

UHK Annually

2019/2020



**60 years of
the University
of Hradec Králové**

1959-2019

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The University of Hradec Králové celebrated its 60th anniversary

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

The Institute of Education of the University of Hradec Králové was opened on September 1, 1959, and its purpose was to educate and train future primary school teachers. The year 2019 was characterised by celebrations as this institutional predecessor of the University of Hradec Králové as we know it today was founded 60 years ago. It did not take long for the Institution to find its place amongst Czech and international universities worldwide. On this occasion, we bring you an interview with UHK's fourth rector, Kamil Kuča, in the preface of this year's UHK Annually.

Mr Kuča, last year, the University celebrated the 60th anniversary of its institutional predecessor. Of what significance is that to you? You have been a member of the academic world for a long time. In what condition is the sixty-year-old University of Hradec Králové?

Since its foundation sixty years ago, the University of Hradec Králové has developed into a respected university and it is well established among the public universities in the Czech Republic. Nonetheless, we should humbly admit, that the University of Hradec Králové will never be as well known as Charles University or Masaryk University, as we will never draw level with their historical experience. But I trust and believe that

as the years go by, we will fairly rival these traditional institutions.

Do you think that a regionally-based university like ours can compete with traditional, established universities?

Even though we are a small, and I like saying *family*, university, studying here is incredible and very beneficial to everyone involved. Teachers often know students by name. I, for example, like meeting up with students on a regular basis. Unlike tutors and lecturers at other, bigger, universities, we take up a much more individual approach to students and that's why, in my mind, we can provide our students with a sounder education and training. We talk to our students, we meet

up with them and we support their ideas and activities.

Even though we are regionally-based university, we have to admit that we have got global ambitions.

The University's global ambitions go, without a doubt, hand in hand with how far the UHK has internationalised. Is internationalisation still a priority?

Internationalisation is a road that the University of Hradec Králové must take. Not only in terms of it being an important indicator when it comes to budgeting and income, from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, for instance. I like to explain the concept by retelling the Czech fairy tale about Honza. He too had to go out into the big wide world to gain experience and skills that he would otherwise not have found back home. In the same way, real-life students have to go abroad to gain international know-how and we must do all we can to support them in their efforts. And I do not agree with the idea that we should send our students only to countries with stronger economies. On the contrary, our students learn and gain more valuable skills of the same importance in countries and regions that taking into account basic economic indicators are far behind the Czech Republic.

Are our students aware of this? Are they, in your opinion, making the most of being able to visit and study at international partner universities?

I must say that as the Rector I am very happy with the way things are going, even though, of course, there is always room for improvement. When it comes to the number of students travelling abroad to study, the latest figures show that, in absolute terms, the University of Hradec Králové ranks amongst the top ten universities in the Czech Republic. Converting the numbers into actual students, it may be noted that we are one of the most active

universities in the Czech Republic, let's say we rank amongst the top 3, in both our students studying abroad and international students studying at the UHK. The very fact that more and more international students want to study at the UHK tells us that the UHK is an attractive choice and that people abroad know about us.

I understand that internationalisation is one of the top priorities for the UHK. What about other priorities?

Those would, without a doubt, be science and research. Here too we are getting better and better. Not only with regards to the number of very good scientific publications, but also with regards to the increased number of projects that we have applied for and won. A few years ago, we only had a handful of projects per year. Today, if I correctly recall the latest figures, we are working on almost 50 projects, and that is a tremendous increase. Besides, the projects are often worth tens of millions of Czech korunas, which I think is confirmation enough that our institution is a good institution. This also confirms my experience as a scientist, as my foreign colleagues contact me more frequently with the wish to cooperate with us.

During your first term of office, university-wide areas of research were established at the UHK. Why were they set up and what is their purpose?

The idea again comes from the experience that I gained at renowned universities abroad. The probability that we are going to make radical discoveries in the fields that the UHK specialises in, like mathematics, physics or even medical biology, is slim. Nonetheless, we can contribute in terms of multidisciplinary of research. The likelihood that more will be achieved in the area of research may essentially be due to the fact that it is based on multiple scientific disciplines and trends; put simply, more scientists specialising in various fields of interest are coming together to find comprehensive solutions. This logic is then

reflected in the creation of university-wide areas of research – in fact, all three of them (Editor's note: Healthy Ageing and Quality of Life, Security and Sustainable Development in Digital Society, and New Challenges in Education) are associated not only with the faculties, but also with the individual branches of study that our University offers. The fact that we are going in the right direction is supported by other national universities originally not interested in identifying areas of research now doing just that. I recently noticed that Masaryk University has followed in our footsteps and has decided to identify Age as one of its areas of research. So it is clear that even a regionally-based university has enough pull to significantly influence and set trends in research.



Now, can you think of any area that the University is behind in?

Unfortunately, yes. University workers. Including academic and research staff, and technical and administration staff. When I took up my function as rector, I essentially needed to kick-start those indicators which directly affect the financing of universities, particularly internationalisation and science, which is going well. Now I want to

concentrate on our people. On those that make the UHK a university.

My objective is to ensure that our employees are happy and that they will contribute to make the institution a better place.

It was unfortunate when in 2019 the University of Hradec Králové decided to withdraw its application for institutional accreditation. Why did the management board make the decision?

It may seem like a paradox, but the fact that we acted on the opinion of the National Accreditation Authority and decided to withdraw the application may well benefit the University from within. As feedback, it confirmed that some of the processes in place at the UHK must be radically changed, while new processes need to be introduced, and most importantly – we established the Procurement Office, which is going to set and monitor these processes. Now we have sufficient feedback that will help us put together a new application for institutional accreditation. We also have more time to make the necessary preparations. And I am convinced that in the next few years the University of Hradec Králové will have the dignity and capacity to receive institutional accreditation.

I would like to ask about the changing conditions regarding the evaluation of higher education institutions, particularly Methodology 17+. How is the UHK adapting to these new evaluation frameworks?

First allow me to note that, like other higher education institutions, the UHK just simply has to adapt. It is in this regard and in respect to emerging rules affecting Methodology 17+

that we introduced the Bonus for Quality system at the University (Editor's note: *Prémie pro kvalitu*, abbreviated PPK). And so we have been preparing the University for changes in evaluation over the past three years. This university budgeting motivation system has already produced its first initial outcomes, specifically in terms of the publications in the Q1 or the said internationalisation, which is also very much taken into consideration in the evaluation.

Let's briefly talk about a practical topic – investments into the infrastructure of the UHK. What awaits us in the years to come?

One of our most extensive investment projects is, without a doubt, the complete rebuilding of the Faculty of Education and the Philosophical Faculty in Svoboda Square. Even though our academic staff and students will certainly have to deal with some discomfort, I am convinced that the outcome is worth the while. And after all the excitement has played down and everyone is back at their desks in the new buildings, I want to have everyone and everything slowly moved from rented premises that we don't own; we're paying high tenancies. And finally, what concerns the Na Soutoku Campus – we need to initiate more intensive negotiations with the the Municipality of Hradec Králové and possibly also with the Regional Authority so that these institutions become a convincing partner in the development of the infrastructure of the University, without which neither the Municipality of Hradec Králové nor the Regional Authority could be labelled as academic.

I would like to balance one more important thing, the so-called third role of the University. How are we doing?

I think that we're doing very well. People are aware of the University of Hradec Králové thanks to the conferences and forums it organises and the clubs and societies it runs; it contributes to the development of the community. The UHK pursues important events, such as remembering the self-immolation of

Jan Palach in 1969 or the Velvet Revolution of 1989 – a series of events attended by thousands of people have gained the UHK a sound reputation. As part of the UHK's social responsibility I would like us to focus on further topics – let's be more active in discussions concerning environmental protection, improving quality of life and Industry 4.0. We must be a trustworthy partner to Czech society, who brings forth matter-of-fact and scientific arguments in shaping public opinion. It's definitely better than if various media groups or political parties and movements were to be involved.

The faculty deans have voiced their thoughts in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the University of Hradec Králové. I would like to give you the same opportunity in the conclusion of this interview.

When I took up the job at the University of Hradec Králové a long time ago, my colleagues from other universities used to make fun of me noting that I took up a job with *Oxford Na Soutoku*. I have not forgotten and I wish the University of Hradec Králové on the occasion of its 60th anniversary that, as a regionally-based higher education institution, it continues to educate its students well, that it be scientifically strong and ambitious on an international level so that it is deserving of the title *Oxford Na Soutoku*. Oxford, Cambridge or Harvard – these are no big megalomaniac universities. Qualified people make really good science there and they educate and train excellent students in a sound environment.

Simply put, the size of a university does not show how good it actually is. So let us not be frightened by such talk in the years to come.

Date of interview: December 17, 2019


An overview of the deans and rectors ranging from the Institute of Education up to the University of Hradec Králové


Institute of Education (1959–1964) – Director:

 Karel Angelis

The Faculty of Education in Hradec Králové (1964–1992) – Dean:


 Karel Angelis
(1964–1968)


 Josef Švarc
(1976–1985)

 Josef Kittler
(1968–1969)

 Olga Ducháčková
(1986–1989)

 Karel Angelis
(1969–1971)

 Jindřich Hellberg
(1990–1991)

 Jaroslav Máslo
(1971–1972)

 Oldřich Richterek
(1991–1992)

 František Krejčí
(1972–1976)

College of Education in Hradec Králové (1992–2000) – Rector:

 Oldřich Richterek
(1992–1996)


 Pavel Cyrus
(1996–2000)

University of Hradec Králové (since 2000) – Rector:

 Pavel Cyrus
(2000–2002)

 Josef Hynek
(2008–2016)

 Jaroslava Mikulecká
(2002–2008)

 Kamil Kuča
(since 2016)

The good wishes of the UHK faculty deans in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the UHK

doc. PhDr. MgA. František Vaníček, Ph.D.

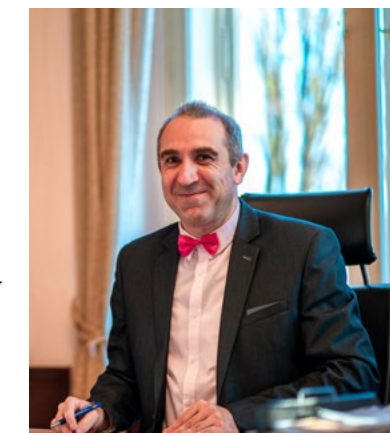
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Cordial greetings from the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové at Svoboda Square, where the Institute of Education was established 60 years ago. Its mission was to train future teachers. Five years after being founded, the Institute of Education was transformed into the Faculty of Education in accordance with the law. And since then, the Faculty of Education has run strong. If today we are commemorating the 60th anniversary of the legal predecessor of the entire university, we are also commemorating the still most important mission of this higher education institution – 60 years of academic teacher training. And so, it is also our Faculty's anniversary. We celebrated it in March 2019 as part of the Social Evening hosted by the Faculty of Education. We take great pride in joining the celebrations. We are happy to say that the interior of the historical building of the Institute of

Education in which the Dean's Office is now located will soon undergo the necessary repairs and that it will once again shine bright!

I wish the University of Hradec Králové and our Faculty of Education many successful years to come, plenty of applicants, talented students and qualified graduates and a plenitude of happy and motivated educators.

Long live the *First Faculty Lady* – the Faculty of Education and the University of Hradec Králové!



prof. RNDr. Josef Hynek, MBA, Ph.D.

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

Sixty years have passed since the Institute of Education was founded in Hradec Králové and our school, our students and our employees have lived half of that time in freedom. I wish the number of years our *alma mater* and all of us live in freedom increase every year by the number one and may these years be filled with happiness and success.



- { } University of Hradec Králové
- {*} University of Hradec Králové Faculty of Education
- {=} University of Hradec Králové Faculty of Informatics and Management
- {...} University of Hradec Králové Philosophical Faculty
- {~} University of Hradec Králové Faculty of Science

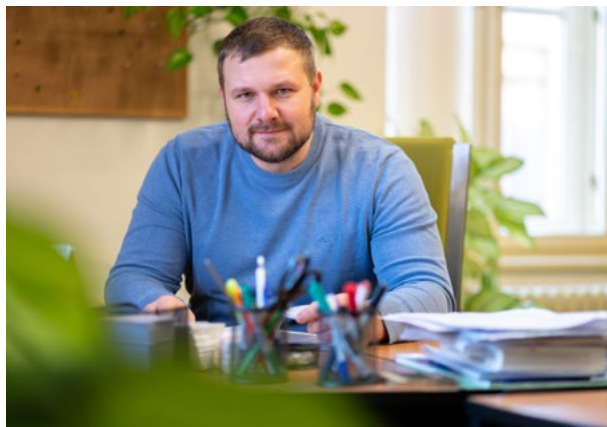
* Faculty of Management and Informational Technology till 2000
 ** Faculty of Humanities till 2007



Mgr. Jan Prouza, Ph.D.

DEAN OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Our University has gone through much over the past sixty years – Stalinism slowly coming to an end, the beginning of the Prague Spring and its abrupt and violent end under the Warsaw Pact invasion, followed by the Biafra of Spirit in the form of the period of normalisation instigated by Gustáv Husák and then the Velvet Revolution, followed by 30 years of freedom of development, which we have the honour to celebrate this year.



And so, keeping the next at least 60 years in mind, I wish the University (and all of society) that it be the University which through its graduates, students and academic as well

as non-academic staff contributes to us not squandering the sacrifices and efforts made by our predecessors and that it continues in its dynamic development.

doc. RNDr. Jan Kříž, Ph.D.

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

What can I wish our University over the next 60 years? May it remain student-friendly. What kind of university would it be without (happy) students? The fact that students are part of an environment that is familiar to them is what I regard as being our family silver. Let us maintain a kind face, let us make study programs a bit more interesting and attractive and success will be ours to have and to hold. And to add to that in the first years of the second 60-year period a fantastic scientific breakthrough in the form of a prestigious international grant, best be an interdepartmental one and an interfaculty one



for four strong players. And then best wishes to everyone associated with the UHK; the rest will fall into place on its own.



The Campus has a new Václav Havel Square and the students built a wall out of paper boxes in Ulrichovo town square. The Velvet Revolution and the University of Hradec Králové

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Even though there were many other events in Hradec Králové in commemoration of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, hundreds of people attended events organised and hosted by the University. "We usually celebrate the 17th of November on Národní avenue, in Prague. But you have created a very dignified alternative to the celebrations for the citizens of our town," says a woman, enthusiastically, with a candle in her hand and attending the festive unveiling of the Václav Havel Square with her family.

The grand opening of this new town square named after the first Czech President and standard bearer of the revolutionary events of 1989 – Václav Havel – was the main event that took place on the eve of 17th November at the Campus. About 500 hundred people gathered in the square at 4:30 pm. They watched in awe as the sign attached to the Faculty of Science was uncovered and waited in suspense as the commemorative plaque was uncovered too. The students, or more precisely their representatives from the Student Chamber of the Academic Senate of the UHK, had the plaque made. "The plaque that we as students have dedicated to those who fought totalitarianism is also a symbolic promise that we will heed and stand behind freedom and democracy whenever we feel that the values achieved by our ancestors have been compromised. By so

doing we also extend our support not only to students in the Czech Republic, but also to international students who have not lost hope and who strive for a more democratic society," says Matyáš Strnad, Vice-Chairman of the Student Chamber and one of the organisers of the meeting, while hinting at what is going on in Hong Kong or in some South American states.



The Mixed Choir of the University of Hradec Králové, directed by Jiří Skopal, Jr., sang the national anthem and Gaudeamus Igitur and in so doing made the gathering a magical and dignified one. While the academic commercium song Gaudeamus Igitur sounded, the plaque was unveiled by the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové, Kamil Kuča, the Chairlady of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové, Hana Tomášková, and the Vice-Chairman of the Student Chamber of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové, Matyáš Strnad, and the writing on the plaque became known to the public for the first time. It reads:

“Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”

Václav Havel

The students of the University of Hradec Králové dedicated the plaque to all those who fought totalitarianism, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

16. 11. 2019

Popular actor, Jan Sklenář, who until recently was a member of the Klicperovo Divadlo town



theatre in Hradec Králové, surprised dozens of new visitors at the Václav Havel Square. He took it on himself to read selected essays from Václav Havel's *The Power of the Powerless*. Visitors could warm up in the lobby of the Building of Common Education where the organisers installed a special photography exhibition. “It is actually a collage of historical photographs mapping the history of Hradec Králové over the past approximately 200 years which we embedded into a modern Hradec Králové. Altogether there were 16 unique photographs made by Martin Brus, our graduate,” says Vojtěch Tuček, Head of the Department of Publicity and Communication of the University of Hradec Králové. The first 300 visitors got a commemorative postcard bearing the Campus motif. It was printed especially for this event.

Kamil Kuča: “I am proud of our students and I am grateful that they keep the dramatic events of 1939 and 1989 in mind.”

The festive unveiling of the Václav Havel Square was part of an orchestrated programme titled Road to Freedom (*Cesta ke svobodě*). It was put together by the University of Hradec Králové, Post Bellum (East Bohemian Branch), the Statutory City of Hradec Králové and the Hradec Králové Region for the citizens of Hradec Králové. Those participating in the Road to Freedom set out in a procession holding candles towards Pivovarské náměstí town square, where the commemorative event was concluded by an open-air concert. The Rector, Kamil Kuča, welcomed them with open arms as he did at the Campus. “Like the free media, students are the watchdogs of freedom and democracy and the imaginary catalyst of democracy in the Czech Republic. “I am proud of our students and I am grateful that they keep the dramatic events of 1939 and 1989 in mind. I am glad that our students know who Jan Opletal and Jan Palach were and that they continue to uphold their legacy,” added Mr Kuča.

Several more speakers took the floor, as did several performers, including Dagmar Pecková; they were accompanied by the Mixed Choir of the University of Hradec Králové, directed by Jaromír Křováček.

The festive unveiling of the Václav Havel Square and the Road to Freedom were not the only events that the University of Hradec Králové proudly participated in remembrance of the 30 year old events. UHK students and people from the Artistic Activities Centre and the East Bohemian Museum all took part in reconstructing a wall out of paper boxes at Ulrichovo náměstí town square. “Many years ago, a wall about 20 metres long was built at the former Gottwaldovo náměstí town square to symbolically divide the headquarters of the Communist Party District Committee in Steinský Palace from the headquarters of the municipal committee and the security bodies on the opposite side of the square. The weather did all it could to hamper our efforts



to rebuild the wall. First it rained and the wall got all soggy and when the students rebuilt it, the wind scattered it all over the place,” describes Soňa Došková, Chancellor of the UHK, how difficult it was to put the wall up.

We managed to keep the wall standing, mainly thanks to volunteers from the University, museum staff and Hradec Králové primary school teachers, who sent entire classrooms full of children to help. It was once again full of contemporary slogans, memories, messages and rhymes. “Given the weather, which was not good at all, it was rather difficult to keep repairing the wall and keep it standing. We considered giving up many times. But then an eyewitness or a person who helped build the wall thirty years ago came along and cordially thanked us for our efforts. And that gave us the energy to go on and we promised ourselves that we would keep the wall standing until the happening on Sunday in Ulrichovo náměstí town square. And it was worth it!” recalls Dominik Šípoš, a member of the Chamber of Students of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové. He coordinated everything on-site.

Over a thousand people participated in building the wall against the *bad mood*.

The happening, attended by hundreds of visitors, went really well and the wall stood tall on Ulrichovo náměstí town square all afternoon thanks to the beautiful weather. “The wall of 2019 serves as a reminder of and refers to the wall of 1989; it also stands against the *bad mood* that President Havel used to refer to. Over the past 30 years, the Czech Republic

has worked very hard and has gone a very long way. We are a democratic country. A safe country. And that is why we are building the wall against people relativising these facts. We are against hateful and untruthful moods being stirred up in Czech society and that is why building the wall symbolises the protection of Velvet ideals,” Mr Kuča explains the significance of the wall made out of paper boxes.



