Revuo Esperanto, the monthly journal of the Universal Esperanto Association

Esperanto and universities. The main cover story of the March issue of Revuo Esperanto is devoted to the situation of Esperanto courses in universities and the need to rethink the utility of Esperanto by arguments of 2014, not 1887. It addresses the different reasons why students might study Esperanto: some out of idealism, others for practical reasons (one of which today is making it easier to learn a second major language such as English). Arguments from various people on the success and lack thereof of efforts to introduce Esperanto into university curricula are covered. Among those contributing here are Mireille Grosjean of Switzerland, Sun Mingiao and Wu Guojian of China, Arjang Azarfarzan of Iran, and Vicente Sales of Brazil. The article concludes that Esperanto needs different arguments for different target groups on why learning Esperanto could be advantageous to them.

Esperanto, Nationalism and the Great War. This article discusses the evils of nationalism in the light of the First World War, whose hundredth anniversary arrives this summer, and its continuation in the Second World War, and the related problems we see today. The author refers particularly to the reaction of Zamenhof, the founder of Esperanto, who foresaw some of the disastrous results of the changing of the map of Europe by the victorious powers after the First World War.

Nicaragua: An international Esperanto congress. This past January saw the first international congress of Esperanto in Nicaragua. The meeting was held in the city of Granada on the western shore of Lake Nicaragua. The meeting was preceded by three Esperanto courses in Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, the last of which was held in January 2014 and consisted of a three-week intensive course of six hours instruction each day under the guidance of Julian Hernandez Angulo. Students came from Costa Rica as well as Nicaragua. Before the congress, Martin Schaeffer and Uriel Gurdian were interviewed on local radio about a new course of Esperanto beginning in February of this year. A simple response method that was set up resulted in 40 students signing up for the course in the first half hour after the broadcast. The congress was attended by people from 12 countries.

Poland: Interlinguistics sessions in Poznan. Participants from ten countries took part in this February’s session of the Interlinguistics Program at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. The programme is a non-residential three-year course of study, in which students visit Poznan for short intensive courses at intervals during their studies. The lectures of Prof. Humphrey Tonkin (USA) on the current Esperanto movement were open to the public. The country most strongly represented was Brazil, followed by Poland itself, and then Switzerland, France and Germany. Russia, Hungary, Japan, Korea, and Portugal
were also represented. In addition Professor Tonkin lectured on language and communication rights to the Institute of Linguistics.

**Brazil: Esperanto group prepares new annual publication “Yearbook of the Esperantist Economy.”** The Brazilian organization Intraespo (World Organization for the Development of the Esperantist Economy) plans to publish a year book to be known as *JAREE – Jarlibro de la Esperantista Ekonomio*. The first issue is planned for March 2014. Anyone involved in or with information on an enterprise that makes use of Esperanto in its operations is invited to contact jaree@intraespo.org.

**Germany: The 2015 International Youth Congress (IJK 2015) to be held in Wiesbaden.** Tina Tisljar, who is in charge of congresses for the Esperantist youth organization—TEJO— has announced that the 2015 congress will be held in Wiesbaden (following the Jubilee World Congress of Esperanto in Lille, France). The Wiesbaden congress will be organized by the Esperanto youth organizations of Germany and Italy. This year’s TEJO congress will take place in Fortaleza, Brazil.

**Russia: Spring in the Ural Mountains.** EsPrimo – “Esperantista primavero” is a traditional two or three day regional gathering of Esperantists from the Urals and Western Siberia in central Russia. This year will be the ninth edition of this gathering and will gather 440 Esperantists from five countries. This year the gathering will take place in the main city of the Urals, Ekaterinburg.

**Esperanto and universities: The Amsterdam conference and its proposals.** This article focuses on a conference held in Amsterdam in July of 2008 attended by fifty representatives from thirty universities where Esperanto or interlinguistics were being taught. The participants represented 23 countries. The discussions were on three main subjects: 1. Study programs and course material for Esperanto and interlinguistics; 2. Exchanges among professors and students; 3. Extending and strengthening existing programs. Those taking part came up with 24 conclusions dealing with these subjects and the present full-page article discusses these conclusions and how they could be the basis of further positive developments for the Esperanto movement. A further conference is being planned for the year 2015.

**Esperanto and universities: Questions to university professors.** Revuo Esperanto put a series of questions to two European professors of interlinguistics and Esperanto, Federico Gobbo of the University of Amsterdam, and Detlev Blanke, retired from Humboldt University, Berlin, relating to the arguments for Esperanto in the period of its development and today. The main arguments of the formative moments were matters of idealism and world peace. Today the arguments have shifted to human rights, linguistic rights, and
facilitating the learning of other languages. The professors also noted the lack of scientific study of the problems of international communication and international languages. Dr. Blanke notes that interested and capable students can fairly easily learn Esperanto through the internet or other means without needing college classes as such, although supplements such as intensive weekend courses would be welcomed.

**Summer Esperanto Study (SES) expands from Slovakia to Russia and looks ahead.**
The SES program is now relatively well known in Europe at least. The last session had more than 200 participants from more than 20 countries. Up to now, the programme has always been held in Slovakia, but now, in collaboration with the Esperanto Club of Moscow, the sessions will also be held in the Moscow suburbs. The Moscow programme will also include an opportunity to study Russian. The SES sessions are an outgrowth of the website for learning Esperanto, lernu.net.

**Croatia: Mardi Gras parade.** A Croatian Esperanto Mardi Gras group was part of the Carnival Parade in Rijeka, Croatia, at the beginning of March.

**Esperanto calendar.** A calendar of Esperanto gatherings around the world provides Esperanto speakers (or learners) with more than fifty separate opportunities to enjoy a week or more with fellow Esperanto speakers in different parts of the world ranging from many countries of Europe and the Americas to China. Included is a special calendar of events at Esperanto’s Chateau Grésillon in France.

**The sustainable way.** Mark Fettes, the President of the Universal Esperanto Association discusses in this full-page presentation the natural affinity of the Esperanto movement with other movements for a sustainable world. He calls for showing how Esperanto can bring about a society in which each language truly has a place and is not merely tolerated, and in which smaller languages are not gradually extinguished.

**A questionnaire about Esperanto in Africa.** An interview with Jean Codjo, one of the leaders of the African Commission of the UEA, gives his ideas on what needs to be done to speed the growth of Esperanto in Africa. One of the main problems there is that, unlike Europe and other developed areas, it is difficult for people to volunteer their time and efforts for the Esperanto movement if they are struggling to make a living. He feels that Esperanto should become a regular school subject, as is the case in a few centres in Togo and Benin, so that those providing the instruction are at least receiving part of their salary for teaching the language. He also says that some outside help from Esperanto sources in other countries on a temporary basis is needed to push things forward. The continuation of any such help, he feels, should be based on measurable results of the help provided. And
Africans themselves should contribute to the organizations’ expansion to the extent that they can so that they are eventually self-supporting.

**Rock band Amplifiki: Historic reappearance of Pioneers.** This article is devoted to a popular Esperanto rock-band which produced a number of recordings during the late 80's and early 90's and which is now preparing a one-time reappearance at this year's IJF (International Youth Festival) in Castelsardo, Italy. After the disbanding of the original group some of its members formed other Esperanto bands such as “Persone” and “Esperanto Desperado.”