

UHK Annually

UHK EVENT MAGAZINE



The University of Hradec Králové made it crystal clear:
"We stand with Ukraine!"

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The University of Hradec Králové made it crystal clear: “We stand with Ukraine!”

TEXT JAKUB NOVÁK, ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ, MATYÁŠ STRNAD, ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ

PHOTO TEREZA MAKOVSKÁ, OPAK UHK

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 resonated not only with Czech society as a whole, but also with everyone at the University of Hradec Králové (UHK). Right from the onset, UHK has been extending a helping hand to its students wherever and however possible. Moreover, the Rector’s Office said in no uncertain terms that such aggression and manifestations have no place in a civilised society.

The University of Hradec Králové is with Ukraine

Although the Rector’s Office terminated all partnership agreements with Russia when it invaded Ukraine, Russian students were allowed to complete their studies. In so doing, UHK followed up on its previous condemnation of Russia’s act of aggression towards Ukraine. In addition, UHK focused on helping its Ukrainian students and their families. *“Our incentive was clear. The Russian Federation is in violation of international law. It is responsible for unprecedented attacks on a sovereign state and continues to bomb civilian targets. At a time like this, it was impossible to cooperate with its institutions,”* Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, explains the

Rectorate’s decision to discontinue cooperation with Russian institutes. She adds: *“Our lawyers got ready to terminate all contracts with Russian universities, which ultimately affected fifteen agreements.”*

In February 2022, 46 Russian students were studying at the University of Hradec Králové. Most of them were enrolled in Czech study programmes. *“The contracts that were terminated also affected short-term exchange stays,”* continues Vice-Rector Leona Stašová. Rector Kamil Kuča explains: *“Naturally, we respect and adhere to law. The notice periods were set like with all standard contracts, i.e., short-term exchange students could complete the semester as originally planned; we did not forcibly expel anyone from the University of Hradec Králové. Nonetheless, we did not accept any new Russian*

UKRAINE

exchange students, nor did we send any Czech students to Russia.”

The University of Hradec Králové also focused on helping its Ukrainian students. *“We immediately gave them one-off support in the amount of CZK 10,000, as many of them found themselves without any income from one day to the next. We also worked on setting up longer-term extraordinary scholarships,”* adds Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector of the University of Hradec Králové. Ms Stašová also underlined that the University offered to arrange accommodation for any family members of Ukrainian colleagues fleeing Ukraine. *“We allocated 35 places for this purpose at the Palach Halls of Residence. Several families were truly grateful for this accommodation, which we offered to refugees free of charge,”* recalls Rector Kamil Kuča.

The Information, Counselling and Career Centre of the University of Hradec Králové (IPaKc UHK) offered refugees much-needed help in finding adequate employment. Free psychological support was also provided to both Ukrainian and Russian students. Hundreds of UHK students helped compile a robust database of volunteers willing to help. Organisations such as the Diocesan Charity Hradec Králové, which needed volunteers for the Regional Assistance Centre for Ukraine (KACPU) in Aldis, could then draw from the database.

UHK students' silent protest

On the first day of March, UHK students and students from other universities convened a silent protest in support of Ukraine and in condemnation of the Russian unprovoked war against Ukraine. Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Dvořák, the first post-Soviet mayor of Hradec Králové and a former diplomat, met with about four hundred protesters in Hradec Králové. The organisers of the event gave speeches, there was an abundance of music and entertainment, and most importantly, the event also functioned as a fundraiser for a food bank to help and assist people from Ukraine.



Adaptation group for Ukrainian children

In April, the University of Hradec Králové and Junák (Czech Boy Scouts and Girl Guides) managed to create an adaptation group for young Ukrainian refugee children. *“The group was designed for children between the ages of three and six. Led by teachers from Ukraine and UHK students, its main objective was to help confused and often very frightened children to get to know the Czech Republic. The group was always at maximum capacity from start to end (the project was wrapped up at the beginning of the summer holidays) and the children’s parents very much appreciated what we had done for them,”* says Pavlína Springerová, Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development at the UHK. She visited the group several times, like on International Children’s Day on 1 June when she also brought gifts for the children.

Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové organised Czech language courses for Ukrainian refugees

The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK and the Integration Centre for Foreigners in Hradec Králové joined forces and opened a Czech language course for Ukrainian refugees in May 2022. The opportunity to participate in the intensive course was offered to people aged 16–58, many of them being mothers with older children. Classes were held every Monday and Tuesday

JE TO I NAŠE
VÁLKA,
UKRAJINA
UKRAJINA
JE "JEN"
BOJIŠTĚ





afternoon and totalled 20 lessons. Graduates received a certificate.

The course, which was developed by the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK in cooperation with FG Forrest and was free of charge, was taught by Associate Professor Miloslava Černá from the Department of Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. At the same time as this course, another Czech language course for foreigners migrating from

Ukraine was opened at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. It was created with the support of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and in cooperation with the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové.

“The aim of the project was to enable children fleeing from Ukraine to learn and improve the basics of the Czech language and to overcome the language barrier. This should help them better integrate into Czech society, continue their education at secondary schools, apply to Czech universities and then successfully find their place on the labour market. It was an intensive and, from my point of view, successful course that favoured functional language communication without assuming any previous knowledge of Czech,” says Helena Holubičková, Head of the Institute of Further Education at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK.

The Rector of the UHK signed a memorandum with Ukrainian Global University

In July, the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové, Kamil Kuča, signed a *Memorandum*



of Agreements with Ukrainian Global University, a non-profit association of volunteers working towards rebuilding Ukraine. The association aims to create a network of contacts and in so doing it strives to connect Ukrainian prospective students and academic workers with universities around the world that can offer them further study and employment opportunities. "Thanks to the initiative, we have indeed managed to establish a line of communication with several Ukrainian colleagues. When it comes to university faculties and departments, we have managed to establish working relationships with many academic workers, all against the backdrop of a clear message – we are all ready to help Ukraine and academic and student mobility is one of the many options available to us," says Rector Kuča, who signed the Memorandum.

Ukrainian painter Anna Artemenko made teaching programmes interesting and fun in 2022 (Faculty of Education UHK)

The Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies, Faculty of Education UHK, has cradled a working relationship with lecturer and painter Anna Artemenko from the Department of Design at the Kyiv National University of Civil

Engineering and Architecture in Ukraine. She was under temporary protection at the end of 2022 while still residing in the Czech Republic and her working at the Faculty of Education UHK was financially supported by the International Credit Mobility Project.

Ms Artemenko taught at the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies. She shared her skills and knowledge with Czech and foreign students in courses like *Evening Drawing*, *Technology of Painting* and *Drawing and Painting*. Several exhibitions of her work were held during her stay. Ms Artemenko also taught part-time at the Department of Russian Language and Literature (Faculty of Education UHK). Students enrolled in *The Russian Language in Education* and *The Russian Language for Tourism* programmes appreciated the great opportunity they were given to converse with Ms Artemenko. She introduced them to icon painting not only from a historical perspective, but also from the perspective of lively contemporary art. "Everyone says the intern's stay was fruitful and enriching and so we look forward to working with her in the future in any way possible," says František Vaníček, Faculty Dean, in his evaluation of the Ukrainian painter's winter semester at UHK. ●





UHK will organise three new CSF-funded projects and will participate in two more in 2023

TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, JAKUB NOVÁK, LENKA MANNOVÁ **PHOTO** FRANTIŠEK HAŠEK

In December 2022, the Czech Science Foundation (CSF) finished evaluating project proposals for its funding programme aimed at basic research, experimental development and innovation projects. UHK was appointed lead researcher in three projects and co-researcher in two projects.

“I am delighted that our researchers continue to keep pace with their academic competitors and that they can receive public support for their outstanding scientific results and creative ideas. Naturally, I wish that more of my colleagues and their amazing projects could prevail, but even so I am thrilled that the Czech Science Foundation appreciates our efforts,” UHK Rector Kuča commented on the announcement.

The Czech Science Foundation has decided to fund the project submitted by the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové under

the title *Reframing Philosophical Anthropology: Searching for an Anthropological Difference Beyond the Nature/Culture Dichotomy*. The project was presented by Assistant Professor Filip Jaroš from the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences as the lead researcher. The project aims to show that the philosophical anthropology concept, which is frequently perceived as somewhat outdated in Czech academia, remains consequential even in the world of today. *“The project focuses on anthropological differences and it tries to address the fundamental distinction between humans and animals. Our project combines the methodological approaches*

of several disciplines – natural science (especially ethnology and comparative psychology), and certain philosophical traditions, such as philosophical anthropology. It explores the boundary line between the theoretical and empirical approach to improve our understanding of the anthropological difference concept,” the lead researcher, Assistant Professor Jaroš, outlines the project.

The same Discipline Committee OK4 – Social Sciences and Humanities also awarded funding to the project called *BDSM under CoV-2: The Central European BDSM Subculture During the Pandemic* run by Assistant Professor Lucie Drdová from the Institute of Social Studies of the Faculty of Education UHK. “The project offers a unique opportunity to study the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the BDSM (Bondage-Discipline-Dominance-submission-Sadism-masochism) subculture in contemporary Czech, Slovak, Polish and Hungarian societies. Although the actual number of people involved is fairly low, the BDSM subculture has gradually permeated the mainstream culture – mostly through movies, television and literature. And despite the rather significant impact of subcultures on the mainstream culture, we still lack in-depth knowledge of how major social crises, such as pandemics, affect

subcultures and mainstream culture,” Assistant Professor Drdová explains her project.

When it comes to medical and biological sciences (Discipline Committee OK3), Assistant Professor Eugenie Nepovimová from the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science UHK managed to succeed with her project titled *Alzheimer’s disease and aging: can mTOR inhibitors kill two birds with one drug?* The project follows in the footsteps of Assistant Professor Nepovimová’s current grant project.

“Alzheimer’s disease is a fetal neurodegenerative disease and it constitutes one of the most important public health challenges in the 21st century. Although we have identified many key facts on the pathogenesis and symptoms of the disease, we still lack much of the information needed for its successful treatment. A detailed analysis of the brains of patients suffering from the disease managed to identify an upregulation of mTOR signaling pathway during the course of the neurodegenerative process. Recent studies have shown that the use of rapamycin as an inhibitor of mTOR protein kinase reduces the cognitive deficit caused by the disease and lowers the levels of amyloid deposits in transgenic animal models. In our project,



PHOTO: ANNA VITVAROVÁ

SCIENCE, RESEARCH, INOVATION AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

we would like to focus on the design, synthesis and biological evaluation of mTOR inhibitors in the context of Alzheimer's disease," Assistant Professor Nepovimová explains the contemplated progress of the project, which is co-authored by Assistant Professor Olekšák and Ms Chrienová. The in-vivo experiments planned for the second part of the project should help evaluate the toxicity, pharmacokinetics and behavioral impact of new compounds, and help reveal whether the innovative approach could be applied in future pre-clinical and potentially even clinical research of the Alzheimer's disease. *"We will definitely need more people in our anti-aging team, and I firmly hope that some of our bright PhD students will be interested in the project,"* Eugenie Nepomivová continues.

Our colleagues from the Department of Archeology of the Philosophical Faculty UHK, will participate in two grant projects as co-researchers. Assistant Professor Petr Šída will partake in the project titled *Metabasites of the Jizera Mountain Type as a Trans-Cultural Link Between Central European Prehistoric Communities*, and Assistant Professor Richard Ther will participate in a project titled *Pottery as a Witness to*

Cultural Change? The Early Bronze Age Settlement Agglomeration in Plotiště nad Labem in the Light of Multidisciplinary Research (both awarded by the Discipline Committee OK4 – Social Sciences and Humanities).

"We treat projects in which we are appointed co-researchers exactly the same as projects in which we are appointed lead researchers. For both types of projects it applies that scientific and creative partnerships are not limited to just research results. Our researches will benefit from the team experience in their future independent projects. Grants allocated by the Czech Science Foundation represent an important source of funding for science and creative activities, and UHK management continuously strives to support all efforts to obtain such funding," concludes Professor Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities. •



The Czech Technology Agency's Award goes to the smart hospital bed designed by the Faculty of Science UHK

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

PHOTO ARCHIVE OF THE TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The smart hospital bed designed for critical care patients developed by researchers from the Faculty of Science UHK, was awarded the Czech Idea Award (Business Category) by the Czech Technology Agency on 22 October 2022. Linet, a Czech company, and UHK co-developed the project.

The bed monitors a patient's condition using an array of sensors that warn hospital staff in advance of the risk of pressure ulcers. The smart bed suggests countermeasures to mitigate the risk and can even carry out some countermeasures without staff intervention.

"We have developed unique software and algorithms that facilitate caring for intensive care and critical care patients. The system alleviates some of the burden normally placed on medical staff. This was particularly useful during the COVID-19 pandemic, when hospital wards were over-crowded with patients in critical condition," says Filip Studnička, head of the innovation and development team, in his description of the winning project. In addition to monitoring patients, the bed is also constructed to help nurses move patients into different positions.

"The award shows that even a small faculty like ours can make an important contribution. It also confirms that we are going in the right direction when it

comes to our future development, that being applied research," concludes Jan Kříž, Dean of the Faculty of Science UHK.

This year, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic declared the winners of the Czech Idea Award for the tenth year in a row. A winner was selected from a shortlist of thirty-six nominees in four categories: Business, Partnership, Governance and Society. •



Inferentialism. A neglected topic brought to the attention of the international philosophical community by Professor Peregrin's team

TEXT TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

In 2019, the project *Inferentialism naturalised: norms, meanings and reasons in the natural world* overseen by Professor Jaroslav Peregrin and his colleagues was funded by the Czech Science Foundation as one of the top twenty breakthrough projects eligible for the prestigious EXPRO grant programme. We visited the lead researcher Professor Peregrin from the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences at UHK's Philosophical Faculty to find out how the project is going.



Your team has been working on a project called *Inferentialism naturalised: norms, meanings and reasons in the natural world* for about three years now. How has the project progressed so far?

I am happy to say that

it has gone surprisingly well. In the beginning, I was a little worried about whether we would be able to meet the strict assessment criteria for EXPRO projects, but that concern has gradually subsided. The impact results that count must come from the top decile of journals in the field, and philosophy journals in the top decile accept no more than 5% to 10% of articles for publication. Although this criterion cannot be applied strictly in the humanities, as it would exclude book publications, we still needed excellent results to succeed. Fortunately, we have managed to publish quite extensively. In addition to many articles, an entire special issue of the prestigious American journal *Philosophical Topics* was devoted to our topic, and we have signed contracts for two of our books, which are currently in progress, one with Routledge and one with Oxford University Press (Editor's note: for more details, visit the project

website at <http://expro.peregrin.cz>) The second thing that I have learned is that even in our field, a major project like this can have a wider global impact. I believe that thanks to our concentrated efforts, made possible by the generous grant, we have managed to bring an important and hitherto neglected topic into the limelight. For the first time, we have put the University of Hradec Králové on a map respected by the international philosophical community.

What are your current plans for the project?

We are going to attend one more big conference in the autumn of 2023 (*Rule-following: Between Nature and Culture*), which will be the basis for another book or a special journal issue. We will also need to publish several new articles. Overall, I feel that we are approaching a catharsis; inferentialism naturalised seems to have been established as a fruitful philosophical topic, opening up a new field of possibilities in philosophical debates.

"The aim of the project is to confront inferentialism, which is usually conceived as a purely philosophical doctrine, with the results of relevant sciences such as logic, linguistics, cognitive psychology and evolutionary theory." •

Czech scientific team wins prestigious UNESCO project funding alongside its global geopartners

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

PHOTO PERSONAL ARCHIVE OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARTINA PÁSKOVÁ

In 2022, only five projects from all over the world were selected for the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme. Facing tough competition, the University of Hradec Králové succeeded with a joint project organised together with National Geopark Barrandien, The Institute of Geology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Open-IT cz, s.r.o.

The grassroots geopark movement was born out of a desire to share and to protect the Earth's precious natural heritage. "From 2015 onwards, the geopark movement received a significant boost as Global Geopark became an official status assigned by UNESCO. Aside all the prestige, official status allows geoparks from all over the world to preserve and protect geological and other related cultural and natural heritage," says Martina Pásková, a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and Associate Professor at the Department of Recreation and Tourism at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, UHK.

In 2021, UNESCO announced its intention to support the promotion of the sustainable development of the Earth's geological resources to the public.

"The Department of Recreation and Tourism at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK is staffed with experienced experts who have been promoting the geopark concept for some time. Our team, together with other researchers and field experts, proposed new ways of presenting the beauty and the value of natural and cultural heritage to the general public," says Luboš Gardoň, Director of the Barrandien National Geopark.

"I am immensely proud of our participating in this project, as we have managed to place among the top three projects and gain the approval and support of UNESCO. This is a great international achievement for the Faculty of Informatics and

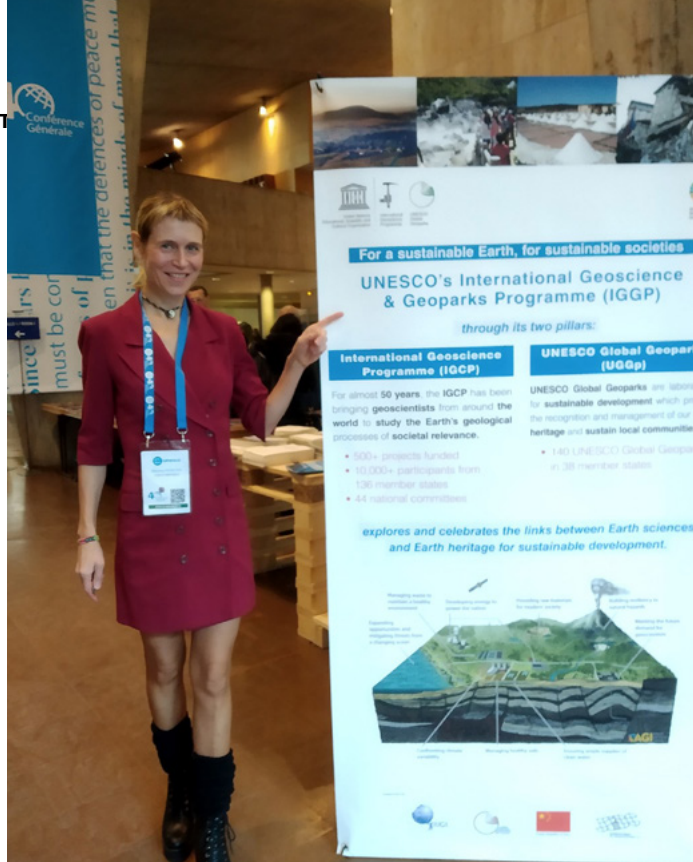


SCIENCE, RESEARCH, INOVATION AND CREATIVE ACT

Management UHK. It will also enable our Faculty to apply for project funding through Horizon Europe, an international research and innovation programme, which would help us advance the scope of our international scientific cooperation and enhance the international reputation of our University and our Faculty, especially when it comes to geoparks,” comments Hana Mohelská, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK Vice-Dean for Science and Research.

The 4GEON project aims to implement a variety of educational concepts and involve the general public in their Earth heritage. In addition to Barrandien, the largest geopark in Czechia, the target areas include Cola and Andagua Volcano Geopark in Peru, Ngorongoro Lengai Geopark in Tanzania, Rio Coco Geopark in Nicaragua and the Bohol Island Geopark in the Philippines. *“An important aspect of the project is to connect local and indigenous communities and their knowledge of their environment and the public’s perception of the sites. It was this cultural diversity, the playful activities and the inclusion of sites from four continents that helped the project win the support of the UNESCO project evaluators, who ranked it among the top three in the world, and granted UNESCO support to the project for up to five years,”* adds Josef Zelenka, professor at the Department of Recreation and Tourism at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK.

“In the first few weeks, the results of the participating team have already proven that the project is heading in the right direction. We are creating a new educational geowebsite and we have started to develop our cooperation with international geoparks,” concludes Radek Mikuláš, a world-renowned palaeontologist



and a senior researcher at the Institute of Geology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. ●



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The University of Hradec Králové has received the prestigious HR Award, which guarantees the European standard of care for employees in a scientific and research environment.


 A photograph showing Professor Jiří Skopal, a man in a dark suit and red bow tie, smiling as he receives a large bouquet of flowers and a rolled-up certificate. He is standing on a stage with several young women in red and white choir dresses behind him. A woman in a red dress is presenting the award to him.

Professor Jiří Skopal receives Ministry of Culture Award for lifetime contribution to leisure arts

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS | MINISTRY OF CULTURE – DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL AND MINORITY CULTURES

On Saturday 5th November 2022, Professor Jiří Skopal from the Faculty of Education UHK received the Leisure Art Award from the Ministry of Culture at *MEZZO-CHORI*, the 13th National Show of Secondary School Choirs, for his lifetime contribution to children's choir singing.

Prof. PhDr. Jiří Skopal, CSc., is a renowned choirmaster, music educator and organiser of music events, who has been teaching at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové since 1974. From 1986 to 1990, he was the Head of the Department of Music Education, where he established a study programme in choral conducting. Together with his beloved wife Květoslava Skopalová, he founded the Boni Pueri boys' choir, which he conducted from 1982 to 1996. In 1977, he also became the director of a choir originally founded by Josef Vrátil, which he later renamed Hradec Králové Jitro Concert Choir.

Since the 1980's, Jitro has regularly toured many European countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Greece, Spain, United Kingdom, etc.). After 1990, the choir made sixteen tours in the United States of America and eight tours in Japan. With Professor Skopal at the helm, or rather the pulpit, the choir won numerous awards at national and international competitions (Llangollen, Nantes, Lecco, Neerpelt, Varna, and others). In 2004, he became the President of the Czech Choir Festival in Hradec Králové. ●

Under his leadership, the choir grew to seven ensembles, and became a respected children's choir both nationally and internationally.

Once again, our University made it into Prestigious International Rankings

TEXT /MATYÁŠ STRNAD, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, UHK

International university rankings compare universities around the world. The University of Hradec Králové has regularly placed in the most prestigious rankings thanks to its research excellence and its international outlook.

Times Higher Education publishes the *World University Rankings*, in which the University took joint 1201st to 1500th place. Out of eighteen national higher education institutions included in the ranking, UHK took excellent sixth position. In the eponymous rankings by *Quacquarelli Symonds Limited*, we made it to joint 801st to 1000th place in the global competition of 2,462 world universities. For the first time in history, we also made it into the prestigious *ShanghaiRanking*, which rates universities according to their success in various academic fields; in the *Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences*, UHK took joint 401st to 500th place.

The new evaluation methodology used by *THE: World University Rankings* places greater emphasis on research quality and scientific excellence, which accounts for almost a third of the total score, which also evaluates research reputation, research income and research productivity.

As universities are primarily educational institutions, points for teaching accounts for about 30% of the total score. Evaluators focus on reputation surveys, student to staff ratio, the ratio of graduate to undergraduate students, the ratio between the number of awarded PhD degrees and the number of academic staff, and the university's institutional income. Citation impact makes up the remaining 30% percent of the points. International outlook

and industry income have a smaller but still important impact on the overall score.

"We continue to establish our University as one the world's leading world academic institutions. I have always believed that we have a global potential despite our regional oversight. But it is one thing to make it into the rankings and another to maintain or even improve our position. I am incredibly grateful to the Times Higher Education for recognising our efforts. And I would like to thank everyone who contributes to our continuous improvement, our students, our academic staff and all our employees," comments Kamil Kuča, UHK's Rector.

UHK has also been ranked in the QS: World University Rankings since 2015. Last year, we made it into the top 62% of the world's universities; this year we moved up in the ranks to the top 57%. Assessment criteria include:

- Academic reputation;
- Employer reputation;
- Faculty/student ratio;
- Citations per faculty;
- Ratio of international students.

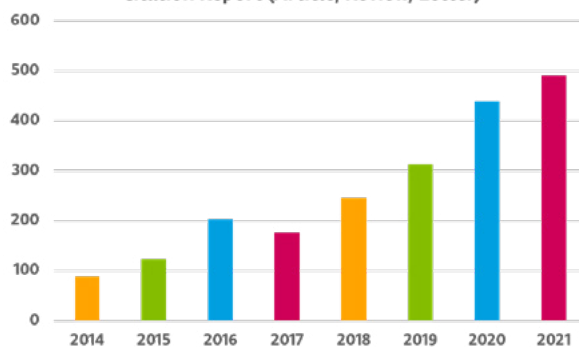
For the 2023 edition of the rankings, the evaluators have added two additional indicators, namely the university's international research network and the employment outcomes of its graduates, which has been above 97% for UHK graduates for some time now.