The University of Hradec Králové had 1,200 commemorative postcards made bearing the wall of 1989. “Everyone who participated in putting up the wall got a postcard and as all of the postcards were handed out we assume that more than a thousand people helped build it. And that makes us very happy. Our sincere thanks go to the students and schools of Hradec Králové that participated in the event,” commented Soňa Došková, Chancellor of the UHK, on the success of the event. People then went on to artistically arrange the boxes and the event was brought to a close by the band *Bílé světlo*, which played with the famous *Plastic People of the Universe*. •

Velvet tones of freedom

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Are we grateful for the freedom our society has fought so hard for and are we worthy of all the benefits? What were our regional faculties like during the revolutionary period? How has the position university students hold changed over the past years? What is the current status of student activism? Those are but a few of the questions that came to light in contributions and interviews during the Social Evening hosted by the Faculty of Education to mark the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution.

A concert and get together were held at the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and the adjacent New Adalbertinum in Hradec Králové on December 2, 2019. The event was organised by the Faculty of Education for both the academic community and the public. It provided a unique opportunity for former and current students alike and academics from various institutions of higher education based in Hradec Králové to meet and engage in intergenerational dialogues. Those present included Jindřich Vedlich, Pavel Fátor, Robert Novák, Arnošt Štěpánek and photographer Miloš Hofman.

Guitar player Lubomír Brabec and soprano Karolína Žmolíková concerted as well.

The Student Annual Awards hosted by the Faculty of Education granted the following awards to these students:

Award for extraordinary creative contribution to Art:
Aižběta Dvořáková, a bachelor's degree student studying Multimedia Graphic Design

Award for extraordinary creative contribution to Sports:
Natálie Višková, a master's degree student studying Physical Education and Ethics

Award for extraordinary activities in internationalisation:
Martin Menšík, a master's degree student studying English and Russian •



Discussions were led in the assembly hall about how reporting has changed over the past thirty years

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

The 19th November 2019 saw discussions being held in the assembly hall of the Building of Common Education on how reporting has changed over the past thirty years. The Philosophical Faculty of the UHK and Czech Television hosted a panel discussion. It was part of a series of lectures overseen by Czech Television referred to as **1989–2019: 30 Years of Freedom of Media**.

Václav Moravec (ČT24 anchorman), Hana Andělová (Czech Television news script editor), Radomír Tichý (archaeologist and participant in the November 1989 events) and Jiří Sova (former manager of the Civic Forum) participated in the debate on the transformation of reporting. Pavlína Springerová, Vice-Rector of the University of Hradec Králové, moderated the debate.

The debate went on for almost ninety minutes. Topics included how reporting and publicly-owned media have changed, how freedom of speech is understood, and on-line behaviour and social networking as a new phenomenon. And the entire debate focused on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the totalitarian regime and the importance of the principle of freedom of speech while keeping in mind the independence of publicly-owned media. •



We didn't know what we wanted to achieve. But we did know what we were running away from

ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

In celebration of the Velvet Revolution, the Faculty of Informatics and Management hosted a talk with one of the student leaders of that time, **Václav Bartuška**.

The talk was mostly attended by students of the same age as Václav Bartuška was at the time of the revolution. Mr Bartuška told his listeners: “We didn’t know what we wanted to achieve. We knew what we were running away from. We wanted to be a part of the West,” and he passed the following message to the public: “You are living in a free, content and rich country and that is not commonplace. You shouldn’t take that for granted. I wish you minor cuts and bruises in life, so that you are able to understand what you have.”



Václav Bartuška, a diplomat, is also the author of a book titled *Polojasno*. It was published in 1990 and portrays the diary of student Bartuška, a member of the Parliamentary Committee investigating the events of November 17, 1989.

When asked if, when looking back, he would change anything, he replied definitely not. “No-one had any idea of how to run a government. We made mistakes. But we did all we could,” adds the current Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security in the Czech Republic.

You could hear a pin drop in the assembly hall during the debate; so enthralling it was. And many questions came from the public. The experienced speaker did not forget to point out that he greatly values those who started the demonstration outside of Prague. “We would not have succeeded if it had not been for the Republic and people from all over the country who stood behind us,” he concluded. •

The University celebrated its 60th anniversary and commemorated the Velvet Revolution

KRISTÝNA VLASÁKOVÁ FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

The 12th Social Evening of the University of Hradec Králové took place on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at the Aldis Congress Centre. It is traditionally held on the occasion of the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day and International Students' Day. Awards were given out to prominent people from all of the faculties.

The 12th Social Evening commemorated more than one anniversary. The first anniversary celebrated the Institute of Education. It was founded 60 years ago in Hradec Králové and is the predecessor of the University of Hradec Králové, which opened in 1959. Sixty guests were given a book titled *Pedagogická fakulta v Hradci Králové v roce 1968 a na počátku normalizace* by Mgr. Sylva Sklenářová, Ph.D., the Head of the UHK Archives. Fifteen prominent people made a video and in it they congratulated the University on its anniversary. These included city leaders, regional leaders, people from abroad, people from affiliated institutions and even the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Robert Plaga.

Each guest received a special limited edition postcard, which the University had made on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. Also commemorated was the 80th anniversary of the

dramatic events of 1939; they affected many Czech institutions of higher education. The year 1989 was also commemorated, that is the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, not only in Hradec Králové.

"I would like to thank everyone who over the past 60 years has helped to build the University. Thanks to you the University is a dignified institution of higher education, it is internationally renowned on a scientific level and it is student-friendly," said the Rector, Kamil Kuča, in a video and extended his welcome to everyone in the assembly hall. He also introduced the second significant event: "I am looking forward to our next 30 years of freedom. A hard fought for freedom, without which the University would not be as we know it today. I pray for freedom always and I trust our University will always guarantee and protect our freedom."

Awards were given to 12 prominent people associated with the University of Hradec Králové. The Rector's fifth and thirteenth medals were awarded to the University of Pardubice. As the Rector, Jiří Málek, of the University of Pardubice was unable to attend the event, Andrea Koblížková, Vice-Rector, accepted the awards. "I would like to thank you on behalf of the University of Pardubice. I trust that by extending my appreciation I express my respect and goodwill in our on-going cooperation. We can play rivals for the media, but everyone here knows that we like each other," she said.

"The University of Hradec Králové very much values the partnership between our two institutions. Our bond strategically guarantees the protection of academic freedoms in the East Bohemian Region. And just like

thirty years ago, in December 1989, when our university students made a human chain and set out from their regional capitals to meet, we symbolically recreate this chain on the occasion of this anniversary by awarding the UHK Rector's Medal to the University of Pardubice," concludes Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector, in explanation of why the fifth medal was awarded to the University of Pardubice.

The second half of the evening belonged to actress and singer Bára Poláková. She was initially wary of her seated audience. But her concert was very lively and her fears were unfounded as her songs got the audience out of their seats and dancing, Kamil Kuča included. People could also go to an art exhibition organised by the students of the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies (Faculty of Education, UHK). •

AWARDS

Faculty of Informatics and Management

Ing. Michal Zacpal

Award for long-term cooperation in organising the Faculty's social events and supervising the Student Union of the University of Hradec Králové.

prof. RNDr. Martin Gavalec, CSc.

Award for publishing many excellent articles in magazines, for being cited many times, for being hailed a recognised scientist and scholar by the scientific community and for participating in a great number of external projects.

doc. RNDr. Jaroslava Mikulecká, CSc.

UHK Rector's Medal of Merit for developing the Faculty of Informatics and Management and for developing the University of Hradec Králové.



Philosophical Faculty

Mgr. Hynek Kaplan

Award for outstanding academic achievement, representing the University of Hradec Králové and engaging in public life on its behalf.

Mgr. Tomáš Mangel, Ph.D.

Award for publications, supervising archaeological research projects at the Department of Archaeology (Philosophical Faculty, UHK), research related to projects supported by the Czech Science Foundation .

Faculty of Education

Mgr. Jan Bílek, Ph.D.

Award for successful scholarly activities and for popularising science (also through a programme on Czech Television).

doc. PhDr. Jan Hábl, Ph.D.

Award for prestigious publications, authorship of the Komenský 2020 project, and an international scientific reputation.

Faculty of Science

Mgr. Damián Bušovský

Award for outstanding academic achievement and active participation in the popularisation activities of the Faculty of Science.

RNDr. Lenka Plavcová, Ph.D.

Award for exceptional publications under prestigious publishers, research work in a junior project supported by the Czech Science Foundation and a departmental project overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mgr. et Mgr. Pavlína Springerová, Ph.D.

UHK Rector's Medal of Merit for the unprecedented development of the Philosophical Faculty in the areas of internationalisation, research and publishing, and the third role of the University.

prof. PhDr. Oldřich Richterek, CSc.

UHK Rector's Medal of Merit for developing the Faculty of Education and for the actual foundation of the University of Hradec Králové.

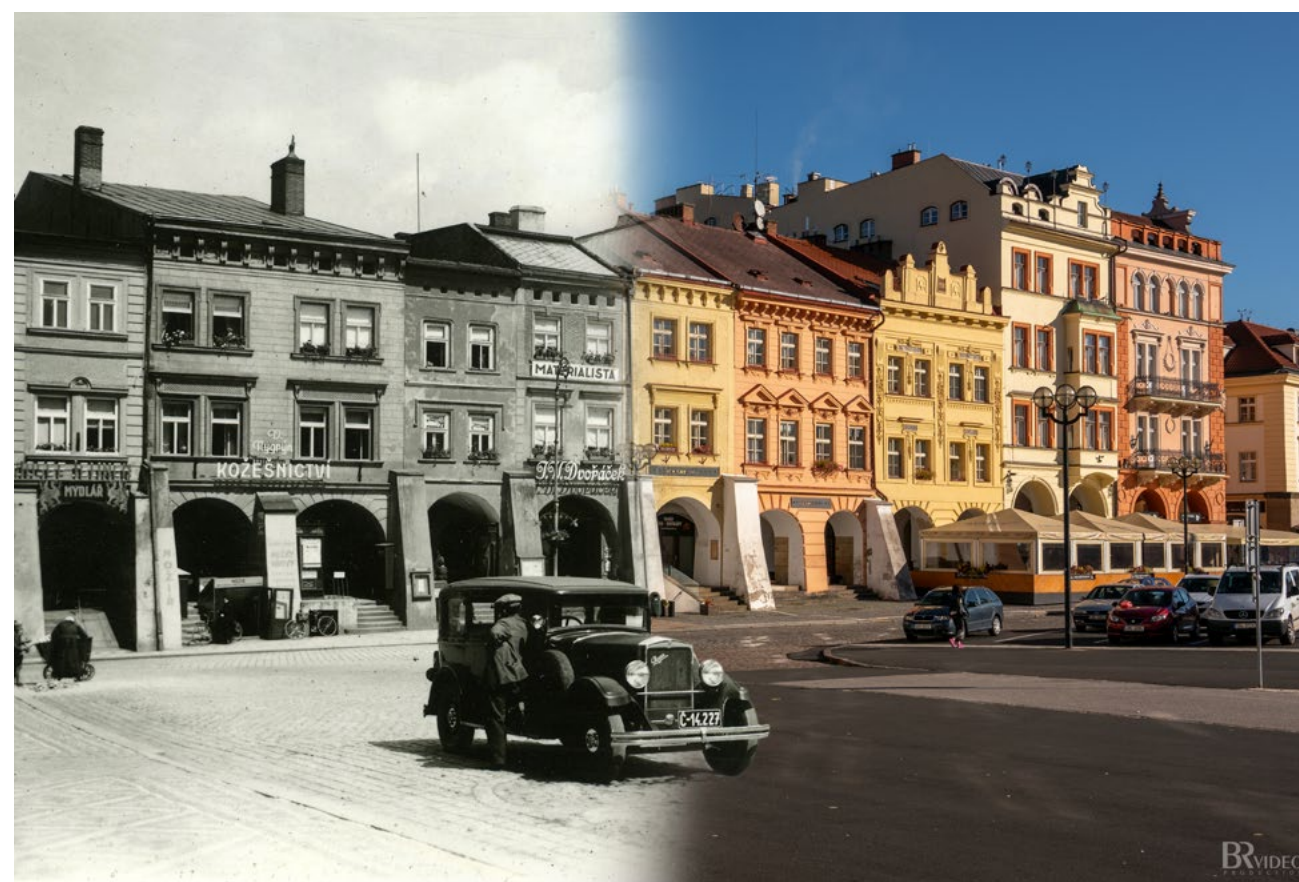
prof. Ing. Antonín Lyčka, DrSc.

UHK Rector's Medal of Merit for important publications and high citation count, holder of the Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry title awarded by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Unique photographic exhibition – Hradec Králové as time went by

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

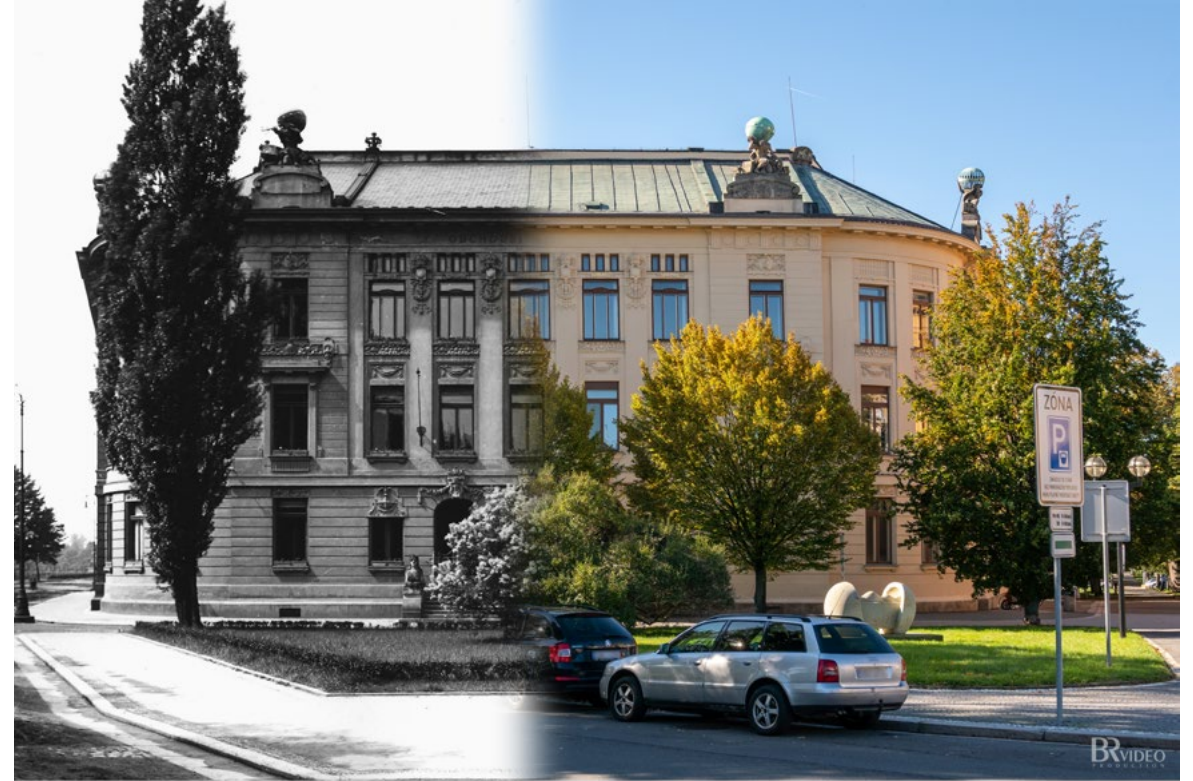
The University of Hradec Králové and the State District Archive of Hradec Králové created a unique photographic exhibition reflecting how Hradec Králové changed over the past 200 years on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the November events of 1989. The exhibition features the unique work of Ing. Martin Brus, a graduate of the Faculty of Informatics and Management.



VELKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ TOWN SQUARE (FORMERLY ŽIŽKOVO TOWN SQUARE) IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ, 1930S

His fantastic photographs are also on display at an interactive website run by the University of Hradec Králové (www.uhk.cz/hradecvpromenach).

ULRICOVO TOWN SQUARE (FORMERLY GOTTWALDOVO TOWN SQUARE), JANUARY 1990



FACULTY OF EDUCATION BUILDING (FORMERLY BUSINESS ACADEMY), 1ST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY

UHK BUILDING OF COMMON EDUCATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 1996



HUČÁK: AN ART NOUVEAU STYLE POWER STATION (CULTURAL MONUMENT) AND A BRIDGE OVER THE ELBE RIVER NEAR THE JIRÁSKOVY SADY PARK, TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Scientists started working on the biggest project in the history of the University of Hradec Králové. The IT4N team of experts also included students

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Neurodegenerative diseases cause irreversible changes to neurons. Neurons are the primary components of the nervous system and they directly affect the functions of the brain and the spinal cord. The most common neurodegenerative diseases include Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, and related disorders. In the context of this issue, a team made up of the representatives of three East Bohemian institutions, the University of Hradec Králové included, took up the first-rate IT4Neuro(degeneration) pre-application research project.

IT4N is a four year project run under the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education and it is extensively financed by the European Union. Total costs amount to 79 million CZK.

Since March 2019 dozens of researchers have been working on medical applications and the proposal and testing of new substances in the preclinical development of new drugs.

Where neurodegeneration is concerned, socio-economic analyses constitute a crucial element of the project, particularly in relation

to the practical impacts of the introduction of new medicines and new diagnostic procedures using high-performance information and communication technologies (ICT) for the assessment of modern imaging techniques. The team of scientists is lead by doc. Ing. Miroslav Lísa, Ph.D. (Faculty of Science).

Associate professor Lísa, could you briefly explain what is the aim of the IT4N project?

We have to divide the project into three basic parts. Put simply, a chemical part, a socio-economic part and a clinical application part. In the first, chemical part of the project, we propose and prepare substances that in the future could help treat neurodegenerative diseases. The second part of the project focuses on the

impact these diseases and follow-up treatment have on society, particularly in the context of economic indicators, such as the impact on the government budget. The last part of the project concerns clinical applications, including computerised and computer-evaluated results from graphic medical techniques. The aim is to come up with a computer algorithm that will provide for a simpler and early detection of the disease(s).

Is the project proof of the fact that multi-disciplinarity is more than welcome?

Absolutely. Scientific collaboration across disciplines today is a must. We endeavour to interconnect top experts across disciplines with a view of achieving the best project results. We are also aided and supported by others on our journey towards success. These include the UHK Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Informatics and Management, the University Hospital in Hradec Králové, and the University of Pardubice.

When we presented the IT4N project at a press conference last year, the newspapers eagerly commented on the rivalry between Pardubice and Hradec Králové, quote/unquote, "Rivals joined forces in their fight against insidious diseases." To what extent is that true? Is the aim of the project to find a new drug?

That is, of course, a very severe abbreviation of what we are, in fact, working on. The aim of this four-year project is not to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease as it is very unlikely anyone will be anywhere near doing so in the near future. Our objective is to advance our knowledge at least a little. And this does not only concern Alzheimer's disease, but all neurodegenerative diseases in general. The ideal result would be to discover or at least propose molecules that in the future could be potentially used to treat the diseases. But the result of the project cannot be a cure for neurodegenerative diseases; finding a cure is, unfortunately, in itself a very long process.

The project will end in 2022, so we have already gone a quarter of the way. So what have you already achieved and what stage are you at now?

Naturally, much has already been done. Being nine months into the project, we have mainly managed to overcome the initial kick-start phase. It goes on to say that all of us are building on experience and that none of us is building on a green field. One of the big challenges that we had to deal with right from the start of the project were investments, involving substantial financial resources. This is particularly true of the equipment here at the Faculty of Science; we purchased a supercomputer and a mass spectrometer worth tens of millions of Czech korunas. Having said that, the first experiments are already running parallel to this phase.



A supercomputer? Where is it and what does it do?

