka Čileková, Katarína Devečková)

Dear Royal Family,

I am writing to you to complain about the royal prince—my future husband. It came to my attention that there appears to be a defect in his character qualities. It is the princess who is expected to love wearing the most beautiful dresses in the kingdom, not her husband. Recent events made me believe that the opposite is true. I would be grateful if you took appropriate action that would correct the error.

Yours sincerely,
Cinderella

(Renáta Antalová a Vierošlava Dyson)



Picture sources: <https://unsplash.com/photos/gJmEYe5Al9s>

Nitra English Speakers

Do you ever lie awake in your bed at night, contemplating life and wondering what it is like for an American to live in Nitra? Well, contemplate further but wonder no more! I had the opportunity to have a little chat with Tim, 26, an American born in California who is currently living in Nitra. He is the founder of the facebook page Nitra English Speakers, a community for all those who wish to speak, practice, or even learn English. We discussed what he likes or dislikes about Nitra, life in America, the FB page, his military experience with the U.S. army and so much more! Just read on and you might find an answer to something you didn't even know you had a question for.



How did you end up living in Nitra?

I was moving around the US for a while and after the military I never really settled down anywhere so I started this huge plan to go on an adventure around the world. I was in France and I got an e-mail about working in a hostel here in Nitra. I told myself "Okay, I've never been to Slovakia, so yes, I'll go." and I got stuck here almost two years later (laughs). I just fell in love with this town.

What was your first impression when you came here?

First time when I came here, I got off the bus and I took the backroads to Bratislavská. So my first sight of Nitra was walking the railroad tracks from the bus station to Bratislavská where the hostel is, looking around and wondering "Oh my God, what did I do?" (laughs). But then I saw more of Nitra and I got to know more. I'm in one

of the oldest cities in Europe right now. There is a castle! (laughs). I just love the environment, the people and everything. It's amazing here.

Have you experienced any problem with the language barrier?

I am getting very good at what I call "Tesco Slovak". I can go to a store and you probably won't realize I'm an American. I can go through the whole transaction or do small business things in Slovak. I can listen to a conversation and know what's going on. I can't speak it though.

What do you like the most about the city?

My absolute favorite thing is to wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning on a Sunday morning, walk outside and just listen. You will not hear a single sound. That amazes me. On the other hand, it's a little bit annoying when I wake up in the morning and I have no idea that it's a holiday. You get ready to go to a store, and then you walk around the entire town and then realize "I have to go to a gas station." That is probably the only thing I don't like about this place but it's also the same thing that I love about it.

Do you have any favorite places you go to?

I would say anywhere with the age. There is a little church on Párovská. It's like a thousand years old and it's just sitting there. I'm like "Wait! Somebody put this brick here a thousand years ago and I can touch it? I'm just waiting for the police to show up." (laughs). I love everything about the history of this town. I feel like a little boy in a candy shop. We might be sitting in a building right now where parts of it are older than my country and people just walk right by as it's just nothing. It's so part of the culture. It's always a bit of excitement I can give somebody who's lived here for a long time, because the way I talk about it they're like "Wait a minute. I do live under a castle!" (laughs). And then they realize it's pretty cool. I hate to put it in terms of the

military but there is always a little piece of a machine, we call it the “Jesus pin”. You never know that he is there until he’s gone, because your machine won’t work. Nitra is that little Jesus pin of Europe. Without Nitra, the entire history of Europe would be completely different and not many people around here really grasp the importance of that. You live in a city that made Europe in a way.

Could you compare life in Slovakia and life in America?

I would say Americans are very lucky. We get our passport as a golden ticket to the world. All of the infrastructure and services are so in place where people almost get this feeling of “I deserve it. I don’t have to do anything.” At the same time, Americans don’t think they have anything. That is why they’re always fighting for more, when they’re not doing any more. In Slovakia, everybody is so hard-working for what they have. Working two jobs and going to school. That is something you do with a smile. That is something Americans would have to try really hard to smile about. Also, I see a more respected culture here where people are not gonna cause a scene or interrupt someone’s day. I found a city that I never want to leave again.