Only ten Czech universities were listed in this year's *Global Ranking of Academic Subjects*, published by *ShanghaiRanking* in 2017. This is a remarkable achievement for UHK, as the competition consists in more than 1800 universities from 96 countries. Ranking is conducted in fifty-four fields from five main subject areas – Natural Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences and Social Sciences. Together with Masaryk University, UHK took joint 401st to 500th place in Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Several of our scientists are also world leaders in their fields. In November, Stanford University professor John P. A. Ioannidis and his colleagues released Updated science-wide author databases of standardised citation indicators based on original data from Scopus. In these databases, UHK was placed in a great ninth position among other Czech universities. The database included Associate Professor Blanka Klímová, Professor Ondřej Krejcar, Associate Professor Petra Marešová and Assistant Professor

UHK Publications in the Web of Science – Journal Citation Report (Article, Review, Letter)



Marcel Pikhart from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK among the best scientists. And from the Faculty of Science UHK, Professor and UHK Rector Kamil Kuča, Assistant Professor Eugenia Nepovimová, Professor Kamil Musílek, Associate Professor Petr Bogusch and Professor Antonín Lyčka were also included. •

Hradec Economic Days are back on track – economists, managers and technology transfer experts meet at UHK's Annual Economic Conference

TEXT ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ, IVAN SOUKAL, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT UHK

PHOTO ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT UHK

The international scientific conference *Hradec Economic Days (HED)* has been organised by the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové in cooperation with other institutions time and time again since 2003. The two-day event also hosted several workshops. The conference was co-sponsored by the Centre for Investment, Development and Innovation and by the Hradec Králové Region.

The conference could finally be hosted without any covid restrictions in place, allowing academics and practitioners to meet in person at the plenary session, discussion sessions and workshops.

Only two sessions were held online for participants from China, Romania and Slovakia, as they couldn't join the conference in person.

The plenary session was opened by the conference chair, Associate Professor and Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Cooperation with Practice Petra Marešová, who gave the floor to UHK Rector Kamil Kuča, who then handed the baton to the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK Dean Josef Hynek. The first conference paper was presented by Petr Král, Executive Director of the Monetary Department of the Czech National Bank; he spoke about monetary and fiscal policies. *"The Czech state budget is not always aimed at stabilising the economy against fluctuations in the economic cycle. In fact, it often does the very opposite. With the exception of the last two years, Czech*

government expenditures have always exceeded revenue, creating extensive structural deficits," said Ivan Soukal, HED Secretary, as he introduced the first plenary speaker, who presented a lecture on technology transfer, commercialisation and know-how transfer to the business sector. *"Morten Irgens, the Dean of the School of Economics, Innovation and Technology at the Kristiania University College in Norway, clearly showed that Europe lacks the capacity to effectively harness the potential of its strong science base for innovation in business."*

Papers were presented in the main conference block and were divided into seven sections. Conference proceedings contained ninety-five papers by authors from thirteen countries. The standard sections were also accompanied by three workshops held to mark the vicennial anniversary. The best-attended workshop was on *Technology Transfer Networking*, led by prominent speakers from national institutions and leading market innovators from the commercial sector, arranged by UHK Rector and Ondřej Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities. Jiří Krechl (CzechInvest) drew attention to those areas of



innovation that generate high added value but do not receive as much support as does the automotive industry, while Markéta Kühnelová from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic talked about the various challenges technology transfer faces. Roman Pašek from AMIRES Inc. gave an interesting lecture on the importance of high-quality support for Horizon Europe projects to be successful. Martin Fusek from the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences discussed the pitfalls, costs, and achievements of the new-drug development process in the Czech Republic. Otomar Sláma from Charles University Innovations Prague Plc. showed how CUIP helped triple the PCR testing capacity in Czechia during the COVID-19 pandemic using an innovative chemical compound. Lukáš Doskočil from Stimvia Inc. gave a presentation on how a recently developed method of brain stimulation is helping to treat diseases other than those for which it had been originally

developed, including Parkinson's disease. Petr Šrámek from Longevitytech.fund Plc, California, joined the conference via remote access to explain why and how his company invests into Czech start-ups in the USA.

The second workshop on *University and Industry Collaboration – Partnerships Driving Innovation* was chaired by Henrieta Dunne from University Science Park TECHNICOM Košice. "I wanted to





know more about the Asian and the European university and industry model of collaboration, and how best we can integrate into European society,” commented Fahrhan Bin Mohamad from the University of Technology, Malaysia, with which the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK has been collaborating for over a decade.

The third workshop on *Technology Transfer Specifics in the Humanities* was chaired by Richard Kitt from the Technical University of Košice.

A guided tour of the Klenot Brewery and an evening banquet complemented the flurry of conference presentations on a variety of topics. At

the banquet, the founders of the Hradec Economic Days, Professor Hajek, Assistant Professor Jedlička and Assistant Professor Dittrichová, received high praise for their many years of hard work in organising the conference. Live music accompanied lively conversations after refreshments were served.

“A Microsoft Teams meeting will never replace personal encounters with our dear colleagues and the festivity of the evening,” concluded Conference Secretary Ivan Soukal at the end of the Hradec Economic Days. •

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PhD students learn how to navigate choppy academic waters

TEXT, PHOTO MATYÁŠ STRNAD, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, UHK

First-year doctoral students at the University of Hradec Králové attended a crash course in Říčky in the Orlice Mountains to learn more about the ups and downs of doctoral studies from experienced scholars and researchers.

The course was held for the second time. It was held in English and was open to all PhD students from all UHK faculties who had been admitted to both full-time and combined study programmes.

“Students got information on various projects and funding schemes and attended a series of lectures on academic ethics. I think they also appreciated the practical advice on publication opportunities and academic journals, which is a topic they often struggle with. I hope the course will help fire up their academic careers and I am looking forward to our future scientific cooperation,” said UHK’s Rector, Professor Kuča, who attended the induction PhD course in person for the second time in a row.

Other activities organised as part of the course included lectures on science support schemes, networking, and technology transfer, and a workshop on academic career planning and science

evaluation models used in the Czech Republic and internationally.

Lecturers included Assistant Professor Kateřina Cidlinská (researcher at the Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Sciences), Ing. Radka Pittnerová (lecturer on human



resources in science and research), Assistant Professor Karel Kouba (associate professor of political science specialising in research methodology, Department of Politics, Philosophical Faculty UHK), Matyáš Strnad (science communicator, Publicity and Communication Department, UHK), Otomar Sláma (technology transfer manager, Charles University Innovations

Prague), Assistant Professor Filip Vostal (senior researcher at the Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences), Assistant Professor Pavla Matulová (innovation and technology transfer expert, project manager) and Professor Ondřej Krejcar (UHK Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities, Centre of Basic and Applied Research, Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK). •



Hradec Days of Social Work unlocked a debate on sustainable development in contemporary social work

TEXT, PHOTO TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

On 15th–16th September, the University of Hradec Králové once again hosted the annual Hradec Days of Social Work. The main theme of this long-running conference was the theory and practice of sustainable development in contemporary social work. The conference was held under the auspices of the Czech Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Marian Jurečka.

Experts from all over the country and from abroad gathered in Hradec Králové for the nineteenth consecutive year. *“I am proud that we have managed to maintain the high academic standards of years past. It is a nice change to be able to meet and converse in person after the recent covid restrictions,”* said Iva Junová, Director of the Institute of Social Work at the Philosophical Faculty UHK.

On Friday 16 September 2022, the main conference was accompanied by a presentation of papers on the use of artificial intelligence in the provision of professional social counselling and the possibilities of applying new technologies in social work.

The twentieth annual Hradec Days of Social Work will be held in 2023. •

Faculty of Education UHK closed several key development projects in 2022

TEXT PAVEL ŠUBRT, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO ARCHIVE OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

The main objective of the development project *Undergraduate Education at the University of Hradec Králové II* was to improve the education and training of future teachers, to encourage them to enter the profession, and to inspire them to pursue a career in teaching to the best of their ability. The project constituted a joint effort by the Faculty of Education UHK, the Philosophical Faculty UHK, and the Faculty of Science UHK, all of whom participate in educating and training future teachers.

“One of the main objectives of the project was to come up with innovations in teaching. To this end, we have organised self-reflection workshops, developed evaluation and self-evaluation tools, intensified our cooperation with partner schools and revamped our teacher training system for students who intern at primary and secondary schools. Short-term mobility abroad, during which our students visited other schools abroad together with their university professors and with secondary school teachers, proved to be most beneficial, as they enabled everyone to acquire useful hands-on experience and know-how and set up new partnership schemes,” says the Dean of the Faculty, František Vaníček, as he comments on the results of the project. He added that people participating in the mobility abroad programme visited partner schools in Finland, Belgium, Austria, Germany, and Slovakia.

The Faculty of Education UHK also organised individual language courses for its academic staff, who could choose from a selection of English, German, Spanish, French, Polish and Russian. The Faculty also set up courses in ICT animation for the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies, giving its students an opportunity to learn about the latest trends in the field. Courses covered the principles and the theory of animation, stop motion animation and the basics of editing and composition. Teachers from the department also created a website for their students,

which contains a high-resolution database of numerous works of art.

To meet the demand for online teaching skills, the Faculty has also produced dozens of e-books on education science, which will be published on the Faculty's departmental websites, making them available to both our students and the public. •





Interdisciplinary Toxicology Conference TOXCON held at UHK

TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, UHK

PHOTO TEREZA MAKOVSKÁ

At the end of August 2022, the University of Hradec Králové hosted the 27th annual Interdisciplinary Toxicology Conference, better known as TOXCON. The main topics discussed at this year's conference were nutrition toxicology, animal toxicology, in vitro toxicology, toxins, environmental toxicology, nanotoxicology, military toxicology and xenobiotics.

The opening ceremony was hosted by UHK Rector Kuča, who is also the President of TOXCON and a world-renowned toxicologist himself. The first keynote speakers were Associate Professor Ondřej Soukup, Head of the Biomedical Research Centre of the University Hospital of Hradec Králové and Associate Professor Martin Štěrba, who spoke about a paradigm shift in understanding the mechanisms of anthracycline cardiotoxicity and the possibilities for effective pharmacological cardioprotection.

The conference was packed with inspiring presentations and engaging discussions.



A detailed schedule of the final programme is available on the conference website.

"I was delighted and impressed by the quality of papers presented at the conference. All lectures sparked a lively debate on very important and topical problems in toxicology. I hope everyone enjoyed both the academic discussions and the informal programme in the beautiful City of Hradec Králové. My thanks goes to the conference organisers, whose tireless efforts to make the conference as stimulating and pleasant as possible deserve the highest praise," UHK Rector Kuča commented on the results of the prestigious conference. ●

Faculty of Education UHK launches new doctoral programmes

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO JITKA ŠKVRNOVÁ

The Faculty of Education UHK launched two new unique postgraduate study programmes in 2022, available in both full-time and combined forms.

The four-year postgraduate programme *Digital Technologies in Primary and Pre-primary Education* is designed for future education professionals who wish to focus on the application of digital technologies in the education of pre-primary and primary school children, and to further develop and research education studies.

The new PhD programme is designed for people who have a master's degree in *Education Studies for Primary School Teachers, Early Childhood Education with a Focus on Children with Special Needs, Pre-School and Out-of-School Education Studies*.

The other new postgraduate programme is called *Cultural and Spiritual Studies*. The programme aims to integrate philosophical and theological foundations with the humanities and social sciences to study a variety of cultural and social phenomena. "The study programme is designed for young scholars who are interested in interdisciplinary research that combines the horizontal view of individual scientific disciplines with a rigorous philosophical and theological perspective. The programme covers the philosophy of culture, philosophical and theological anthropology, philosophy of history, historical religious studies and the transformation of social history studies. The programme will be taught at the Department of Studies in Culture and Religion," says Zuzana Hromadová, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK for Study Affairs and Accreditation. •





Professor Emeritus and distinguished mathematician František Kuřina celebrates nonagenarian anniversary

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

František Kuřina, an illustrious mathematician and emeritus professor at the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové celebrated his ninetieth birthday in June 2022.

To celebrate the occasion, his friends and colleagues organised a seminar on 16 September 2022 on *The Roads and Lanes of School Mathematics*. The seminar combined lectures on interesting topics with a panel discussion reminiscing about Professor Kuřina's life and academic achievements.

The highlight of the seminar was the launch of two books. The first, called *The Glamour of Elementary Geometry* is, in the author's own words, "...my own modest attempt to help students and teachers enjoy and appreciate geometry more than they seem to do these days." The second book, *Roads and Lanes of School Mathematics*, is a tribute to Professor Kuřina's life and work by his friends and colleagues.

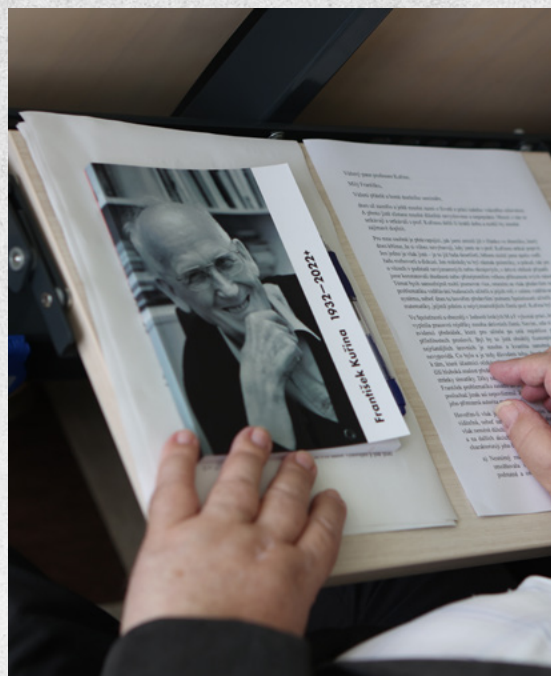


František Kuřina *1932

Professor Kuřina graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University in Prague, where he studied mathematics education and descriptive geometry. After his studies, he taught mathematics at secondary schools in Český Krumlov and Dobruška.

He joined the Institute of Education in Hradec Králové in 1960 and since then he has taught and inspired many generations of maths teachers in the Hradec Králové Region, giving lectures and teaching workshops on geometry and the didactics of mathematics. To this very day, he continues to publish monographs, textbooks and scientific articles. He is one of only a handful of internationally renowned mathematicians of Czech origin, and his work has been translated into many foreign languages, including Chinese, Japanese and Arabic.

He has also turned his love of geometry into artistic expression. As an avid photographer, he captures the beauty of mathematics in everyday life and in his hometown – Hradec Králové. ●





Over a hundred experts attend the Czech Lipidomics Conference

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

In May 2022, the Faculty of Science UHK hosted the 7th Czech Lipidomics Conference, which was organised by the Lipidomics Section of the Czech Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The event was attended by speakers from the Czech Republic and other European countries.

The aim of the long-running event in the annual conference calendar is to establish cooperation and moderate live interaction between lipid researchers from various fields of chemistry, biology and medicine. *“The conference is usually held every two years, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to postpone it to May 2022. This year, we added a special session on metabolomics, which was a popular request from past attendees. A combination of lipidomic and metabolomic data has recently proven to be particularly useful in providing a more comprehensive view of human metabolism and its role in the origin and development of many diseases,”*

commented Associate Professor Miroslav Lída from the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science UHK, who was the main organiser of the conference. Keynote lectures were delivered by Roger Sandhoff (Lipid Pathobiochemistry Group, German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg, Germany). He presented a paper on *Chromatography & Mass Spectrometry: Why There Is No All-in-One Solution For Sphingolipidomics*. And Tomáš Pluskal (Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague). He presented a paper on *Characterising*

the Chemodiversity of Piperaceae Plants Using Metabolomics and Molecular Networking.

Conference attendees also welcomed lectures on the application of statistics in metabolomic studies (Assistant Professor Eva Cífková, University of Hradec Králové), bioinformatic tools in metabolomics and lipidomics (Aleš Kvasnička, Palacky University Olomouc) and on biologically important lipids (Assistant Professor Ondřej Kuda, Institute of Physiology, Czech Academy of Sciences). •



A unique project combining natural science and social science disciplines is complete. It produced a patent and a model for fighting neurodegenerative diseases

TEXT JAKUB NOVÁK, UHK SPOKESMAN

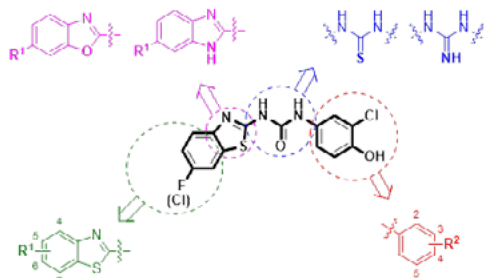
In 2019, scientists from three institutions and various research fields in the Eastern Bohemian region began working on the most extensive scientific project coordinated by the University of Hradec Králové (UHK). Together with the University Hospital Hradec Králové (FNHK) and the University of Pardubice (UPCE), they undertook a four-year project, *IT4N* neurodegenerative diseases. And it went very well. The research results are not only quality publications but also a better understanding of substances that can fight diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The developed molecule is on the way to a new university patent

“The entire project is based on a unique combination of colleagues from various research fields. It can be divided into three basic parts according to what we focused on – research in chemistry, examination of the socio-economic impacts of neurodegenerative diseases on society, and finally, medical applications in terms of processing patient image records from hospitals and related diagnostics,” says assoc. prof. Miroslav

Lísa from the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové, who led the project and was part of the research team. According to him, the primary goal of this pre-application research was to find and prepare molecules that could be used in the future to combat neurodegenerative diseases. Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are among the most widespread diseases today. And the goal was met. *“One of the most important results of this project is the submitted patent for the development of new*

inhibitors of enzymatic activity based on derivatives of 2-aryl benzothiazole, their method of preparation, and their therapeutic use. We have designed a molecule with a characteristic structure that could help in the fight against neurodegenerative diseases,” continues assoc. prof. Lisa and adds that ideally, after the patent is successfully registered, the subject from the application sphere will continue the further development of the results achieved. Nevertheless, according to the researcher, this is a significant shortcut: *“What we are talking about here represents years of further research and development. We have shown the way forward, which was one of our project’s goals.”*



A supercomputer helped in modeling the molecule, which significantly strengthened the scientific infrastructure of the university

The modeling, preparation, and testing of the effectiveness of the mentioned molecule could not have been done as part of the project at the Faculty of Science UHK without the acquisition of a supercomputer and a mass spectrometer for the youngest university unit. *“This was clearly one of the key things we needed to be able to conduct this research. For example, the supercomputer helped select molecules, of which there were hundreds during the development, thus aiding us in significantly streamlining the testing process. As for the mass spectrometer, we especially thank it for helping to characterize our own molecules. Although both techniques are commonly seen in similarly focused top scientific institutions, we have benefited mainly from the unique combination of working with them,”* emphasizes Lída. He is convinced that further work with this technique will significantly advance research at UHK and will continue to increase the

prestige of modern infrastructure at the Faculty of Science UHK and the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, both of which participated in the project.

As the number of patients with neurodegenerative diseases increases, experts warn that we need to prepare

Another significant part of the project was a socio-economic prediction of the impact of neurodegenerative diseases on our society and the potential benefits of new solutions, which required the simulation analysis of economist Petra Marešová from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. She prepared calculations of the impacts of newly proposed research approaches on the target group, public budgets, and other stakeholders using economic, statistical, and decision-making methods. Predictions are available for direct (medical and non-medical) and indirect costs associated with medication expenses and patient care, representing a significant financial burden. Users can set the expected effectiveness of the solutions and thus be informed in the early stages of research about how much more effective they need to be compared to standard diagnostic, preventive, or treatment approaches to compete in the market environment.

“We have prepared a model that scientists can repeatedly use in their research to verify their assumptions about market effectiveness. This will provide a basis for investors or public entities when requesting further funding, but most importantly, it will enable scientists to know whether they are working on a solution with real competitiveness,” says assoc. prof. Marešová. She agrees with Miroslav Lída that outputs from impact modeling on society should be part of planning further research and a basis for deciding on allocating additional financial resources for projects or introducing a new medicine to the market.

It is confirmed that with the increasing number of people affected by neurodegenerative diseases and the prolongation of life expectancy in the Czech Republic, there is a shortage of institutional

capacities capable of adequately caring for these patients. *“Every effort to analyze this topic that shows a potentially effective solution should be accompanied by quality economic assessment. This will help obtain additional financial resources for further development,”* adds Petra Marešová.

Computer algorithms will help uncover the potential risk of developing neurodegenerative diseases

According to researchers from the University of Hradec Králové, the project’s success was aided by knowing the limits and possibilities of IT, which is also part of the project’s name IT4Neuro (degeneration). *“Through active cooperation with the University Hospital Hradec Králové, we focused on issues where IT can help diagnose and alert specialist doctors to possible problems, which appear as artifacts in medical images. We have contributed to the diagnosis, especially in data processing from wireless endoscopy, where tens of thousands of records are processed, and the human eye can easily overlook a problem on one of the frames. Our efforts have also been successful in images from MRI, where we not only successfully detect various brain changes but also visualize them in space or determine their volume, which can improve the preparatory phase before surgery or targeting medication. The developed software solutions are now essentially waiting to be taken over by a specialized company that would continue to develop them for everyday use in a clinical environment,”* adds professor Ondřej Krejcar from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK.

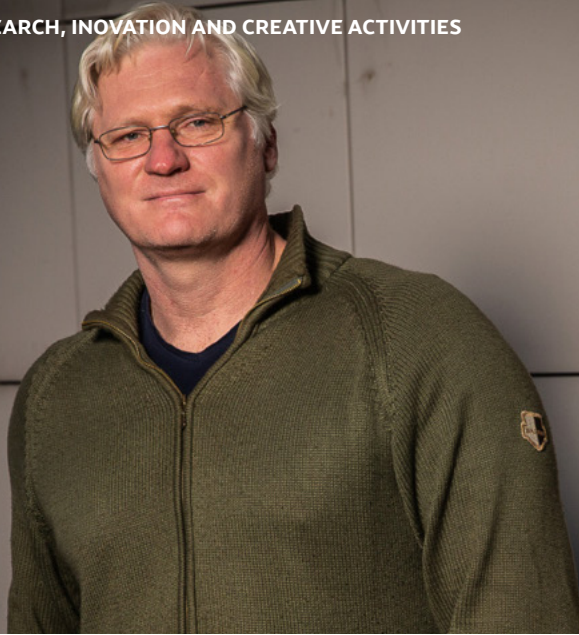
The project partially relied on the involvement of students who gained valuable practical experience

With their contributions, according to assoc. prof. Miroslav Lísa, the entire project employed up to a hundred researchers at various stages and levels of involvement. *“Students of all levels had the opportunity to participate – from bachelor’s to PhD. For example, in the field of toxicology, this portfolio of students of all levels was unique in the entire Czech Republic. They helped us not only with the synthesis*

of molecules but also with their characterization for subsequent analysis. I dare say that involvement in the project was the best science practice for them, and they gained truly valuable experience, which is not always guaranteed during their studies,” Lísa recalls the support of students.

Despite obstacles, the research exceeded expectations

A significant obstacle was the COVID-19 pandemic, which practically halted normal operations at the University of Hradec Kralove in 2020. *“Practically overnight, we lost the ability to meet and personally share the investigation findings. We were supposed to meet at conferences and interdisciplinary sessions, which are crucial for research of this nature, but none of that was possible. I am glad that we managed to adapt very quickly to the online environment and did not have to postpone the planned project outcomes,”* recalls chemist Miroslav Lisa. He adds that the project had to increase the number of expected publication outputs. A little problem with placing a technically demanding supercomputer in the building represents only a humorous anecdote at the end of a project that fundamentally helped to develop the research infrastructure at the University of Hradec Králové. The project tested the scientific capacities of researchers at our university. It significantly contributed to the fight against a cunning enemy – growing neurodegenerative diseases – and our UHK scientists hope to continue the efforts. •



Vivat academia, Vivant professores!

Jan Hábl appointed Professor of Education

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO ARCHIVE OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

Jan Hábl works at the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králově. He was appointed professor on 17 June 2022 in the Karolinum in Prague. His primary interest lies with the philosophy of education with a focus on holistic and moral education. He has long been involved in the pedagogical legacy of John Amos Comenius and has been popularising it.

Professor Hábl met all eligibility requirements at the Faculty of Education, Charles University in Prague. He became a professor of Pedagogy.

Professor Hábl studied Philosophy of Education at the University of Wales. He was a researcher at the Comenius Institute in Prague and he also worked at the University of Ústí nad Labem for several years. He qualified as a professor in 2016 at the Faculty of Education, Charles University. He has been teaching at the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology at the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové for a long time. He gives lectures on fields bordering on pedagogy,

anthropology, ethics and the history of education. He has written many professional publications and he is no stranger to non-fiction. Here is but a short list of his work: *Labyrinth Upgrade. A Novel (Not Only) for Children* (2015), *Character Matters, Issues Surrounding Teaching Goodness* (2020), *Humanity Is Not Quite Lost* (P. Mervart Publishing 2019), *Lest One Fall into Inhumanity* (P. Mervart Publishing 2015), *Learning (with) a Story* (Host 2013), *On Being Human(e)* (Wipf&Stock 2017), *Restoration of Human Affairs: Utopism or Realism* (Cascade Books 2021). •

Štěpán Hubálovský has become Professor of Information and Communication Technologies in Education

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

PHOTO CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Professor Štěpán Hubálovský harbours a longstanding interest in the application of scientific modelling and computer simulations of real, especially physical, systems in the educational process.