The supercomputer is central to the entire project. It inter-combines all of the fields involved in the research project. We squeezed our way into the supercomputer and we are now overseeing necessary construction adjustments and modifications to the building in which the Faculty of Science is located associated with the installation of the supercomputer. We have air-conditioning and energy supply issues, as the distribution network and associated cooling system are in this case very

complicated. The supercomputer should be fully operational in April.

The mass spectrometer is an even bigger investment than the supercomputer. How will it be used?

The mass spectrometer is a very professional piece of equipment that will help us analyse substances that we plan to present as potential cures. It may be said that it will confirm if the structure of the substance that we are working on is correct, whether, for example, it is as pure as it should be. The spectrometer will also help analyse metabolites which may be linked to neurodegenerative diseases. Metabolites are substances in the body that are transformed thanks to biochemical processes and when a disease sets in, their concentrations may vary.



We analyse biological tissues and try to determine which substances are actually present in them and how their concentration may vary when a person is healthy and when they are ill. Put simply, a mass spectrometer allows us to transfer these substances to charged ions and then determine their mass.

Once we know their mass, we can determine what type of substance we are dealing with, its molecular weight and its structure. But what's most important is that we can then determine its representation in a sample and then compare these samples.

Did our students also participate in the research project?

Absolutely. In fact, one of the objectives was to also involve students in the research. Thanks

to the project, the Faculty of Science even opened new positions for promising Ph.D. students. Apart from that, students enrolled in bachelor degree programs are also involved in the project; they have made it a part of their thesis.

UHK is a proud partner of

Universitas
magazine for universities

Universitas is a web portal and e-magazine about science, education, research and universities. It is a joint project of 22 Czech public universities where UHK is involved. More information available at www.universitas.cz/en.

What kind of experience is it for a student to be part of such a project, especially during their bachelor degree studies?

Invaluable. Truly. I think that the main advantage is that they can use state of the art instruments and equipment during their study years, which they would normally not be able to do. Another indisputable advantage is that they learn to work within a team and that they can be part of a project in process. And then, of course, the project topic. Neurodegenerative disorders are and will, unfortunately, for some time to come, continue to be a big topic and it is meaningful and motivating to participate in this type of research because you get to work on something specific and beneficial.

Apart from working with the best, does the project also lend itself to commercial cooperation?

Actually, yes. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge that we have already entered into one such agreement. We contracted the company that supplied the mass spectrometer to us and we agreed that it would continue to support our future research activities. And in so doing we have also met the last milestone of the entire project. Proliferating cooperation with the world of commerce and introducing research results into practice. I view our partnership with Waters as being a forerunner in the cooperation between science and practice. •



doc. Ing. Miroslav Lísa, Ph.D.
(*1980)

- Obtained a Ph.D. diploma in analytical chemistry at the University of Pardubice and habilitated in the same field in 2019 at Palacký University in Olomouc
- Has been working at the University of Hradec Králové since 2017 (Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science)
- H-index 25
- Over 50 articles, citation rate exceeds 1,500 according to WoS, 7 chapters in monographs and 200 conference papers
- Researcher, co-researcher or team member in more than 10 research projects
- In 2014, The Analytical Scientist journal placed him on the Power List (a list of 40 of the most influential scientists under the age of 40 in analytical chemistry) (Top 40 under 40 list)
- The Spectroscopy Society of Jan Marcus Marci awarded him the Vladimír Hanuš Prize in 2016 for best research work in mass spectrometry

The Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences achieved a great success: The team headed by Professor Peregrin received a 20 million grant

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Researchers from the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Philosophical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové, celebrated a tremendous success at the end of October 2019. Professor Jaroslav Peregrin and his colleagues put together a project titled *Naturalised inferentialism: standards, meanings and reasons in nature* and it was selected by the Czech Science Foundation amongst the top 20 elite grant projects of excellence under the EXPRO program. The project, valued at CZK 21,515,000, was one of two selected projects in the field of humanities and social sciences.

The project, which goes under the title *Naturalised inferentialism: standards, meanings and reasons in nature*, is to cover a five year period and it will be coordinated by a team of internationally-based researchers headed by Professor Peregrin. Team members include Dr. Ladislav Koreň (Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Philosophical Faculty, UHK), Professor Mark Risjord (Emory University) and Dr. Ulf Hlobil (Concordia University). “The project is a follow-up of several projects on normativeness and inferentialism that we worked on at the Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences. In the mean time, an exceptional team of internationally based researchers at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové and it is thanks to this



team that we could actually apply for this tremendous grant. And we succeeded,” noted Professor Peregrin.

Dr. Koreň added that “the objective of this project is to confront inferentialism, which lies at the heart of the theory of philosophy, with the results of relevant sciences, such as logic, linguistics, cognitive psychology and the theory of evolution.” •

We succeeded in Module 1

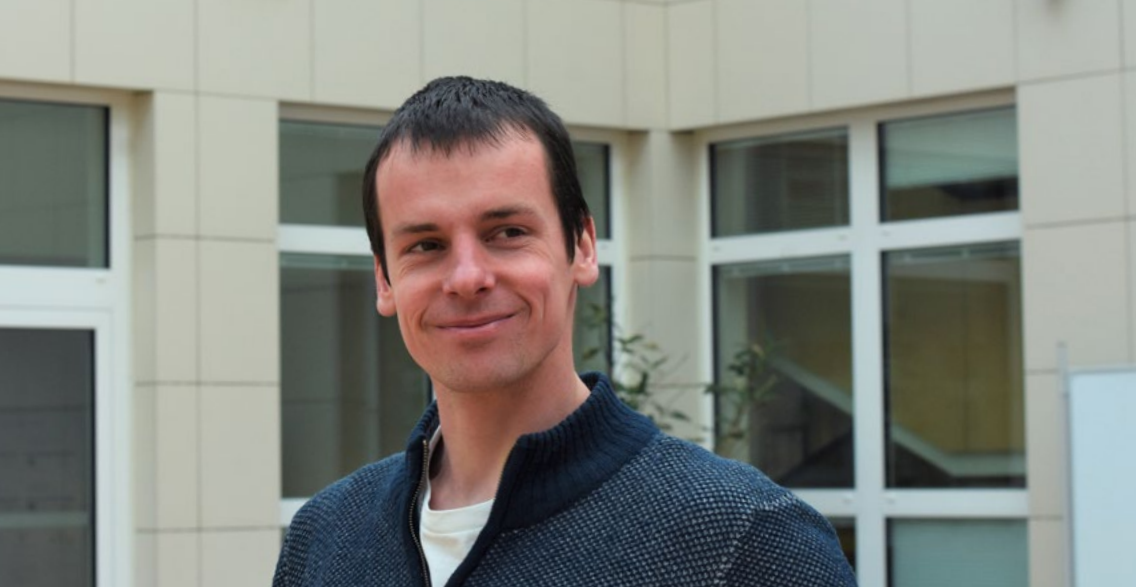
PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Professor Tomáš Petráček was the only person at the University of Hradec Králové to be awarded a Grade 1 when it came to the assessment of selected results of research organisations under the M17+ Methodology within the framework of Module 1 (Contribution to Knowledge criterion). He got the best score for his publication *Power and Exploitation in the Czech Lands in the 10th–12th Centuries: A Central European Perspective*, relating to history and archaeology. It was published by Brill in 2017.



“Power and Exploitation in the Czech Lands in the 10th–12th Centuries: A Central European Perspective offers a unique analysis of the history of early medieval Czech society. It draws new attention to the role of serfdom and slavery in the early period of the Přemysl dynasty in the Czech lands, and the organization of land and property access and ownership. The provocative conclusions reached by the author in this study shed new light on the oldest period of Czech history. Petráček analyses these issues comparatively, also taking into account Poland and Hungary; this is an approach unique to this book. •

Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Petráček, Ph.D., Th.D., is an expert in social and ecclesiastical history, the history of the relationship between the church and society, the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, the history of biblical studies, the history of charity and social work, the history of the Diocese of Hradec Králové, modernism and anti-modernism. He is the Head of the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies at the Faculty of Education.



“I wish everyone could experience something similar.” A Fulbright Scholar Program scholarship holder is on his way from UHK to Harvard University

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

The J. W. Fulbright Commission annually awards scholarships to study, research or engage in the culture in the USA to no more than about four applicants. One of the lucky ones this year is Mgr. Lukáš Vízek, Ph.D., Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UHK.

He was awarded the so-called Fulbright-Masaryk Scholarship designed for scientists who work and teach in their field and who actively participate in their institution's public life as well as outside of it. And Lukáš Vízek is, without a doubt, just such a scientist. He used to be a member of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové, he works on various projects run by grammar schools in Hradec Králové, he is well-known for organising various workshops for maths teachers and he and his brother run projections on historical 16mm projectors.

And so his public life is very much reflected in his academic work: “I am convinced that conducting research and preparing lessons strictly within the walls of our University is just

simply not enough. We need to develop external relations. International experience is one of the many ways how to advance our work back home,” says Lukáš in his explanation of why he decided to apply to the Fulbright Scholar Program, even though he admits that, at this point in time, his stay abroad brings with it more questions than answers. And he is now searching for the answers during his 6-month stay at Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US.

Please tell us about the project that you registered with the Fulbright Program.

The title of the project is *Developing Flexibility in Geometry as a Part of Mathematics Education*. My research revolves around geometric constructions. Specifically maths

problems; high school maths in my case. You see, I am in charge of the geometry course for future maths teachers. I would like to teach them how to teach geometry properly. And last but not least, I too teach at a high school and I want to be a good teacher.

You originally focused your research on the history of teaching mathematics.

I more or less view my original research interests as case closed. I don't regret my previous line of work. On the contrary, understanding history helps us understand the present. But as a didactics specialist in mathematics, I concentrate on teacher training and prefer focusing on the present. You cannot base the teaching profession on history. In my opinion, we can enrich and advance the Czech school system by adapting international education systems. This is where the future lies. Because we are also quite good at our job.

Why did you switch to geometry?

For several reasons. Professor František Kuřina (Editor's note: today professor emeritus, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UHK) oversaw Euclidean geometry and I gradually took over from him. And I had to decide how to grasp this subject and how to pass it on to students in a way that they would enjoy. And in the end I decided to base my research on this assignment.

You were awarded a scholarship in the spring of 2019. How long did it take to get the scholarship?

I started thinking about applying for a scholarship at the beginning of 2018. It was at a time when I was in search of added impetus in terms of both my research and my teaching. I was also interested in the practical side of things. Another reason was the newsletter sent to me by the Foreign Affairs Department of the UHK, highlighting scholarship programs and stays abroad (Thank you!). The Fulbright Scholarship was also mentioned in the Newsletter. The prestige associated with

the Fulbright Scholarship was at the same time also a challenge.

Did you consider other institutions as well? Harvard University is world-renowned and its mere name wants for respect.

Professor Jon Star from Harvard Graduate School of Education caught my attention. I turned to him and informed him that I was considering applying for a Fulbright Scholarship. We discussed the various options and possibilities available to me. He was very forthcoming and we put together a research project and we have exchanged dozens of e-mails. He sent me an invitation letter, which I had to attach to my application. Where education is concerned, Harvard University is rated as one of the best universities in the world. I told myself that if I were to stay abroad, I should aim for the best institution.

What will be the outputs of your 6-month stay at Harvard University?

Generally speaking, basic research. I aim to prepare suitable materials, worksheets, textbooks, texts, pictures – in cooperation with Jon Star. He specialises in algebra, solutions to equations.

He drafts textbooks and various materials into which he projects his thoughts and teaching methods and then tests them at schools. He then reflects on whether or not they are suitable in various articles for specialists and in education-related literature. And he makes them better. He wants students to be able to solve equations using various methods. That's what caught my interest.

How do you apply this to geometry?

The aim is to try this out with geometric problems. I am going to examine how students engage in the process of logical thinking – how

they come to discover certain patterns. One of the ideas of my approach to geometry is that construction is a challenge. Flexibility is the ability to solve problems and solving them in various ways leads to one understanding the essence of geometry as such. So, if we focus on students being able to solve problems in various ways, we can, in fact, help them understand mathematics as such.

What about geometric constructions and modern technology? Will we keep using compasses and rulers?

That is a good question. Geometric constructions are very much like programming – certain steps must be taken in order to construct the object. I do draw some inspiration from Geogebra and Sketchometry, but I still think it challenging and important that we continue to use compasses, rulers and paper. This is related to manual dexterity, and letting the eye, hand and brain work together.

I'm not saying that interactive geometry software does not belong in schools. It does. But its role is different. It allows students to re-modify the figures and to illustrate the validity of the statement. When I use it to modify a figure I see time and time again that the given theorem, for example, applies. But all methods should be applied, neither is more important than the other.

Scholarship programs should not only facilitate research, they should also inspire students in other areas of academic interest. What else is Harvard University going to give you?

I am of course also very interested in how they train future maths teachers and how various universities operate. But I understand that some things just can't be compared. I also want to focus on *science communication*, i.e. publications and articles that academics use as a sort of discussion tool. That's also something that I want to learn there – what to write about and mainly how to write about it, so that my articles are printed in high

impact, peer-reviewed journals and so that they encourage experts to exchange views, which inherently goes hand in hand with the development of the field.

Only 12 – 20 applicants get to study abroad under the Fulbright-Masaryk Scholarship Program every year. What would you like colleagues, who are still hesitant when it comes to filing their application, maybe because of the high level of competition, to know?

That even the seemingly impossible is, in fact, possible. That's what I like about my academic work.

Teaching is great but this just has that something extra. I wish everyone could experience something similar. Scholarships and grants are a possibility. All you need to do is apply. And don't be afraid of big names. •



Mgr. Lukáš Vízek, Ph.D.

Lukáš Vízek is a didactics specialist at the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UHK. He trains prospective maths teachers who would like to teach at second stage primary schools and at secondary schools. He cooperates with grammar schools in Hradec Králové and designs teacher training programs with colleagues from the Department of Mathematics Education, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague, like the Geometry Summer School.

A total of 130 experts from 15 countries came together at the University of Hradec Králové

VĚRA PALÁNOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

People attending 3 international conferences filled the premises of the Faculty of Informatics and Management on 2nd – 4th July 2019. Many interesting topics were uncovered by 130 experts from 15 countries. They focused on the use of modern technologies in adaptive and game-based learning, virtual reality and smart forms of education.

The three international conferences were The International Conference on Blended Learning 2019 (ICBL 2019), The International Symposium on Educational Technology 2019 (ISET 2019) and the 20th eLearning Conference, along with an eLearning competition. It was a very prestigious event because it was the first time in history that the ICBL and the ISET were held on European soil. In years past experts met in Toronto (Canada), Beijing and Macao, for example.



Hradec Králové took over from Kansai University, Japan, and in 2020 the conference will be held in July in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Conference is even more interesting because its co-organiser, i.e. partner university, is the City University of Hong Kong (CU HK). It was named the fifth best university in the world under 50 years old in the Young University Rankings 2019 (THE) in June of 2019. Vice-Rector of CU HK, Horace H.S. Ip, one of the people invited to the conference,

commented on why he thinks the university is so successful: "In my personal opinion, there are two main reasons why. The first is setting the main objective that everyone moves toward in unison. And when I say everyone, I don't just mean the school management. I mean every faculty. Every individual. And when I say in unison, I underline mutual cooperation. In evaluating our efforts, so-called KPI, i.e. Key Performance Indicators, are applied and as I have already said, all levels are placed under assessment. And the second, no less important reason, lies with our talented students. We keep an eye on all our students and try to pick out the talented ones, and then

we work with them and develop the exceptional skills they have.”

Andrea Benn, University of Brighton, Great Britain, and Harrison Yang, State University of New York, USA, opened this year's summer triple conference. The many topics were divided thematically and almost a hundred contributions were presented; all were published by Springer in a journal.

The eLearning 2019 Competition saw a panel of experts evaluate the competition products presented

The article written by Professor Kenichi Kubota, a Japanese teacher based in Osaka, on how modern tools are used in blended learning, was selected as the very best article.

The fact that the University of Hradec Králové did an excellent job of this prestigious event organisation and programme-wise is confirmed by some who attended the Conference:



“We are amazed at how well the University managed to organise everything. The people are very pleasant. The countryside is picturesque. The weather is beautiful and the food is great. The nice and relaxed ambience of the Faculty made active interaction between the participants easier. Especially people from Asia found their stay memorable: the Conference at the University is in itself an experience, as is the accompanying programme, like the visit to Castle Karlova Koruna in Chlumec nad Cidlinou,” says Mr Kwok Lam For, Director of Business and Industrial Club City University of Hong Kong.



Petra Poulová, ICBL Organisation and Programme Committee Chairlady and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management, University of Hradec Králové, commented as follows: “It took a big international team almost 24 months of intensive work to organise this 12th Conference. And that is why kind words of support and appreciation from participating universities have made us so happy. And we are also very glad that the Conference facilitated cooperation with several internationally based centres, which will enhance the already extensive network of institutions partnering the Faculty of Informatics and Management.” •

Cross-University Multidisciplinary Science and Research Teams. The road that the UHK will take

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Meeting the 2016 – 2020 UHK Long-term Plan and efforts to come closer to the practice in place at advanced and renowned science and research centres and universities. Those are but a few of the many motifs that led the management board of the University of Hradec Králové to develop a university-wide concept focusing on research directions.

“Another argument that has convinced us that we are moving in the right direction is, of course, the emergence of Methodology 17+ and the optics of its perception of universities and the research they engage in,” explains Vice-Rector for Creative Activities, Leona Stašová; she presented the university-wide research directions to the members of the Academic Community.



By taking this step the University of Hradec Králové clearly expresses its research priorities and makes it known that it is excellence-driven. The advantage of working within the framework of university-wide research directions is then also the possibility to interconnect and enhance the potential of the individual faculties and to involve the widest possible range of academic workers from the University of Hradec Králové. Multidisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity were also factors that affected topic selection. Further topic selection determinants included a follow-up on open topics and the hitherto publication activities of UHK workers (according to OBD records) and the ability to react to topical societal aspects and priorities that are of particular concern to the European Union and the Czech Republic. “Determining university-wide research directions was preceded

by a very thorough analysis of a countless number of the strategic documents of various institutions, including institutions of the European Union and the Czech Republic, and documents at the regional and urban level. We also focused very closely on the development within individual scientific disciplines and we analysed current trends that correspond with the activities pursued by the University of Hradec Králové,” Vice-Rector for Creative Activities, Leona Stašová, explains the background of the selection of the research directions. Also important was the possibility to make use of external grant opportunities and to create international teams.

In view of the above said, the University of Hradec Králové presents the following university-wide research directions: Healthy Ageing and Quality of Life (*Stárnutí ve zdraví*

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a kvalita života), Security and Sustainable Development in Digital Society (*Bezpečnost a udržitelný rozvoj v digitální společnosti*) and New Challenges in Education (*Nové výzvy ve výchově a vzdělávání*).

The first big step will be to anchor university-wide research topics and to describe them along with their objectives and links to other fields of interest so as to enable generally-oriented as well as very specific multidisciplinary science and research teams to form. "That is exactly the road that we want to take. Moreover, the European University Association also views multidisciplinary and transdisciplinarity as the road to university innovation and development. The representatives of the European University Association recently discussed these topics at a meeting in Paris. It will be necessary to find and appoint coordinators that will focus on the individual fields of interest and we are going to have to find out how to make entire teams work. We would like these teams to gradually become a part of various national and international associations and specialist associations. A huge but not inconsiderable challenge will be to include the appraisal system for researching these topics within the framework of internal schemes", Vice-Rector Leona Stašová describes the first steps that need to be taken.

The topic Healthy Ageing and Quality of Life is an area that UHK scientists have been successfully focusing on for a long time; all four UHK faculties relate to this topic.

Contrary thereto, Security and Sustainable Development in Digital Society is a very topical and European-friendly topic that interconnects both technology and IT areas with scientific and humanitarian areas of education at the University of Hradec Králové. New Challenges in Education then logically copies the history and specifics of education

at the University of Hradec Králové in view of the history of the Faculty of Education, even though the current challenges in education and training undoubtedly affect the entire university.



