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23rd Baltic Chemistry Olympiad's newspaper
Issue 1(4)

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23rd Baltic Chemistry Olympiad will be held on April 24-26, 2015 in Daugavpils, Latvia
(55°52'30"N 26°32'8"E)

Olympiad is organized by University of Daugavpils in collaboration with University of Latvia
(Faculty of Chemistry) and Joint Stock Company "OlainFarm".



University of Daugavpils
<http://du.lv/en>



University of Latvia
<http://www.lu.lv/eng/>



JSC OlainFarm
<http://olainfarm.lv/en/>

Motto of 23rd Baltic Chemistry Olympiad is same as motto of Olympiad hosts University of Daugavpils
Scientia Vincet which means "Through knowledge you win".

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About Daugavpils

Daugavpils is a city in southeastern Latvia, located on the banks of the Daugava River, from which the city gets its name. Daugavpils literally means "Daugava Castle". With a population of over 100,000, it is the second largest city in the country after the capital Riga, which is located some 230 kilometres to its north-west. Daugavpils has a favorable geographical position as it borders Belarus and Lithuania (distances of 33 km and 25 km respectively). Daugavpils is a major railway junction and industrial centre. The city is surrounded by many lakes and nature parks.

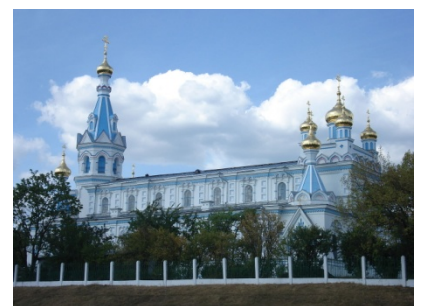
The town's history began in 1275 when the Livonian Order built Dünaburg castle 20 km up the Daugava river from where Daugavpils is now situated. In 1561 it became part of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth (Duchy of Livonia) but in 1577 the Russian tsar Ivan the Terrible captured and destroyed Dünaburg castle. That same year, a new castle was built 20 km downriver. In the 17th century, during the Russo–Swedish War initiated by Tsar Alexis of Russia, the Russians captured Daugavpils, renamed the town Borisoglebsk and controlled the region for 11 years, between 1656 and 1667 when Russia returned the area to Poland following the Treaty of Andrusovo (1667).

After the first partition of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1772 Daugavpils (Dünaburg) became part of Russian Empire. As part of the Russian Empire the city was called Dvinsk from 1893 to 1920. The newly independent Latvian state renamed it Daugavpils in 1920. Latvians, Poles and Soviet troops fought the Battle of Daugavpils in the area from 1919 to 1920. Daugavpils and the whole of Latvia was under the Soviet Union rule between 1940–41 and 1944–1991, while Germany occupied it between 1941 and 1944. The Nazis established the Daugavpils Ghetto where the town's Jews were forced to live.

Daugavpils is an important cultural center in eastern Latvia. More than 500 teachers and engineers graduate from Daugavpils University (previously Daugavpils Pedagogical University) and the local branch of Riga Technical University annually.

There are also several architectural, historical, and cultural monuments in Daugavpils. The most prominent is the Daugavpils fortress. It is the only early 19th century military fortification of its kind in Northern Europe that has been preserved without significant alterations. Planning of the fortress began in 1772 by decree of Tsar Alexander I of Russia. Construction of the fortress, despite lengthy delays, serious floodings and slow construction work, was completed in 1878. In 1812, the fortress was attacked by the French Army of 24 000 men. The fortress was still under construction and was defended by 3300 men and 200 cannons but French Army was not able to conquer it. Daugavpils Fortress was the place of rest for many nobles including tsars Alexander I, Nicolas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Russia's last tsar Nicolas II.

In 2013 Mark Rothko Art centre was opened in fortress. *Mark Rothko* (1903-70) was an American painter of Russian Jewish descent. He was born in Daugavpils, but at the age of ten he emigrated to United States. He is generally identified as an Abstract Expressionist and he is considered as one of the most famous postwar American artists.



DAUGAVPILS

University of Daugavpils



University of Daugavpils, main building Vienības street 13

Daugavpils University (DU) is a public university in Daugavpils, Latvia, and the largest regional university in the country. DU was founded in 1921 as Teachers' seminary. In 2001, Daugavpils University received its' present name. Daugavpils University has become the biggest state educational institution in Eastern Latvia, which offers to achieve higher education of all scientific grade.

There are five faculties in Daugavpils University - Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Faculty of Music and Arts and Faculty of Education and Management. DU has an advantage to be located in multicultural environment. University cooperates with various institutions worldwide. Students of Daugavpils University have many opportunities to study and practice abroad, getting an extra experience and a new view on their knowledge.