“Mathematical models and computer simulations play a really important role in education. Plenty of emphasis is now being placed on their use in teaching. Simulation models and visualisations allow students to understand the basic processes in real systems, develop intuition and even visualise an experiment that is not feasible in real life,” describes the newly appointed professor.



Professor Hubálovský also focuses on e-learning, related theoretical studies and the effectiveness of implementing e-learning in education and applied research where computer simulations are used.

He has published 35 articles in major international journals indexed in WoS and Scopus databases, such as *Computers in Human Behavior*, *International Journal of Education and Information Technologies*, *Mathematics*, *Symmetry-Basel*, *International Journal of Mathematics and Computers in Simulation*. He has also written two university textbooks.

Professor Hubálovský is the lead researcher in two applied research projects run by the Technology

Agency of the Czech Republic. He is co-researching three other projects run by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and two departmental applied research projects. The results of these projects include patents, utility models, technologies, and prototypes.

Professor Štěpán Hubálovský (*1970)

Professor Hubálovský graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague with a master's degree in Teaching General Education Subjects (specifically Mathematics and Physics). He continued his studies under a PhD programme in General Physics at the same Faculty. In 2012 he became an associate professor at the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové in Systems Engineering and Informatics.

He has headed the Department of Applied Cybernetics, Faculty of Science, University of Hradec Králové (formerly the Department of Computer Science) since 2010. He is also the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science UHK; first he was Vice-Dean for Science, research, innovation and creative activities between 2016 and 2019, and he has been Vice-Dean for Strategy, Development and Legislation since 2019.

He spends his free time with his family. He enjoys leisure sports, particularly skiing, and he likes to let off steam by working around the house and in his garden. He supports environmental protection, is aware of drought-related issues and renewable energy. •



František Vaníček appointed Professor of Music

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK PHOTO ANNA VITVAROVÁ

František Vaníček, Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové, was appointed professor by the Czech Minister of Education in Karolinum, Prague, on 19 December 2022. Mr Vaníček habilitated at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, where he specialised in Musical Arts, specifically the organ.

Prof. PhDr. MgA. František Vaníček, Ph.D., studied the organ at the local Conservatory in Pardubice and then at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Subsequently, he completed his education at the Academy of Arts in Utrecht, Netherlands. As a student, Professor Vaníček won many awards at international and national organ competitions. In 1991, he was awarded a First Prize diploma in music (Premier Prix) by the Czech Music Fund (Český hudební fond, o.p.s.) for his outstanding representation of Czech performing art abroad.

Professor Vaníček plays the organ at concerts; he has given more than a thousand solo concerts to date and has performed at many organ concerts all over the world, including major organ festivals in the USA, Japan, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia, and Poland. Moreover, he has recorded several solo CD's and

he also records organ music for Czech and foreign radio stations.

Apart from performing at concerts, Professor Vaníček also loves teaching. He teaches at the Music Department of the Faculty of Education UHK. He established and opened new study programmes at UHK, namely Temple Music Conductorship and Teaching Elementary School Teachers How to Teach Pupils to Play a Musical Instrument and How to Sing Lead Vocals.

In 2012, he habilitated at the Faculty of Music of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Since 2016, Professor Vaníček has been the Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové. •

Ladislav Koreň from the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové was appointed Associate Professor of Philosophy

TEXT TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

On 1 March 2022, Ladislav Koreň from the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové was appointed Associate Professor of Philosophy at a proposal from the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.



Associate Professor Koreň specialises in the philosophy of language, the philosophy of psychology and cognitive sciences. His research focuses on the interdisciplinary issues of social and normative aspects of language, thinking and reasoning.

He successfully completed a habilitation procedure basing his work on the scientific monograph *Practices of Reason: Fusing the Inferentialist and the Scientific Image*, published in 2021 by the prestigious academic publishing house Routledge. It is worth mentioning that the publication is the main outcome of a scientific project, namely *Man as a Normative Animal*. UHK identified the project as a project of excellence and supported it from 2017 to 2019. The project was headed by Professor Jaroslav Peregrin. Associate Professor Koreň was also recently one of the two lead researchers of a successful international scientific project titled *Inferentialism and Collective*

Intentionality. The project received support from 2017 to 2019 from the Czech Science Foundation and the Austrian Science Fund (Prof. H. B. Schmid headed the project on behalf of the University of Vienna). In the context of the project, Associate Professor Koreň was the lead editor of the flagship publication *Groups, Norms and Practices* (Springer, 2021). Mr Koreň is also a co-editor of collective monographs published by Routledge and Oxford University Press. He has written and published several academic studies on philosophy in prestigious international journals.

At present, Associate Professor Koreň coordinates a project referred to as *Naturalized Inferentialism: Norms, Meanings and Reasons in the Natural World*. The project will cover a five-year period. It was selected by the Czech Science Foundation as one of the top 20 supported elite grant projects of excellence conducted under EXPRO basic research in 2019 (with Professor Jaroslav Peregrin as the lead researcher). The objective of the project is the systematic elaboration of an inferentialist approach from a naturalistic perspective, which is based on current scientific research in the phylogenesis and the ontogenesis of human cooperation, conventions, norms, language and reasoning. •



Associate Professor Miloslava Černá has fortified the ranks of the Department of Applied Linguistics of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK

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

On 16 February 2022, Ms Černá presented her habilitation thesis *Blended Learning in University Education (Blended-learning koncept vzdělávání v univerzitním prostředí)* and gave a lecture on *The Creation of e-Course Content and the Recommender System (Tvorba obsahu e-kurzů a rekomendační systém)* before the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové. She based her habilitation thesis on interconnected topics, such as the social media usage scheme, analyses of student needs in language education, web usability testing, the expectation model and the recommender system. Miloslava Černá became an Associate Professor in Information and Communication Technology in Education effective from 1 April 2022.

Associate Professor Černá has been working at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Informatics and Management, University of Hradec Králové since 1997. Blended Learning is one of her main areas of professional interest, especially the design, motivation, communication and incorporation of social media into language teaching.

At the Faculty, Associate Professor Černá teaches, among other things, a course for tour guides

that concentrates on the history, geography and culture of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, selected African countries and India. She also teaches the English for Specific Purposes Language Course and the Czech Language for Foreigners Course. Ms. Černá also cooperates with the Institute of Continuing Education (IDV the Faculty of Informatics and Management); she oversees Summer School and Autumn School. As Administrator, she evaluates exams on Czech language proficiency and on Czech facts and

figures taken by foreigners who have applied for Czech citizenship in the United Kingdom. She is the Administrator of ETS Global, an accredited language centre that is run by the Institute of Continuing Education (IDV Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK). Ever since she began working at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, she has focused her research on the use of ICT in education. Ms. Černá also works on projects supported by the Czech Science Foundation, ESF and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic.

When it comes to international cooperation, Associate Professor Černá has established close ties with the organisers of the International Conference on Blended Learning held at universities in Hong Kong. Her hard work paid off and she managed to have an International Conference on Blended Learning take place for the first time in Europe, directly at the Faculty of Informatics

and Management UHK, in 2019. It was the 12th International Conference on Blended Learning.

Ms. Černá's role models are John Amos Comenius, Jan Werich and Professor Jordan Peterson completes the triad.

"I would like to thank my husband and my son for their support at home. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support at work, especially Associate Professor Klímová, Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, for her inspiration and motivation, and Associate Professor Poulová for all the work and research opportunities she has given me. I very much appreciate getting to know Professor Mikulecký, Professor Mechlová and Professor Švejda, who bring refinement to the academic world with their kindness, sophistication and wisdom," concludes the new associate professor of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK with a smile. •

Martina Pásková is a new associate professor at the Department of Recreology and Tourism, Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK

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

PHOTO IVANA LUKAVSKÁ

On 30 March 2022, Martina Pásková presented her habilitation thesis *Sustainability of Tourism Development in the Region* before the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Economics and Management of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and became an associate professor effective 8 April 2022.

"In my thesis, I carried out an interdisciplinary assessment of the status and potential of using key sustainability management approaches in managing environmentally, socially and economically responsible tourism development in culturally and naturally valuable and vulnerable regions," explains Ms Pásková, now an associate professor. In her

habilitation lecture, she explained the causes of the unsustainability of tourism development in some regions using selected economic, ecological, and sociological concepts and theories pertaining to regional development.

Associate Professor Pásková has been working at the Department of Recreation and Tourism (Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK) since 2012. She has been actively involved in the sustainability of tourism development for the past 22 years. She continues to draw attention to the growing need to ensure the sustainability of tourism development and points out the benefits tourism brings to regional development and the need for a comprehensive approach to it. She has significantly contributed to the introduction of pivotal theory and methodology, primarily by incorporating fundamental theoretical concepts derived from economics, geography, ecology, sociology and anthropology into the research and practice of the tourism industry in the Czech Republic. She suggests their coherent application for interdisciplinary research and practice in the context of regional development. These include the destination life cycle concept, the core-periphery theory, the carrying capacity concept, the theory of social exchange, the concept of limits of acceptable change, the DPSIR model, and the knowledge-based systems of local communities and indigenous peoples. Associate Professor Pásková has long applied these concepts in research related to the optimization and perception of the effects of tourism on the quality of life and the development of the region.

Ms. Pásková researches, among other things, the life cycle in municipalities most burdened by tourism. She examines the impact of destination development progress in Český Krumlov, Český Ráj and Křivoklát. Ms Pásková also directs her interest at Nicaragua, where she focuses mainly on community tourism and on the use of indigenous knowledge for its sustainable development. She also concentrates on presenting these issues at international conferences and she lectures at Czech universities as well as foreign universities.

Associate Professor Pásková wrote *The Sustainability of Tourism Development (Udržitelnost rozvoje cestovního ruchu)*. It is a textbook that has become a fundamental study text. She also co-authored both editions



of the *Dictionary of Tourism (Výkladový slovník cestovního ruchu)*

Ms. Pásková has been combining her theoretical knowledge and practical skills for almost 17 years in an area that has become central to her professional interest, i.e. geoparks. Her involvement in this area initially began with her participation at the First International Conference on Geoparks organised by the Ministry of the Environment and UNESCO. The Conference was held in Beijing in 2004. Ms Pásková continues to participate in all major activities concerning European and world geoparks.

In her free time, Ms Pásková likes outdoor activities, especially running. She loves poetry.

“I would like to thank my parents and especially my friend and colleague Professor Zelenka for their consistent motivation and support. My thanks also go to the entire Department of Recreation and Tourism, Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, especially the Head of Department, Dr Hruš, for his understanding and support, and his leniency towards my diverse involvement in academia and the geoparks community. I would like to thank the Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities, Professor Krejcar, for his valuable advice and the Faculty Dean, Professor Hýnek, for his support during the habilitation process,” Martina Pásková concludes. •

Adrián Agricola: New Associate Professor of Kinanthropology

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO PERSONAL ARCHIVE OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AGRICOLA

Professor Martin Bareš, Rector of Masaryk University, appointed Mgr. Adrián Agricola, PhD., Associate Professor of Kinanthropology on 1 May 2022 at the initiative of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Sports Studies (Masaryk University). Associate Professor Agricola successfully defended his habilitation thesis titled *Relative Age Effect: Vplyv dátumu narodenia na športovú výkonnosť*.



At the Faculty of Education UHK, Associate Professor Agricola prepares students enrolled in bachelor's and master's degree programmes for their future profession as teachers of physical education. He teaches two subjects, namely

Anthropomotomics and Instructions on How to Write Your Theses. Associate Professor Agricola is also engaged in the practical tuition of ball games (volleyball and basketball) and he leads various courses (sports games, skating and ice hockey, sports and outdoor activities – cycling), which also form part of the various study programmes.

For many years now, Associate Professor Agricola has been studying the effect of age on athletic performance, referred to as the Relative Age Effect (RAE). The scientific studies he has published so far, mainly with colleagues from the Faculty of Sports Studies (Masaryk University), form the basis of world-renowned databases. He also presents the results of his work at national and international conferences. His work *The Relative Age Effect in Junior Tennis 2012* and *Relative Age Effect in Junior Tennis – male* (2013) is a ground-breaking first introduction of the RAE phenomenon to the local professional community. RAE has significantly

contributed to the dissemination of knowledge in the identification of sports talent.

Associate Professor Agricola also pursues scientific projects. He has worked as both lead researcher and co-researcher in projects overseen by the Czech Science Foundation (GA ČR) and the University Development Fund and in various projects run by the Faculty. At the Faculty of Education UHK, he participates in Specific Research projects and in Internal Grant Competitions. Since 2019, Associate Professor Agricola has also been evaluating ÉTA programmes funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA ČR). •

Associate Professor Adrián Agricola:

- Has been working at the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové since 2015;
- He has headed the Department of Physical Education and Sports since 2021 and he also serves as the President of the University Sports Club;
- In the future, he would like to focus on further developing the Department and on curriculum development. He would like to open a PhD programme and introduce new trends in the teaching of physical education.

The Department of Economics of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK has a new associate professor. Ivan Soukal has successfully completed the habilitation procedure

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

In the second half of April 2022, Ivan Soukal presented his habilitation thesis titled *Price Issues in the Network Services Industry* to the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Economics of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. He went on to defend his habilitation thesis on 12 May 2022 and he was appointed Associate Professor in Economics and Management with effect from 1 June 2022.

Associate Professor Soukal has been connected with the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové since 2002. He started out as a student of Information Management and went on to get a PhD from the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, in 2012. During his time at the Faculty, he taught students enrolled at various departments of the University of Hradec Králové, but he now mainly teaches at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. His courses include International Finance and Banking Products and Services. He also enjoys giving the odd lecture now and then at the Philosophical Faculty UHK.

Mr Soukal actively participates in various projects conducted by, for example, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and the Czech Science Foundation. He partakes in institutional cooperation projects run within the EEA Fund and he contributes to innovation vouchers. Every year, he takes on the role of secretary and helps organise the Hradec Economic Days conference, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022. “*My habilitation thesis was also more of a personal project,*” says



Associate Professor Soukal, and adds: “*It would have been near impossible to get it done without my family’s love and support. I would also like to thank my colleagues for their suggestions and help with preparing for the habilitation procedure. In addition to my family, special thanks also go to Honza, Petra, Václav, Hana, Tomáš, Ladislav, Katka and others.*”

When it comes to hobbies, Associate Professor Soukal doesn’t have much free time. He devotes most of his time outside of work to his family. But if he does find the time, he likes gaming, cycling or swimming in a pool. “*The only hobby I have managed to do regularly for a long time is to be at least five minutes late, no matter how early I set out,*” concludes Associate Professor Soukal with a smile. •

Petr Šída from the Department of Archaeology, Philosophical Faculty UHK, was appointed Associate Professor of Archaeology

TEXT TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

The Rector of Charles University, Milena Králíčková, appointed Petr Šída Associate Professor of Archaeology effective from 1 October 2022 at the proposal of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague.

Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Mgr. Petr Šída, Ph.D. works at the Department of Archaeology of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové. He gives introductory courses on the hunter-gatherer history of Europe and Bohemia, the morphology of the stone industry and on Quaternary geology. He also gives courses on environmental archaeology and the natural environment. He has written 14 monographs and more than a hundred scientific articles with a view to extensive international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Associate Professor Šída has been researching Pleistocene and Holocene hunting societies for a long time.

His approach combines the humanities and natural sciences. In recent years, he has also focused on the history of landscape development and

archaeological research methodology. He explores hunting settlements near the South Bohemian lakes (Švarcenberk, Tisý), the Gravettien sites in Bohemia and Moravia (Milovice, Dolní Věstonice, Lubná), the cliffs of the Bohemian Paradise and Kokořínsko, and the Neolithic mining area in the Jisteb region in the Jizera Mountains. As an external lecturer he also teaches at the Faculty of Arts of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice and is a team member of the Research Centre for Palaeolithic and Palaeoanthropology, Institute of Archaeology, Czech Academy of Sciences in Dolní Věstonice. His hobbies include photography and hiking.

He is currently working on publications on selected problems of Mesolithic communities (first pottery, cut tools) and their meeting up with agricultural societies. He is also planning further research on Neolithic mining sites in the Jisteb region. •

Faculty of Science UHK has a new associate professor of ICT in Education

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

At the graduation ceremony held on 26 October 2022, the Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové presented an appointment decree to new associate professor PhDr. Michal Musílek, Ph.D. He was appointed associate professor of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

Associate Professor Musílek wrote his habilitation thesis on *Cryptography as a Topic of Education Provided via ICT (Kryptologie jako téma vzdělávání poskytované prostřednictvím ICT)*.

“Cryptography is not just about cracking ciphers, as it might seem. Cryptology is also closely related to cyber security; a current topic of much interest. It overlaps with other disciplines, like literature, language, and history. The overlap is generally inherent in ICT as used in education, so it needs to be further developed as the impact of technology on education is ever on the increase and it is essential that we master it properly,” explains the new associate professor.

referred to as *Innovation of PhD programme in ICT and Education*.

Associate Professor Michal Musílek (*1963)

Michal Musílek graduated from the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové, with a Master's degree in Teaching Mathematics and Physics. He extended his teaching degree and became a specialist in computer technology and he completed a PhD programme in The Theory of Education in Physics. He received his associate professorship in Information and Communication Technology in Education at the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové.

He was the Headmaster of the Secondary Medical School in Nový Bydžov for 8 years and he also trained and educated adults. In 2007, he started working as an assistant professor at the then Department of Informatics at the Faculty of Education UHK (now the Department of Applied Cybernetics of the Faculty of Science UHK). When the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové was established in 2010, he took up the position of Vice-Dean for Education and Internal Affairs, which he still holds today. He has headed the Subjects Didactics Centre of the Faculty of Science UHK since 2019. He is a Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists committee member.

Associate Professor Musílek devotes his free time to reading books and hiking. He also dabbles in amateur radio broadcasting. He has managed to connect with radio amateurs from more than 100 countries around the world on shortwave radio. ●



Between 2013–2016, Associate Professor Musílek participated in an international scientific project referred to as MaSciL (Maths and Science in Life), he co-researched seven development projects under the Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme and the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education and nine specific university research projects. From 2011 to 2013 he was the KA02 expert guarantor of an Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme



Online teaching in Czech-American classrooms and student exchange. UHK partners up with Missouri Southern State University

TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ **PHOTO** LUCIE BANSZELOVÁ

A unique joint teaching project gave UHK students the opportunity to study at Missouri Southern State University (MSSU), USA. Several dozens of students attended Czech-American online joint classes divided by faculty affiliation. MSSU welcomed twelve UHK exchange students. In December 2022, it was UHK's turn to welcome guests from MSSU.

MSSU students are quite familiar with Hradec Králové, and the Czech Republic in general. The American university organises thematic semesters, in which the details and peculiarities of a specific country are discussed. Some semesters then go hand-in-hand with real visits to the countries they covered. And that's where the UHK

comes in; UHK hosted the Czech semester and our teachers gave online lectures.

Assistant Professor Ondřej Tikovský kicked-off the semester. He teaches at the Institute of History of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové and he is the Director of the Library of Parliament, which is the main research



PHOTO: MSSU

resource for the Parliament of the Czech Republic. His gave a lecture on the history of Prague. Associate Professor Zdeněk Beran, Director of the Institute of History, Philosophical Faculty UHK, lectured on Czech cultural heritage in the digital era and on the contrasts between Czech and American cultural heritage. Professor Josef Hynek, Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, spoke in general about why American students should consider becoming exchange students in the Czech Republic.

The Faculty of Education UHK also weighed in with four of its own lecturers. Assistant Professor Františka Schormová (Department of English Language and Literature) gave students some insight into the Czechoslovak spies, who were also experts in African diasporas and poetry. Assistant Professor Kateřina Andršová (Department of Music) gave an enthralling lecture on European Roma Culture and Music. Assistant Professor Ludmila Kroupová (Department of Music) lectured on Antonín Dvořák, who is a fundamental figure of Czech and European musical heritage. Assistant Professor Klára Zářecká (Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies) gave a lecture on the development and the key figures of Czech graphic art.

Czech students could in turn enrol in three courses taught at MSSU. *Cross-cultural Fiber Art Studies of Czech and USA: Identity, Traditions, and Place* (Department of Fine Arts and Textile Design), *Export Marketing* (Department of Management), and *The Heart of Europe: Culture & Identity* (Institute of History). Selected students travelled to the USA for a brief residency in October 2022.

The project culminated with MSSU visiting UHK. MSSU President Dean Van Galen came along too. Associate Professor Zdeněk Beran, Project Coordinator at UHK, underlined

the success of the project as follows. *“We managed to put together a pilot project on hybrid teaching. Students from both the Czech Republic and the USA benefited from the project as did the teachers who did the teaching and gave the lectures. International experience is invaluable for university teaching. Thank you all for your support. I think we have shown each other that no wall is too high to climb when we work together,”* says Assistant Professor Tereza Otčenášková (visit coordinator from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK) in agreement with Associate Professor Beran: *“The objective of the project was to introduce American teachers and students to Czech culture and historical landmarks and to the life at the University of Hradec Králové. The common denominator undoubtedly lay in developing mutual cooperation and establishing activities that are beneficial to both sides and that enrich the concept of internationalisation at both universities.”*

Going to the States was a dream come true for student Lucie Banzelová

The Export Marketing courses were run by the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK in cooperation with MSSU and were taught by Assistant Professor Tereza Otčenášková from the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, and Assistant Professor Dominic Buccieri from MSSU.

Three to five students from every participating UHK Department or Faculty travelled to Joplin, USA. Twelve students from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK applied to go, but only two male students and three female students were selected. Lucie Banzelová, a 2nd year Information Management student, was one of the lucky ones. *“The whole week was absolutely awesome! Apart from an active holiday in Croatia and a short stay in the Alps, the trip to the USA was my first trip abroad with the Faculty and also my first trip outside of Europe,”* Lucie summarises her trip abroad and adds: *“I really enjoyed visiting the Walmart Museum and the field trip to the house where Bonnie and Clyde lived for a while. But I was most impressed by the Amish; very few people get to see or even safely enter their premises. We also got a glimpse of a nearby local seed packing and seed selling factory.”* All students were accommodated on campus but spent most of their time with an elderly American couple in Joplin who looked after them really well during their stay. *“Mike and Ann*

were wonderful. They devoted all their time and affection to us. They picked us up at the airport on the day we arrived, they toured the city with us, and took us on a trip to the falls. We attended a church concert and saw the Maple Leaf Parade (a parade featuring local high schools and colleges, emergency services, businesses and individuals, and other organisations and businesses in the city). The couple repeatedly took us out to dinner and we spent many an evening chatting over boardgames. We really managed to do a lot,” says Lucie with a sparkle in her eye.

UHK students also visited other destinations in the USA on their own before returning home. Two female students went to Chicago and Lucie and two of her male classmates set off to explore New York. *“Going to the USA has always been my dream, but I didn’t think it would come true so soon. I’m very grateful for all the international travel opportunities I have been given during my studies. And thanks to Erasmus, I’ll be going to Amsterdam in the summer semester,”* Lucie concluded. ●



PHOTO: MATYÁŠ STRNAD



"I never dreamed I'd be working with virtual reality," says Fulbright graduate about her internship

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

PHOTO PERSONAL ARCHIVE OF VERONIKA SKOUPILOVÁ

In 2022, fresh PhD student Veronika Skoupilová from the Department of Chemistry went to the USA with a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to her name. She interned at the University of California, San Diego for eight months and even went as far as giving a lecture at one of the largest toxicology conferences in the United States. How does she evaluate her stay and what has she gained from her internship? And what advice would she give to students gathering the courage to go abroad?

You spent most of your internship in a lab. What did you do?

I started in the synthesis laboratory, where I worked for about three or four months synthesizing new cholinesterase reactivators. I spent the second half of my internship in a biochemistry lab, testing *in vitro* assay methods. Some of

them I was already familiar with from previous international placements, but this was a higher level altogether.

After that, I concentrated on *in silico* testing, specifically molecular docking and measuring some parameters of selected docked molecules and

prepared complexes. I used a virtual reality (VR) programme and docked the molecules we had just designed into a specific binding site. I also compared them with another set that was prepared earlier. I was also able to present our research results at one of the largest toxicology conferences in the US – right here in San Diego.

What was it like to attend such a conference as a fresh PhD student?