And so, UHK scientists now get the unique opportunity to apply their research topic within a much wider multidisciplinary context. The essential precondition is to actively participate and to react to challenges in addressing the topic. "Of course, this new system does not mean that we will no longer support and address topics not associated with university-wide research directions. Should this be the case, everyone at our University can opt for one of two options – either they will consider edging towards a university-wide topic, or, they will continue to address their topic as a faculty-only theme," Vice-Rector Leona Stašová concludes the presentation of the research directions of the University of Hradec Králové.

"I believe that the change in creative thinking will pose a great challenge to us. It, unfortunately, has much to do with the so-called shredding production system, when quantity output only is important. In order for this mode of operation to be eliminated, we need to identify a working and meaningful motivation and appraisal system," said Pavlína Springerová, Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development of the University of Hradec Králové, during closing discussions. •



An international congress of mathematics was held for the first time in Hradec Králové and was attended by experts from 6 continents

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

A total of 160 mathematicians from Europe, America, Japan and India made their way to Hradec Králové. They attended the International Conference of Differential Geometry and its Applications. It is held only once every three years and it is the first time in history that the University of Hradec Králové hosted the Conference during the first week in September 2019.

It is an itinerant conference and is hosted every three years by a different university. Universities like Charles University, Prague, and Masaryk University, Brno, have been home to it in the past. The Conference spans over a 38 year period. Last year brought with it something special, though.

"Usually, the organisers of the host university do not give lectures, but because the Faculty of Science, UHK, facilitates an outstanding international group of research workers that specialise long-term in differential geometry, they joined the other experts on stage," notes Associate Professor Anton Galaev, Chairman of the Organisation and Programme Committee.

He is also a member of the research group. It presented its research results at the Conference. Their work is supported by the Czech Science Foundation (GA ČR).

In his welcome speech the dean of the Faculty of Science, UHK, Jan Kříž, emphasised how important a role differential geometry plays at the University of Hradec Králové. He noted: "Even though the Faculty of Science is a young faculty, differential geometry has been one of its primary areas of research right from the onset. And we have achieved excellent results along the way."



The lecturers were experts from Germany, Belgium, Brazil and Russia. The conference counted plenary lectures and parallel workshops, poster sessions included; some of the research work was presented here. Christian Bär, University of Potsdam, opened the Conference on September 2, 2019, at a plenary lecture. •

The International Czech-Polish Cross-border Conference was a success; over 80 experts travelled to Hradec Králové to lead discussions

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

The Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové successfully organised an international scientific conference that focused on the Czech-Polish borderlands. Over 80 experts from Central Europe came together to talk in the congress halls of a hotel in Hradec Králové from October 2 to 3, 2019. Experts met at the White Tower in Hradec Králové. The conference was just one of a series of conferences under the 1st Congress on Polish Studies. It was co-organised by the Polish-Czech Scientific Society, Wrocław.



The project is co-financed by EFRR funds through Euroregion Glacensis

Professor Ondřej Felcman, Chairman of the Organisation Committee, Institute of History, Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové, launched the Conference. Everyone was welcomed by Dr. Zdeněk Beran, UHK Vice-Rector for International Affairs; Dr. Jiří Štěpán, President of the Hradec Králové Region; Professor Jan Rychlík, Chairman of the National Congress Committee; and



Dr. Ryszard Gładkiewicz, Chairman of the Polish-Czech Scientific Society Committee, Wrocław University. Barbara Anna Ćwioro, Poland Ambassador to the Czech Republic sent her regards.

Individual experts then took the floor and discussions revolved around social science aspects. Specifically geography, sociology, history, demography, and even area studies pertaining to the Kłodzko and Těšín regions. “The topic of the Conference reflected the fact that the University of Hradec Králové has always been involved in science cooperation focusing on Czech and Polish relations and in the research of the Czech-Polish Cross-border. Especially in regards to historical and sociological aspects,” said Professor Ondřej Felcman, Philosophical Faculty, UHK. He added: “It was very important that leading researchers, teachers and experts in regional development, self-government and tourism from both the Czech Republic and Poland attended the Conference.”



The International Czech-Polish Cross-border Conference was attended by 80 experts and other people interested in the topics under discussion. About half of them presented their papers and contributions. “The Conference constituted an equal partner to the on-going Congress and participants gave it the thumbs up. Dr. Ryszard Gładkiewicz, Wrocław University, also disclosed words of praise in his closing speech,” is how its main organiser, Professor Ondřej Felcman, evaluated it.

Two Polish films (*80 milionów* and *Excentrycy*) were shown during the Conference at the University Library on October 1, 2019. •

Investigating the impact of climate change on society under the Northern Lights

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Mgr. Zdenka Sokolíčková, Ph.D., Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, Faculty of Education, UHK, embarked on a two-year mobility on the Svalbard Archipelago at the beginning of February 2019. She is a member of an unusual but intensive social and anthropological research project conducted in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost community with a population of 2,000.

The community is mostly made up of Norwegian nationals, but it is also home to other people from almost 50 countries. It is undergoing dynamic changes thanks to globalisation. The changes are most evident when it comes to the environment, economics and culture. The little town lies on the Svalbard Archipelago and it used to be a mining settlement. But today it is a centre of science and tourism.

Ms Sokolíčková's host institution is the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo. The project is mentored by Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen, a high-profile expert. He specialises in the anthropological study of the consequences of globalisation and his publications have been translated into Czech.

The project is specific not only in that the researcher is going to spend two full years in a location where the climate is extreme

and which lies more than 78 degrees north, but also in that she will be moving there with her entire family. Her husband, Jakub Žárský, is a polar ecologist and he is very much aware of what life in the Arctic entails. And her three little boys can look forward to many an adventure.



Ms Sokolíčková will engage in participant observation and she will conduct many narrative interviews. She will study the mechanisms



that form the local identity and the impact of (not only) climate changes on life in Longyearbyen. The aim of the research project is to understand how the locals perceive the unprecedented tourist boom, increased shipping and air transport, extreme weather events and more and more frequent climate risk conditions, consumption of the Svatbard wilderness, increasing cultural diversity in

the town, and other processes that fit into the mosaic of globalisation.

An added value to this venture is that Veronika Lišková, a documentary maker, and Cinémotif Films are working together on preparing a feature film now bearing the working title *Visitors*. They plan to release it at Czech and international cinemas. It will show the story of a Czech family in the high Arctic against a background of environmental changes and the threats of today.

The project is valued at CZK 5.5 million and is supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The aim is to develop human resources in research by supporting quality projects that have been approved at European level under Horizont 2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships – H2020-MSCA-IF-2017. •

Leading economists meet once again in Hradec Králové

VĚRA PALÁNOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

For the seventeenth time, the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové hosted the International Scientific Conference Hradec Economic Days on February 5 and 6, 2019.

The Conference kicked-off in the assembly hall of the Building of Common Education and economist Vladimír Tomšík was the first to take the floor. He is a former Vice-Governor of the Czech National Bank and the head of the team of authors who published a book titled *100 Years of the Koruna*. He was followed by a very special guest, H. E. Mr Daniel Martin Meron, Israeli Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

The first day of the Conference was special in that everyone could attend a panel discussion overseen by the Czech National Bank;



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it focused on *100 Years of the Czech and Slovak Koruna*. The already mentioned Vladimír Tomšík was on the panel; he presented the first chapter of the book titled *100 Years of the*



Koruna: Monetary Policy Milestones. Oldřich Dědek then took the floor. He is a CNB Board member and a former national coordinator for the adoption of the euro. He reflected on the adoption of a single European currency. Jan Filáček was the last to take the floor. He is the Head of the Monetary Policy Strategies and Communication Department, Monetary Department, Czech National Bank. And he also contributed to the book titled *100 Years of the Koruna*.

During the course of the evening, the best paper was announced and its author received an award from the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, which is an internationally-based publishing house.

The second day of the Conference saw the following topics being discussed: Technology Transfer, Protection of Intellectual Property and Commercialisation. Technology Transfer lectures and discussions were organised in cooperation with the Technology Transfer Office, University of South Bohemia. Mgr. Martin Duda, a member of the Board of Directors of the Czech Technology Agency, lectured on the technology transfer between Czech universities.

“In my opinion, this year’s Conference was significant particularly in view of the cooperation that is developed by and between universities in both the Czech Republic, like with the University of South Bohemia, and abroad, especially with universities based in Wroclaw and Krakow. I also very much appreciate our long-standing cooperation with the Czech National Bank. It has stood guard over this Conference for the second time,” says Assistant Professor Petra Marešová, the main organiser of the Conference, and she adds: “I personally very much liked the initial lectures and the panel discussion on 100 Years of the Czechoslovak Koruna, which was overseen by the Czech National Bank and which was attended not only by the lay public, but by experts as well. The Technology Transfer lecture was also very interesting. It was one of those topics that mostly highlighted this year’s theme, that being innovation.” •

UHK is a proud partner of



November 27, 2020



The UHK was awarded almost CZK 15 million in support of an applied research, experimental development and innovation program.

The number of researchers interested was overwhelming

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

The University of Hradec Králové was able to obtain funding in the amount of almost CZK 15 million from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA ČR) in support of the GAMA 2 Project. The objective of the project is to support and streamline the transformation of the results of applied research and experimental development achieved in research organisations into practical applications. More than an astounding 21 proposals were received in response to the first call.

“This is great news because such support will enable the Proof of Concept project to go on. It was launched successfully and aims to promote an increase in the application potential of R&D results that have been facilitated here at the UHK since 2015,” explains Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector for Creative Activities, how important this achievement is.

In the past, Proof of Concept projects worked on at the University of Hradec Králové were always carried out under the GAMA 1 project run by the same agency. “Let’s remind ourselves of two projects run by Dr. Filip Studnička, Faculty of Science, UHK. He researched and developed Supportive

Solutions for Diagnosing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Equipment for Arthrosis Progression Self-Diagnosis and the Development of the Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome (FAI) in At Risk Groups,” Vice-Rector Stašová highlights past successful projects. Professor Ondřej Krejcar, Faculty of Informatics and Management, worked on image processing using the gradual brightness gradient method and the design and realisation of Smart Furniture solutions for the elderly and persons with respiratory restrictions in areas where dispersion conditions are not good. Many interesting applications spawned by the University of Hradec Králové have found their place in society,

especially for commercial purposes. An example may be the development of smart furniture under the SMART FURNITURE Project by Dr. Richard Cimler, Faculty of Science.

The Creative Activities and Knowledge Transfer Department of the University of Hradec Králové, therefore, launched the first call for in-house projects on November 1, 2019. The aim is to promote an increase in the application potential of research and development – Proof of Concept under the Programme of Applied Research, Experimental Development and Innovation GAMA 2.

“The objective of the call is to assess and validate the anticipated application potential of research and development carried out at the University of Hradec Králové through sub-projects that will be undertaken following this call. The recommended duration of each supported sub-project is between 6–24 months. The maximum annual aid amount per sub-project is CZK 700,000. By contrast, the minimum annual aid amount per sub-project is CZK 100,000. Amazingly, although we received 21 applications, we will be supporting only 5 projects,” adds Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector.

“Proof of Concept projects are a great opportunity how to transform scientific results into practical applications,” notes Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector, and adds: “Why, apart from financial support and an individual commercialisation plan, researchers will also benefit from consultations with experts on technology transfer and they can naturally count on the Creative Activities and Knowledge Transfer Department of the University of Hradec Králové for support.”

The following projects will be supported:

Using advanced signal processing methods to continually determine the condition of bridge structures

Researcher: **doc. RNDr. Jan Šlégr, Ph.D.**

The tragic fall of the Morandi Bridge on Italy's A10 motorway over the River Polceveraho in Genoa and the collapse of the Troja Footbridge linking Stromovka Park and the Prague Zoo have shown that bridges need to be monitored and assessed on a continual basis. The submitted project focuses on developing a device that will be attached to the bridgework and which will monitor, on an on-going basis, the condition of the bridge. It should also detect any deviation from the norm and, should this be the case, it will then automatically alert the authority in charge of the bridge. The research will also focus on determining and reporting traffic flow.

Parkinson's disease progression monitoring system

Researcher: **RNDr. Filip Studnička, Ph.D.**

The research aims at unravelling a unique solution for identifying the progress of Parkinson's disease through sensors embedded in furniture. The research project also aims to widen the possibilities associated with the Smart Furniture created under a GAMA 1 project supported by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and run at our University. The current project will see sensors modified so as to detect tremors associated with Parkinson's disease and they will facilitate monitoring how the disease is progressing.

Decision support system for the diagnosis of emphysema

Researcher: **doc. RNDr. Kamila Štekerová, Ph.D.**

Kamila Štekerová, Dr. Karel Mls and post graduate students of the Department of Information Technologies, Faculty of Informatics and Management, UHK, together with Dr. Ondřej Živný from the University Hospital in Hradec Králové will be working on the project referred to as the *Decision Support System for the Diagnosis of Emphysema*. The aim of the project is to create an application that will help chest doctors and pneumologists shorten and reduce the cost of the process of diagnosing emphysema. A new x-ray evaluation algorithm and a knowledge base for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema will stand at the heart of the application.

Particle sensors based on the principle of digital image processing

Researcher: **prof. Ing. Ondřej Krejcar, Ph.D.**

The aim of the project is to verify Proof of Concept variants of particle sensors using advanced digital camera image analysis. We expect to cover a whole range of dust particle sizes with the use of a single sensor. We would also like to create detailed histograms on solid particles. This sort of detection will be much sought after in the near future given

the on-going implementation of standards following from ISO 21501, addressing the dust issue in general. Achievements will primarily generate several functional samples, a prototype and a patent filed in regards to the new sensors. We generally expect a potentially wide range of use, for example in households, hospitals, dust-free areas, office space, shopping malls, and the like. The sensors may also be used in heavy industries as information regarding particle content could be uploaded to existing air analysis systems.

VDS – the vibration diagnostic system

Researcher: **Ing. Michal Dobrovolný**

The project is concerned with the service life of rotating machines using vibration analysis within the framework of Industry 4.0. The core parts of the project include life prediction and identification of the problematic parts of rotating machines (pumps, turbines, compressors, ventilators, generators, and the like). The project will result in software using neural networks thanks to which it will be possible to prevent the destruction of the machine or defects causing extensive damage. •

 **Funded under the Programme of Applied Research, Experimental Development and Innovation GAMA 2, sub-project 1 - Proof-of-Concept, Project TP01010032, Creative Activities and Knowledge Transfer Department of the University of Hradec Králové.**

Program **Gama 2**

Kamil Musílek is the first Czech winner of a prestigious award by the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

Professor Kamil Musílek from the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science is the first Czech winner of the prestigious annual award Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia by the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry for his outstanding contribution to scientific research. In the overall standing, Professor Musílek placed as the "runner up", at the 2nd to 3rd place.

"I am very honoured by this recognition of my work in the field of Medicinal Chemistry. And I am very grateful to all my dear colleagues and my students who have helped me with my research throughout my career. Naturally, every award is also a great encouragement for my future research, which I hope will ultimately prove beneficial for our society."

In his research, Professor Musílek focuses on the development of new molecules that will help against organophosphate poisoning. Together with his team, he also managed to develop a new treatment against poisoning caused by chemical warfare agents (such as sarin, cyclosarin, VX or tabun) or by pesticides. Professor Musílek and his team also research molecules for the



treatment of Alzheimer's disease and for the therapy and diagnostics of cancer.

As a field, Medicinal Chemistry develops new bioactive substances and chemical structures used in the more efficient treatment of cancers, cardiovascular diseases and infectious diseases. •

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Discovery of a seven thousand year old trading station by archaeologists from the University of Hradec Králové

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Archaeologists working at the site of the future D11 motorway north of Hradec Králové made a unique discovery. They found a seven thousand year old trading station with stone tools. "The concentration of artefacts such as stone knives, axes and spearheads is very high," commented Associate Professor Radomír Tichý from the Philosophical Faculty.

The survey, conducted en route of a new stretch of the D11 motorway from Hradec Králové to Jaroměř, started in the Spring of 2017 and is now in its second stage. "The first stage of our survey started in the Summer of 2017; given the size of the construction site, this was one of the largest surveys conducted in the Czech Republic. The survey was extremely demanding because the investor decided that the survey would be conducted along the entire route of the future motorway from Hradec Králové to Jaroměř. Fortunately, the second stage of the survey is not as hectic. We are now only working on sites that were previously inaccessible," Ladislav Rytíř, an archaeologist from the Philosophical Faculty, explained.

The most important discovery at this site includes a seven thousand year old prehistoric settlement and numerous samples of Neolithic pottery.

"The settlement abounds in archaeological finds" Radomír Tichý from the Department of Archaeology enthused with shining eyes and a broad smile on his unshaven stubble of a face.

Archaeologists came upon the site during the first stage of the survey. According to the current working hypothesis, the settlement may have been a trading station. "The tools discovered on-site are made from stone that can only be found in the Jizera Mountains, and parts of Poland and Slovakia," explained Mr Rytíř.

Experts from the UHK and their colleagues from the Olomouc Archaeology Centre will now focus on the surroundings of the town of Jaroměř.

"We have identified the stone used in all ground axes as Pojizeri-type metabasite. This goes on to show how useful this particular type of stone appeared to be in this area during the Neolithic period. The materials used in the production of flake tools, sometimes also

known as flint knapped tools, originate from a wide range of different sources. They were imported from Poland. Obsidian was brought in from both Upper and Lower Hungary. We have therefore come to believe that in the Neolithic Age, every settlement also acted in part as a trading station.

We are delighted that our survey managed to describe a Neolithic trading station in such detail and extent,” Professor Tichý added.

The motorway construction site is 25 kilometres long and 60 meters wide and represents a highly valuable archaeological site. So far, archaeologists managed to collect finds ranging from the Prehistoric Age to the Modern Age; the oldest objects date back to the Neolithic period. Other finds include houses and burial sites from the Bronze Age, an Early Middle Age cemetery or the remains of a field fortification from the 18th century or



the Prussian-Austrian War of 1866. “We have completed, conserved, treated and analyzed the find and we have started drafting a survey report, which will summarize all the data discovered throughout our survey and follow-up research and it will be deposited in the archive of the Institute of Archaeology in Prague. Our finds will be stored by the East Bohemian Museum in Hradec Králové, where they will be made available for other researchers,” said Mr Rytíř. •

The Faculty of Science's new ICT in Education PhD program has been accredited for 10 years. Admissions to the new program are open

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

In 2019 the Faculty of Science obtained a new accreditation for its doctoral study program referred to as Information and Communication Technologies in Education. The program, which was originally organised by a consortium of faculties of education of four Czech universities, has now been revised and accredited for 10 years.

The program builds on the foundations of the consortium program, and adds several important improvements – it offers a wider variety of subjects interconnected with natural science and incorporates a compulsory study stay abroad, which has become a standard

feature of doctoral study programs. “The subjects have been set to cover the broadest range of ICT technologies and their application in all tiers of education and in all types of schools, as well as specific topics associated with pedagogical, psychological and didactic

issues,” Dr. Michal Musílek, Vice-Dean for Education and Internal Affairs, explains.

“The new program aims to prepare experts in the field of the educational application of

information and communication technologies for their future creative endeavours in science, research and development,” Professor Eva Milková, program guarantor, outlines the objectives of the program. •

Kateřina Andršová and Jan Bílek: The first graduates of the doctoral study program Music Theory and Pedagogy and Theory and History of Czech Literature

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Every graduation ceremony is a festive event, but the Autumn graduation had a special twist to it. For the first time, a doctoral degree diploma was awarded to the graduated of the Department of Music and the Department of Czech Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education – to ethnomusicologist and teacher Mgr. Kateřina Andršová, Ph.D., and to literary historian Mgr. Jan Bílek, Ph.D.