Nature science and technology study centre on Parādes street 1A was opened in August 2014. It was constructed using European Fund money. There are chemistry, physics, biotechnology, hydroecology and hystology study and research facilities in mentioned study centre.

DU also operates teaching site at Ilga Manor. It is located 25 km southeast of Daugavpils near the Belarusian border. Manor was built in 1890, renovation of the building was completed in 2012 with the help of a grant from the European Funds.



Nature science and technology study centre (2nd and 3rd building of DU), Parādes street 1



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Photos from Nature science and technology study centre



Nature science and technology study centre (view from Daugava river side) and chemistry laboratory



Chemistry laboratory where Practical task of 23rd Baltic Chemistry Olympiad will take place



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Bellow pictures showing interior views in manor



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Friday, April 24

12:00 - 13:00	Arrival and registration
13:00 - 13:40	Lunch
13:50 - 14:15	Opening ceremony
14:30 - 18:30	Practical Examination (4h), two practical problems
18:45 - 19:30	Dinner
19:30	Transfer to Ilga manor

Saturday, April 25

8:30	Breakfast
9:15 - 14:15	Theoretical Examination (5h), six theoretical problems
9:00 - 14:30	Mentors' excursion to Daugavpils, lunch and return to Ilga manor
14:30 - 18:30	Lunch, student expedition in Ilga manor park
19:00	Dinner and "Chemical party"

Sunday, April 26

8:30	Transfer to Daugavpils
9:00	Breakfast and free time
12:00-12:30	Closing ceremony
13:00	Dinner
14:00	Departures



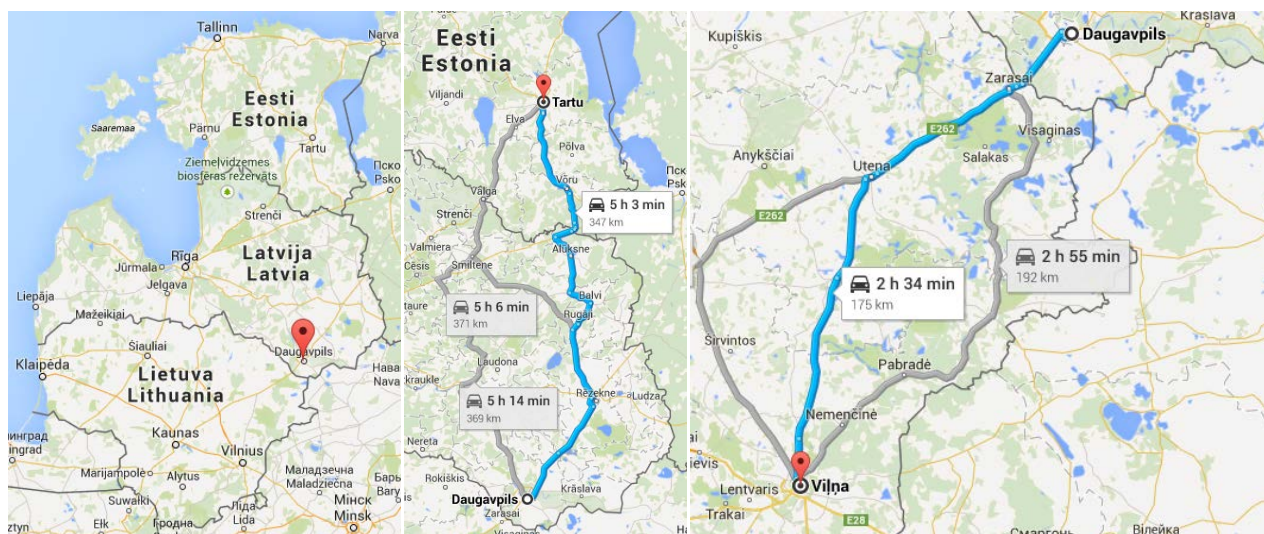
Idea about 23rd Baltic Chemistry Olympiad was born during meeting between lecturer Sergejs Osipovs (DU, Department of Chemistry) and Kaspars Veldre (LU, Faculty of Chemistry) in October 2014

Travel to Daugavpils

Daugavpils is situated on crossroads of railway lines from Belarus to Riga and Ventspils ports and from St.Petersburg in Russia to Vilnius in Lithuania. There is also main car roads from Riga to Minsk and from Vilnius to Rēzekne and further to Russia going through and around Daugavpils. Distance from capital city Riga is approximately 220 km and it takes 3-4 hours going from Riga to Daugavpils by train or by car. Train ticket one way from Riga to Daugavpils costs approximately 7 EUR.



Daugavpils railway station



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