Fabulous! The results of our *in silico* modelling and synthesis had just come in. It's a pity that we were pressed for time towards the end of my internship and that there was no room to make sure that the synthesized compounds were sufficiently pure, so the substances themselves couldn't undergo biological testing. Even so, I still view the presented data as being sufficient. This was my first scientific conference and I hope to attend more conferences as big and impeccable as this one.

So how does one model molecules in virtual reality? Did you have to draw them?

That's one possibility – we draw the molecules in conventional computer programmes and then import them into a VR programme. The molecules can also be modelled directly in the appropriate VR programme. Larger structures, such as proteins (enzymes) and the like, can be imported from the internet. The VR programme is linked to a Protein Data Bank and we upload the proteins from it.

How do they get into the Protein Data Bank?

From crystallographic measurements. It's a very important technique in structural biology that focuses on the spatial arrangement of biomolecules. If we know the structure of a protein, for example, we can understand how it works and deduce the necessary adjustments to affect it. The information obtained from crystallographic data helps us understand how the body works, and also points us in various directions that hint at how we might treat particular diseases.

So, what then happens to molecules modelled in this way?

They undergo further testing. We already know from *in silico* testing that our substances should be effective. Next comes *in vitro* testing, possibly using animals (*in vivo*), and then we move on to clinical trials – but that's still such a long way off.

You've already been to San Diego as part of your PhD studies. What will you focus on in your dissertation?

The focus of my dissertation is on researching small molecules with anti-aging properties. I'll be working on synthesis and writing papers. But I'd eventually like to revert to computer chemistry and molecular modelling, because of all the fields I have explored, I enjoyed this one the most and I expect it will play a considerable role in the development of new drugs in the future.

What do you mean by *small molecules* with anti-ageing properties? Will we find them in our face creams in the future, for example?

The objective is to slow down the rate of ageing in humans at a cellular level, so we target the



structures and processes in the cell that affect the ageing process. The goal is to maintain better vitality even at an advanced age. As for the dosage form – I think pills are more likely than a cream.

Has the internship met your expectations in a professional capacity?

Absolutely! My intention was to learn more about *in silico* modelling. I didn't even expect to work with virtual reality, so it was an extra cherry.

I received one of the VR headsets from my mentor, Assistant Professor Radić, as part of my internship and I would like to use VR here at UHK. I think it's better for students and even lay people to actually see how chemistry works compared to having someone describe it to you; things can get a little abstract sometimes. It's definitely more fun, visual and interactive.

Trying out new methods was also great. We tend to go in a specific direction, like analytical or synthetic chemistry, molecular biology, to name but

a few. I'm glad I got to try a little bit of everything – it's better to be multi-functional. I understand the process more now and I have gained an insight into the various stages of the development of medicinal products.

Internships will teach you to be open-minded

What was San Diego like as a city?

Nothing compared to what we are used to in the Czech Republic. Getting from one side of the city to the other was a major problem for me. I had to rely on public transport, which is a bit chaotic. Having local friends was a great help.

Where did you stay? On campus?

I stayed with an elderly couple. It was great because I didn't have to worry about getting furniture. And it was more affordable than living on campus. Plus, dormitories were fully booked a year and a half in advance.

Was it far from campus?

It didn't seem far as the crow flies. I actually planned on getting a bicycle and riding it to campus every day. It was only about 5–7 miles. But you see the thing is that San Diego just isn't flat. I would have to go up and down several steep hills along the way and I'd have to leave the house very early in the morning. I tried it once and it was like really tough. So, I ended up taking the bus and the family sometimes lent me their car. Even though there's a lot of traffic, I got used to driving pretty quickly. Drivers there are more conscious than they are here and they are definitely more considerate of each other. The real challenge was the multi-lane highway, but everything worked out well in the end.

What is the cultural environment like in San Diego and on campus? Are there many foreigners?

There are probably more foreigners than locals. There were about eight of us in the lab and only two were Americans. I worked with people from Italy and France. The campus was very multicultural compared to Czech universities.



**How did your internship translate moneywise?
Did the scholarship cover your expenses?**

It did. And I even managed to save some money on the side. I knew the budget would be tight and I had to make ends meet – for eight months. Internships away from home are definitely a good experience for young people. I used the money I saved up to travel. I went on a Christmas road trip to Las Vegas and I visited Zion National Park, the Grand Canyon and Death Valley. Towards the end of my internship, I went on a long road trip and passed through Northern California to Sequoia Park, Yosemite National Park, San Francisco. I then took Highway 1 along The Big Sur stretch on my way back.

Is the mindset between Czechs and Americans different?

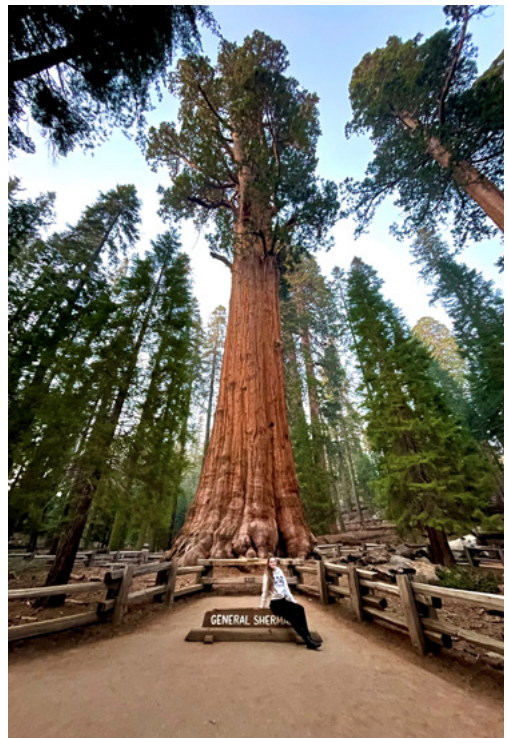
I think Americans are more optimistic. Like they don't automatically focus on why something won't work when discussing new ideas. And to them failure is an experience and not necessarily something reprehensible. I think Czechs are a tid-bit more pessimistic.

Would you encourage students who are considering a similar path but have not yet mustered the courage to apply for a scholarship?

I think the more you travel, the more insight you have. And travelling on your own toughens you up and teaches you to be open-minded. You meet professionals and make new friends. You develop your soft skills and learn to understand the mentality of people in a new environment. You gain experience in a foreign academic environment and come to understand the differences in science and education funding. The objective of scholarships like this is to establish international contacts, to share the values of your country and the research you are doing. If only the world could be more united these days; sharing knowledge is one of the many ways how to achieve such unity.

Have you already started making plans for where you'll go next?

Erasmus gives students awesome opportunities to study and travel abroad and I'd like to go to Germany or Scandinavia as a PhD student. ●





Division of work in modern households. Sociologist Nina Fárová explored the relationship between gender, science and technology in San Francisco

TEXT TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

PHOTO OPEN SCIENCE, CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Assistant Professor Fárová works at the Department of Sociology, Philosophical Faculty UHK. She was awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Masaryk Scholarship and spent one academic year at San Francisco State University at the *Science, Technology and Society Hub* researching how modern technologies affect the gender division of labour in households.

Ms. Fárová also works as a researcher at the National Contact Centre – Gender and Science at the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences where she studies the gender aspects of technology. And it is this very topic

that she researched in San Francisco, where the Bay Area is located. The San Francisco Bay Area is home to many technology giants and cutting-edge startups. Assistant Professor Fárová was particularly interested in smart households and

the gender division of work in such households, specifically how smart technology transforms the layout, tasks, care and relationships within such homes and households.

"What was fantastic about the Fulbright-Masaryk Scholarship is that it allowed me to step away from my daily work routines in the Czech Republic and realise what is important to me in my working life, what I want to keep and what I want to change. I also enjoyed being a part of the University of California. It was invigorating for me, as a sociologist interested in gender aspects, to see that gender issues were involved in the communication and presentation of the University both internally and externally. For example, LGBT+ issues were highlighted, Transgender Day of Visibility was celebrated, programmes have been opened to support students hailing from ethnic minorities, lecturers emphasised their epistemological underpinnings, and students held fundraisers to help those with low incomes," said Ms. Fárová.

Assistant Professor Fárová studies gender issues, mainly from the sociology and anthropology perspective. She researches men and masculinity in education, and she is interested in the dynamics between gender, science and technology. Her focus lies with qualitative research. Ms. Fárová is working on several research projects exploring the Czech scientific community. She is a member of the Gender Expert Chamber of the Czech Republic and a member of the Men and Gender Equality (Czech Government) task force. ●



UHK has gained three new Czech Science Foundation grants for 2023. And we will participate in two more.

Residential education course in Heiligenhof gave an insight into the activities of Ukrainian universities in exile

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK **PHOTO** PHDR. JAN ČAPEK, PH.D.

In November 2022, students from the Department of German Language and Literature participated in a week-long residential education course at the Bavarian Educational Centre in Heiligenhof, located near the town of Bad Kissingen. It is here that experts with various backgrounds and specialists in various fields meet with colleagues and young people to discuss topical issues.

Bad Kissingen is as popular in Germany as spa towns Mariánské Lázně and Karlovy Vary are in the Czech Republic. The first German Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, and the Austrian Empress Elisabeth, familiarly known as Sissi, received treatment in Bad Kissingen. The course concentrated the sharp minds of all present on *Mitteuropäische Begegnungen im Krieg* (*Central European Encounters in War*). The course was attended by male and female students from UHK, female students from Ukraine and male and female students from the Tomáš Bata Business Academy based in Zlín. Many interesting lectures were given, focusing primarily on what is currently going on in Ukraine. Another topic was the historical

and contemporary relationship between Germans and Czechs. Lectures were given by scholars from Germany, Ukraine and the Czech Republic. There was always room after each lecture for discussions and questions.

Assistant Professor Jindra Dubová (UHK) facilitated discussions with and about Ukrainian female students, and she gave an engaging presentation on *Šumava. Die Saga des Böhmerwaldes* (*The Saga of the Bohemian Forest*), a novel by Manfred Böckel. She also prepared group work with excerpts. Lieutenant Ulrich Feldmann's (Bad Kissingen) account of the world crises and the European crises was much appreciated.

Assistant Professor Olena Biletska (University of Stus-Donetsk, then Winnyzia) outlined how the University of Stus-Donetsk operates out of Ukraine, in exile.

Charismatic Gustav Binder moderated the event, demonstrating his general insight and wit not only as a moderator of papers and discussions, but also as an experienced tour guide to Bad Kissingen and its surroundings. Everyone was also invited to a concert showcasing the work of Jewish composers. •





A former president and five ambassadors – UHK welcomed honoured guests in 2022

TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, TOMÁŠ VODIČKA **PHOTO** MARTIN BUREŠ

We promote international university cooperation by building diplomatic relations with countries in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Ambassadors from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia opened an exhibition commemorating a hundred years of cooperation between the Czech Republic (former Czechoslovakia) and the Baltic States, and we welcomed the ambassadors of Chile and Argentina. The Rector also awarded a medal to the former President of Cape Verde, Pedro Pires.

Friendly discussions and conversations on the possibilities of cooperation between UHK and universities in Chile were led not only in light of student exchanges, which are already underway, but also in the context of joint research topics.

Ambassador Patricio Utreras also mentioned the Nobel Prize for Literature winner, poet and diplomat Pablo Neruda, whose artistic pseudonym and later official name were allegedly inspired by the Czech writer Jan Neruda. His Excellency Patricio

Utreras also dedicated the collected writings of the Chilean poet to Pavlina Springerová, Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, UHK. She is a political scientist and leading Czech expert on Latin American politics.

The topic of discussion was, among other things, the fact that the Philosophical Faculty UHK and the Faculty of Science UHK organised the *Ibero-American Week*. The event was held in



Hradec Králové, it was open to the public and included a lecture by Fernando Torres Villarrubia from the Universidad de Barcelona, and other honoured guests.

Experienced Argentine diplomat Roberto Alejandro Salafia, who had been in the service of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 40 years, gave an on-line presentation at the Philosophical Faculty UHK in April 2021. But on this occasion, he appeared in person to share his experience not only from Latin America, but also from the USA and South Africa.

Several ambassadors from the Baltic states also visited UHK in 2022. In the second half of November 2022, an exhibition under the auspices of the Statutory City of Hradec Králové called *Czech-Baltic Century 1921–2021* was on display at Masaryk Square in Hradec Králové. It was opened by the Ambassadors of Estonia Gita Kalmet, Latvia Gunta Pastore and Lithuania Laimonas Talat-Kelpša. Students could chat with said ambassadors during the grand opening ceremony.

The last important international visitor to the UHK in 2022 was an extraordinary statesman of international renown. The third President of Cape Verde, Pedro Pires, received the Rector's Medal from the Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Leona Stašová. The panegyric on this occasion was delivered by scholar in African Studies (Africanist) and expert on Lusophone colonies, Associate Professor Jan Klíma (Philosophical Faculty UHK) who personally knew the former president. *“Since 2002, Commander Pedro Pires has continued to promote relations between the UHK and the Jean Piaget University of Cape Verde. In this way, he has helped cultivate academic, professional and interpersonal contacts that have raised the level of African Studies pursued by UHK as the only academic institution involved in African Studies in the country.”* •



Continued cooperation between the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK and Czech-American TV

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

Tourism Management students cooperate with Czech-American TV (CATV USA) in practical projects. Cooperation is mutually beneficial and introduces the Czech Republic to the world from different perspectives.

John Honner, a producer and the founder of Czech-American TV, visited the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové for the second time. Prominent Faculty representatives and the Deputy Governor of the Hradec Králové Region for Education and Sport, Arnošt Štěpánek, a UHK graduate, met with Mr Honner in May and together they presented students with certificates and awards for their diligence.

Mr Honner has been engaged in the CATV USA project for the past 19 years. It is a half-hour TV programme about the natural beauty, culture and customs of the Czech Republic. The programme is broadcast in English every week at 7 pm in 60 American cities on cable TV and it is watched by 2.5 million households. *“Initially, the media team focused on checking out individual destinations and gathering background information. Now they focus more on communicating with the media. Their*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

line of work really is very varied; they learn how to communicate, then they learn how to write articles in English and they have to work with editors,” explains Mr Honner.

A gentleman from South Moravia, he himself founded the non-profit organisation. He later moved to the United States and chose to live in Florida. The students have been contributing to the content of the broadcast since January 2020. *“It was an honour to intern at Czech-American TV. There are very few non-profit organisations like this one that promotes the Czech Republic abroad. The people who work for it are incredibly passionate and they are proud of where they live and they strive to make it known to the world every step of the way. I have mastered many new skills that will definitely come in handy in the future. One of them is quite simple but absolutely vital for life – working in a team,”* says Terezie Brzková, a 3rd year Tourism Management student.

The meeting in May also served as a platform to plan further cooperation, which would now also involve the Hradec Králové Region. *“I hope to further our cooperation and I trust that our students’ interest will continue and that their results will be no less than outstanding. We plan to involve more Faculty departments in the project,”* says Associate Professor Petr Hruša, Head of the Department of Recreation and Tourism at the Faculty of



Informatics and Management UHK. Mr Honner concludes: *“We would like to approach local schools in cooperation with the Hradec Králové Region and invite them to participate in a competition for the best video report on tourist attractions in the Czech Republic. The best videos would then be broadcast by CATV USA.”* •

ROCK FOR PEOPLE

8-11/6/23

**HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ
PARK 360**

The international rock music festival is one of the biggest events in Hradec Králové. This year's line-up is once again packed with stars and the best in the genre. In addition to music, the production also offers a rich accompanying program.



International relations are anarchic; the purpose of the EU is not to produce quick, easy solutions

TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, UHK **PHOTO** TOMÁŠ VODIČKA

With Dr. Stanislav Myšička from the Department of Political Science, Philosophical Faculty UHK, on the discipline of International Relations, the arena in which the European Union (EU) and its Council exist. The Czech Republic has held presidency of the Council for the past six months. What does such a presidency constitute, and what role does the European Union play in today's globalised world? Why do young people have a more positive perception of the EU than older generations?

Dr. Myšička, let us get straight to the point. In political science, we say that the international environment is anarchic. What does the concept mean? Is it a permanent, unchanging state?

That is a big question. There have been piles of books and articles written on the subject because it is one of the central concepts of international relations (IR). Anarchy is best explained by its opposite, which is hierarchy. We live in the Czech

Republic, and here political relations are hierarchical. There is a political representation, which, for example, is in charge of law enforcement agencies, such as the police or the army. And I, if I somehow violate the rules of society, I will receive a response in the form of punishment. But the international environment is not, understandably, complete chaos. Certain norms, written and unwritten, have been in place for a long time. In IR, however, there is no police officer who can

force someone else to obey him. But the question of coercion is more complicated. Some states have a greater capacity for coercion than others. Even within state hierarchy, there is space. The state is not and cannot be everywhere. There is some degree of anarchy in every social system. If there weren't, we'd just be robots carrying out the will of the state; that's utopia. Nevertheless, some states have tried to achieve this.

Anarchy in IR has multiple implications in many other areas. The global economy, the fight against climate change. A higher degree of anarchy means that some solutions or common procedures are more difficult to impose. They cannot simply be ordered.

And now some thoughts on its permanent state. Alexander Wendt says that anarchy will always be present in IR, but what changes is how states view the entire system. It changes over time. Take interstate conflicts, for example – there are far fewer now than in the past. There are other kinds of disputes, but that is another issue.

So, there is a certain degree of regulation in IR, after all. Is that the effect of the norms you mentioned?

Norms are ubiquitous. As soon as you board an aircraft, you become part of the international aviation regime for the transport of civilians. This is a classic example of a global regime with thousands of pages of technical regulations. Within IR, we often prefer to read bad news from the media, or about military or diplomatic conflicts and the like, perhaps because everyday reality is rather boring, although it allows us to do many things. For example, the free movement of people, goods, finances, and services within the EU. We take it for granted, but the rules that govern it had to be created and have a complicated history. Anarchy is still present, but it has metamorphosed a bit.

Are there any effective, successful international collaborations? Or is it just states pursuing their own interests?

Even with the most elementary knowledge of history, we know that it is impossible to always behave egoistically and only promote one's own interests. From an economic point of view, various connections and alliances have emerged. Despite the fact that there is a certain asymmetry of power, it pays off for both the small "players" and the big ones. In such situations, it is necessary to share part of one's sovereignty with someone else, which is difficult for some states. In the context of the EU, however, this happens routinely and all the time. Cooperation is historically ingrained in us.

What role should the EU play? Or what role does it currently play? Is it enough?

I think many people expect the EU to take up a certain global role, which it cannot do because of its self-imposed limitations. It does not produce quick foreign policy solutions because it needs to build consensus. This is evident, for example in the hesitation over sanctions against Russia or energy reforms. The complexity of the organisation and European law is a double-edged sword. Other organizations can work more easily because they are basically set up on a simpler basis. We have different checks and balances, a whole system of institutions cooperating with each other. And what role does the EU play? It depends on which dimension you are looking at.

When we focus on the economy, if we add up the nominal GDP of the entire EU, we are the second largest market after the United States (US) and ahead of China, which happens to be one of the EU's largest trading partners. As for the diplomatic role, we have to consider the geographical context. It will be easier for political leaders to promote greater involvement in solving conflicts or problems closer to home. Terrorism in the Sahel, migration in West Africa, or now, for example, the war in Ukraine. The EU is more active in these areas than, for instance, in the South China Sea. So, the EU plays more or less of a role here

and there, but it is quite powerful in some areas. Although it is an overly complex organisation, it is still not a state. Nor does it have the necessary foreign policy powers. It is subject to the unanimous consent of all Member States.

Will the European Union ever become a state?

No, I don't think so. Theoretically, it cannot be ruled out. As a scientist, I have to consider all the options. And history is unpredictable. But it seems impractical to me; many issues are part of national decision-making, and the principle of subsidiarity still works, which is right. A superstructure that would micromanage absolutely everything has no pragmatic justification.

You mentioned China, which still resonates significantly in society in many different areas, but primarily in relation to trade. What role does China play in the IR? What is China to the EU?

In this case, I don't think anyone in Europe really knows. Different Member States have different approaches to China. The media recently reported

that China, or rather the company COSCO, is buying a quarter of the port of Hamburg from Germany. The original plan was to buy a third. Germany is trying to wean itself off its dependence on Russian energy imports. Other countries are toying with the idea of greater continuity with China. Much of the weight of the issue is political rather than economic, again because of Russia and its hostility. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has his work cut out for him, with some people urging him to adopt a more assertive stance toward China. But the business community disagrees.

In my opinion, the EU's relations with China are not going to cool down in any fundamental way. China has kept its hands off the war in Ukraine because either outcome is a win for them. On the other hand, the relationship between China and the US, which has been rather cold for a long time, is also important here. China and the US waged a trade war in 2018. Of course, we could also be more assertive and take collective actions that would hurt China economically. But if they have one power centre, their reciprocal response



would probably be much more effective. Surely no one wants to get to this point.

So, is there an effective common EU policy towards China? Or is it more a matter of China's bilateral relations with individual states?

The EU has been developing a common position since the 1990s. However, the individual states use different instruments to build bilateral relations. Even though the Lisbon Treaty makes most of the EU's policies "common" and in trade it is necessary to have a common approach due to the customs union, no one is telling private companies how much money to invest in China. There is also a lot of waiting now to see how China will fare economically, as it is in a bit of a recession.

How does China perceive the current war in Europe unleashed by the Russians?

Officially, they understandably appeal to the fact that it is regrettable and that there should be a ceasefire. At the same time, however, the Chinese media do not fail to add a few "scathing" remarks. They often explain the escalation of the conflict by long-term pressure from the West, which is in line with their anti-American rhetoric and position. China remains a quasi-ally of Russia.

Is China a challenger of the current international system?

It is, and it is not. I know this doesn't sound like a particularly satisfactory answer, but I'll explain. China does not want to radically change the rules, not at all. It is more important for the Chinese to assert themselves more, to play a more significant role in the entire system. For example, the new Silk Road, as one of those big international projects, is not something that is intended to change the environment of the IR. Their rhetoric has actually been pretty much the same since the 1950s. They insist on respecting international principles, mainly that each state has an autonomous right to political development and foreign policy. In this context, they have criticised the USA as well as the Soviet Union. In doing so, they also secure the sympathy of the political elites of other states that were or are somewhat disadvantaged within the international system, many of them in Africa.

Moving from foreign policy to internal EU affairs, what are the main powers of the states currently holding the Council presidency? Why is the presidency important?

If we are talking about the legislative process and subsequent executive decisions, the presiding state has no additional rights in terms of veto or more votes. The presiding state should fulfil the function of a good manager and move the agenda forward effectively. Of course, each state creates a programme that it wants to promote, but it is still guided by the current environment. This can most clearly be seen, for example, in the current situation; one of the biggest priorities is, logically, the war in Ukraine. Already during our first presidency of the Council in 2009, the agenda was very much focused on mitigating the effects of the global financial crisis.

One of the most critical tasks is to overcome bureaucracy. Drawing up a business of a meeting, inviting all relevant parties, and then trying to facilitate consensus. Sometimes there is an outcry on the Internet that the EU is controlled by Germany, which is nonsense. EU states also have certain informal roles, and there is a certain asymmetry to them, but when it comes to decision-making mechanisms, the system is robust. At the end of the day, the majority has to agree on the measures. So, the idea that there is something brewing in Brussels that our political representatives are not aware of is ridiculous.

Many people do not realise that the presidency of the Council is relatively short, but many of the things that the presiding state is working on are longer-term. Once the presidency is over, they have to coordinate things so that the big projects can be completed.

On the website informing citizens about matters connected with the Czech presidency of the Council, it says that the Czech Republic is working as part of the "presidential trio". What does this mean? Why a trio?

Yes, this system is already institutionalised in the EU. The presiding country should coordinate its activities with the previous and upcoming presiding countries. The idea is to avoid sudden changes in the overall agenda that would not be effective. There are types of policy that span even more than the three presidencies. And they last, for example, ten years. There is a need for cooperation between the Member States that alternate in the presidency.

For a long time, even just before the Czech presidency, our country's presidency priorities were not available on that website. Now that they are there, is it possible to pick out a single most critical issue?

Again, we come back to the fact that it was somewhat determined by circumstances. Apart from the security situation, which is important, but which is more a matter of NATO, it is certainly energy, which is closely related to it. Unfortunately, we cannot immediately judge whether the presidency has been or is successful in this regard. There is a latency in the effectiveness of these measures. We will see how the whole crisis caused by the war will affect individual states and the EU. We know that Ukraine is now even more oriented towards the EU, but we cannot see this as an achievement resulting from the presidency, but rather as a result of the whole context.

The Czech Republic already presided over the Council once in 2009. Could we somehow compare these two presidencies? Which one was more successful?