Mgr. Kateřina Andršová, Ph.D. graduated from the doctoral study program Music Theory and Pedagogy. In her PhD thesis, she analysed the work of the musical scientist and teacher Dobroslav Orel. One of the first results of her research effort is the publication of the hitherto unpublished correspondence between Dobroslav Orel and the Lusatian composer Bjarnat Krawc. In cooperation with the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Science, Dr. Andršová organised an exhibition at the Faculty of Education, UHK, devoted to Dobroslav Orel, in which she reserved a special panel for the correspondence between the two eminent figures.

The publication was just one of the outcomes of her broader research work in the cultural contribution of Dobroslav Orel and the

relationship between Czechoslovakia and Lusatia. Last year, she received an annual student award from the Faculty of Education, UHK, for her extraordinary creative contribution to science and research.

Mgr. Jan Bílek, Ph.D. is the graduate of the doctoral study program Theory and History of Czech Literature at the Department of Czech Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education, UHK.

He has devoted his scientific efforts to a notable intersectional topic of Czech cultural, literary and political history – the work and the interactions of the Friday Men, a loose group of about 60 eminent interregnum Czech intellectuals, who attended their famous Friday meetings in the house of the eminent

Czech journalist and writer Karel Čapek in the years 1924–1938.

Thanks to Dr Bílek, the topic has been resonating in the current social, cultural, public media and scientific discourse. He has published many studies on the topic, and lectured broadly both home and abroad (Пятничники Карела Чапека и президент Масарик, Славяноведение). Dr Bílek also managed to bring the topic to the public attention thanks

to a miniseries recorded by Czech Television – Karel Čapek and the Friday Men, which was broadcast in prime time last Christmas.

Mgr. Jan Bílek, Ph.D. has also been a leading researcher and a researcher in four projects of the Czech Science Foundation, he is a member of several scientific institutions. Earlier this year, Dr Bílek received an award from the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové for his research and for his popularisation of science with respect to his continuous educational contribution at the Faculty of Education, where he also participated, among others, in the establishment and development of the scientific study of Literary Archival Science. •



The Faculty of Science opens a new doctoral program, the first of its kind in the Czech Republic

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

In the academic year 2019/2020, the Faculty of Science opened a new study program, when it accredited the doctoral program in the field of Toxicology, thus becoming the first and only university in the Czech Republic which offers this particular area of study to bachelor, master and doctoral degree students.

“Medical and pharmaceutical faculties teach toxicology in their doctoral program largely as a complement to pharmacology, because it is

very difficult to separate the two disciplines, but most graduates focused on pharmacology.

A standalone toxicology program has as yet not been accredited in the Czech Republic,” Michal Musílek, the Vice-Dean for Education and Internal Affairs of the Faculty of Science, UHK, explains.

“We have been one of the few universities in the country that offered a toxicology program to both our bachelor and master degree students. We are proud that we have now managed to obtain accreditation also for the doctoral degree students in cooperation with Palacky University in Olomouc, which brings additional benefits to future PhD candidates,” Professor Musílek comments.

The program has been accredited in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine of the Palacky University, which means that students will be able to take some courses in Hradec Králové and others in Olomouc. “As a consequence, students will have access to the laboratories run by both universities and will be able to use the equipment jointly in their research. We have also managed to bring together experts with different specialisations in chemical and medicinal toxicology, who will participate in the program,” Kamil Musílek, the Head of the Department of Chemistry, where the program will be run, clarifies the benefits.

Program graduates will be qualified to run specialised labs devoted to the research of a broad variety of environmental and forensic samples from animate and inanimate structures. They will also be qualified to work for government laboratories or in specialized private labs.

“Ideally, we would like to keep the best graduates for ourselves,” explains Kamil Musílek with a smile. “We would like to have them evolve as scientists and researchers, and use their creativity and knowledge in future

toxicology research, which has already been on-going at our University for some time.”



The program is co-funded by an EU program, in which the Faculty of Science, UHK, partakes as a research institute. As a result, the university had the funds to purchase new laboratory equipment and create new textbooks. With the additional funding, the Department of Chemistry was also able to hire new talented researchers.

The new doctoral study program is designed as a 4-year full time or distance program. The university plans to admit 5 PhD candidates to the first year of the program.

“Thanks to the international credit mobility program established with Yangtze University, new students will be able to engage in foreign study stays in China, while Chinese students will be able to attend our doctoral program,” Kamil Musílek concludes. •

The University of Hradec Králové finally listed in the prestigious World University Rankings published by Times Higher Education

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, QS World University Rankings and World University Rankings by Times Higher Education (THE) – these are the three most prestigious international university rankings in which all universities strive to appear. This year, the University of Hradec Králové managed to fight its way through to the last of the three rankings.

“I am delighted by the results since this is one of the most prestigious university rankings in the world. Recognition in the THE World University Rankings opens new doors to our future development in the area of international cooperation,” the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové comments on the success.

THE monitors thirteen carefully selected indicators, which makes it the most comprehensive university ranking system in the world. The selection criteria include teaching excellence, research influence (which takes into consideration the scientific impact of the topics pursued by the university), research volume, income and reputation, its international outlook and the ability to transfer knowledge into practical application (industry income).

“It’s hardly a secret that recognition in the ranking may play an essential role in helping

foreign students and academic professionals decide whether to choose UHK or whether to opt for some other university. The ranking helps assess the quality and reach of the universities across the globe, which is why the placing is so important,” Rector Kuča explains. In the ranking published for the year 2020, the University of Hradec Králové took a very decent 1274th place, which is comparable to some other Czech universities such as the Technical University in Liberec, Mendel University in Brno and Pardubice University.

UHK also succeeded in the QS EECA ranking achieving the 168th position. •



The Bioinformatics Centre at the Faculty of Science, UHK, wants to train a new generation of experts who will also study in Barcelona and Berlin

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

Through a combination of the European project of strategic partnerships in higher education, the Bioinformatics Centre of Hradec Králové and a regional project referred to as Bioinformatics – Road to Science Development in the Hradec Králové Region, the Faculty of Science has now joined in the development of a new field of science – bioin-



as it runs a department of biology, mathematics and information science, which makes it a perfect place to start a more comprehensive interdisciplinary cooperation,” Dr Radka Symonová, the project researcher, explains and goes on to add that information science has become an indispensable tool for contemporary research in biology and medicine.

ATGC UACG Bioinformatics Centre Hradec Králové

formatics: “Bioinformatics is a new tool used in biological research, medicine, diagnostics and biomedicine. The Faculty of Science already has the basic building stones for the successful development of this field of study,

“Contemporary biologists must have a comprehensive knowledge of informatics in order to succeed. They must be able to work with huge datasets and must be able to process the information to produce meaningful results. Thanks to bioinformatics, we may study evolutionary changes in the genome of tens or soon hundreds of species, and with bioinformatics and statistical methods at our disposal, we are

now able to gain a much better understanding of genome patterns and mechanisms. Medical testing procedures have also become much more efficient thanks to the revolution in bioinformatics.”

The Bioinformatics Centre has three strategic international partners and has managed to establish close cooperation between the University of Hradec Králové and the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Králové, which is the strategic national partner of the project.

“Our foreign partners include two private research institutions, Transmitting Science, which is based in Barcelona, and Berlin-based Physalia Courses, both of which provide reputable bioinformatics education and current research services. Our third international partner is the University of Innsbruck,” Radka Symonová adds.

In light of international cooperation, not only established researchers will profit from foreign study stays, students will too; they will be able to apply bioinformatics methods in their final theses and in their future research. The first group of students travelled abroad in the Autumn of 2019. The next group is to set out in the Spring of 2020. “We must first bring up the “zero” generation, which should

enable us to offer courses to other prospective students and apply for full accreditation of the new study program.” Thanks to a grant from the Hradec Králové Region, two stu-



dents (from UHK and FaF) were able to attend an intensive 14-day course in genomics and bioinformatics in Český Krumlov, which was organised by the world’s leading universities (from USA and EU).

The Bioinformatics Centre in Hradec Králové and the various opportunities available for future cooperation were introduced during Code Week 2019; it was organised by the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové and Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Králové in October 2019. The event entailed lectures and workshops that presented the field of bioinformatics and the specific methods used. This was followed by Python Week in November 2019. •

The František Hrubín Award for 2019 goes to Professor Vladimír Křivánek

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

On November 14, 2019, the poet and literary historian Vladimír Křivánek received the František Hrubín Award for best writer in Central Bohemia.

Professor Vladimír Křivánek from the Department of Czech Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education received the 2019 František Hrubín Award for his poetry collection *Soul is a Strange Sparrow* published by Prstek Aleš.

Soul is a Strange Sparrow is an extensive collection of miniature quatrains created over the past three decades, the first dating back to the summer of 1988, the last one written in 2018. It combines the author’s own selection of the best quatrain miniatures, whether amorous, lyrical, confessional, meditational or evocative. They are joined together by the air of melancholy, by their sense of beauty and ephemerality of human existence. The collection

is dedicated to the poet Jan Skácel, whose quatrains inspired the author to adopt this difficult poetic form, and is accompanied by an epilogue from eminent literary historian and critic Jiří Opelík. The poems are refined, subtle and reticent, and are best suited for readers who are willing to devote their time and concentration and to return and reread individual poems or poetic cycles. The multilayer collection abounds in meanings and motifs that cannot be contained and comprehended through a single reading. The minimalistic concept pays homage to two masters of quatrain poetry – Jan Skácel and the Tang Dynasty poet Li Po. •



The Faculty of Science has a new professor

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

On June 20, 2019, sixty three new professors were invited to Karolinum, Prague, to receive their appointment letters from the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Robert Plaga. One of them was also Kamil Musílek, the Head of the Department of Chemistry and the Vice-Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové.

He was appointed professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at the application of the Research Board of Charles University.

“My appointment constitutes 15 years of hard work since my graduation. But my

work is far from complete. It is my job now to educate and inspire my young colleagues and my students to push the boundaries of scientific knowledge even further,” says Professor Musílek as he looks back at his academic career.

In his research, Professor Musílek focuses on the development of new molecules that will help against organophosphate poisoning.

Together with his team, he also managed to develop a new treatment against poisoning caused by chemical warfare agents (such as sarin, cyclosarin, VX or tabun) or by pesticides. The antidotes that are currently used to treat such poisoning have hardly changed since the 1970's, which means that the new molecules represent a 50-year research breakthrough. An article about the new substance was published by the prestigious Journal of Medical Chemistry (rated as the third best journal in the field by the Web of Science) on its cover. Professor Musílek and his team also research

molecules for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and for the therapy and diagnostics of cancer.

"The turning point of my academic career was the opportunity to study abroad. First, the Erasmus study stay in Heidelberg, Germany. Then a six-month stay at the University of St Andrews, for which I was selected as one of four Czech candidates and for which I received a scholarship from the UK government. And finally a scholarship from the French government and a stay in Grenoble. Each stay enriched me and helped me gain experience and new knowledge, which is why I cordially recommend all my younger colleagues to take a study trip abroad," Professor Musílek adds as the Vice-Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Science. •



prof. PharmDr. Kamil Musílek, Ph.D.

Kamil Musílek obtained his Master's degree at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Králové, where he graduated from the doctoral program in pharmaceutical chemistry (Ph.D. 2007, PharmDr. 2008) and where he habilitated as an Associate Professor in 2012. He is the Head of the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové, and a researcher in the Centre for Biomedical Research of the

University Hospital in Hradec Králové. Since March 2019, he has also held the office of Vice-Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové.

He holds 4 patents and has published over 170 original articles in the Web of Knowledge (H-index = 30).

Karel Musílek is an ardent traveller and an amateur athlete.

Hana Mohelská, a member of the Faculty of Informatics and Management, has been appointed professor

ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

Six months after Kamil Musílek was appointed professor, that is on December 18, 2019, the Czech Minister of Education Robert Plaga and the Czech Minister of Defence Lubomír Metnar presented an appointment letter to 70 new professors in Karolinum, Charles University, Prague. Hana Mohelská is one of them. She works at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, UHK, and went through the appointment procedure at the Faculty of Management of the University of Economics in Prague. She specialises in Management.

"The appointment procedure has been rather demanding. The habilitation and professor appointment criteria are getting ever the more strict and it is therefore increasingly more difficult to meet them. One must think strategically even about the selection of the field of specialisation and its contribution to

the faculty. All circumstances must be considered. And it is also necessary to have a little bit of luck – which I did," the new professor admits with a smile.

"For the second time, the Faculty of Informatics and Management placed first among Czech economy-oriented universities. That was great news for all of us. But also a great responsibility, including the responsibility to improve our professional qualifications," Professor Mohelská explains. "Our department does not just teach management, we also provide training and guidance in many other specialized subjects, which allows our students to extend their professional reach to areas such as marketing, market research, HR management, psychology, sociology, logistics and law. This was also one of the reasons why I strived to obtain the title of professor in the field of Management," she adds. •



prof. Ing. Hana Mohelská, Ph.D.

graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague. In 2007 she obtained her PhD at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, UHK, and habilitated as an Associate Professor at Tomas Bata University in Zlín.

She has been teaching at the Faculty of Informatics and Management since 2002

and became Head of the Department of Management in 2008. In her research at the FIM UHK, she currently cooperates with the team lead by Associate Professor Sokolová on the development of pro-innovative organisational culture, which stands on four basic pillars – leadership by inspiring others, human resources as the key to success, basic values as the anchor and innovation as the style of thinking.

In her free time, she enjoys cycling, skiing and hiking whatever the weather. She also enjoys quiet conversations with her friends over a glass of wine.

Tomáš Petráček appointed professor of modern economic and social history

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

The professor appointment ceremony in December 2019 was also attended by Tomáš Petráček; after many years, the Faculty of Education finally has another professor.

Tomáš Petráček's professor appointment procedure was conducted at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Petráček, Ph.D., Th.D., is an expert in social and ecclesiastical history, the history of the relationship between the church and society, the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, the history of biblical studies, the history of charity and social work, the history of the Diocese of Hradec Králové, modernism and anti-modernism. He is the Head of the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies at the Faculty of Education. •



The Faculty of Science has three new associate professors

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

Doc. RNDr. Lucie Zemanová, Ph.D. has completed her habilitation at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Králové in the field of Biochemistry. Her habilitation thesis analyzed the importance of enzymes from the AKR and SDR superfamilies in humans.

She graduated from the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the University of Pardubice with a Master's degree in Biological Materials Analysis. She completed her postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové, Charles University, in the field of Pathobiochemistry and Xenobiochemistry where she defended her dissertation *The Role*

of Reductas in Cancer and where she also worked as an assistant professor.

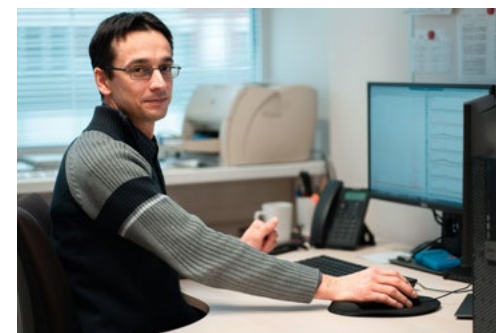
In the past, Associate Professor Zemanová researched the purification, preparation and characterisation of human enzymes, particularly the reductases of carbonyl compounds from the AKS and SDR superfamilies. A significant part of her work so far has been devoted



to the enzymes of the reductase family of the carbonyl compounds bound to cell membranes. Most recently, she has also studied the possibilities associated with the modulation of activities of select-

ed enzymes as potential molecular targets for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Even though her research takes up most of her time, she enjoys expanding her horizons in other fields, attending electronic music concerts, festivals and theatre performances, and travelling the world with her husband to see the beauties of nature.

Doc. Ing. Miroslav Lísa, Ph.D. has habilitated in analytical chemistry at the Faculty of Science, Palacky University in Olomouc, by a thesis on the use of chromatography and mass spectrometry in lipidomic analysis.



He completed his Master's degree at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology, University of Pardubice, where he also completed his postgraduate studies and defended his dissertation titled *Characterization of Triacylglycerol Composition in Natural Samples by HPLC/MS Technique*. He has been Head of Analytical Chemistry at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, UHK, since 2017. In 2016

he was awarded the Vladimír Hanuš Prize for best scientific work in the field of mass spectrometry by the Spectroscopic Society of J. M. M. (2016). And in 2014 he was featured on the Power List, a list of the 40 most influential scientists under 40 in analytical chemistry (Top 40 under 40 list) by the expert panel of The Analytical Scientist magazine.

In his research, he focuses on mass spectrometry in conjunction with chromatographic techniques, liquid chromatography and supercritical fluid chromatography, the development of methods for the analysis of small molecules, lipidomic analysis of plant materials and plant samples, as well as the evaluation of mass spectra (including HRMS) and the study of retention and fragmentation behaviour.

Doc. RNDr. Jan Šlégr, Ph.D. completed his habilitation at the Faculty of Science, UHK, in the didactics of physics and his habilitation thesis deals with selected aspects of astrophysics education.

He obtained his Master's degree at the Faculty of Education, UHK in teaching physics and informatics at higher secondary schools and at the Faculty of Science, UHK, in the field of measurement and modelling of physical properties. In 2013, he defended his PhD thesis on the experimental support of astrophysics education in the theory of education in physics. Since 2013, he has been teaching at the Department of Physics at the Faculty of Science, initially as a lecturer and now as an associate professor.

His principal areas of research include the didactics of physics and physical experiments in education, and the measurement of physical characteristics and the development of comprehensive sensing systems. As a researcher, he participates in many projects organised or funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, particularly in Gamma and Epsilon programs. For example, in the Smart Vet project, he develops systems



for the monitoring of vital functions of animal patients at veterinary clinics.

He is also a researcher for the PERSONMED project - Centre for the Development of Personalized Medicine in Age-Related Diseases. With his typical sense of humour, he describes his engagement in the projects

as “activities with unspecified inputs, methods and solutions having an impact on other activities.”

He is a member of several professional organisations, such as the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists or the Central Committee for the Physics Olympics, where he partakes in the education of talented young scientists. He is an active science populariser and regularly attends events such as Head Games (organised by the Faculty of Science, UHK) or lectures at the Night of Scientists.

In his free time, he enjoys doing extreme sports, including – as he explains with a smile – the teaching of physics at a secondary school. He also keeps a list of physics mistakes in movies. •

The Faculty of Education has a new associate professor

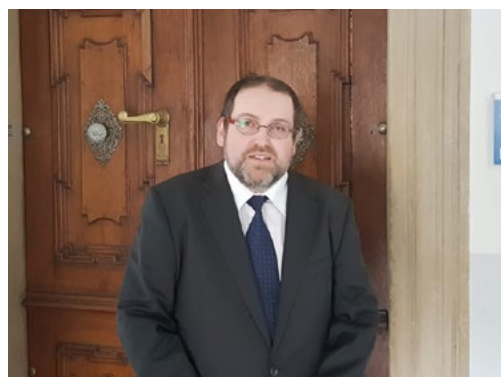
PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Jan Hojda from the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies of the Faculty of Education, UHK, successfully completed his habilitation.

Doc. Mgr. Jan Hojda, Th.D., from the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, defended his habilitation thesis and was appointed an associate professor by the Rector of Palacky University in Olomouc. He has been teaching at the Faculty of Education of University of Hradec Králové since 2003.

Associate Professor Hojda specializes in the theological, philosophical and anthropological interpretation of literature and cinematic production. He lives with his family in Hořiněves in Eastern Bohemia. He is a deacon in the Roman-Catholic Church. He is a passionate clinophile, a passive horticulturist and a professional conversationalist. He also

enjoys reminiscing about his mountaineering adventures with a pipeful of tobacco and glassful of wine. •



Martin Paleček joined the ranks of associate professors of the Philosophical Faculty

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Martin Paleček from the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové was appointed an associate professor in 2019.

Associate Professor Paleček completed his Master's studies in the field of History and Philosophy at the University of Hradec Králové and his PhD degree at Charles University in Prague. In December 2018 he published his habilitation thesis “Entrapped Anthropologists” at Masaryk University in Brno and was appointed an associate professor in the Spring of 2019.