So you don’t think about moving back sometime?

No. I’ve lived all over the US and nowhere I felt the same amount of home as I felt in the army, until I got to Nitra. Here you form bonds with people in society with traditions and culture. I come from society that is completely built on spending money. We’re missing the human connection in the US. For example Christmas. In the US, it is not a family holiday anymore. It’s purely commercial holiday. Most people just send presents to family and don’t even talk to them. They don’t have dinner, they don’t sit down.

In the movies, we always see these great family gatherings.

You have to think of the US as 50 countries. Every state has its own culture; they have their own laws, and so on. In order to have that kind of feeling down in the South with a white family, it means you were a rich white family a few hundred years ago. And that means you came out of a slave owning family. These are the types of people that have had a couple of hundred years to establish that kind of family, so they can throw this big party once a year. But that is definitely not a common thing in the US. It's a tradition that only a select few can keep.

Don't you miss multiculturalism?

I do. I miss it very much. Actually, my first day in Nitra I met an American from California. I went to my first day to work at the hostel in Nitra and I met a guy who grew up an hour away from me (laughs). California is just like New York in how multicultural it is where you don't even think about race anymore. I grew up in a black neighborhood. I grew up around all these different cultures. One of my friends growing up was Czech. My best friend was Arab. He was a Sunni Muslim from Iran. On the site note, when you're in Iraq, you make friends with Iraqis. You learn about the complicated Sunni – Shia relations, the different tribes. There is a tribal system over there where people trace back their tribe 2000 years. In Arab culture - Iraq, Saudi Arabia – those borders are white people borders. In the brain of an Arab they don't exist. They're fighting over religion and so on, but when we're playing soccer, nobody cares (laughs). When we come to a village, the first thing we do is we build a soccer field, because we wanna be friends. After that we're eating dinner with the sheikh and his son. It's completely different from what everybody thinks. I was there five years ago and I still have friends over there that I talk to. Our countries are fighting each other, but we're friends.

Tell us a little about the Nitra English Speakers facebook page.

It's mostly about support between Slovak and English. If you only speak English, but you don't speak Slovak, you can contact us and we can call you a taxi. We can find a store that might have something you need, if you're new to the region. On the flip side, if you don't speak English, and you really wanna take that trip to the US or Canada, I would be more than glad to sit down and fill out the visa application. That's the dream of it.

Do people often contact you for help?

Not that often. People come to me when the finals are coming up, or when someone has a speech to prepare, I can make a recording of a proper pronunciation. I've done that a few times. Usually people want help with job applications. They send me their CV and since I'm writer, too, I put it into this magical business language of America.

Every week you also organize meetings. How many people come to these events?

Around 7-8 people. It goes up and down. If it's bad weather, maybe 1 or two. If it's a good night and there is some event in town, we have 20. I can never predict it. Especially with the facebook event. People say they're going, people don't say they're going and then you'll find everybody that said they're not going is going and everybody who said they're going is not going (laughs). People just dip in and out throughout the night. So it might look like our table has 5 people, but we've had 20 through the night.

You also said you're a writer. What do you write?

Non-fiction. Mostly ghostwriting. California is full of ghostwriters. Majority of my job was for local newspapers. These writers have 20 different articles that they have to write in a day. What I do is I reread something that he wrote and I get his style.

Out of the 20 articles the guy has to write that day, he probably sold 19 of them to somebody else. I get the money. He gets the credit. I am not looking to be famous. If somebody ruled the world, I would never want it to be me. I would want to be the guy right to the side just saying “No, that’s a bad idea. Yeah, that’s a good idea.” That’s the job I want (laughs).

This way, once again I’d like to thank Tim for the interview. Is there anything more you’d like to know? Or are you just bored on a Thursday evening? In that case, don’t hesitate, make sure to check the facebook page and drop by at one of the many events they organize.

Natália Šovčíková

ISSN 1399-7370

PUBLISHED ONLINE

PUBLISHED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES,
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
CONSTANTINE THE PHILOSOPHER UNIVERSITY IN NITRA

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