That isn't very easy. The most memorable thing is that in the first half of 2009, our presidency was made complicated by the fall of our national government, the cabinet of Mirek Topolánek. And in general, the situation at that time was a bit strange. The ODS government (Mirek Topolánek's political party, ed. note) launched a campaign before the presidency called "Evropě to osladíme", i.e., a very noticeable sarcasm in Czech (English equivalent would be "Tough Luck Europe", ed. note) illustrating a certain degree of scepticism towards the EU. This scepticism has

diminished considerably, perhaps helped by the war in Ukraine.

Energy security was also discussed more in 2009. At that time, most states were not yet ready to break their dependence on Russian energy supplies. On the contrary, several politicians, including our then president Miloš Zeman, were in favour of energy cooperation with Russia. Of course, no one could have known at that time to what lengths Russia was prepared to go at the time, but the warning signs were there. And now we have a chance to take up the presidency responsibly.

According to the May 2022 *Výzkumník Seznam* survey, support for EU membership is largely age-segmented. Young people have a positive attitude towards the EU. The older people are, the more sceptical they appear to be about the EU. Could this public opinion improve after our presidency?

Most people do not follow foreign policy on a regular basis. Unless, of course, it's a war or something like that. My wife sometimes watches ČT24 (Czech TV news channel, ed. note) and is interested in politics. Definitely less than me, but still above average. Democracy theorists may believe that politics is the life passion of every citizen. But we know that this is not the case. It was never like that, not even in Greece in the time of Pericles. When people categorise important areas of politics, they mention health care, education, and the standard of living. Foreign policy hangs at the bottom of the list. Our presidency is a foreign policy presidency, and if something fundamental is not negotiated during this time, something that would have a fundamentally positive effect on the standard of living in our country, for example, then we are unlikely to see an improvement in the perception of the EU.

As for the survey, the socio-economic level of the respondents and people in general plays an important role. People with lower incomes and those who do not feel that they benefited from the project, that is, from our accession to the EU in 2004, are logically more sceptical. But, of course,

it also depends on what people expected from it. Disappointment often stems from unrealistic expectations. And younger people have nothing to compare it with before the EU, so they can afford to be optimistic, which is a good thing.

We discussed the EU's effective common policy towards China and the conditionality of the European Union's policy on the political, economic and social context. Is there a long-term, successful, common European policy?

The first thing that comes to mind is the single market. Economic integration in the technological age requires considerable efforts to protect personal data. The single market requires intensive cooperation to prevent international fraud and the like. In general, consumer protection is a prominent issue at the European level that directly affects citizens.

Of course, the EU also has many successful policies abroad, such as peacekeeping missions around the world, mostly in Africa. Helping to establish the rule of law by training judges and lawyers. Law enforcement training etc. But these activities don't directly affect people here, so they don't really notice. Unfortunately, politicians portray the EU in a negative light. But the EU is made up of states that are always involved in all decisions and policies. We do not submit to some evil power from Brussels. We participate in it, and politicians should explain it to people better.

Do you think people still feel that decisions are being made about us without us?

As I said, it is naive to think that most people are interested in politics on a daily basis. If we were to ask people on the street how our legislative process works, very few would know the details. People have some vague idea of how the EU works. It is hard for them to imagine that there is an institutional body that shares legislative and executive powers with the government. And you often read in the less serious media that "the Commission has decided something" or "the Commission is discussing a proposal", which are often lumped together. And even then, proposals and decisions are always based on a political

debate open to all Member States. But you rarely read it. This, of course has a negative effect on people's opinions.

In a few weeks, the Czech presidential elections will be held. Will the European Union be an issue in the campaign and during the election?

I think not. Open Euroscepticism would not help any candidate at the moment. We are still operating in the context of the war in Ukraine, so no one wants to stand on the opposite side now, i.e., to defend Russia in any way. In this regard, I think domestic issues will play a primary role.

Thank you for the interview.

Thanks as well. ●

In 2022, on the occasion of the presidency of the Czech Republic of the Council of the European Union, the University of Hradec Králové co-researched a projected titled "Communication of priorities and topics of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU with a focus on issues of higher education and education". As part of this project, we co-organised the one-day music festival "EUforia stage" in Pardubice, where the representatives of the Department of Political Science of the Philosophical Faculty UHK, publicly discussed the issues and opportunities of the Presidency.



Faculty of Education UHK Dean meets delegation from the National Pingtung University of Taiwan

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO Y S CHEN

At the end of November 2022, the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové welcomed a Taiwanese delegation from National Pingtung University (NPTU). The Faculty of Education UHK and the National Pingtung University are long-standing partner universities.

The visit was short, but intense. Discussions were held at University, Faculty, department and internationalisation office levels. Vice-Rector for International Relations (UHK) Leona Stašová and the Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK František Vaníček met with the delegation on behalf of the UHK. An important part of the agenda was also a visit to the Business Academy, the Secondary Vocational School and the Language School in Hradec Králové, where guests could sit in on lessons.

Extensive discussions were held on specific activities effected in the course of the partners' on-going cooperation and with a view to deepening and expanding cooperation, particularly in terms of advancing mobility. Discussions also covered practical internships at selected teaching schools with reference to PhD studies. Existing

contacts and personal liaisons were reinforced and refreshed, giving internationalisation coordinators from the Department of English Language and Literature (Faculty of Education UHK) and the Music Department (Faculty of Education UHK) an opportunity to attend and partake in the meeting. Fond memories of when Faculty of Education UHK staff members visited NPTU earlier on also came up. Cooperation may be both enhanced and expanded as part of the preparatory work for visits, during visits and following ongoing communication.

Delegation members included NPTU President Robert Y S Chen, Dean for International Affairs Kelvin H-C Chen and Dean of Student Affairs Yen-Ching Ou Yang. •



Philosophical Faculty UHK to lay the foundations for a new study field – Management of Archaeological Heritage

TEXT JOSEF LEŽÁK, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

PHOTO TOMÁŠ VODIČKA

The Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové is making good progress in implementing and acquiring Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation Partnership projects. SensiClass and SSHTeaching21+ are also in progress while TRARCHER, a new project, started at the end of 2022.

Transdisciplinary Approaches to Archaeological Heritage is the full name of a new three-year project, on which the University of Hradec Králové will be working as the main coordinator together with the French University of Burgundy and the Croatian University of Zagreb. “Our Department of Archaeology (Philosophical Faculty UHK) will be involved in a project that aims to develop a curriculum for a brand-new field of study dedicated to the

management of archaeological heritage. The study programme will concentrate on archaeology and it will give students an insight into digitalisation and the basics of economics. Four workshops for students and several professional conferences will be organised as part of the project to get feedback,” explains Stephanie Inge Rudwick, Vice-Dean for International and External Relations.

In the already ongoing *Enhancing Quality Teaching of Humanities and Social Sciences in Higher Education for 21+* project, the initial LTTA took place in 2022. Between 21 and 23 November 2022, some thirty representatives from UHK, the Slovak *University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra* and the Polish *Adam Mickiewicz University*, which hosted the meeting, came together. Our Polish colleagues did an excellent job organising the event and everyone eagerly participated in workshops on various aspects of higher education. The preliminary results of the questionnaire survey that had been conducted in October at all participating universities were published at the meeting. The findings of the survey will provide important data that will be used to develop follow-up outputs aimed at improving the teaching of social sciences and humanities.



One Cooperation Partnership project ended in August of 2022. It was a three-year project called *Tackling Sensitive Topics in Classroom* and it was coordinated by the *Estonian University of Tartu*. Together with *SGH Warsaw School of Economics* and the *Central European University*, the project team worked on developing materials and tools for overcoming sensitive situations in the classroom. Unfortunately, the implementation period was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and most of the planned actions had to be moved to an online environment. Nevertheless, all the objectives were met. In addition to e-modules and tutorials, an e-course on social work with foreigners, for example, was developed under the leadership of Assistant Professor Filip Rigel. Assistant Professor Vanda Vaníčková directed an e-course for already qualified and future teachers to help them create a tolerant learning environment. Thanks to more favourable epidemic conditions, everyone could meet in person at the final meeting, which took place from the 20th to the 22nd of June 2022 at

the University of Hradec Králové. Individual team representatives evaluated the outputs and explored possible ways ahead. ●



UHK Summer Schools

TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ, ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ, JAKUB NOVÁK, JOSEF LEŽÁK **PHOTO** MARTIN BUREŠ

The Na Soutoku university campus is home to students even during the summer holidays. In 2022, the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) hosted several summer schools in the context of the waning COVID-19 pandemic, much to the joy of many Czech and international students.

4 TTCamp

4 TTCamp is a unique summer school run by a collaboration between Czech and Norwegian universities. UHK and partner University OsloMET (Norway) support the development and enhancement of the summer courses. The objective is to pass on vital know-how to those interested. 4 TTCamp gave students the opportunity to delve deeper into technology transfer. Students met experts in technology transfer and gained unique know-how on the topic. In addition to giving students a theoretical basis, 4 TTCamp, students also got a lot of hand-on experience.

“The course was primarily designed for PhD students, young researchers, and newly-coined scholars.

Thanks to intense cooperation by all the institutions involved, we managed to put together an interesting programme that raised the students’ professional competencies to a higher level. I would like to thank

everyone involved in organising the summer camp and all the lecturers for passing on their know-how,” says Ondřej Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities (UHK).

Students had lots of fun and got to explore the Czech Republic at the summer school hosted by the Faculty of Science UHK

Forty students from all over the world attended lessons at the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové for an entire month from 13 July to 13 August 2022. Students hailed from Slovakia, Great Britain, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Greece, Lithuania, Ukraine and China.

Four summer school programmes were made available. Students could choose between toxicology, applied biology, cybernetic systems or

geometry and topology. Courses were led by lecturers from the various departments of the Faculty of Science UHK. In addition to lectures and laboratories, students could also go on field trips and attend practical demonstrations of research projects currently being conducted at the Faculty.

"I liked the laboratories very much. I tried things we don't usually do at our school and things that there normally isn't time for."

Filip Pavlovic (University of St Andrews, Great Britain), Summer School of Toxicology

Time was also set aside for exploring Hradec Králové. Students were invited to visit the Museum of East Bohemia, the Petrof Gallery and the Observatory and Planetarium and they could go on field trips to the Kuks Hospital, Dvůr Králové nad Labem Zoo, Kutná Hora and Prague. Anyone who wanted to go further afield had enough time in their schedule to make their own trips to other parts of the Czech Republic.

"The trips were great, and I really appreciated being able to practice my English, meet interesting people and compare the education system in our country and in other countries."

Alexandra Křížová (Comenius University in Bratislava), Summer School of Applied Biology

"We always try to create a balanced curriculum for our summer schools. We facilitate topics and skills that students can use in their studies, and we give students the opportunity to get to know the Czech Republic. We also give them an insight into our Faculty and the options it offers. If students decide to hit an academic stride, they may find themselves working side-by-side with their classmates from the summer school in the future," concludes Kamil Musilek, Vice-Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Science UHK.

The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK invited students to two summer schools

The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK organised two summer schools in 2022 – *Summer School Czech It Out* and *Epita Summer School*. Both summer schools were held in July. Not as many students attended as did before the COVID-19 pandemic, but we still welcomed almost fifty international students to the campus. Most of them were from France and Hong Kong. *"I like to learn new things. And, on the one hand, the environment inspired me, but it also gave me a kind of culture shock on the other hand. I got to know a completely different culture there. I'm glad I could attend both summer schools because I made many French friends and learned about their culture, food, education system and migration issues. We did lots of activities together and we share so many memories. Our culture is a bit more narrow-minded and other cultures break down (in a good way) the boundaries we create,"* says Nathan from Hong Kong.



Students could look forward to a packed programme of lectures on Managerial Methods, Intercultural Studies, Business Planning and Ethics and much more. The Faculty prepared a diverse accompanying programme, during which international students could take an inside look at Czech local culture, places of cultural interest and places of great natural splendour. *"It was very nice. Not only did you visit a new country, you also got to meet new people from different cultures – here at the Faculty, on the street and in the dorms. When*



I came here, Prague scared me because it's so big, but Hradec Králové is like a village. I have fallen in love with it and I'd like to continue my studies here as an Erasmus student. And I really liked the Observatory. And the lessons were also really good," Utku from Turkey shared his impressions.

Czech online!

The Faculty of Education UHK also organised a summer school. It got the name *Virtual Summer School: Czech Language and Culture 2022* and catered for the interests of about twenty students, while giving them a month-long virtual learning experience. *"We met online via MS Teams. Our meetings were pleasant and productive. We were pleased to see how interested students from Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam and the United States were in the Czech language and the Czech culture,"* concludes Daniela Vrabcová, Vice-Dean for Internationalisation (Faculty of Education UHK).

Attend virtual summer school in preparation of your studies at the Philosophical Faculty UHK

The Philosophical Faculty UHK also hosted its summer school online. Come the end of August and the beginning of September, 16 students from Europe, Africa and Latin America (specifically Turkey, Spain, Ukraine, Ghana, Zambia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru) joined us remotely to gain a basic understanding of the Czech Republic and, above all, to acquire the basics of the Czech language. The curriculum covered a total of 38 virtual hours.

The students attending the summer school were specifically selected, because they subsequently went on to study at the Philosophical Faculty UHK for at least one semester. Summer school could thus be viewed as being a preparatory course that not only helped to facilitate basic communication with the locals, but also helped to alleviate any culture shock that might await students from further afield. •



Mobility abroad – twice during your studies? Not a problem with the Philosophical Faculty UHK!

TEXT MARKĚTA ROŠKOTOVÁ, ELIŠKA KULHÁNKOVÁ, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

Eliška Kulhánková, a social sciences student at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové, proves that there's nothing to worry about and that you can go on two Erasmus+ study stays in a row. She spent the summer semester of the academic year 2021/2022 at Université Bordeaux Montaigne in France, and the winter semester of the next academic year at the University of Bucharest in Romania. What was it like and how different are the two universities?

My first mobility abroad was to Bordeaux, France, in the summer semester of the academic year 2021/2022. I wanted to try living in a different environment and gain valuable experience just like my friends. But at the same time, I was scared. I had never lived abroad for an extended period of time, let alone without family or loved ones. But my doubts were outweighed by my desire to explore, and so I went to France for five months.

Since my major is social sciences and the French language and I specialise in education, France was an obvious choice for me. I studied at Université Bordeaux Montaigne on a campus just outside of Bordeaux (there are other universities too). There are three cafeterias on campus where you can get lunch for under 4 euros if you use your student card. I was lucky enough to get accommodation at a dorm on campus for 250 euros a month. It's definitely the cheapest possible accommodation available. If you want to live in a shared apartment or

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through Airbnb, your costs would be double. I got a room with a private mini bathroom. I also had access to a kitchen that was shared by four other rooms on the floor.

The university campus is called Pessac-Talence-Gradignan because it lies on the border of the three towns, which conjoin with Bordeaux. The centre can be reached in 30 minutes by tram. I think the public transport system works very well, unless there's a strike or a demonstration.

Bordeaux itself is a beautiful city with many historical monuments, museums, galleries and other places of cultural interest. And admission to all public museums is free every first Sunday of the month! In the warmer months, I recommend a picnic with friends on the Garonne waterfront or in one of the many parks.

ESN is an organisation that made my stay in Bordeaux very enjoyable. The local volunteers are really great and they organise tons of activities for Erasmus students. So, you usually meet new international friends at ESN events. ESN stands for parties, language sessions in cafés, morning runs with friends, city tours and field trips. I suggest you visit the medieval wine town of Saint-Émilion, the largest sand dune in Europe Dune du Pilat and the *pink city* Toulouse with its beautiful architecture.

But don't be fooled – Erasmus is not always all sunshine. Mobility abroad is challenging not only in terms of study. There's also the language barrier that you need to contend with, especially in terms of philosophical texts. University students are evaluated by *contrôle continu*, i.e. continuously. Practically, this means an average assessment of three exams, term papers or essays per course make up your final grade. Important papers are usually written every week, which can be stressful and I must admit I don't miss it.

As I enjoyed living and studying abroad and was amazed at all the invaluable experience mobility gave me, I decided to go on another Erasmus+ mobility the very next semester. This time I chose Romania as my destination, specifically a university located in the capital city of Bucharest.

You may wonder why Romania? I wanted to try something new, to step out of my comfort zone and choose a destination liable to lots of stereotypes, in order to see for myself what life is really like there. I wanted to experience a slightly different environment compared to economically developed France and to see the contrast, if any, between negatively portrayed Eastern Europe and glorified Western Europe.

The start of my stay was really quite rough. Romanians generally take their time with everything and it is not uncommon for a teacher to come to class 20 minutes late. Nonetheless, there are many Erasmus students in Bucharest, around 500, so you can share your troubles with them, and you can rely on them to give you valuable advice or at least some sort of support; you're definitely not alone. Surprisingly enough, Bucharest has problems with heating and with hot water, which I really didn't expect in a capital. The mains in Bucharest are very old, and so there being no heat and or hot water for a few days is quite frequent. So, I recommend going to Bucharest in the summer semester, when these hassles won't limit you so much. Having said that, Bucharest has lots of good things to offer. Culture lovers can look forward to many galleries, museums, and frequent concerts by local and international artists. Sports are also not a problem, Bucharest offers the same options and opportunities as do other big cities. Besides, Bucharest is a green city and has several big parks. Let me also note that tourists will like Bucharest's nightlife. There are plenty of restaurants, bars and clubs open late into the night in the historic city centre. Even when the weather's bad, the streets tend to be packed with people and the city really comes alive.

The countryside in Romania is beautiful. The country boasts mountains and deep forests, lakes

and the sea. History buffs will also appreciate the many castles and chateaus in Romania. Towns, on the other hand, bravely handle historic buildings that contrast with the architecture of functionalist buildings typical of the communist era. Most people under the age of 40 speak very good English, so you'll get around even if you're not fluent in Romanian. This applies to the larger cities and to



tourist areas but is not true when it comes to the sparsely populated countryside. Romania is a big, beautiful, diverse country with a rich culture that is definitely worth a visit.

Overall, Erasmus facilitates a unique and unforgettable experience that will boost your future. Travel experience, cultural insights, international friendships, a second home. I highly recommend you seize the opportunity and go for at least a few months. ●

International students confirm that UHK is an internationally appealing brand

TEXT JAKUB NOVÁK, ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ, PETRA NOSKOVÁ, TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, LENKA MANNOVÁ

After a pandemic-induced hiatus, international students returned to the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) in 2022; the interest in studying at UHK is generally on the rise. Some two hundred exchange students enrolled in UHK in 2022. One hundred and sixty-four chose to study in the Czech language and we welcomed nearly forty self-paying students from all corners of the world.

Teacher training in the Czech Republic

In 2022, more than a hundred international students decided to study linguistics and undergo teacher training at the Faculty of Education UHK. They were mainly interested in pedagogical courses and in didactic courses, in courses developing their linguistic knowledge, artistic disciplines and competences in cultural studies. The opportunity to visit partner faculties in the region brought much added value to future international teachers.

Traditional mobility at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK is growing

In 2022, after the COVID-19 pandemic had somewhat subsided, students started flocking back to the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. "Travelling conditions were not as strict as they used to be during the pandemic and we could again

travel around the globe without too much of a hassle. So, it was a pleasure to meet so many students in person during the registration process," said Eva Pospíchalová from the FIM International Office with a smile, adding that the Faculty welcomed students from fourteen countries. Apart from several European countries, most students hailed from Taiwan, Mexico, Colombia, Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand. Two students from Malaysia attended UHK as part of Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility. Seven students extended their studies until the summer semester 2023.

At the traditional welcoming ceremony, the Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK gave an opening speech and Faculty staff and the International Office staff gave students practical information and recommendations. There was also a small-prize raffle for newcomers. A tour of the campus followed.



Exchange stays and dissertation work

The Philosophical Faculty UHK also welcomed about 160 international exchange students from Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the USA once the COVID-19 pandemic waned a little in 2022. Year in and year out, students from about 40 countries come to UHK with the Erasmus+, Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility and non-European mobility programmes. Most students hail from Spain, Portugal, France, Colombia, Ghana and Zambia. Apart from taking one of many courses taught in English, some students even go as far as doing some research for their dissertations under the guidance of supervisors. Students deciding to extend their studies by another semester is proof that mobility abroad under the wings of the Philosophical Faculty UHK is a good idea.

Studies and internships go hand-in-hand

Last year, the Faculty of Science UHK welcomed 74 international students. They took courses in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics and some of them took up an internship. Erasmus+ *International Credit Mobility* students from Ukraine and Brazil also studied at the Faculty, which put together a wide range of courses for them, both in Czech and English. The Faculty also made possible an opening meeting with the management of the Faculty and the International Office; they were given important information and recommendations regarding their studies. All in all, the Faculty of Science UHK welcomed students from eighteen countries, including Italy, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, China, and the UK. •



Virtual mobility facilitates awesome international experience

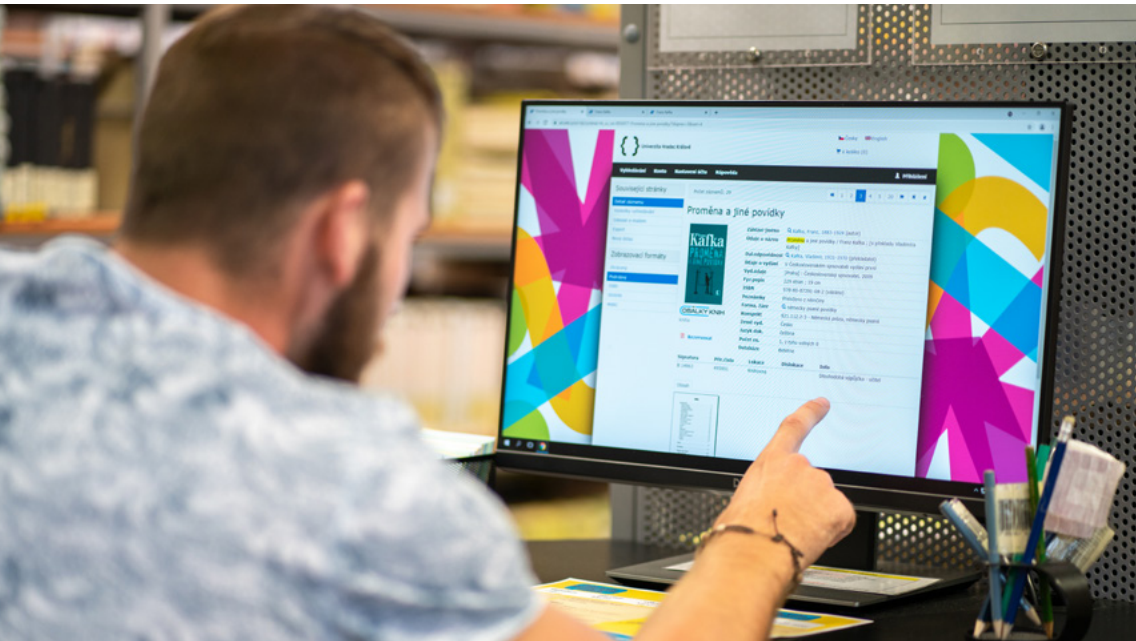
TEXT MATYÁŠ STRNAD, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, UHK

PHOTO ANNA VITVAROVÁ

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for higher education institutions to adapt to the challenges brought on by online learning and virtual mobility. The University of Hradec Králové (UHK) joined forces with 22 other higher education institutions across the Centralised Development Programme (CRP) to analyse contemporary virtual mobility.

The objective of the joint project was to ascertain how universities in the Czech Republic actually understand virtual mobility, what their current status is, the legislative framework involved and the extent to which students are interested in this type of international experience. Virtual mobility is central to contemporary higher education. Globalisation and digitalisation constitute new opportunities for students and scholars alike in their gaining international experience and developing soft skills. Having said that, virtual mobility also stands for new challenges.

“Our University is no stranger to virtual mobility. When the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit us, we managed to transfer most lectures online. It was more necessity than intention, as was the case in basically all universities around the country. But we soon realised that virtual mobility is not all that complicated, that students are interested in it and that it has great potential in terms of broadening horizons and extending learning opportunities. This is especially true when it comes to students with limited resources. That is to say that virtual mobility represents a unique chance to gain international experience for students who find mobility abroad



complicated. By no means can virtual mobility replace mobility abroad, but it can facilitate at least some opportunities. Today, the Erasmus+ programme offers combined mobilities, such as Blended Intensive Programmes, which enable students to stay abroad briefly and then follow-up with virtual mobility,” says Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector for International Affairs (UHK).

The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK had incorporated online learning in its syllabuses long before the pandemic hit, so it had no problem transitioning to online space. During COVID-19, the UHK International Office saw dozens of outgoing and over 250 incoming virtual mobility cases in regard to the Faculty of Education UHK and the Philosophical Faculty UHK.