Martin Paleček studied abroad at universities in Frankfurt (Germany), Oslo (Norway),

Cambridge (England) and New York (USA). He spent the academic year 2013/2014 as the holder of the Fulbright – Masaryk scholarship at Emory University, Atlanta, USA.

In his copious research, Associate Professor Paleček focuses largely on the philosophy of social sciences and on cultural anthropology in particular.



He is a member of several eminent academic organisations, such as the Royal Anthropological Institute, the British Wittgenstein Society and the European Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences. He is also a member of the editorial board of the Philosophy of Social Sciences (a journal).

Martin Paleček also currently represents the academic staff of the Philosophical Faculty in the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové. •

The second best among Czech universities. The University of Hradec Králové receives a bumper crop of funds for international student mobility

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Once again, in 2019 the Centre for International Cooperation in Education distributed public funds intended for international student mobility among 22 institutions. As in 2018, the University of Hradec Králové succeeded and managed to obtain the second highest mobility budget of EUR 697 215.

“Converted to local currency, this is almost eighteen million Czech korunas, which we may use both to send our students and teachers abroad and to welcome foreign students and teachers or researchers. We consider internationalisation to be one of the priorities of our University and the funds received in the competition of other universities confirm this orientation,” Zdeněk Beran, the Vice-Rector for International Relations, explains. Just for comparison, in 2018 the University obtained international mobility funds of EUR 396 316, which is just above ten million Czech korunas.

With the funds, the University of Hradec Králové may send hundreds of Czech students to study abroad and accept hundreds of international students in return per year. The experience gained by Czech students on their study trips is invaluable: “It massively improves the labour market success of our



graduates. Employers are very interested in candidates who have this type of experience.

The more dissimilar cultural environment the student is capable of experiencing, the better skills he or she is able to gain,” adds Vice-Rector Beran from his experience.

The University even managed to obtain 100% of all funds available for study trips to Latin America and 90% of funds in the category

of so-called other industrial countries, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Republic of Korea.

Where Africa is concerned, the University won over 50% of the funds available in the Czech Republic. In total, the UHK obtained 15% of the entire budget distributed to Czech universities, which made it the second most successful university in the program. Only Mendel University in Brno managed to collect more.

“We place great emphasis on sending our students abroad and on accepting international students. The numbers clearly confirm it – in

2018, 409 Czech students from the University of Hradec Králové left the Czech Republic to study abroad, while 598 students from our international partner universities came to study at our University. Given that our University has only about 6000 students, I think that these numbers speak volumes,” Kamil Kuča, the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové, comments on the success.

The University of Hradec Králové launched a special recruitment series for international students in 2018. It is called the *UHK Guide* and already has over 80 thousand views. •

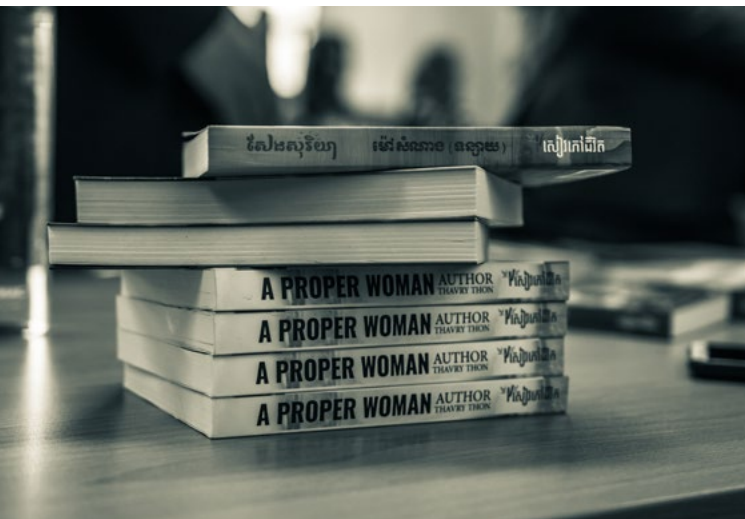
A Cambodian graduate of the University of Hradec Králové launches her literary debut at her alma mater

ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

On November 11, 2019, Thavry Thon, a graduate of the Faculty of Informatics and Management, introduced a Czech translation of her first novel *A Proper Woman*.

Thavry completed her bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Informatics and Management in 2012. Since then, she has regularly returned to Czechia – this time to introduce a Czech translation of her best-selling novel. “For over 15 years, the Faculty of Informatics and Management has been helping young talented people, who had the misfortune to be born in countries that cannot offer similar educational opportunities. To this end, we have set up a program of scholarships and established a cooperation with the *People in Need* foundation. Thavry is one of the successful graduates of the program. We have been more than happy to assist her in introducing her book to Czech readers. The novel has been translated into Czech by our current student Eliška Lanzová, and I am confident that our domestic readers will truly enjoy the





The book is not just an auto-biographical depiction of the writer's life in Cambodia. It tells a much broader story about three generations of women living in the country, and it also focuses on the societal conditions and customs of Cambodia. In her book, the author describes her experiences on her obstacle-ridden journey to becoming a writer. "I have been incredibly fortunate because my family has supported me every step of the way. When my mother was young, she also wanted to study but the dire circumstances in our country made

fascinating success story of a strong-minded, young girl from a Cambodian countryside," the Faculty dean, Professor Josef Hynek, explained.

A Proper Women was first published in Cambodia in 2017 and soon became the most successful book ever written in Cambodia by a female writer. As the author herself notes, her readers' unprecedented interest in the book has pleasantly surprised her and is proof of the fact that she is writing about things that are of interest to them and which they understand. Since last November, the book is also available to Czech readers under the title *Dcery Kambodže*.

it impossible. And so we were all the happier when my dream finally came true."

In the lecture hall packed full of students and other guests, Thavry admitted that she comes from a very impoverished background and that when she got the opportunity to study in the Czech Republic, she didn't hesitate.

Her studies at UHK have helped her immensely in all areas of her life. "Some people still don't realize the breadth of their opportunities and they don't appreciate all the good things in life. Many have to fight for even the basic things in life and they have to work extremely hard to accomplish a decent life," the young writer says.

Thavry has managed to find her path to freedom and liberty. Even though she received several offers of marriage pre-arranged according to the Cambodian tradition, she has decided to be with her Czech partner whom she met during her studies at FIM. They now live in Cambodia and work at a publishing house jointly established by the two of them. •



I heartily recommend studying at the University of Hradec Králové, says the Cape Verdean Eloi Semedo

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Eloi Alector Monteiro Pinto Semedo spent the academic year 2015/2016 at the Philosophical Faculty. He recently returned to Czechia and made sure he visited our University.

How did you come to spend an academic year at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové?

One day Professor Klíma from the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové arrived with a group of students at our Universidade Jean Piaget de Cabo Verde, where I had been studying at the time. We met and discussed the various study opportunities in the Czech Republic. It seemed like a good idea, so I applied and I was admitted. It's been three years since I first came to the Czech Republic.



What did you find most surprising on your arrival?

It's hard to pinpoint just one thing, there were so many. I didn't have the faintest idea what to expect, it was a completely foreign experience, far from home. I knew that the environment would be very different and so would the people. In my home at Cape Verde and in Africa in general, people tend to be much more...emotional, people here are calmer. The Czech language has also proven to be a hard nut to crack, that was surprising.

Why do you think Czech is so hard?

It just is! (laughing). When I am in a country where the language is simpler, I have no

problem to learn it. For example, I spent some time in countries where they spoke French and I was able to converse on the streets in a couple of months. But this certainly was not the case here.

What did you study in Hradec Králové?

At Cape Verde, my major was Translation and Culture, but in Czechia I picked up different subjects. I liked political science, Latin American studies, and African studies, led by the now dean, Jan Prouza, enthralled me. It was good to get a different perspective on African politics here in Hradec Králové.

Would you recommend studying at the Hradec University?

Oh yes, definitely. The two terms that I spent here were some of the best times I've ever had at a university. I would definitely recommend people study here. Hradec Králové is not a large town, but you have everything you may need here as a student. You have great sporting facilities, you have excellent cultural venues, the cost of living is very decent, the University is great, as are the libraries.

How have your studies in Hradec affected your life?

I benefited a lot from my studies at UHK after my return to Cape Verde. My self-confidence improved and I gained more recognition. People now say "He studied in Europe for a year and he made it!" I even managed to get a better job. At the time, I was one of three possible candidates. When during the job interview I spoke about my stay in the Czech Republic and how I had improved my English, the recruiters were really enthusiastic and they gave me the job. Now I help people get short-term visas to EU countries in the Schengen area. •

International students want to learn Czech in the summer

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Sailing through difficult Czech pronunciation, introducing oneself, ordering a Czech meal at a restaurant and learning how not to get lost in public transport – these were just some of the skills students learned at an intensive Czech language course organised by the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové.

The third annual Czech summer course for international students attracted dozens

of students from China and Russia to Hradec Králové from August 6 to September 6, 2019.

The group also included graduates of a two-term course of the Czech language from the Zhejiang Wanli University in China, with whom the Faculty of Education (UHK) has had a long-term relationship.

In addition to intensive language training, the summer course also offered educational trips all over the Czech Republic – to Prague, Kutná Hora, Poděbrady and other interesting places. The Vice-Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Education, Mgr. Daniela Vrabcová, Ph.D., who supervises the project, notes: "We want to educate



international students in both our language and the specifics of our culture, history and local traditions."

Course graduates received a certificate attesting to the effort invested in coping with the intricacies of our language.

At the farewell ceremony, teachers agreed that the University had again managed to create an exciting and welcoming environment that had helped improve the students' knowledge

of the Czech language and its culture. Summer course teacher and coordinator Mgr. Žaneta Göbelová added: "We are delighted by how enthusiastic students who have just started their Czech Studies and how motivated the more advanced students were." As in previous years, the summer language courses were taught by PhDr. Marie Müllerová, Ph.D., PhDr. Věra Tauchmanová, M.A., Ph.D., and Mgr. Vendula Voříšková, assisted by Faculty of Education students Martin Menšík and Radka Vojtkovská, who have welcomed the opportunity to develop a broader spectrum of their professional skills that will be essential in their future teaching careers. •



Students from Asia spent an interesting month in Hradec Králové

VĚRA PALÁNOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

From July 8 to August 5, 2019, the Faculty of Informatics and Management organised a summer school for international and Czech students under the name Czech it Out 2019. The summer school was attended by 128 students from seven partnership universities, mostly from Asia. This represents a one hundred per cent increase in attendance compared to the previous year.

The lectures and seminars were divided into two program segments – Modern Information Technologies and Business and Intercultural Studies. Wednesdays were

devoted to study trips to prominent Czech companies, such as the world-famous piano maker Petrof or the car manufacturer Škoda Auto. On Friday afternoons, the Faculty

FOREIGN RELATIONS

organised academic talks, i.e. less formal meetings and discussions with university researchers. The international students were also introduced to the history of the Czech Republic and contemporary life as part of the accompanying program. For example, summer school participants visited the Wallenstein Castle, took a guided tour through the Old Town in Prague and went to the Hradec observatory.

herald of the morn, to spread the boundless lustre of the day, something that can hardly be seen in the Chinese cities of today." Zichen Wang, one of the students from the City University of Hong Kong, also appreciates the experience gained from his summer stay in Hradec: "I study computer science at the City University, which is why I picked business administration as my summer school program,

Students received their summer school diplomas at the graduation ceremony held on 5 August 2019 in student-packed Lecture Room J1.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of the Photography Contest and special prizes were awarded to the most successful students.



Associate Professor Blanka Klímová, the Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics and one of the lecturers at the summer school noted: "I am always looking forward to teaching at the summer school. It is always very exciting to meet young people from various cultural backgrounds, to learn about their traditions, customs and values, and to remind ourselves of our own here in Czechia. For example, I've been told that we have an azure sky, in which oftentimes the lovely glittering star wakes the dawn, attired in heavenly light, the

just to learn something new. This is the last year that I can spend my summer travelling and relaxing since I must take up a full-time job next year.

In this, the summer school satisfied all my expectations. I've made many new friends here from different countries, friends with whom I would like to stay in touch. And I would like to return to Czechia some time in future." •



The Faculty of Science stayed busy all summer, as the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Chemistry organised their own international summer schools.

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

The inaugural Summer School of Toxicology held in July 2019 in Hradec Králové was attended by 26 students from Jangtze University and from the Nanjing Agricultural University. During their month-long stay, the students attended lectures and lab workshops at the Department of Chemistry, got to know other Czech and European cities, such as Prague, Vienna and Dresden and learned a few Czech phrases.

For most of the students, this was their first stay in Europe, and seeing their ebullient reactions, it is safe to say that it will certainly not be their last:

"It is difficult to say what I liked most. The teachers were kind and everyone was so caring. I enjoyed the trip to *Adršpach-Teplíce Rocks* (Editor's note: *Adršpašské skály*), even if I still cannot pronounce the name of the place properly. And I understood almost everything during the lab exercises, though we normally learn the terms in Chinese and here I had to understand them in English, so I learned a lot. And the handouts from the teachers were just perfect."

Anqui, a student from the Nanjing Agricultural University

Math lectures for talented young students from the Ukraine and Greece

From August 1 to 31, 2019, the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science organised the Summer School of Geometry and Topology for 30 talented young mathematicians from Russia, Ukraine and Greece. In recent years, the course has become a much sought-after program among international holiday schools.

it so attractive for international students,” adds Mr Galaev.

The lectures and seminars taught at the summer school were devoted to the contemporary developments in the field of differential geometry and topology, a line of research also pursued by the members of the Department.



“The interest in the spring and summer schools organised by our Department has been running high, and this year we even had to decline many applicants. In the end, we selected 30 of the most talented students out of a total of 85 applicants, and gave them scholarships to cover at least a part of their costs,” described Anton Galaev, the chief organiser and a researcher at the Department of Mathematics (Faculty of Science, UHK).

“We are very pleased with the number of people interested in our Course and we are very glad that we have managed to make

The lectures were held by the Department’s own international researchers – Yaroslav Bazaikin, Oleksii Kotov, Ioannis Chrysikos, Charalampos Evripidou and by the post-doctoral researchers Eivind Schneider and Curtis Porter.

The school develops the topics taught at the Spring School of Differential Geometry and Topology held in May 2018 and the Summer School of Algebraic Geometry from August 2018. •

Taiwanese professor lectures as part of Erasmus+ program

ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ DEAN’S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

At the turn of November 2019, the Faculty of Informatics and Management welcomed an eminent professor of linguistics from the Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Taiwan.

Li-ying Wu honoured the Faculty of Informatics and Management with her visit, lecturing and debating FIM students over a period of one week. Given her field of specialisation, she met mainly with the students of the Department of Applied Linguistics. “I’ve come to share my experience in tourism and culture in Taiwan. The main objective of my visit is to spread awareness of intercultural communication and encourage students to leave their European or Czech comfort zone and go to Asia for an exchange program,” Professor Li-ying Wu said.

Professor Wu was sent to the Faculty of Informatics and Management on the International Credit Mobility scheme of the Erasmus+ program. “The program primarily covers student and teacher exchange programs between European and non-European universities. FIM has been admitted to programs with Malaysia, Taiwan, Ethiopia and most recently Thailand.



Last term, we sent two teachers to Taiwan and one teacher to Malaysia, and we are already planning other future exchange trips,” said Kristýna Havlíčková from the International Affairs Department of the Faculty of Informatics and Management. •

UHK BALL 2021
February 24, 2021
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Physicist Jan Kříž appointed a new dean of the Faculty of Science

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ

DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UHK

On March 1, 2019, the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové appointed Doc. RNDr. Jan Kříž, Ph.D. a new dean of the Faculty of Science. Associate professor Kříž was elected by the Academic Senate for the term from 2019 to 2023 on December 12, 2018. Professor Kříž took up the office from his predecessor RNDr. PaedDr. Pavel Trojovský, Ph.D., who served as the faculty dean during two previous terms.



Doc. RNDr. Jan Kříž, Ph.D. graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University (in theoretical physics, astronomy and astrophysics). In 2015, he has habilitated at the Department of Physics of the Faculty of Science UHK (in the theory of education in physics), where he has taught since 2003. He also held the office of a vice-dean of the Faculty of Science and the office of Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development of the University of Hradec Králové.



"I have three main priorities for the upcoming term of office. The first one is the internationalization of the faculty, such as by building international research teams or by obtaining accreditation for programs conducted in English. My second priority is to promote research in specialized fields of excellence.

And last but not least, I would like to contribute to the preservation and further development of education studies, since our educational system is in dire need of good teachers of sciences and mathematics. I believe that we should be able to reach this goal by making such study programs more attractive here at the Faculty of Science," the new dean Jan Kříž, commented on his plans. •

Political scientist Jan Prouza now a new dean of the Philosophical Faculty

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA

DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Mgr. Jan Prouza, Ph.D. was elected by the Academic Senate of the Philosophical Faculty on May 24, 2019 and 39 days later he was appointed the dean of the Philosophical Faculty by the Rector of University of Hradec Králové. He accepted the office from the hand of his predecessor Mgr. et Mgr. Pavlína Springerová, Ph.D., who served as the dean since 2012.



The new dean, Mgr. Jan Prouza, Ph.D., graduated with a master's degree in Political Science and African Studies at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové, and with a doctoral degree in International Relations and European



Studies at the Metropolitan University Prague. His research focuses on the region of West Africa and on Ghana in particular. He was the

Head of the Department of Political Science of the Philosophical Faculty from 2013 to 2018 and the Vice-Dean for International Affairs.

"The main reason why I accepted the offer to run for office is my love of the University. I am so grateful for what we have accomplished here and I would like to continue in the current spirit. My program is clear – evolution rather than revolution. I would like to follow in the path set out by Dr. Springerová, particularly in her emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

I would therefore like to focus my efforts on a more in-depth internationalization of the Faculty and on broadening the multidisciplinary reach of our study programs," the new dean Jan Prouza described his plans. •

FIM UHK student awarded by the Mayor of Hradec Králové

VĚRA PALÁNOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

The City of Hradec Králové bestows annual awards, such as the Hradec Muse Price, the Hradec Sports Price, the Mayor's Student Award for Creative Achievement, the Primus Inter Pares Award and biannual awards such as the Frantisek Ulrich Award, while the citizens of Hradec decide about the Event of the Year of Hradec Králové.

At the award ceremony held on May 1, 2019, at the Educational and Research Centre of Charles University in Hradec Králové, the Mayor's Student Award for Creative Achievement was given to Ing. Denis Šefara, a student at the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové for his practical application of information and knowledge management.



Has the award come as a surprise?

Well, to say that I was shocked would be to miss the opportunity to use the words flummoxed, fuddled and flabbergasted. When the mayor announced my name, I thought that it was some sort of mistake. The unbelieving look on my face was genuine. In principle, I was nominated for organizing and promoting cooperation between FIM and SKODA AUTO. It is therefore quite apparent that this was a joint effort of many people.

I am engaged in both organizations, so all I was trying to do was to identify synergies in their cooperation.

You are a PhD student at FIM. What is your particular line of study and what has led you to choose it?

I was largely convinced to take up doctoral studies at FIM due to my experience in teaching a specialized study course in the last year of my graduate studies, which I came to enjoy very much. As a researcher, I study eye-tracking, that is the measurement and quantification of eye movements and its use in the research of human behaviour. In my doctoral thesis, I study eye-tracking in the context of business intelligence systems and its application as a decision-making tool.

Why SKODA?

SKODA AUTO is an excellent employer and I am proud that I can work for a company like SKODA. I have always been interested in cars. And I couldn't resist the opportunity to do IT in a company, whose products are so well respected. Even during my job interview, I asked to be given space to complete my doctoral studies. And I am happy to say that my employer has been much more forthcoming than I expected.

What are the chief benefits of the cooperation between the University and SKODA AUTO?

I think that the University appreciates the study trips and lecture opportunities. SKODA has also helped the University through sponsorship by donations that allowed the University to buy technological equipment for its educational and research activities. FIM students may also go on study stays in SKODA IT to draft their diploma theses or to participate in interesting projects, which involve FIM as SKODA's contractor. Thanks to such activities, students get the chance to work on real-life projects during their studies, which is greatly beneficial in forming their own ideas and expectations about their future career. I have been appointed a project manager for those activities in SKODA AUTO, which means that I am in charge of the smooth running of the project and its coordination.

What are your plans for the future, whether in your studies or in your profession?

My main priority is to finish and defend my dissertation thesis and to complete my PhD degree. In my profession, my current focus is on organizational work but I do not want to neglect my technical skills either. It takes a long time to become an expert SAP consultant and even after several years of practical experience, I still have lots to learn.

I do not want to jump ahead, but from the perspective of my employer, Hradec Králové and its vicinity has become a very attractive region when it comes to IT experts, and it is thanks to FIM. Plans are now being discussed about a possible setup of office premises for experts from Hradec Králové. I will naturally try to support this vision and aid in its implementation. •

FAMOS 2019 Awards for Teachers at the Faculty of Education

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Faculty teachers from the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové from a variety of cooperating schools received the annual FAMOS Award on October 30, 2019. The teaching award was granted in recognition of their long-term efforts in improving the quality of education and the excellence of teachers who partake in the education of future teachers. As noted by František Vaníček, the dean of the Faculty of Education, "We have been able to pinpoint just a few of our colleagues, but in truth, all of our teachers who work with students and who help them prepare for their future careers would be equally deserving of similar acknowledgement and appreciation."

The dean František Vaníček bestowed the award on Lucie Drašnarová, a teacher at the Elementary School Habrmanova in Hradec Králové. Other winners included Ivona Struhařová, the headmaster of the faculty-supervised kindergartens Kampanova and Albertova in Hradec Králové, or Jiří Varhaník, faculty teacher of German and History at the Elementary School Úprkova in Hradec

Králové. The dean also recognized Petra Zemanská, a young student-teacher of the French literature and language for her teaching practice at the Božena Němcová Grammar School in Hradec Králové.

A FAMOS 2019 Award was also given to Lenka Dovcová, a young student-teacher of the English language for her teaching practice at

the Elementary School Mandysova in Hradec Králové. Unfortunately, she could not attend the award ceremony for health reasons.



The annual FAMOS Awards have been designed by the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové as a special award for faculty teachers who prepare students of the Faculty of Education for their future careers.

The award is intended to recognize and motivate faculty teachers in their continued efforts and as far as can be seen from the response of faculty members, it appears to have hit the spot.

Each winner received a diploma and an art print created by the students at the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies (Faculty of Education, UHK). •

The winners:

- Mgr. Lenka Dovcová
- Mgr. Lucie Drašnarová
- Bc. Ivona Struhařová
- Mgr. Jiří Varhaník
- Mgr. Petra Zemanská

The Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs honoured Professor Ondřej Felcman with the Bene Merito Distinction

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

The final session of the First Congress of Czech Polonists was held in Prague from November 20 to 22, 2019. The congress members reported about their participation in conferences held since September in the field of Polish studies, and organized a conference on Polish history. At the closing ceremony, Professor Ondřej Felcman from the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové accepted the Bene Merito honorary badge in recognition of his merits in promoting Poland abroad from the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On Thursday, November 21, the Embassy of Poland held a special ceremony, at which Her Excellency Barbara Anna Ćwioro, ambassador to the Czech Republic, presented the Bene Merito honorary distinction, bestowed by the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, to eminent personalities of the Czech scientific and cultural community, mostly to members of the Organizational and Program



Committee of the congress lead by its chairman Professor Jan Rychlík from Charles University. The honorary badge was also



presented to Professor Ondřej Felcman, who represents the University of Hradec Králové in the congress committee, and acted as the principal organizer of the successful international conference Czech – Polish Cross-border, held by UHK as one of the congress events from October 2 to 3, 2019.

The presentation ceremony was preceded by a special concert organized as part of the 11th season of the Salon Polski Festival held in the Fürstenberg Palace. •

The University of Hradec Králové is the best Czech university in an international university ranking

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Times Higher Education has published the results of the International European Teaching Ranking 2019. The University of Hradec Králové placed top from among Czech higher education institutions in the European competition when it took 101st to 125th position.

“This ranking is special in that it is based on an anonymous survey conducted among university students. And it appears we have received a truly excellent school report from our students,” Kamil Kuča, the University Rector, comments on the results.

The ranking uses fourteen indicators, including how happy students are with the quality of university education, with the learning environment and the quality of engagement. Other interesting performance indicators include links to the labour market, the proportion of international students or

the gender balance of students and academic staff.



“The anonymous survey has been designed to collect information that is essential for students and their families in making their decision about which school to pick. I think that the excellent ranking achieved by the independent student survey confirms that the University of Hradec Králové has become a very attractive brand for both Czech and international students,” comments Zdeněk Beran, the Vice-Rector for International Affairs.

The rankings show that even a smaller regional university can compete with larger and more traditional universities by adopting an individual approach to its students and academic staff. Many ranking systems are set up to favour larger universities with their incomparably higher number of staff and students, which produces more research and more graduates. “We have managed to prove here at the UHK that we are capable and willing to devote our time and effort for the benefit of our students. I am very pleased that the students have appreciated our approach in the survey,” Kamil Kuča, the Rector of the University, concludes. •

The University of Hradec Králové placed highest from among Czech universities, followed by Mendel University in Brno at the 126th to 150th rank. The Czech Agricultural University in Prague, Pardubice University and the Technical University in Liberec all took between 151st to 200th place in the rankings.



A medal from the Universiade: Petra Hančová won bronze in ski orienteering

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Our student Petra Hančová returned from the FISU Winter Universiade in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, with a bronze medal in ski orienteering on a middle track. This was one of the six medals brought back by the Czech national team.

In March 2019, the 29th Winter Universiade was held in the City of Krasnoyarsk, Russia. The most prestigious winter sports event for university students was attended by a team of 131 athletes from the Czech Republic, including three students from our University, namely: Petra Hančová from the Faculty of Education (ski orienteering), Lukáš Bezděk from the Faculty of Education (ice hockey) and Luboš Kozák from the Philosophical Faculty (ice hockey).



Petra Hančová studies primary school education (physical education and mathematics) and she is an enthusiastic ski orienteer. Ski orienteering is a cross-country skiing endurance winter racing sport that was included in the program of the Universiade for the first time in Krasnoyarsk in 2019. And it was an immediate success for the Czech national team.

Compared to other sports, there are relatively few big ski orienteering races. The World Cup is held on a biannual basis and consists of just three rounds. Here in the Czech Republic, ski orienteers are limited in their practice by snow conditions and the season lasts just a few months. But as an individual sport, ski orienteers have the advantage of being able to create individual training plans, and to decide when and how to train. In comparison, ice hockey players all have to meet on the ice rink at the same time.

According to Ms Hančová, the sport requires not just excellent skiing skills and endurance, but also the ability to navigate in a dense ski track network. To succeed, the skier must be very fast, must be able to read maps very well and must be able to choose the correct route in order to reach the control points in the shortest possible time. The athletes are handed over the map with the track network that does not show any marked route in the terrain just 15 seconds before the start of the race.

The medal winner from the Universiade is hardly new to the sport; on the contrary, she has had quite a successful career in ski orienteering already. She has managed to prove her all-around athletic talent by winning the university Academic Run race in 2019 (the distance of 2.2 kilometres). Petra Hančová has also featured among the most successful athletes of the University Sports Centre of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. •



Secondary school students enjoy their Pi

VĚRA PALÁNOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

The teachers at the Faculty of Informatics and Management joined the annual celebrations of the magical number π and prepared an interesting math lecture for the 7th year of the Pi Day at FIM.

In 2019, the traditional lecture was held on the key date, i.e. on March 14. Four dozens of secondary school students listened to the lecture called "Meet Pi" by Associate Professor Pavel Pražák who introduced the students to the fascinating world of ratios, rates of convergence and integrals.

After a short lunch break, which featured specially decorated doughnuts and plum-filled pies, Dr. Jiří Haviger and Dr. Petr Bauer presented a workshop titled "Measuring the Circle." The students filled the largest computer lecture room of the Faculty of Informatics and Management. "In our workshop, students first had the opportunity to compute the area of a circle using the Monte Carlo method and then they derived the area of the circle by numerical integration. Since the basic terms were previously explained in the morning lecture, we could start implementing both tasks right away," Dr. Bauer explained and continued: "All participants received a handout at the start of the workshop, which showed a detailed explanation of the principal steps, and I am pleased to say that they all did very well.

Any minor issues they encountered were promptly resolved with the help of the teacher or by discussing the problem among themselves. They even managed to present their results within the time period available. As



far as I could see, they all appeared to enjoy the workshop and I hope that it will help motivate them in their future mathematics and information science studies." Dr. Bauer concludes. •

A new edition of Jitka Snížková's compositions now in works

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

In order to resurrect the interest in the oeuvre of the Czech musicologist, composer, pianist, music scholar and teacher Jitka Snížková, PhDr. Helena Karnetová and PhDr. Dana Soušková, Ph.D., from the Department of Music of the Faculty of Education, came up with a unique project.

The idea to delve into the musical work of the prodigious composer was initially proposed by Mgr. Růžena Matěnová, a researcher at the Music Department of the Hradec Králové City Library. Only a few more than 600 musical compositions were published in print during Jitka Snížková's lifetime (1924 – 1989). There are very few radio recordings available and only one organ opus – In remembrance of the Middle Ages – it was recorded on a phonograph by Michal Novenko. No monographs have been written about the composer either.

celebration of the composer's birth. Most of the opuses were played from autographs, but we had the live concert recorded by a professional studio," Dr. Helena Karnetová explains.

The autographs introduced at the concert were gradually transcribed by music notation software and published separately in critical editions.



The second concert held at the anniversary of the composer's death on June 2, 2019, was included in the program of the Music Festival Letohrad. The chamber music was enacted by the teachers from the Department of Music of the Faculty of Education UHK, teachers from JAMU Brno and

members of the Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra. The live recording of the concert was published on a CD.



Jitka Snížková's music has been re-introduced to the public over a period of several years now. "Initially, we organized a concert performed by the students of the Department of Music of the Faculty of Education in 2014, which was funded by our internal grant, in

According to PhDr. Dana Soušková, Ph.D. "a monograph is being prepared about the life and work of Jitka Snížková. We expect to present the published works, theoretical studies and CD recording to music schools and conservatories in the Czech Republic." •

UHK students keep a vigil in memory of Jan Palach

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

DOMINIK ŠÍPOŠ STUDENT ORGANISER OF THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MARCH

Over 200 people met at the Large Square in Hradec Králové on Friday, January 25, 2019, before the building of the former town council hall in remembrance of the fifty-year anniversary of the ultimate sacrifice of Jan Palach and of his funeral in 1969. It was in January 1969 when the students of the Pedagogical Faculty (UHK) and the Medical Faculty in Hradec Králové organized a public commemoration ceremony for Jan Palach. On January 25, 2019, all university students from UHK met again to recreate the funeral ceremony and march from Hradec Králové.

“I am proud that our students organized the ceremony in reminiscence of the 50th anniversary of Jan Palach’s martyrdom and called into actions other universities to commemorate this fundamental milestone of our recent history. We need to remind ourselves of the legacy of Jan Palach, his predecessors and successors, and I am firmly convinced that every student in the Czech Republic should be aware of Jan Palach’s sacrifice in his fight against totalitarianism,” the Rector of UHK Kamil Kuča said at the close of the ceremony.



The march started at Large Square, continued by a walk around Adalbertinum, the Museum of East Bohemia, and across Tyrš Bridge, and ended at Masaryk Square, where the representatives of the institutions of higher education based in Hradec Králové, the representatives of student unions and other visitors laid wreaths and lighted up candles before the framed photograph of Jan Palach, as did the 2000 courageous citizens in Hradec Králové back in 1969.

Jan Sklenář, an actor at Klicpera Theatre in Hradec Králové, recited an excerpt from *Máj*, a dramatic poem by the Czech romantic poet Karel Hynek Mácha, in a reminder of Miroslav Zouhar’s recitation from 50 years ago. Unlike in the original ceremony in 1969, Jan Sklenář could also recite the poem Jan Zajíč devoted to Jan Palach before committing suicide by self-immolation to support Jan Palach’s political protest. In conclusion, a moment of silence was held by all present, followed by the singing of the Czechoslovak national anthem. The afternoon program was concluded by a discussion between students and Jarmila Stibicová, a dissident and signatory of Charter

77, who was condemned to prison in 1969 for the distribution of leaflets at the anniversary of the 1968 Soviet invasion and who participated in occupation protests.



The initiative of Hradec Králové students across educational institutions was also supported by the City of Hradec Králové and the Hradec Králové Region, represented by the Mayor Alexandr Hrabálek and the Regional Governor Jiří Štěpán.

The ceremonial march was covered by several news services, such as Seznam Zprávy or Czech Television. •



A varicoloured patchwork of EduDays 2019

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UHK

Over two thousand visitors gathered to attend lectures, workshops, exhibitions, concerts, sports and cultural events organized by the Faculty of Education of UHK over the period of one week from March 25 to 30, 2019. The programme was prepared by a motley crew of Faculty staff together with the Faculty sponsors in order to display the diversity and richness of activities pursued at the Faculty of Education.

“EduDays give an intense insight into the largest faculty of the University of Hradec Králové,” says the dean of the Faculty of Education, František Vaníček. He goes on to emphasise that “this year’s programme is of particular importance to the Faculty of Education because we are commemorating a successful 60 years of teacher training in Eastern Bohemia.”

The event was kicked off by Stanislav Motl, a journalist and historian, with his lecture on *Waiting for Death: The Czech People before the Courts of the Third Reich*. He not only lectured on the essentials, but also presented his new documentary film that deals with those 2WW Czech resistance fighters who were put on death row; first captured they were later guillotined in German prisons. The University lecture hall was filled with a captivating story about the last days of the heroes convicted to death and about the lavish lifestyle of their executioners. The lecture was co-presented by Dr. Miroslav Antl, a Senator and the Chairman of the Committee for Legal and Constitutional Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, who focused on the legal

analysis of the historical perspective that formed the then understanding of the essential elements of crime and punishment.

The pinnacle lecture this year revolved around ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). The lecture hall was packed. Students learned that some of the symptoms may constitute a certain selective advantage in talented persons and that the first mentions of ADHD date back to 1775. The lecture titled *Is ADHD a Historical Novelty?* was presented by Cyril Höschl, Professor of psychiatry.

The EduDays programme also included a gala evening hosted by the Faculty of Education at the Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra Hall. The gala evening gave the teachers and the students of the Faculty of Education a unique opportunity to dress up and meet guests and colleagues from other faculties and universities, as well as various eminent political and cultural personalities of the Hradec Králové Region and the City of Hradec Králové, and other esteemed guests and visitors. At the gala evening, a windfall of awards was distributed among some of the most

illustrious teachers and researchers of the Faculty of Education.

The Praemium Scientificum Award was bestowed on Mgr. Jan Suk, Ph.D. for his contribution to science and research. He works at the Department of English Language and Literature. The Praemium Artificiosum Award was bestowed on Assistant Professor Vlastimil Vodák for his contribution to art. Mr Vodák is an academic painter and teaches at the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies. Professor PhDr. Eva Jenčková, CSc., a member of the Department of Music, was awarded the Praemium Paedagogicum Award for her work in education. The Praemium Cooperationis Internationalis Award was bestowed on PhDr. Jindřich Kesner, CSc., a lecturer at the Department of Russian Literature and Language, for his contribution to internationalisation. MgA. Jan Kyselák received a Medal for his long-standing help and support in the development of the Faculty of Education.

In the second part of the ceremony, the students of the Department of Music, Faculty of Education, organized a concert together with the Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of the conductor Jan Zbavítel.

EduDays also allow for a mutually beneficial exchange of experience between teachers and education scholars. A special place is devoted in the programme to a series of discussion panels titled “School in School”, which features faculty teachers and headmasters. The follow-up accompanying programme included a performance by the Faculty choirs and an opening of the Resume 6 Exhibition, which shows the artworks designed and created by students of the Department of Art, Visual Arts and Textile Studies.

It has become something of a tradition that the EduDays also act as a venue for research conferences. They are world renowned and guests and researchers from afar attend them. Let’s name but a few: The Hradec Králové Anglophone Conference 2019, the International Conference on Literature for Young People 2019, Informatics in Nursery and Primary Schools and the On the Road to Education for a Responsible Life towards People and the Environment conference.

Many people from abroad visited and attended the 27th EduDays. International partners from the Erasmus+ program for Teacher Mobility presented a variety of lectures. An example of which is a lecture given by Professor Yi Ki Ho on the current political situation in the Korean Peninsula. Professor Yi Ki Ho is Head of the Centre for Peace and Public Integrity at Hanshin University, South Korea. Another interesting guest was Associate Professor Sergey Zasorin, the Director of the Institute of Foreign Languages from the State University of Education in Moscow. He presented, in cooperation with the Department of English Literature and Language and the Department of Russian Literature and Language, a set of fascinating lectures titled *Slavic Borrowings into English: Historical Contexts and Comparative Analyses and Historical Memory of Contemporary Russians*.

The last evening of EduDays 2019 was devoted to the closing presentation of the project Stories of Our Neighbours. Ten secondary school teams screened their documentaries that outlined the stories of ten contemporary witnesses to historical events. The secondary school students were guided to their final presentation also by the students of the Department of Czech Literature and Language under the auspices of Mgr. Michal Čuřín, who taught them the art of rhetoric and helped them practice the final presentation. The project was also accompanied by an outdoor exhibition. •

Young software geeks rendezvous at the University

VĚRA PALÁNOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT, UHK

From June 21 to 23, 2019, almost eighty young programmers met at the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové to compete in the final round of the 33rd annual programming competition.

The competition is aimed at primary and secondary school students and is intended to motivate them to improve their programming and software skills and raise their interest in computing and in technical fields in general.

The competition was opened by the Mayor of Hradec Králové Alexandr Hrabálek and by Ondřej Krejcar, the Vice-Dean for Research and Development. Professor Krejcar compared the multi-day programming competition to some university programming exams that also require the students to design and implement an actual software code within a limited period of time. "I truly admire how talented these programmers are at their age, and I firmly believe that they will also be able to apply those skills during their university studies," Ondřej Krejcar commented.

The competition itself was held over a period of four hours on Saturday afternoon.

Depending on their age category, competitors coded a modified version of the famous maze arcade game Pack Man, a virtual version of the legendary Rubik's Cube combination puzzle or programmed bank safe controls using an Arduino prototyping platform. In the evening, after a short walk through the city, the competitors listened to fascinating lectures by members of the competition jury, Jiří Benec and Jan Turoň.

The winners were announced on Sunday. Iva Vojkuvková from the Department of Informatics and Quantitative Methods of FIM UHK presented the monetary awards to the winners of the secondary school categories. Participants also received vouchers allowing them to submit university applications free-of-charge. Jana Ševcová from the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic that organizes the project presented prizes from sponsors and diplomas. The jury also presented an extraordinary award for a creative solution to the only representative of our region at the competition – Adam Giebl from the



Secondary School of Applied Cybernetics in Hradec Králové.

The winner of the programming part of the competition in the primary school category was Matyáš Hronek from the Elementary School in České Budějovice, the web design category was won by Tomáš Veselý from J. Heyrovsky Grammar School in Prague, while the first price in the microcontroller programming category went to Ondřej Lukeš from the Elementary School in Strakonice. Petr Zahradník from the Dr. Václav Šmejkal's Grammar School in Ústí nad Labem and the winner of the programming competition in the young adult category, shared his impressions: "I really enjoyed the competition. Personally, I would prefer listening to more

lectures than just walking round the town. The two lectures in the evening were quite nice. The competition assignment was not really that hard. I guess it's easy for me to say this as the winner, but I expected that it would be much harder. What I liked about the competition that it was practical, but I would certainly make it more difficult. After all, this was the final national round. If you managed to avoid basic errors, it could easily be completed in a shorter period of time. But as I said, I enjoyed the practical aspects of the assignment. I would gladly compete again next year, but by then I will already be at university." •

A survey shows that Humanities and Social Sciences graduates are still in demand on the labour market

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, UHK

Three philosophical faculties from the University of Hradec Králové, University of Ostrava and Jan Evangelista Purkyně University arranged a joint sociological survey to identify the position humanities and social sciences graduates have in the labour market. The survey, which was conducted by the reputable STEM/MARK agency, clearly shows that the demand after graduates from those fields is still high on the labour market.