Interestingly enough, virtual mobility is not yet strictly governed by any Czech or even European legal standards. The same applies to online learning opportunities for full-time students as regulated by the National Accreditation Office. Analyses show that students primarily opt for short-term virtual mobility (virtual summer schools, intensive programmes) and UHK is making the most of this phenomenon.

“We trust we will soon be able to up and stabilise virtual mobility. Mostly because virtual mobility will enable students to whom mobility abroad is unavailable for various reasons to gain international experience and global competences,” concludes Vice-Rector Stašová. ●

As shown in the Concept for the Development of Virtual Mobility, one of the first outputs of the CRP, it was the COVID-19 pandemic that actually breathed life into Czech higher education virtual mobility.



The Faculty of Education UHK hosted an international meet-and-greet for teacher training associations

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO ANNA VITVAROVÁ

The University of Hradec Králové (UHK) hosted the *Comenius Association Conference* in March 2022. The Faculty of Education UHK has been a member of the *Comenius Association* since 2011. The Association envelops European-based higher education institutions that train future teachers.

Association members exchange experience and knowledge at joint meetings; they organise short-term international internships for students and scholars; they reinforce cooperation by facilitating both academic and student mobility; and they participate in joint international projects.

Following several postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2022 finally saw the Faculty of Education UHK welcome 28 colleagues from 18 partner institutions based in 10 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Great Britain). Daniela Vrabcová (Vice-Dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Education UHK) and Petra Nosková (Foreign Affairs Coordinator, Faculty of Education UHK) actively participated in the

conference on behalf of the Faculty of Education UHK as a member of the Association.

The programme was packed. Visiting institutions gave lectures and presentations. There were presentations on the Czech education system; Mr Philip O'Neill, President of the Comenius Association, took the floor; discussions were led on the organisation itself as were debates on the



future direction of the Comenius Association. Workshops and discussions were held on new opportunities for international activities (as part of the Erasmus+ programme and others) and an action plan for joint activities was set.

One day was allocated to *Educating the Whole Being: Inclusive, International and Intercultural Perspectives EWBIII_2022*; a conference actively attended by several colleagues from the Comenius Association.

The Faculty of Education UHK remains a proud member of the Comenius Association. It is committed to further deepening and developing mutual professional and personal relationships and will continue to share its experience. Every effort is made to support internationalisation activities. ●

To find out more about the Comenius Association, please go to:
<https://www.comeniusassociation.org>

A series of virtual workshops brought together UHK partners from fifteen countries around the world

TEXT JOSEF LEŽÁK, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK **PHOTO** ANNA VITVAROVÁ

In November 2022, the University of Hradec Králové organised a series of virtual workshops for international partners with whom it cooperates under the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme. The workshops were attended by the representatives of 17 institutions from 15 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The workshops focused on the Erasmus+ priorities of inclusion, environmentalism and dissemination of results. Examples were presented of how the partners involved reduce the environmental impact of their universities, how they work with students with special educational needs

and how they motivate students to participate in mobility abroad.

Issues raised were brainstormed and discussed. Mobility coordinators evaluated and assessed cooperation to date and discussed ideas on how to streamline cooperation in the exchange of students and scholars. Ultimately, the online workshops provided a platform for international partners to meet, for them to draw inspiration from each other and to deepen their knowledge on issues they commonly encounter when coordinating international mobility. ●



The Faculty of Science UHK hosts the Differential Geometry and its Applications Conference

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

No Differential Geometry and its Applications (DGA) Conference had been held for three years. The Faculty of Science UHK boldly held one in July 2022. Almost 120 participants took part in the conference.

The Faculty is no stranger to differential geometry. The Department of Mathematics is home to a significant group of scientists who focus on differential geometry in their research.

“We are honoured to have hosted the DGA Conference again. We see it as proof that we are a world leader in this field. And we hope that we have been able to contribute to its development with this week of joint discussions and lectures,” says Associate Professor Anton Galaev, Chairman of the DGA Organising and Programme Committee. He himself is a member of the above-mentioned research group.

Lectures were given by scientists from the United States, Spain, Italy, Germany, Japan, India and Australia. The conference program was divided into plenary lectures, parallel workshops and a poster session with research presentations by some of the participants.

Differential geometry is a mathematical discipline that studies the properties of curves, surfaces and other objects to which it applies advanced mathematical methods. It can also be applied to real data, which makes it very useful in physics, engineering and biomedical fields such as robot control and digital image processing. •





Archaeologists from the Philosophical Faculty UHK dig internationally

TEXT, PHOTO TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, DEAN'S OFFICE, PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

July 2022 saw the Department of Archaeology (Philosophical Faculty UHK), the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Comenius University in Bratislava and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan organise the first *Blended Intensive Programme* at the UHK.

Twenty-one international and eleven Czech students came together under an Erasmus project. The project was operated on both a virtual and a mobility platform. Students worked on two archaeological excavations in Markvartice, Bohemian Paradise, under the supervision of Assistant Professor Tomáš Mangel. They focused on a quadrangular mound complex that dates back to the La Tène culture. The aim of the research project was to deepen the understanding of the internal surface construction and the stratigraphy of the mound enclosure. Associate Professor Petr Šída researched the sandstone overhangs in the valley of the Jordánka stream.

As is tradition, the Department of Archaeology (Philosophical Faculty UHK) hosted Erasmus students interested in doing an archaeological internship during the summer. During their two-month stay, students from Poland, Spain and Slovenia researched a medieval field fortification near Nebesa (a small village not far from Aš) and a medieval fortress in Samšina. They also got hands-on experience in a detector survey conducted on the future expressway between Hradec Králové and Jičín and they checked fill patterns from archaeological sites excavated by the Department of



Archaeology (Philosophical Faculty UHK). •



UHK Social Evening: Rector commemorates exceptional students and scholars for outstanding publications and advanced internationalisation

TEXT JAKUB NOVÁK, UHK SPOKESMAN **PHOTO** MARTIN BUREŠ

In commemoration of the Day of the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy and International Students' Day, the UHK Social Evening was once again devoted to honouring outstanding students and scholars nominated by individual faculties in 2021. Also, the Ukrainian crisis did not go unnoticed.

“The UHK Social Evening is definitely one of my favourite social events. It helps me realise what unique and special people study and work at the University of Hradec Králové. Each and every honouree is committed to spreading the good name of the University of Hradec Králové; both in the Czech Republic and abroad. They work so hard,”

says Rector Kuća, adding that it was clear to him right from the start who would be awarded the Rector's Medal: “I presented the Rector's Medal to Aneta Maclová, Director of the Diocesan Catholic Charity Hradec Králové. When the war broke out in Ukraine, the Diocesan Catholic Charity immediately rallied up employees and volunteers alike,

and together they set out to help families fleeing Ukrainian. They decided to help and took the bull by the horns without blinking an eye. It is an honour for me to acknowledge that our students were amongst those volunteers, who, together with the Diocesan

Catholic Charity, provided emergency medical care to the refugees, helped them find accommodation and cared for frightened children and for the elderly right here in Hradec Králové.”

This year's awards went to:

Faculty of Education UHK

Bc. et Bc. Kateřina Paterová

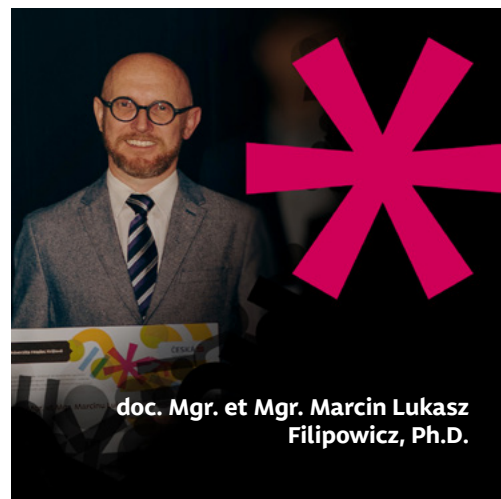
Ms. Paterová tackled two bachelor's degree programmes in one go. She majored in Transcultural Communication and Foreign Language for Tourism – English and German, with excellent results. She also volunteered with *People in Need* during her studies.

Ms. Paterová also interned in Vienna at the Czech Centre, where she represented our University with dignity. She worked in the PR Centre as an interpreter and translator. Her bachelor's thesis in Transcultural Communication brought innovative methodological and theoretical suggestions to the field in an erudite way.

doc. Mgr. et Mgr. Marcin Lukasz Filipowicz, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Filipowicz has been working at the Department of Czech Language and Literature at the Faculty of Education UHK since 2005. He is also a university professor at the University of Warsaw. In 2013–2017, Mr Filipowicz served as an evaluator and vice-chair of the *Linguistics and Literary Science Panel* of the Czech Science Foundation.

His research focuses on Czech literature and culture while taking into account the latest research trends in the humanities, such as feminist studies, masculinity studies, memory studies, and more recently sound studies.



He has been nominated for consistently publishing important works with prestigious publishing houses. In his latest monograph, which is a globally unique piece of art, Associate Professor Filipowicz studies memory in family sagas.

Associate Professor Filipowicz has been involved as both a researcher and a member of the research team of four grant projects operated by the Polish National Centre for Science and the Czech Science

Foundation (current project: *Acoustic Memory of the Second World War in the Czech Context (1990–2020)*). He is also the recipient of many prestigious awards, such as the Vladimír Macura Prize awarded by the Institute for Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He has also repeatedly received awards from the Rector of the University of Warsaw. He is a member of the editorial boards of several renowned Slavic journals.

Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK

Jáchym Nosek

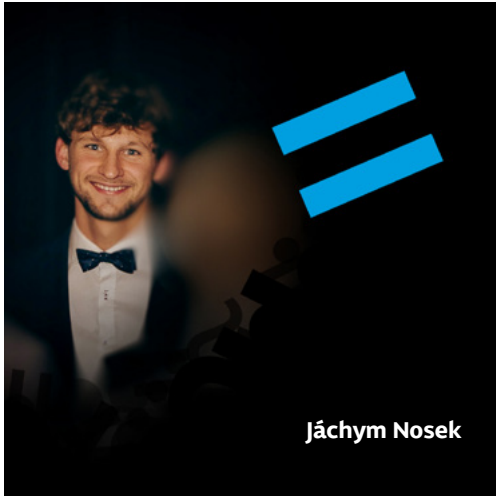
Jáchym Nosek is a 3rd year Tourism Management. He specialises in German. Mr Nosek has been nominated to represent the Czech Republic and the University of Hradec Králové at the *UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum*. He will attend the founding meeting on Jeju Island in Korea. He was nominated for this position by the *National Geoparks Council* because of his interest

in geoparks. His bachelor thesis will also be on geoparks and hand-on experience in the *UNESCO Global Geopark Bohemian Paradise*. Mr Nosek promotes national geoparks at tourism fairs.

doc. Ing. Bc. Hana Tomášková, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Tomášková was nominated for all the publications she has put out there under the auspice of the Faculty of Informatics





Jáchym Nosek

and Management UHK (she took 2nd place in the overall evaluation of scientific work in 2021), and for her professional activities in the *Informatics P202 Panel* run by the Czech Science Foundation. Speaking about the Czech Science Foundation, she first served as Vice-Chair of the Czech Science Foundation in 2017–2019 and then she held the prestigious position of Panel Chair until last year. She boasts 65 publications and three hundred citations in Web of Science. She also has more than 170 peer reviews to her credit. Some of her 2021 publications are listed as highly cited by the WoS database.



**doc. Ing. Bc. Hana Tomášková,
Ph.D.**

Associate Professor represents UHK in the *Bioethics Committee* of the Council for Research, Development and Innovation of the Government Office of the Czech Republic in *The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. She is also a member of the *Czech Society for Operational Research* and the *Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists*. Since 2013, she has been the Chair of the Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové Technology.

Philosophical Faculty UHK

Anna-Marie Marko

In addition to outstanding academic results, including an excellent master's thesis written in English, Anna-Marie Marko has given archaeology studies at the Philosophical Faculty UHK a taste of international renown. She repeatedly researched an epipaleolithic site in the Upper Jordan River in Israel during her master's studies as a member of an international research team. Her research led to the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between UHK and Tel-Hai College (Israel). Following the agreement and under her guidance, two archaeology students from the Philosophical Faculty UHK went on a practical internship

to Israel, and the Philosophical Faculty UHK welcomed one scholar and two Israeli students in return. Cooperation to date has become a platform for the upcoming Credit Mobility. Anna-Marie also participates in other activities of the Department of Archaeology; she is actively involved in the development of the Erasmus+ programme for foreign archaeology students interested in practical training at UHK.

Preston Stovall, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor Stovall researches the origins and nature of human cognition, specifically the capacities that enable humans to understand the

rules that regulate their rational activities at both individual and collective levels.

Assistant Professor Stovall got his PhD from the Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh. He has been working at the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Philosophical Faculty UHK, since 2017, when he joined the team led by Associate Professor Ladislav Koreň. Together they worked on an international research project operated under

been working on the EXPRO project under the supervision of Professor Jaroslav Peregrin.

Mr Stovall published a total of 8 major publications in 2021, which is a truly extraordinary achievement for the humanities, even in an international context. Routledge published a monograph (*The Single Minded Animal*). Seven of his scientific studies were published in prestigious international journals and publishing houses that publish the best scientific texts.



Anna-Marie Marko



Preston Stovall, Ph.D.

the Czech Science Foundation. Since 2020 he has

Faculty of Science UHK

Mgr. Jakub Svoboda

Jakub Svoboda has a master's degree in Systematic Biology and Ecology and is currently pursuing a PhD in Applied Biology and Ecology through blended learning. He studies the effect of chemicals on ants. He has already published two papers on the topic with IF, both in the 1st quartile. He put together most of the data and did most of the writing. He is currently working on two more papers.

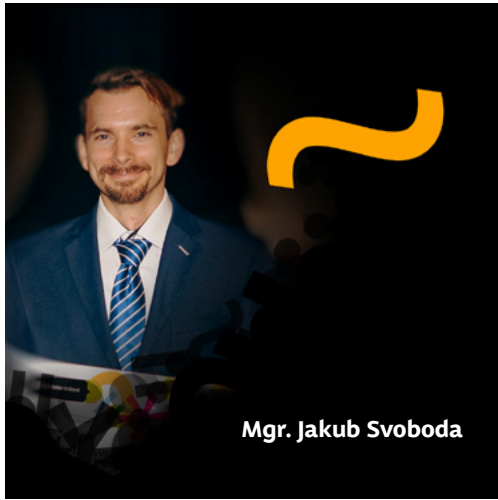
prof. PharmDr. Kamil Musílek, Ph.D.

Professor Musílek has been working at the Faculty of Science UHK since 2011. He has headed the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science UHK, right from the onset and he has been Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science UHK since 2019. During and immediately after his studies, he completed internships abroad in France, Scotland and Germany. He became a professor in 2019, at the age of 39, and was the first Czech person in history to receive the *Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia* award, which is given by the *European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry*. In 2021, he became the only Czech person to be invited to the *European Crucible*, an international programme

LIFE AT UHK

which aims to interconnect scientists. *European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry*.

Last year, Professor Musílek was the principal investigator and co-investigator of four scientific projects run by institutions like the Czech Science Foundation and the Technology Agency



of the Czech Republic, to name but a few. In the same year, he published twelve original scientific papers and three additional reviews in prestigious

scientific journals in the Web of Science database, ten of which were in the top quartile of journals and two in the top five percent. His publications are already being widely cited in the first year after publication.

He researches drugs, including those against



Alzheimer's disease, and so-called antidotes that save the lives of people who have been hit by chemical warfare agents, such as sarin.

UHK Rector's Medal



Diocesan Catholic Charity, Hradec Králové

The Rector of the University of Hradec Králové awarded the Rector's Medal to the Director of the Diocesan Catholic Charity in Hradec Králové, Aneta Maclová, in appreciation of the charity's staff and volunteers. Together they contributed to the reception of countless families fleeing Ukraine after the war broke out in February last year. They provided families with immediate assistance in Hradec Králové and gave them a dignified and safe place to stay.

Charity staff and volunteers made a major contribution to maintaining critical infrastructure in relation to the arrival of refugees, specifically mothers, children and the elderly, helping to



receive them, provide immediate medical care, accommodation, food, and the like.

Rector Kuča said that by helping to alleviate the suffering of the incoming war refugees who were forced to leave their homes and leave without the certainty of return, the Czech Republic has proven to be a nation of Masaryk's ideals of humanity and Havel's belief in the universality of human rights. The Diocesan Catholic Charity in Hradec Králové has done its part.

Pavlina Springerová, Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, also attended the UHK Social

Evening. It was a very special day for her because on that very same day she had been elected first female Mayor of the Statutory City of Hradec Králové by the Hradec Králové City Council. And she came to the UHK Social Evening to receive good wishes from the Rector himself. *"I am definitely not parting with the University of Hradec Králové. There is a bond here that cannot be broken so easily. Moreover, I remain a scholar at the Philosophical Faculty UHK and City Hall lies near the University. I am looking forward to working with you in my new role and I am not leaving the University,"* said Pavlina Springerová, with a cordial smile as she received a gift from

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Vladimír Suchý

the Rector. Ms. Springerová is a leading Czech expert on Latin America. She headed the Department of Political Science and was Dean of the Philosophical Faculty UHK before becoming Vice-Rector. She has been a UHK employee since 2005. *“The City of Hradec Králové is now in the best hands,”* concluded Rector Kuča.

The second part of the evening was all about Aneta Langerová and her band. *“I must admit that I am a bit nervous tonight because I’ve never performed in front of a concert hall full of such educated people,”* joked the singer. But she need not have worried. From the first note onwards, she shook the Aldis Congress Hall at its very foundation with her distinctive performance. Aside from the concert,

guests were invited to see a students’ exhibition overseen by the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies, Faculty of Education UHK, and the UHK Chamber Orchestra gave a formidable performance.

The UHK Social Evening was a great and honourable event, made possible by the sponsors and partners of the University of Hradec Králové. This year they were Autocont a. s., Eramont s. r. o., EUROVIA CS, a. s., MAI INSURANCE BROKERS, s. r. o., Park Na Větvi, GIST, s. r. o., Trilab, BICZ Holding, Metrostav a. s. and Česká spořitelna. Elektrárny Opatovice was represented at the award ceremony by Executive Director Romana Zadrobílková. •

Marek Eben awarded doctor honoris causa by the University of Hradec Králové

TEXT ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN’S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

PHOTO MARTIN BUREŠ

On Wednesday 23 March 2022, renowned moderator, actor and composer Marek Eben was awarded doctor honoris causa and the Gold Medal of the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) at the proposal of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové. He became the tenth holder of an honorary doctorate at the UHK.

“Mr Eben is a role model for our students and teachers. We admire his cultivated speech. His linguistic and rhetorical skills are outstanding and he always has a detailed knowledge of the topic he presents. He always holds great respect for his dialogue partner, the audience, and the listener. We appreciate his original music and literature. The University would also like to underline his high moral credit, which he has proven again and again not only in his private life, but also through his uncompromising approach towards the Communist Regime,





which somewhat stifled his family because his father was a Czech composer of modern and contemporary classical music, and an organist and choirmaster,” said František Vaníček, Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK. It was the Faculty of Education UHK that proposed Marek Eben be awarded this exceptional award in Czech literature, language and literary culture.

Marek Eben, supported by his family and friend Jan Jirán, accepted the award with the very humility he is so much loved for and respected. *“I very much appreciate the honour you have bestowed*

on me today. I never thought myself worthy of such an award. And I sincerely thank everyone who has acknowledged me.”

The graduation ceremony took place in the auditorium of the University of Hradec Kralove. Mr Eben is only the tenth recipient of an honorary doctorate awarded by the University of Hradec Králové. Thus, he stands proud alongside Viktor Fischl, Karel Otčenášek, Adolf Melezink, František Šmahel, Milan Myška, Petr Pitiha, Dominik Duka, Zdeněk Svěrák and Jan Petřof. ●



Secrets, October 6th 2023

The Researchers' Night is a traditional scientific popularization event during which the University of Hradec Králové presents the research achievements of female and male scientists in an entertaining way.

More at www.nocvedcu.cz/mesto/hradeckralove

Renovation of Building B is complete. The Philosophical Faculty UHK has moved back to the centre of Hradec Králové

TEXT TOMÁŠ VODIČKA, MARIE OTAVOVÁ **PHOTO** TEREZA MAKOVSKÁ

Newly renovated Building B, home to the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové, was officially opened on Wednesday, 21 September 2022. The ribbon-cutting, grand opening ceremony, was attended by Pavlína Springerová (Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development of the UHK), Jan Prouza (Dean of the Philosophical Faculty of the UHK), Martin Červíček (Governor of the Hradec Králové Region), Alexandr Hrabálek (Mayor of Hradec Králové), and representatives of Metrostav. The extensive, two-year-long, interior renovation topped CZK 209 million.

Apart from other things, builders repaired the roof, made changes to the internal layout, rehabilitated the masonry, plaster and vaults and remediated soil moisture in the cellars. A multi-storey extension was then built in the courtyard. It is the new building, the top floor of which has been converted into a meeting room to be used for meetings by the Academic Senate and

other bodies of the Philosophical Faculty UHK, that is the most notable improvement.

"The extension connects to one of the wings. We moved most of our departments to the new building, including the Institute of Social Work, which was originally located on Víta Nejedlého Street. The building on náměstí Svobody Square had not been up to scratch for some time, as it failed to meet our growing demands on study infrastructure. So, we were very happy when we got a renovation subsidy from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports," said Faculty Dean, Jan Prouza.

The new extension is not the only significant change visible at first glance. We also replaced the roofing on the original building, so now it looks like it used to in historical photographs. The same goes for other changes to the building. Looking



closer at historical photographs, we discovered that the original landmark of the building was the golden balustrade at the top of its façade. The City of Hradec Králové contributed financially to its restoration.

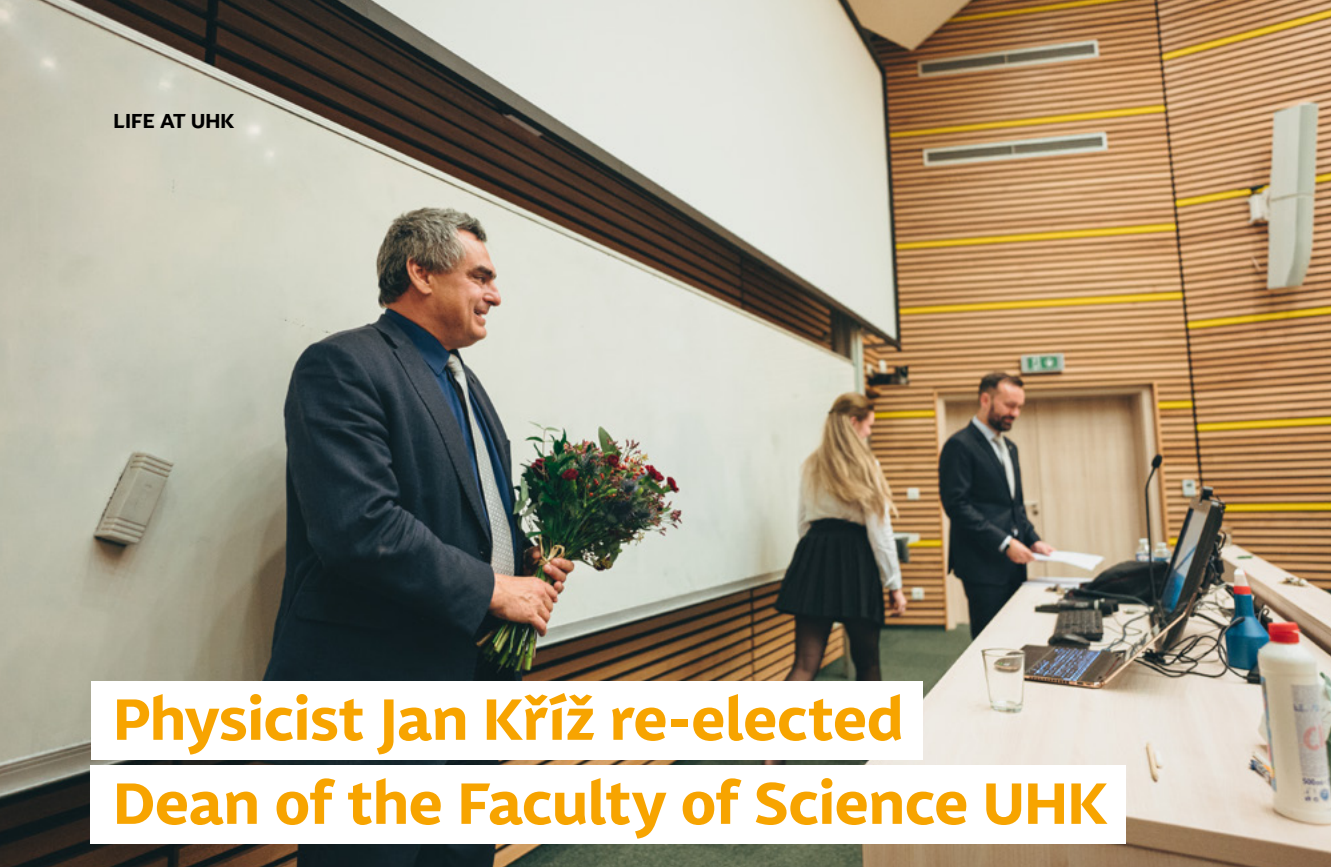
The grand opening ceremony also doted on the Lesák Library. The library has stood alongside the public through thick and thin for the past 27 years and in return has been given new, originally designed premises. From 1995 to 2022, a total of eight senior administrators (Philosophical Faculty UHK academic workers and PhD students) have headed the Library. In September 2022,

a professional librarian from the UHK University Library was appointed to head the Library. The Lesák Library opened its doors to everyone on Monday, 3 October 2022; about 13,000 copies had to be rearranged and sorted, so it took a few weeks before the public were let in.

The interior renovation project, which stands for one of the most extensive investment projects taken on by UHK, cost

CZK 209 million in total. The subsidy from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports amounted to almost CZK 170 million, and the University paid CZK 40 million from its own funds. UHK also managed to obtain a contribution of CZK 1.5 million from the City of Hradec Králové as a subsidy to the Department of Heritage Preservation for the preservation and restoration of the heritage fund. *“I’m glad all renovation work has been completed and that the new semester will start without any glitches, in a historical building that now provides a new, clean and modern environment,”* added Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector. ●





Physicist Jan Kříž re-elected Dean of the Faculty of Science UHK

TEXT KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK **PHOTO** MARTIN BUREŠ

The Academic Senate of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) unanimously elected assoc. prof. RNDr. Jan Kříž Ph.D. candidate for the position of Dean for the 2023–2027 term, on 2 November 2022. He should be appointed to the position by the Rector of the UHK, Kamil Kučá, on 1 March 2023. This is his second term as the head of the Faculty since 2019.

“I decided to run for Dean again because I feel that my work here is not yet finished. We have achieved a lot. The Faculty has opened more doctoral degree programmes, accredited double-degree programs, and most importantly, gained additional habilitation and professorship rights in ICT in Education. Unfortunately, there are not enough science teachers and this constitutes a major societal problem that we need to address. So, one of my goals will be to develop programmes for science teacher training so that future teachers find them interesting and will be motivated to apply to the programme. I think this issue could be partially resolved if we let current teachers expand their qualifications through lifelong learning programmes. We kicked-off the project during my first term and we will continue to work on it during my second term,” says Dean Kříž.

Another area he plans to focus on in the upcoming period is the promotion and development of science: *“We have managed to maintain the number of articles published in scientific databases and it is clear that their quality is increasing. We are also working towards developing applied research – It’s good that we have our first spin-off companies, and we are also cooperating with the commercial sector. Having said that, we need to focus on winning international projects in cooperation with international partners. The stable and strategic funding of science at the Faculty is also a must,”* he says.

“I would also like to support ways that will make our Faculty more energy self-sufficient. I would like to see the Faculty take a responsible approach to the environment, actively participate in society-wide activities related to social and environmental responsibility, and be a role model,” concludes the re-elected Dean.



assoc. prof. RNDr. Jan Kříž, Ph.D. (*1974)

Associate Professor Jan Kříž graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague (majoring in Theoretical Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics) and in 2015 habilitated at the Department of Physics of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové (majoring in Theory of Education in Physics), where he has been teaching since 2003. In the past, he also served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové and as Vice Rector for Strategy and Development of the University of Hradec Králové. Associate Professor Kříž helps prepare talented young people for physics competitions. He was appointed councillor of the City of Hradec Králové in 2021. •

“I wanted to become a teacher and I have no regrets. I do what I enjoy, and hopefully, I’m good at it sometimes,” says a prominent graduate of the UHK, Matěj Ondřej Havel, a member of parliament and director of a secondary grammar school

TEXT JAKUB NOVÁK, UHK SPOKESMAN

A secondary grammar school director, a father, an organist in Pouchov, a scout, a railway enthusiast, and a deputy of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. All of this is Matěj Ondřej Havel, a graduate of the Faculty of Education UHK, who gladly returns to his alma mater and, as part of his activities as a Member of Parliament, focuses on involving young people in politics and increasing the prestige of the teaching profession.

Mr Deputy, when did you graduate from UHK, and what was your specialization?

I started studying in 2006 with two specializations, Teaching for Secondary Schools (Czech

Language and History) and Choral Conducting of Church Music. The Teaching programme was five years without breaks, and the “church music”



programme was three years long, but I extended it to four years. I have no regrets.

Do you have fond memories of studying at UHK?

Certainly, in many ways. It feels like it was just yesterday. I won't say more, or I would be unbearably sentimental.

What comes to mind first when someone says UHK? Some people might think of a favorite teacher, the name of a classmate, or one of the famous places in Hradec Králové frequented by students. What is it in your case?

I am a resident of Hradec Králové, so the university was not associated with living in dorms. It feels like a missed opportunity a bit. Some classmates fondly remember life at the dorms. I will never forget the strong personalities that fascinated and motivated me. Just to name a few, Božena Plánská, František Musil, or Tomáš Petráček. I had František Vaníček, the current Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK, as my organ professor for three years. If he is as demanding a dean as he was a teacher to me, he must be doing an excellent job. And as a history student, I remember the Beánie students' celebration, which was fantastic. I don't know if that tradition continues. I encounter some UHK personalities in the Parliament. For example, Ondřej Tikovský was the Chancellor and spokesman of UHK during "my time" and is

now the director of the Parliamentary Library. We also meet at the sessions of the Sub-Committee on Heraldry and Vexillology, which I chair. It's a charming thing where we approve municipal emblems. It's great fun. And my colleague Dr. Tikovský is also there as an expert.

Before becoming a Deputy in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, you were the director and teacher at Gymnázium J. K. Tyl (secondary grammar school) in Hradec Králové. Do you want to return to teaching after your political mandate ends?

First of all, I have stayed in the profession. Even though there is a director substitute instead of me, I still teach on Monday mornings. I want to maintain contact. I have always enjoyed teaching. But being a secondary grammar school director and a Member of Parliament simultaneously is incompatible. You can't perform either function properly, believe me, I've tried. However, a political mandate is always temporary, and I have a long-term vision to return to the teaching profession.

Let's stay at school a little longer, please. Are we taking care of teachers enough in Czech society? Do we value the teaching profession in the Czech Republic? This question troubles us greatly at the University of Hradec Králové, where we strive to educate teachers.

Two fundamental things are visibly changing. Firstly, we are preparing for a significant and permanent increase in teachers' salaries, making the teaching profession more attractive and increasing its social prestige. Secondly, there is a change in societal demand for the quality of teaching. Before 2000, parents were mainly interested in their children's grades. Nothing more. Today, besides grades, parents are increasingly interested in what is being taught, why, and how. As a result, the demands on teachers are increasing. Both trends, higher salaries and higher expectations, are positive in my point of view.

What is your view on the ongoing reform of faculties that are preparing future teachers?

The reform will take on multiple levels. The accreditation requirements for study programmes will be decisive in shaping how education is formed. I welcome the ideas that are emerging around this topic. In particular, the concept of future teachers gaining didactic education directly in schools, firsthand, appeals to me. It's a similar model to medical fields, where future doctors also learn a lot directly among patients in university hospitals, in an authentic environment to acquire skills. It could be the same for teachers. This idea is supported by the new position of so-called accompanying teachers designated in specific schools, who should care for students during their internships. Or, I would rather say, during their apprenticeships, to a greater extent than before.

What would you recommend to aspiring young teachers or those interested in studying education?

People used to say that one would go to study teaching only if one couldn't get into any other specialization. That wasn't entirely true then, nor is it true today. I wasn't the only one who chose to study education as my first choice. We wanted to become teachers. It paid off and I have no regrets. I do what I enjoy, and hopefully, I'm good at it sometimes. So the main message for those interested in teaching is: follow your heart; it's your life. To young aspiring teachers, I would perhaps send two messages. Never give up on further education, otherwise, you will be uncool in your

students' eyes after a while. And never be afraid to excel at your job.

I'm also interested in your communication with the younger generation. From your posts on social media and your public appearances, I get the impression that you often appeal to young people. At the same time, it is said that the youth are not interested in politics. What is your experience?

I don't know of a reliable survey measuring whether young people are interested in politics. My personal experience is different. I often give tours through the premises of the Chamber of Deputies to high school groups and college students when I'm not attending plenary sessions. Even though the visitors are astonished by the meeting hall, in the end, the most interesting thing is the follow-up discussion about the constitutional system, legislation, and politics in general. The students are very perceptive and are not afraid to ask uncomfortable questions. Two-hour-long debates are not uncommon. I also receive a lot of questions through Instagram, for example. It would be harmful if young people were not interested in politics, but based on my experiences, I am optimistic.

I think optimism and humor should also conclude our brief conversation. Did something happen during your university studies that will forever be associated with you and your classmates as a joke?

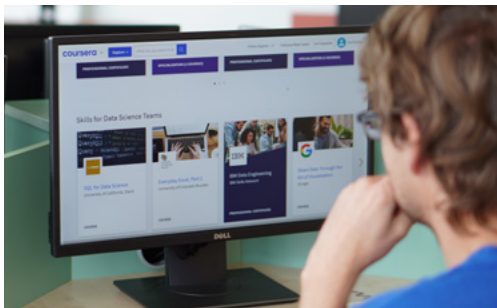
Oh, definitely! At the beginning of 2006, I attended an open day at the Institute of History of the Philosophical Faculty UHK before I applied for my studies there. It was still located in the "Cube" building, now merged with the Biskupské Gymnázium (secondary grammar school). One of the assistant professors emphasized that it is necessary to dress appropriately for the entrance exams. She pointed at me, apologized for using me as an example, and labeled my clothing utterly inappropriate for university entrance exams (I wore jeans and a T-shirt, no punk style). So, I listened and wore a suit for the entrance exams. How many of us were dressed like that? Only me! But I have long forgiven that lady for her advice. •

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

The Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové has arranged virtual mobility for its students. It is currently the only Czech partner.

The educational platform is called Coursera. The virtual mobility programme gives students access to more than 9,000 online courses run by universities and companies from all over the world, and students can choose from a wide range of fields. *“The content of the courses varies and students always have access to various study material, related literature and links and interactive supplements, such as instructional videos and animations to complex assignments or projects. In most cases, graduates will receive a digital certificate with a certificate of completion,”* explains Petra Poulová, Vice-Dean for Development and International Affairs, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK.



In the summer semester, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK provided financial support to six male and seven female students enrolled in the Applied Informatics, Information Management and Economics and Management programmes. They could choose from a wide range of courses

from more than 270 partners across 57 countries. Czech and international students studying at FIM UHK decided to go for online courses at the University of Colorado, University of Michigan, Vanderbilt University and Macquarie University in Australia. Students also took up courses with internationally-based companies like Google, IBM and Oracle.

“Coursera will help those interested to expand their knowledge of programming, databases, mobile app development, and the like. Our students have taken this opportunity to educate themselves in data science, project management and digital marketing,” said Vice Dean Poulová.

The Dean of the Faculty, Josef Hynek, is also pleased to be able to offer students courses of this type: *“I’m glad that students responded to the very first call and chose courses from prestigious institutions, which was our objective. By paying for access to selected courses that are recognised upon successful completion, we are not only increasing the number of elective courses available at our Faculty, but we are advancing learning a language to actually studying in a foreign language, which is much more important. Last but not least, I am absolutely convinced that a certificate from Google or the University of California will further strengthen the position of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK graduates in the labour market.”* •

Saving Xmas Project

TEXT ALEXIA KLIE TOJAL, PARTNERSHIP MANAGER OF ESN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ, PRESIDENT OF ROTARACT HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

PHOTO ARCHIVE ESN HK

There are few things more heart warming than seeing a child smile after receiving a Christmas gift. It was this pure joy and happiness reported by our volunteers when delivering the first Christmas Charity project donations in 2021 that motivated both our organisations, ESN Hradec Králové and Rotaract Hradec Králové D2240, to again work together in 2022.

Both organisations work towards similar goals: the Erasmus Student Network, the biggest non-profit student organisation in Europe, aims to support the integration of international students into local communities. It's committed to the personal and professional development of its volunteers while promoting cooperation between different cultures around the world. The mission of Rotaract Club, a division of Rotary International with over 10,000 clubs in 189 countries, is to provide opportunities and support for its young adult members, enabling them to become community and professional leaders.



As members overlap and transition from their student status in ESN to more professional roles in Rotaract, the opportunities for collaboration are many! One such opportunity was the 2021 and 2022 Christmas Charity projects, in which both clubs joined forces to place donation boxes for Christmas toys, sports equipment, or school supplies throughout Hradec Králové, including all the buildings of the University of Hradec Králové, Charles University – Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové, shopping malls and schools.

On the 17 of December 2022, Erasmus students, Rotaractors, and ESners gathered together to sort, pack and decorate the donations that would be delivered to three different locations just in time for Christmas: two children's orphanages and a single-mothers' home. We reported back +85 happy kids!

With another successful edition of the project, all members are excited to expand our reach to more orphanages in 2023, as more institutions in the city are open to receive a donation box next Christmas!

We would like to thank the University of Hradec Králové for its continuous support of both organisations, ESN Hradec Králové and Rotaract Hradec Králové. We're looking forward to giving something back to the international community in 2023! •

The Czech Ministry of the Interior appreciated student commitment during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Hradec Králové Region was no exception

TEXT TEREZA VANIČKOVÁ, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION, UHK PHOTO MARTIN BUREŠ

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic commemorated students who took up volunteer work during the COVID-19 pandemic. To this extent, the Ministry handed out a special award for outstanding volunteer work called *cena za DOBROvolnictví*. UHK students were also awarded the prize. In addition to making protective face shields, hundreds of them took up the frontline in the fight against COVID-19.

I am very proud of our students and how they helped mitigate the hardships associated with the pandemic. The moment we, as a university, started organising a database of volunteers, we were astonished to discover that dozens of our students had already pitched in to help the institutions. We started making protective face shields for frontline health workers. All in all, hundreds of students volunteered to help and assist in any way possible. I'm glad that UHK students gave a helping hand to hard-hit regions and that they volunteered with institutions such as the University Hospital of Hradec Králové," said UHK Rector Kuča.

The Ministry of Interior, represented by Martin Červíček, Governor of the Hradec Králové Region, presented the Award to the University of Hradec Králové on 12 July 2022 on campus. It was in actual fact Mr Červíček who had nominated UHK in representation of the Hradec Králové Region.

"The pandemic was a very difficult time for everyone, and it affected our lives in more ways than one would

like to admit. Nonetheless, we managed to cope with the crisis thanks to medical staff, the emergency services, crisis management personnel, the public and volunteers who made considerable efforts to help and assist. I extend a huge thank you and much felt appreciation to them all for their commitment. A good example of solidarity is the University of Hradec Králové, which helped organise voluntary aid in our region. Much of the credit goes to UHK," said Governor Červíček.

In addition to the Award for outstanding volunteer work discussed above, one more award made its way to UHK. It was the *Award of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports for extraordinary actions of students and graduates*, and it was awarded to Klára Rybenská from the Faculty of Education UHK. She was instrumental in the production of said protective face shields, especially for frontline health workers. Thirty thousand protective face shields were produced on 3D printers and then distributed. ●



Michal Hubálek awarded Mayor's Prize for Student and Creative Work in 2021

TEXT TEREZA MAKOVSKÁ, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION, UHK **PHOTO** JAKUB JIMBOU MISÍK

The Mayor of Hradec Králové commemorated Michal Hubálek (Philosophical Faculty UHK) for his publications in renowned scientific journals. The Mayor also gave the *City of Hradec Králové Award* to Radomír Jůza (Faculty of Science UHK), Ivana Nuttová (Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK) and Veronika Peldová (Faculty of Education UHK). The Award Ceremony took place in Jirásek Gardens, Hradec Králové, on 1 June 2022. It was hosted by Jakub Novák, UHK spokesperson. The photographs on display were taken by Jakub Misík and the UHK Chamber Orchestra was conducted by Jaromír Křováček.

Bc. Veronika Peldová

The Labyrinth, an artist's book created by Veronika Peldová, a student enrolled at the Department of Art, Visual Culture and Textile Studies (Faculty of Education UHK) did exceedingly well at the *Graphics of the Year 2020 Competition*.

The Graphics of the Year Competition was started many years ago in 1994 and is in actual fact a nationwide competitive exhibition that takes place on an annual basis. It is a unique event in the Czech Republic that focuses on the presentation and mediation of contemporary graphic art by a wide range of Czech graphic artists. The



LIFE AT UHK

Over 449 graphic works and artists' books were selected for the Graphics of the Year Competition. About half of them were exhibited in the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle; the selection was made by expert judges from all over the country and by exhibition curators Hana Larvová and Zdeněk Freisleben. The judges awarded 15 prizes in the main categories (adults, students) and in the

Ing. Ivana Nuttová

Ms. Nuttová majored in Financial Management and Information Management and graduated from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK with flying colours. She participated in the student scientific competition in Zlín. She also won the best prize from local candidates on foreign soil. It was her diploma thesis that did the job. The topic of her diploma thesis is *The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Retail Investments in a Selected Company*. She used her theoretical knowledge and succinctly derived conclusions and values following from the topic.

Ivana plans to develop the topic further and is preparing a research paper to be submitted to the impacted *European Journal of Finance* in collaboration with the University.

During her studies Ivana regularly represented her *alma mater* during Open Days and at other events. She also proved her potential abroad, when she went to Spain and Taiwan to gain both educational and cultural experience during her studies at UHK. During both of these trips, she mastered the basics of the local language. Unfortunately,

Mgr. Michal Hubálek

Michal Hubálek is a PhD student of philosophy enrolled at the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Philosophical Faculty UHK. He published two important articles in 2021. His article *A Brief (Hi)story of Just-So Stories in Evolutionary Science* was published in the *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, an American journal. The article discusses the just-so story concept, which is popular in evolutionary discussions; not

graphic techniques category. Ms Peldová's work was one of the pieces of art selected by the expert judges to be exhibited in the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle. It also went through to the Best Pieces of Art round and was exhibited in Pilsen at the Ladislav Sutnar Gallery. It is the Hollar Foundation that makes the nominations for the Graphics of the Year Competition.



COVID-19 thwarted her desire to travel the Asian metropolis – Hong Kong.

Ivana was nominated to participate in a discussion forum hosted by the Czech National Bank in late 2021 and was all ready to dazzle the CNB Governor with her performance, but the event was cancelled just a few hours before it was due to start – As if the COVID-19 pandemic was not enough.

only about humans. By analysing the history of the concept, the article shows how evolutionary science develops its theories and how these theories relate to other sciences such as anthropology, sociology, and psychology.

The second article, *An Experimental Study of the Acceptance of the Rules of Natural Deduction in the Czech Language*, was published in Slovo

a slovesnost. The article is an attempt to experimentally verify to what extent certain descriptive logical rules (rules of natural deduction) mirror our everyday speech. Methodologically, it proceeds by testing the way in which ordinary speakers of the Czech language judge the derivation of one sentence from another when reading ordinary Czech sentences.

Michal is a passionate PhD student and researcher. Last year he and his colleagues organised a student workshop on *Nature – Knowledge – Post-Positivism*. The workshop was the first event of a new platform for emerging scholars working on issues related to understanding human nature, society, culture and history. Every year, Michal also helps to organise the *Summer School of Philosophy*

Mgr. Radomír Jůza

Radomír Jůza graduated from the Faculty of Science of Charles University. He majored in Medicinal Chemistry and is now a 5th year PhD student at the Faculty of Science UHK. He is studying Applied Biology and Ecology. He focuses his research on small molecules that target dopamine or serotonin receptors and may help treat neuropsychiatric diseases in the future.

He has presented the results of his work at international conferences and he has published 4 impacted publications to date. He is also the first author of a paper in the *Medicinal Research Reviews*, whose paper was selected for the cover of this highly ranked peer-reviewed journal. He has been a co-investigator of 3 specific research projects and he is also actively involved in popularisation events organised by the Faculty of Science UHK for the general public. He received the UHK Rector's Award for 2020 for his scientific activities.



in Broumov. He also volunteered to give primary school pupils extra lessons in Czech.



The main reason why Mr Jůza was nominated for the Mayor's Award for Student Creative Work is his outstanding results in science and research; he continues to contribute to the needs of society, especially in terms of basic research on neuropsychiatric diseases. •



The grand final of the management and economic skills competition took place in Mladá Boleslav. The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK took third place!

TEXT ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT UHK **PHOTO** FRANTIŠEK HAŠEK

The final round of the ŠKODA BIZ SIM CUP took place on Friday 9 December 2022. Three winning university teams from the previous rounds (the University of Hradec Králové, the Prague University of Economics and Business and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague) competed. The final round was held at the training centre of the general partner, ŠKODA AUTO a.s., in Mladá Boleslav.

The ŠKODA BIZ SIM CUP is a management and economic knowledge competition organised by the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové with the support of Škoda Auto a. s.

“This year’s competition was all about a simulation game in SAP. The objective was the production, marketing and sale of muesli products,” explains the main coordinator of the competition, Associate Professor Pavel Čech from the Department of Information Technology, and continues.

“Competitors are tasked with identifying the preferences of customers in each region and planning production accordingly, taking into account the capacity of the production line. At the same time, they have to monitor stock on hand and ensure the logistics of basic raw materials as well as packaging materials. The competitors were given information on sales, inventory, production and the financial situation of the company through a series of reports. They can apply their managerial and economic skills and also get to know the SAP business information system in practice,” adds Associate Professor Čech.

Some 46 students in 11 teams participated in the school round held at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. After an entire day of teamwork, the all-male four-member team who calls themselves *Wolt Partners* took first place and was awarded the CZK 20,000 prize. Second place went to *Lamy*, a five-member team, awarded CZK 12,000 in prize money and third place went to *Jedničky*, a team made up of two female and two male students – they got CZK 8,000 in

prize money. Škoda Auto a. s. donated the prize money. These three winning teams advanced to the finals on behalf of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, where they competed against the other most successful teams from the other two participating universities. First and second place went to teams from the Prague University of Economics and Business. The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK team, called *Poslední Hradebcane* (originally *Wolt Partners*) took third place and was awarded CZK 16,000 in prize money.

“A total of 41 students in 9 teams participated in the finals. The finalists again had to demonstrate management and economic skills, teamwork abilities and a sound knowledge of SAP S/4HANA. The winner would get a trophy. Prize money totalled 80 thousand Czech crowns,” summarised Pavel Čech. •





Faculty of Science UHK hosted European Experimental Science Olympiad. Czech team wins silver medal

TEXT KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK **PHOTO** MARTIN BUREŠ

Nearly 130 competitors from 20 EU states took part in the European Olympiad of Experimental Science for young scientists up to 17 years of age. The youngest was just 15 years old. The Olympiad is a prestigious competition designed for three-person teams and the Faculty of Science UHK was entrusted with its organisation from 8 to 14 May 2022.

“Czech teams excelled and made it clear that they are amongst the best in this competition,” says Jan Kříž, Executive Director of the EOES Organising Committee and Dean of the Faculty of Science UHK. The Olympiad was held at the University of Hradec Králové for the second time. The first time it was held at UHK was in 2011 and it was originally called EUSO.

Czechs win silver medal

Czech competitors won silver medals and took the top positions in the competition. Forty-two teams from the EU participated in the Olympiad. One Czech team took 8th place (overall silver). Another Czech team came in 13th place. A team from Germany was the overall winner. Five teams from

Germany, Estonia, Bulgaria and Luxembourg won gold medals. The teams had to tackle challenging problems and they only got a few hours to find the right solutions. Everyone was allocated an assignment either in chemistry, biology or physics and they had to demonstrate their ability to work together, as well as the fact that their knowledge exceeds the grammar school curriculum. They also had to demonstrate that they could work in laboratories.

Assignments impacted by the Czech Republic

The assignments are always inspired by the host country. Given that the competition was hosted by the Czech Republic, the assignments focused on working with hyaluronic acid, of which the Czech Republic is a major producer; genetics, which commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Gregor Mendel; and antivirals by Professor Antonín Holý. The Olympiad was also supported by his wife Ludmila Holá.

A demanding competition not only for students

It is not only students who find the competition challenging. Each team was accompanied by a team of mentors who consult the several-page assignments first with their authors from the host country and then translate them into their respective mother tongues. Mentors often spend most of the night translating the assignments.