The survey took place from July 9 to August 7, 2019, and targeted over a thousand companies with five or more employees. "There have been many surveys that review the success rate of university graduates in the labour market. But so far, we have not seen a survey that would focus specifically on humanities and social sciences graduates. This means that the data we have obtained is rather unique," the dean of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové explains.

The survey also shows that employers prefer graduates who have had the opportunity to train practical skills and gain practical experience during their studies, graduates who are self-reliant and who have mastered foreign languages. "I am pleased to say that our Faculty has been focusing on such skills for many years. In addition to practical experience and a broad range of foreign language courses, our students also have the opportunity to spend a part of their studies abroad," Dr. Prouza added.

Employers also tend to emphasize the importance of the ability to learn fast and the ability to communicate, to work in a team and to cope with stress. “In general, most employers (71 %) are satisfied with the qualifications humanities and social science graduates have. Interestingly enough, only one third of the employers make their recruitment decision based on the prestige of the graduates’ university,” commented Jan Burienc from the STEM/MARK agency.



The graduates of study programs aimed at humanities and social sciences are more frequently recruited by larger corporations operating in the field of education, public administration, financial and professional services and multinational corporations.

Humanities and social sciences graduates are in highest demand in the Prague and Ústí regions. The demand is lower in the Central Bohemia, Pilsen and Zlín regions.

People interested in studying the humanities and humanities students and graduates will be pleased to know that three quarters of the employers that recruit employees with their qualifications will seek to hire employees with a social science degree in the next three years. “Humanities and social sciences have recently become prey to many myths and stereotypes, which we have long strived to address. The most recent



survey clearly documents that graduates in the field of humanities have a very good chance to prosper on the labour market today and in the foreseeable future,” Dr. Jan Prouza, the dean of the Philosophical Faculty, concludes.

The survey was organized as part of the joint effort of philosophical faculties of the University of Hradec Králové, University

of Ostrava and Jan Evangelista Purkyně University to improve the quality and prestige of the humanities and social sciences. ●



General partner of UHK – Česká spořitelna. Together for eleven years

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Česká spořitelna savings bank has been the general partner of the University of Hradec Králové for 11 years in a row. Every year, the bank and the university strive to deepen their cooperation and offer university students much-needed practical experience. The year 2019 was no exception.

In 2019, the University of Hradec Králové was visited by several experts from Česká spořitelna, who presented lectures on areas ranging from contemporary systems of remuneration in human resources to digitalization and applied robotics. Česká spořitelna also prepared an interesting trivia quiz for students at the orientation week, where they presented the services and job opportunities offered by the bank to our students during their studies. In cooperation with the Students Union, which organizes the orientation week, the bank also screened a documentary to our students, which was followed by a discussion

panel with the filmmakers. Finally, the representatives of the HR Department of Česká spořitelna attended the annual job trade fairs HIT Career and JobStart.



“During the Social Evening hosted by the University, the General Partner also presents awards to the winners and partakes in the program of the Night of Scientists. I am very grateful for this partnership. I particularly appreciate the willingness of our partner to share the practical experience of Česká spořitelna’s experts with our students,” says Kamil Kuča, the Rector of the University. ●



UHK ANNUALLY IN A NUTSHELL

JANUARY



As is tradition, the University of Hradec Králové opened its doors to the public and prospective students in January during Open Days. The 2019 campaign for prospective students was very original. The motto was: *Inflate your brain*. The Na Soutoku University Campus welcomed 2,000 visitors.

FEBRUARY

“My School. My Room.” – In 2019, the Faculty of Informatics and Management gave itself a big birthday present by modernising Faculty premises and continuing in its 25th anniversary (2018) referred to as the *Blue Party*. “Last year’s celebrations commemorating 25 years of the existence of the Faculty of Informatics and Management enthralled many a student and teacher and we didn’t want to wait another five years to celebrate again. And that is why students and teachers alike got the opportunity to show off their talents in fields that are definitely not taught at the Faculty. Inside out lectures, musical bands, martial arts, pole dance, karaoke and playing chess with the best is but a few of the activities that people could see and partake during the *Blue Party* hosted by FIM,” says the Faculty dean, Josef Hynek, and adds: “We included opening of newly equipped and renovated premises in our Birthday Party. During the fall, we invested over CZK 6 million in new equipment in our classrooms and laboratories and we spent another CZK 13 million revitalising our auditorium and leisure and relaxation areas. We had extra sockets put in everywhere so that students can charge their notebooks, tablets and telephones and so that nobody has to be afraid of running out of juice during their studies.”



The UHK Student Ball was held at the Aldis Congress Centre on February 20, 2019. Like every year, Lucky Band performed to everyone’s delight and while eight performers did their magic in four ballrooms. Pokáč, a beloved songster, was, without doubt, the star of the evening.



MARCH



As tradition has it, the Faculty of Informatics and Management hosted a spring job trade fair referred to as HIT Career. Visitors, mostly students, could see over 40 companies and firms at the fair on March 5. And so students got the unique opportunity to meet and talk with corporate representatives at their presentation stands in person; they could discuss current temp openings or full-time jobs and they could elaborate on their thesis, keeping in mind the company’s needs. Apart from that, the companies gave 20 lectures on various topics, including *An Ordinary Day in the Life of a Data Detective*, *Business Intelligence*, *Banks in Clouds*, *How to Become a BI Consultant* and *Information Systems in HR*, to name just a few. Associate

Professor Petra Poulová, Vice-Dean for Development and International Affairs of the Faculty of Informatics and Management, event organiser and planner, comments on what direction HIT Career has set out on in the second decade of its existence: “A total of 42 partner companies ranging from start-ups to major multinational companies participated in this year’s 11th job trade fair. And so, HIT Career gave students the opportunity to collect a wide range of very interesting contacts. As the fair came to a close, the traditional Blue Faculty – Your Partner meeting had the academic and business communities come together and discuss interesting ideas on how to develop their joint cooperation in the future.”

APRIL

University Sports Afternoon took place in April 2019 in the Na Soutoku University Campus for the first time. Everyone looked forward to the UHK Rector’s Cup Race; the Faculty of Informatics and Management won it in 2019.





At the University of Hradec Králové we continue to meet up with members of the diplomatic corps in the Czech Republic. And so, in April, we welcomed Barbara Anna Ćwioro. She is a Polish diplomat serving as an ambassador to the Czech Republic. Apart from attending the national committee meeting of the first ever Czech Polish Studies Congress, she also came to the

University to visit the Na Soutoku Campus. "Where education, training and research are concerned, Poland is one of UHK's biggest partners. Our students can currently take up studies in over 20 fields at various Polish institutions of higher education," notes Zdeněk Beran, UHK Vice-Rector for International Affairs, during the meeting.

The Director General of Czech Television, Petr Dvořák, Czech Television Council members and UHK management representatives all came together in April to sit at a table and discuss the cooperation between Czech institutions of higher education and Czech Television. Discussions mainly revolved around the popularisation of science and how Czech institutions of higher education were to go about to get

Czech Television to broadcast science and scientific achievements. "Cooperation between Czech Television and the University of Hradec Králové is excellent. Czech Television regularly invites our experts and scholars to share their expert opinions on TV mainly because of the very wide range of topics that the University of Hradec Králové focuses on," said Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector, at the meeting.

MAY

The University of Hradec Králové launched a new, more user-friendly and very modern website in May 2019. Users can look forward to a responsive search website, a high-performance calendar showing upcoming events and a simpler and more intuitive menu.



The University of Hradec Králové hosted the 151st Czech Rectors Conference Plenum Meeting in June. It was also attended by the leaders of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – Minister Robert Plaga, Acting Deputy Minister for Research and Higher Education, Pavel Doleček, and Deputy Minister for EU Operational Programmes, Václav Velčovský. Petr Dvořák, First Vice-Chairman of the R&D Council, also attended the meeting. "I am very glad that our University could once again host this event. And I also very much appreciate the constructive discussion that followed. We opened a debate over the adjustment of the evaluation of mostly humanistic schools within Methodology 2017+, which in itself directly affects the University of Hradec Králové," says UHK Rector, Kamil Kuča, in his evaluation of the 151st Czech Rectors Conference Plenum Meeting. The meeting took up most of the day and we mainly concentrated on electing a new CRC praesidium. The Rector of the Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, prof. Ing. Petr Sklenička, CSc. and the former President of the CRC, prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc, MBA, Rector of the Charles University, Prague, sought the presidency of the CRC. In the end, Tomáš Zima got 15 votes compared to the 20 votes in favour of Petr Sklenička, who then went on to become the new President of the Czech Rectors Conference in Hradec Králové.

JUNE



The Faculty of Education on Freedom Square and the Palach Halls of Residence (property belonging to the University of Hradec Králové) were visited in June by Zuzana Matušková, Deputy Minister of Education for Financial, Legal and Administrative Affairs and Yveta Kurfürstová, Director of Investments. "The reason why we invited the Deputy Minister and the Director of Investments was to familiarise both ladies with the as-is state of the Faculty of Education on Freedom Square and the Palach Halls of Residence. Both buildings need a capital injection and money from the Ministry would be a great help," says UHK Rector, Kamil Kuča, in explanation of the visit.



JULY



The University of Hradec Králové was home to a special event in July. You see, Simona Šilhánová and Jakub Sofka, both UHK graduates, got married in the Building of Common Education in July. Had they not both studied at UHK, it is quite unlikely that they would otherwise have met and that's why there was no doubt about the venue. "Neither one of us was born in Hradec Králové. Simona comes from Tanvald, which lies in northern Bohemia, and I come from Jeseník, which lies in Silesia. But we can't imagine living anywhere else than in Hradec Králové," says Jakub with a content smile on his face. He majored in Social Studies and History. Simona majored in Social Studies and Czech.

AUGUST

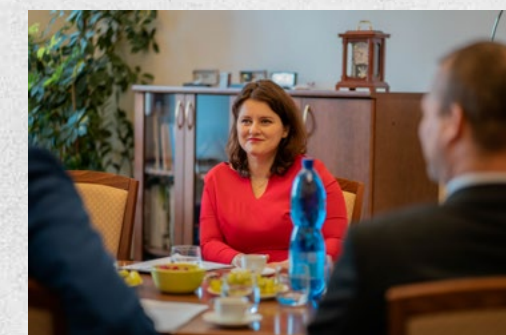


August saw new chill out zones opened in the Building of Common Education (building A); students can recharge their mobile phones and notebooks there. A brand new seminar room with comfortable seats was also opened. Regular lessons take place here and student groups and senators can meet here to work and talk.

SEPTEMBER

Another important visitor made her way to the University in Hradec Králové in September. On the occasion of the Hradec Days of Social Work International Conference hosted by the Philosophical Faculty, UHK Rector Kamil Kuča welcomed Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Jana Maláčová. "Her first steps lead to my office. Tomáš Hradecký, the new Vice-Dean for Study Affairs, Philosophical Faculty, and I welcomed her. The Vice-Dean explained to her what the Institute of Social Work, which runs under the Philosophical Faculty, does," UHK Rector, Kamil Kuča, describes the initial meeting with the cabinet minister. The main topic of discussion was, without doubt, the analysis drawn up by Associate Professor, Petra Marešová, Faculty of Informatics and Management, in 2018. Her paper Titled *Insufficient Number of Social Workers in the Hradec Králové Region* reflects the precarious situation on the labour market in this area. According to the study, it is predicted that by 2030 there will be a 40 % increase in the number of persons over the age of 65; that's why her paper is so topical. "In view of this, as the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, I would like to extend my gratitude to you for helping to train and prepare our future social workers. The role you play is relevant for the future of the Czech Republic and it will continue to be ever more so," said Jana Maláčová at the meeting. But according to Associate Professor Marešová's analysis, the

Czech Republic is lucky in that this workforce has potential, and Vice-Dean Tomáš Hradecký of the Philosophical Faculty agrees: "What's positive about the ever increasing need for more and more social workers is the fact that the number of people interested in studying this field at the Institute of Social Work is still higher than the number that we accept".



Accompanied by the Rector, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs then went to the Building of Common Education, where she launched the 16th Hradec Days of Social Work International Conference. This year, the conference revolved around social inclusion. The panel included Jiří Štěpán, President of the Hradec Králové Region, his right-hand men Vladimír Derner and Martin Hanousek, and sociologist Ivan Gabal.



Night of Scientists is a nationwide event that is dedicated to bringing researchers closer to the public. Children and adults alike are welcome as researchers whisk them away to the inspiring world of science. In 2019, Night of Scientists primarily focused on being kind to the environment. The University of Hradec Králové opened its doors to everyone interested in science. People could attend lectures or take part in exciting experiments, such as electromobility and ecology, domestic vermicompost and package free shopping. This traditional event took place on September 27 at the Na Soutoku University Campus and was attended by 2,000 people. Researchers' Night was not only promoted by the University of Hradec. Also involved were the Hradec Králové Observatory and Planetarium, State owned Forests of the Czech Republic,

Opatovice Power Station, Hradec Králové Transport Company and for the first time ever, the members of the UHK Alumni Club. Česká spořitelna savings bank is a regular promotion partner and visitors could conveniently view the *green* elements of the savings bank's branches using a virtual reality application. The University of Hradec Králové – as the regional guarantor of the festival – this year also backed the programme run by the Gymnázium Františka Martina Pecla grammar school in Rychnov nad Kněžnou.



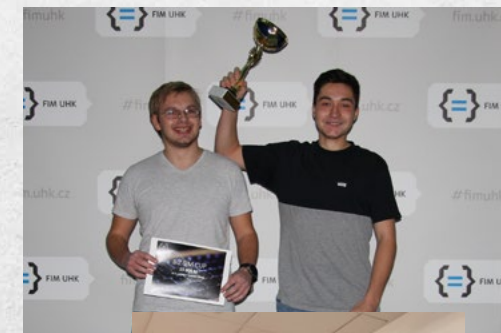
OCTOBER

In October, visitors swarmed to the University of Hradec Králové to attend two fantastic events. Hundreds of students and staff members from UHK and countless members of the general public came to JobStart 2019 and Book Fair 2019, whose guest number one was writer Michal Viewegh.



Students yet again pulled up their sleeves and participated in the FIM SIM CUP; a competition in which they put their managerial and economic skills to the test. It is organised by the Faculty of Informatics and Management and takes place in November. Some 51 students divided into 12 teams signed up for the 2nd FIM SIM CUP. Their task was to apply the correct strategy and put together the logistics involved in the sale of dairy products in Germany using SAP ERP. The teams had to identify which products are sold in each region and they had to schedule transfers between warehouses and select the right pricing strategy. "The aim of the competition is to adopt an attractive approach to acquainting students with corporate information systems. Practical knowledge of these systems then comes in very handy in real life," notes Pavel Čech, head of the organising team that organised the event, which falls under the Department of Information Technologies. Each and every one of the teams were rewarded for their efforts by Škoda Auto, a.s., a co-organiser of the event. *Babinec*, a six-woman team, took first place and was awarded CZK 20,000. *The Angels* took second place and were awarded CZK 12,000. Third place, worth CZK 8,000 in prize money, went to *Atol*. "The fact that the Faculty of Informatics and Management has much to offer its students in this area is supported by its having won the Faculty of the Year Competition, in which public faculties specialising in economics compete," proudly notes the dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management, Josef Hynek.

NOVEMBER



University International Day 2019, which took place in November, gave students an insight into the options they have in regards to internships and studying abroad. The event was subtitled *Don't Dream. Travel*. The international departments of individual UHK faculties gave presentations on the possibilities students have, and students having already returned from their study stays or internships abroad gave lectures. Visitors could tickle their taste buds with exotic foods or even try to win an airline ticket from Aviana.

The next Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové came into office at the inaugural meeting held in December. It elected a new board and filled the positions in important commissions at its first meeting. The Academic Senate is made up of the Staff Chamber and the Student Chamber and it will exercise its mandate from 2019 till 2022.

Once the essential formalities were over and done with and the senators had taken the oath, the members of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové elected their leadership. The sole candidate for chairperson of the Academic Senate was doc. Ing. Hana Tomášková, Ph.D.; she was elected chairperson for the third time in a row. "There are many new faces in the Senate and I am looking forward to working side by side with everyone. I am also quite curious as to how each new member will take up their new role and position within the Academic Senate. It is absolutely essential that we always keep in mind that we have to vote for what is in the best interests of both the University of Hradec Králové and the faculty that we represent. And so I wish my fellow senators that they stay above things and stay focused," says the re-elected chairlady of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové (Faculty of Informatics and Management).



They then went on to elect the vice-chairperson of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové on behalf of the Staff Chamber; as in years past, a sole candidate had been nominated for the position. Mgr. Karel Kouba, Ph.D., M.A., Philosophical Faculty, was elected the new vice-chairman. "In my opinion, the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové is like the control body of the UHK administration and should as such be consistent in what it does. It should, however, also be a trustworthy and accountable partner to the UHK administration. I feel that it is sometimes

hard to combine these two roles and I will do my best to make things work," political scientist Karel Kouba comments on his position within the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové. He has been consistently emphasising, for example, the low turnout of students and staff in senate elections.

The students were also very consensual in their choice of vice-chairperson of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové that would represent the Student Chamber. They too selected a single candidate from among their number for the post and thus elected Dominik Šípoš of the Faculty of Education. "I think it our duty to defend the interests of all UHK faculty students. If I were to outline some of the topics that the Student Chamber would want to focus on, it would definitely be discussions on changing the electoral code and allowing students to be more active and more involved in the goings-on of the University," said Dominik Šípoš on having been elected the new vice-chairman of the UHK Academic Senate representing the Student Chamber. He also represents the University of Hradec Králové in the Student Chamber of the Council of Higher Education Institutions. "I have a very good feeling about my fellow student senators and I think that we are going to work well together and I hope that we will manage to take the bull by the horns and change things for the better. We have all that is necessary," concludes Dominik. He was the main student organiser of the reconstruction of the building of the paper box wall on Ulrichovo náměstí town square; it was an event organised by UHK in November in commemoration of the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

The elections were topped by the election of the chairperson of the electoral commission of the AS UHK that strives to appoint candidates for the position of rector of the University of Hradec Králové; RNDr. Jiří Lipovský, Ph.D., Faculty of Science was elected chairman of the electoral commission. The members of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové elected economist doc. Ing. Mgr. Petra Marešová, Ph.D., Faculty of Informatics and Management, to head the economic commission of the AS UHK and PharmDr. Adam Skarka, Ph.D. to head the for now the three-member legislative commission of the AS UHK (Mr Skarka is the secretary of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.).

UHK Annually

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UHK Annually is published in printed form once per year. It is updated through regular electronic newsletters released by the University of Hradec Králové. To subscribe, please go to: www.uhk.cz.

Next issue deadline: 13 November 2020.

Editorial Board: Mgr. Jakub Novák (editor in chief), Mgr. Zuzana Dostálová, Ing. Věra Palánová, Bc. Tomáš Vodička, Mgr. Petra Kubařová, Mgr. Kristýna Vávrová, Ing. Vojtěch Tuček, Mgr. Matyáš Strnad.

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Cover photos: Ing. Martin Brus.

Photographs by: Anna Vitvarová, Ing. František Hašek, UHK Archive, UHK faculty archives, Department of Publicity and Communication of the University of Hradec Králové, UHK students' private archives, National District Archive in Hradec Králové, East Bohemian Museum in Hradec Králové, Embassy of Poland in Prague.

Graphics and typesetting: Ing. Martin Werner.

Printed: Tiskárna Brázda.

Printing of 524.



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