Scientists from the Faculty of Science UHK, were in charge of the science parts of the assignments under the supervision of Associate Professor



Jan Šlégr. *“Given the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Gregor Mendel, we dedicated one of the problems to heredity. We focused the science part on running DNA. Specifically, we were inspired by the image created by Rosalind Franklin, who proved that the DNA molecule is shaped like a double helix. Students tested the diffraction that revealed this shape on a hair and a spring and then they determined the DNA properties in the original famous image,”* says Mr Šlégr. *“Discussing assignments with mentors is an important part of the Olympiad, and their perspective allows us to make the assignments even more interesting for the students,”* he adds.

Friendships

EOES is not just about competing. It also aims to connect young scientists who are based in the European Union and gives them a taste of another country. The competition week is interspersed with trips and entertainment. Students were invited to visit Archeopark Věstary, Kuks Hospital, Dvůr Králové Zoo, Hradec Králové Operational Park, the HK Observatory and Planetarium and the Gladiator Arena.

The teams are made up of students who have repeatedly succeeded in various extracurricular competitions and contests and their steps often take them to the most prestigious universities.

“Olympiads like EOES are meant to foster an interest in science in competitors and I believe we will be hearing a lot more about these students in the years to come,” concludes Mr Kříž. ●



The Faculty of Education UHK award the Student Award to Darina Stránská and Linda Dušková

TEXT, PHOTO ŽANETA KÁNSKÁ, DEAN'S OFFICE, FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

At a ceremony held in the Dragon Theatre at the end of November, the Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK honoured two students for their outstanding academic achievements.

Linda Dušková was honoured for her mastery and achievements in French communication. She represented the Faculty of Education UHK during her stay at the University of Orléans in France as part of the Erasmus+ student mobility programme. In addition to being an exemplary student, she cooperates with the *Alliance française de Pardubice* as a French teacher. She also organises summer day camps for children and participates in other events for the francophone public.

In the academic year 2021/2022, Darina Stránská achieved outstanding results in international music competitions as a vocalist and an instrumentalist.

At the international performance competition in Ružomberok, she won the 1st prize as a singer. Together with her classmate, she also won 4th prize in the four-hand piano category and the 2nd prize as a solo pianist.

She was also successful at the Performing Arts Competition of Czech Faculties of Education with International Participation, where she placed 3rd with her instrumental performance. She likewise enjoyed success at the *Concours international de jeunes musiciens de talent Nouvelles étoiles*, an international music competition for young talents, which was held in Paris. In her age category, she came 4th in the piano category and was awarded a prize.



In the second part of the evening, the audience, made up of the faculty academic staff, employees and family members, had the opportunity to enjoy *Antigone*, an original adaptation of an ancient myth based on the motifs of the Sophocles' tragedy. •

The Hradec Králové Book Fair 2022; eminent Czech historians; revisiting the work of James Joyce; and launch of the *Vice-Rector's Memoirs*

TEXT MARIE OTAVOVÁ, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY **PHOTO** TEREZA MAKOVSKÁ

The 7th Hradec Králové Book Fair took place on the Na Soutoku Campus on 4 October 2022 as part of the National Library Week. Crowds of enthusiastic visitors came to Hradec Králové to check out new books, listen to lectures and talk to their favourite authors.

At the opening ceremony, the *Historian Quarter* played a fanfare, while the Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK František Vaníček, the Director of the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague Zdeněk Freisleben, the Vice-Governor of the Hradec Králové Region Martina Berdychová, and the Mayor of Hradec Králové Alexandr Hrabálek paid tribute to books, their authors and readers.

Main guests

The main guests of the Book Fair in 2022 were two eminent historians and laureates of many prestigious awards, namely Professor Petr Čornej and Professor Ondřej Felcman. The auditorium was packed with an audience eager to hear their lectures. The two historians have a lot in common. They were classmates at secondary school and at university, and both have come up with unique

projects in the field of historical research. While Professor Čornej specialises in late medieval history, particularly the Hussite Wars, Professor Felcman focuses on post-War Czechoslovakia, on early modern history and the regional history of Eastern Bohemia and the history of Kladsko, as well as on the development of the concept of the Czech state and the history of Central Europe. Their panel discussion entitled *The Pitfalls of Historical Research* stimulated a lively discussion



that ended in a massive round of applause from the audience, who continued to ask the distinguished guests questions even during the concluding book signing.

Revisiting James Joyce *Ulysses* on the occasion of the centenary of its first publication

One of the main features of this year's Book Fair was a celebration of the work of James Joyce, particularly of the 100th anniversary of the publication of his most famous novel *Ulysses*, in Paris in 1922, which was organised in cooperation with the Embassy of Ireland in Prague. The centenary was also marked by the publication of a new revised edition of the unrivalled classical translation of the novel into Czech. As a result, Czech readers can now once again enjoy the work of this Irish novelist, poet and critic, who is one of the most influential and important writers of the 20th century. The novel and the author were presented at the Book Fair by Ms. Marie Gemrichová, a doctoral student of Irish Studies at the Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague.

Book launch of *Vice-Rector's Memoirs*

One of the highlights of the event was the launch of *Vice-Rector's Memoirs* by UHK Professor Emeritus Bohumil Vybíral. The book was published by Gaudeamus just a few days before the start of the Book Fair. It describes the dynamic transformation of our University during Professor Vybíral's tenure at the Institute of Education



and later at the University of Hradec Králové. The memoirs describe the circumstances of the construction of the Na Soutoku Campus, the establishment of the University of Hradec Králové and of the two new faculties, and the creation of their insignia and charters. The author discussed the changes in detail at the book launch and presented a unique photographic record of the transformation. Soňa Došková, Head of the Rector's Office, played an important role in the publication of the book and in the organisation of the ceremony.

Accompanying Programme of Book Fair 2022

The Book Fair also partially revealed the unique role of the Hradec Králové-based Bishop's Library in the history of libraries in the region. Assistant Professor Zdeněk Zahradník and Mr Ladislav Holoubek commemorated its 210th anniversary, and the beauty and charm of the Trautmannsdorf Collection, which is an important part of the library.

The icing on the cake of this year's programme was an exhibition of works by students at the Secondary School of Musical Instrument and Furniture Making in Hradec Králové, which presented a wide range of products created by future craftsmen and artisans studying at the school – artistic carvers, woodworkers, piano builders and guitar makers as well as furniture designers. The exhibition also reminded visitors of the centuries-old tradition of musical instrument making in Hradec Králové.

One of the peculiarities of the Hradec Králové Book Fair is that no one leaves the fair empty-handed, as professional publications are available to visitors for free. Visitors could also submit their suggestions for books to be permanently added to the collection of the UHK's University Library. •

JobStart Career Fair grew and added new features in 2022

TEXT MICHAELA VANČUROVÁ, INFORMATION, COUNSELLING AND CAREER CENTRE, UHK

PHOTO ZDEŇKA KULHÁNKOVÁ

JobStart is a career fair where UHK students can meet interesting employers from various business sectors from all over the Czech Republic. Students come to the fair to find out more about their job opportunities, to talk face-to-face with their potential future managers and colleagues, make valuable contacts and even arrange a temporary job or an internship in their particular field of study.

The UHK's Information, Counselling and Career Centre (IPaKC UHK) has been organising JobStart for several years. But the year 2022 witnessed several innovations. The spring job fair was organised in the style of a festival. Presentations at company booths were accompanied by an additional programme such as talk shows with UHK graduates or a low-key concert, which improved the overall ambiance of the event.

"We wanted to make the traditional event a bit more hip and drip, as the teenagers say. And we also have new plans for future fairs. For example, in 2023 we want to organise the JobStart as a talent-themed event. To this end, we will invite several particularly talented UHK students, who have a unique skill that they can present to others on the stage at the spring event," adds Zdeňka Kulhánková, Head of IPaKC UHK.

Many students used the autumn bout of JobStart as an opportunity to polish their CV's. They

received valuable tips from employers present at the fair and they had their portraits taken by a professional photographer hired for the event, along with a make-up artist and a hairdresser. *"For students, JobStart is an excellent opportunity to get a glimpse of how things really work in a day-to-day business, to get a foot in the door of the labour market and maybe even to get their feet wet in the new job before they finish their studies. I know from our students' feedback that they really appreciate the opportunity to communicate directly with potential employers, which is why I am so pleased that so many employers got used to coming to our event. More than four dozen companies took part in 2022 alone,"* concludes Zdeňka Kulhánková, Head of the Centre. ●



HIT Career Attracts Over Three Dozen Companies and Opens a Unique E-sports Classroom

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

PHOTO MARTIN BUREŠ

In March 2022, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK organised the 14th annual *HIT Career Job Fair*. After last year's online version of the job fair, it was nice to see the premises packed with company booths, students and employers.

A job fair provides opportunities for both students and employers. For students, it is a chance to discuss the topic of their thesis with a potential employer or to find a temporary job or employment during or shortly after the end of their studies.

"This was a great event for me. It was my first time at a job fair, and it was nice to see that employers were truly interested in what we may offer. I don't know what I want to specialise in yet, so I was just testing the waters here, but next year I would like to set up real cooperation with a company or two and maybe even get a temporary job," commented Jiří, a first-year student of Information Management.



A total of 39 companies took part in the HIT Career Job Fair in 2022, which made the event very interesting. The participating companies also gave lectures in addition to showcasing their company booths. After the *covid break*, when all

personal interactions had to be moved to the online space overnight, all participants seemed eager to enjoy some live face-to-face communication instead, as the number of lectures increased to about twenty.

“We see this fair as an excellent opportunity to get more visibility in the market. While our initial focus was mainly on outsourcing, our products have recently started to attract more attention, which is a good reason to spread more awareness about the integration solutions on offer. This is also why we could definitely use your students on our team to help us promote our market presence and our products. In fact, we have even hired one of your students already. We will definitely come back next year, preferably with a lecture,” said Magdalena Karlová from Hanaboso in Hradec Králové, who attended HIT Career for the first time. Lundegaard, on the other hand, has been a regular exhibitor at the fair since 2019 and plans to continue doing so. *“We are already employing three young colleagues whom we recruited at your event. And I always enjoy coming here because I get the opportunity to talk to young, enthusiastic*



people with a fresh perspective. The atmosphere here is also very friendly, which is how we like to do things in Lundegaard as well,” said Buchbauer, Chief Commercial Officer in Lundegaard, who gave a presentation at the fair entitled *Design System for Twelve Countries Across the World.*



The job fair ended with a workshop called *Blue Faculty – Your Partner*, which was attended by the managers of the participating companies and the representatives of the Faculty. As part of the workshop, the Faculty opened up a new e-sports classroom, only the second of its kind in the Czech Republic.

“We are delighted that this year’s HIT Career could finally be organised as an on-site rather than an on-line affair, and that we were able to meet with company representatives in person, continuing in our cooperation with some and setting up a new collaboration with others, as was the case with the e-sports classroom. We also plan to organise a special event for our students and companies that will include our successful graduates,” concludes Petra Poullová, FIM’s Vice-Dean for Development and Foreign Affairs and the main event coordinator. •

Safe and transparent UHK. *“A good ethical infrastructure was one of my priorities,”* says Pavlína Springerová, a former UHK Vice-Rector and the current Mayor of the City of Hradec Králové

TEXT JAKUB NOVÁK, UHK'S SPOKESMAN

The year 2022 was marked, among other things, by changes to the Code of Ethics and improvements to safety of the social infrastructure at the University of Hradec Králové. The UHK's Code of Ethics has been revised and amended and a new committee was appointed to assess the potential violations of the Code. The changes were implemented under the leadership of Pavlína Springerová, Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, as part of UHK's Strategic Plan 2021+.

In light of various unfortunate events at other Czech universities about which we heard this year, UHK decided in 2022 to make a significant effort to review its ethical and social security policies. What were the main goals of this effort and what were the results?

We were certainly not forced to carry out the review on account of what happened at other universities, but the events certainly acted as a catalyst for the process. The main outcome of the project

was an amendment to the UHK's Code of Ethics, which had been in the works for a long time as part of our efforts to obtain the HR Excellence in Research (or HR Award for short) quality label from the European Commission. To this end, we changed the overall concept and structure of the document, updating it to meet today's needs and expectations and to respond to current challenges.

The changes also affected the composition of the UHK's Ethics Committee. What is the main purpose of this body and who are its members?

Established by the Rector, the UHK's Ethics Committee is an integral part of the ethics compliance system at our University. The Committee investigates cases of potential or alleged breaches of ethical standards on the basis of complaints submitted to it. For this purpose, we have set up a dedicated e-mail box (etickakomise@uhk.cz) to which anyone can send a complaint or a suggestion for improvement. Committee members are nominated by both academic staff and students from all faculties.



PHOTO: ANNA VITVAROVÁ



PHOTO: ARCHIV STATUTÁRNÍ MĚSTO HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

Have you taken any other steps to implement the changes in the Code of Ethics into UHK's ethics infrastructure?

We certainly do not want the UHK's Code of Ethics and its general ethics policy to be just a bunch of documents pinned to the official board. In the first half of the year, we held a webinar to explain our ethics infrastructure and the range of advice we provide. At the webinar, members of the National Contact Centre for Gender and Science at the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences gave a presentation entitled *Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence at Universities and Research Institutions*. We also make a point of informing first-year students about all the resources available to them if they encounter unethical behaviour at UHK. We conducted a survey of students and academic staff on their perceptions of UHK's credibility and how it could be improved. At the end of the year, we organised special workshops on sexual harassment, bullying and violence on campus. Finally, we prepared a detailed document on inappropriate discriminatory and gender-based behaviour, which will be published on UHK's website in 2023. The

aim of the document is to foster an institutional environment that will help prevent inappropriate behaviour towards any member of the university community, while at the same time providing detailed information and a wide range of options on how to resolve any issues that may arise and how to help anyone who encounters such inappropriate behaviour. In short, an appropriate ethical infrastructure has always been one of my priorities.

Speaking of ethics, what would you say about research and publication ethics in the academia and at our school? Do we have mechanisms in place at UHK to prevent plagiarism, publishing in predatory journals and the like?

I believe that our basic infrastructure and processes are well set up. But that doesn't make it impervious to all attempts at plagiarism, especially by malicious actors. I think it is important to be able to respond well to any problems that may arise, which is also one of the main reasons why the Ethics Committee and the Code of Ethics were introduced in the first place. When it comes to predatory publishing, we need to continue to inform and educate our researchers and our

doctoral students about good academic practice to help them maintain strict quality standards. One activity that seems to have worked well is the *PhD Summit*, an event that we recently launched for our first-year PhD students. We use it as an opportunity to present examples of good research and publication practice, to show the importance of high-quality networking, to teach them how to manage their projects and how to communicate their research findings and science in general to the lay public. I believe that the key is to instill good habits in our young colleagues at the very beginning of their scientific careers, which is something that we want to continue to do.

Another important document that you have managed to fine-tune in 2022 is the Gender Equality Plan. What is its purpose?

Yes, we spent a lot of time in 2022 improving the Gender Equality Plan or GEP, as we call it, at the Department of Quality and Strategy. The plan should make a qualitative difference in our perception and approach to gender issues. It also addresses the issue of equal opportunities and a fair working environment. It must be said that the GEP did not come out of thin air; it is based on a thorough qualitative and quantitative analysis of UHK's individual strengths and weaknesses in this area. An important aspect of the plan is that academic institutions that take care to prepare and implement the GEP are more likely to receive funding from grant agencies, which is essential for our future research and development activities. In fact, soon it will become almost impossible for universities without a gender equality plan to even apply for EU funding.

While we are having this conversation (in November 2022), post-election negotiations have put you in the position of the Mayor of the City of Hradec Králové. Are there any skills that you used or learned as an UHK official that could be useful in leading our regional capital?

Absolutely. As the former Dean of the Philosophical Faculty UHK and later the Vice-Rector of our University, I had to learn and practice a number of management and communication



skills. These will undoubtedly come in handy even in my new role. I have always endeavoured to work as a part of a team and to be fair, and I do not intend to make compromises in this respect even as a member of the City Council. I am proud to have been born and to live in Hradec Králové, so my helping to run the University and now also the City is my way of expressing my gratitude for all the good things that I have received, and my way of giving something back to the community.

Thank you very much for the interview and I look forward to meeting you again soon, even if not as a university official.

Thank you very much, especially as we were able to talk about issues that are not exactly “sexy” but are absolutely essential and necessary. And I am also looking forward to our meetings. The University of Hradec Kralove is my alma mater, so it makes perfect sense to link our regional university with our beautiful city, and both sides will benefit from the cooperation in every way. •

The Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK offers one-day training courses for secondary school teachers

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

The Institute of Modern Information Technologies (IMIT) at the Faculty of Informatics and Management at UHK is offering one-day IT training courses for secondary school teachers who want to expand their know-how and practical skills. The popular training courses are offered free of charge.

The courses are designed for small groups or for individuals who want a hands-on experience. A short theoretical lecture is followed by practical demonstrations with plenty of time for discussion and questions.

Initially, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK offered courses on a wider range of topics, but the trainees proved most interested in *Virtualisation and Cloud* and in *3D Modelling, Scanning and Printing*.

"We know how 3D printers work in theory, but as we are going to buy new 3D printers for our school, we wanted to learn more about how to use them," explains Zdeněk Prouza from Secondary Professional and Vocational School Vocelova in Hradec Králové. *"We would like to introduce 3D printing in our school as an optional or voluntary course at first, but in time, we would like to include it in our full-time curriculum,"* adds Mr Karel from the same school.

The concept of one-day training courses has proved to be an immense success, as the number of secondary school teachers wishing to attend this type of training has doubled since the start of 2022 compared to the previous year.

"Given to the feedback we have received, our trainees in the "Virtualisation and Cloud" course appreciate the opportunity to go through the process of building a virtualisation infrastructure step by step from start to finish in our virtual lab. Guided by our instructors, the trainees install, implement and commission all the system components, and safely try out all the technologies in a safe environment without having to experiment in the production environment of their own school network," says IMIT secretary Jiří Červený, adding: *"In our 3D Modelling, Scanning and Printing course, our trainees learn about equipment they do not normally get to use in their schools and/or about equipment their schools are about to buy and use. We show them how to work with 3D printers, how to install and maintain them, how to use the printing materials, how to create 3D models and how to print them."* •



Open UHK strategy explores barriers on campus and in education, preparing a safe and open environment for all

TEXT ZUZANA PRŮCHOVÁ, INFORMATION, COUNSELLING AND CAREER CENTRE, UHK

DESIGN STUDIO UPUPÆPOP

Inclusion and diversity are key features of any successful university, and the physical and psychological well-being of students and academic staff is essential for a positive and supportive learning environment. The UHK's Information, Counselling and Career Centre (IPaKC UHK) is committed to supporting the mental and physical health of everyone on campus, to providing resources and information for academic and personal growth, and to creating a sense of belonging and connection within the university community.

“We believe that our commitment to an inclusive, diverse and barrier-free campus is both positive and enriching. Everyone involved in collaborative learning has a unique identity, and can contribute an individual perspective, ideas and innovations that will further the growth and development

of the university. People who are happy and healthy are more likely to focus on their studies and careers. To this end, we have prepared a campaign to promote these values, as well as workshops, lectures and other activities,” explains Zdeňka Kulhánková, head of IPaKC. In order to coordinate these activities, the



Centre first had to produce a common strategy. In the first phase of the project, the team surveyed students and staff, analysed the campus environment and commissioned an independent audit of the university's website. Thanks to valuable feedback, the team was able to create a bespoke strategy called *Open UHK*, which aims to make

a positive difference to university life. *"I believe that our focus on well-being, dissemination of the preventive information and the systematic development of a safe and open environment can have a positive impact on the overall climate at the University,"* concludes Zdeňka Kulhánková. •



Sustainable UHK

Social responsibility, including cultivating local and regional social and environmental space, is one of the key activities of UHK. For this purpose, the social responsibility and sustainable development working group was established – Sustainable UHK.



Insignia made by Granát Turnov have adorned graduation and matriculation ceremonies at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK since 1997

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

Matriculation is a ceremony that marks the beginning of a student's studies while the graduation ceremony marks their end. At the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové, these rites of passage are complemented by jewellery made with genuine Czech garnets.

It was Věra Valová, the then secretary of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK (at that time still called The Faculty of Management and Information Technologies of the Institute of Education in Hradec Králové) who came up with the initial idea. "I wanted the insignia to be designed and produced by a jewellery

workshop in our region. I initially visited Granát Turnov unannounced, just to test the waters. The Deputy Director Milan Šorejs, who later became the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Granát Turnov jewellery, loved the idea, and soon brought my vague notion into life," explains Věra Valová, adding: "At the end of June of the 1996/97 academic year, we



held the traditional matriculation pledge for the first undergraduates and the graduation ceremony for the first graduates of Information Management. This was also the first occasion on which we used the new insignia for the ceremony.”

The jewellery used for the festive occasion was designed by sculptor Zdeňka Laštovičková, while the insignia themselves were created by the Granát Turnov jewellery studio.

The creative team was managed by Deputy Technical Director Milan Šorejs, while master craftsman Vojtěch Závěský, and Václav Jareš, Head of Granát Turnov’s Bespoke Production Department and a guest teacher at the Secondary School of Applied Arts in Turnov, fine-tuned the design and created the final products.

“We are proud that our Faculty Insignia are decorated with genuine Czech garnets. They are unique and very much associated with our country. Garnets are hard and durable. It is said that they give vitality and courage and protect pilgrims on their journeys. These are the qualities that perfectly represent the UHK’s Faculty of Informatics and Management, its employees and graduates,” said Josef Hynek, Dean of the Faculty.

The gowns of the Faculty’s top representatives are decorated with chains of over fifty garnets; the Dean’s gown is decorated with sixty. The sceptre has also been used in the ceremonies for twenty-five years, and has received pledges from over eight thousand Faculty graduates. It is made of 258 tiny garnets that flank three crystal faces decorated with a cut lioness and the Faculty name, joined by four crystals to form a triangle. Earlier this year, the sceptre was restored by Milan Hejral from Granát Turnov, one of the creators of the Faculty’s insignia. •

UHK Annually in a nutshell

January

AED – three letters that save lives. From now on also at the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové

The acronym refers to Automated External Defibrillator, a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia and guides a layperson with simple audio commands on how to give safe and effective first aid. Over three dozens of these helpers are available in Hradec Králové. An AED was also recently installed at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK because it is a perfect location on the grid as it lies between the Winter Stadium and the University Hospital. The location of each device is recorded in the AED database operated by the Medical Rescue Service of the Hradec Králové Region. The *Záchranka* mobile app will also help you find the nearest AED. Over thirty UHK staff members have been trained in how to use the device. AED is available to everyone, and you can call the emergency service if you need help operating the device. *“The idea of having an AED installed at our Faculty dates back about two*



PHOTO: ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ

years when we organised one of the first hands-on first aid training course. In our course, we always emphasise how important it is for the lay public to help if they stumble across someone suffering from a cardiac arrest. Every second counts,” says Assistant Professor Dagmar Hrušová from the Department of Recreation and Tourism, Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, who came up with the idea. ●

Online Open Days – Now as a Talk Show

In January, the COVID-19 pandemic once again prevented the University from inviting prospective students to visit the University in person. As a result, Open Days had to go online. From an impromptu studio created in the UHK auditorium at the Na Soutoku campus, UHK launched a live talk show from 7th to 8th January 2022. UHK teachers and students presented the benefits and opportunities of studying at UHK. ●



PHOTO: ANNA VITVAROVÁ

February

Czech Presentation

Each semester, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Hradec Králové hosts an event during which local students present interesting

information about Czech culture to incoming international students. The event covers everything from basic Czech phrases, through notable items

of local cuisine to the best locations to visit. Local organisations, such as Rotaract Hradec Králové D2240 and AFROHK, are also invited to the event

to speak about how students can become valuable members of their new community during their Erasmus stay. •

March

Minister Vít Rakušan debated the war in Ukraine with UHK students

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Vít Rakušan visited the University of Hradec Králové. He met with UHK students in the university auditorium and they mainly discussed the complex political situation associated with Russia invading Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Rakušan was accompanied by Lucie Potučková; she is a member of the Chamber of Deputies and hails from the Hradec Králové Region. •



EDU Days

On 24 March 2022, the University of Hradec Králové hosted Educating the Whole Being: Inclusive, International and Intercultural Perspectives 2022. The conference was organised as part of EDUcational Days, which actually cover a week filled with workshops, lectures,

exhibitions, conferences and other activities. The conference combined formal presentations and round tables on topics such as language awareness, transcultural communication, internationalisation of teacher education, the well-being of students and much more. •

April

Literary historian and university teacher Vladimír Křivánek passed away



On 21 April 2022, poet, literary historian and critic, university teacher Prof. PhDr. Vladimír Křivánek, CSc. passed away.

Professor Křivánek joined the Department of Czech Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education UHK, in 2008 as a lecturer of literary

history and criticism. He was a renowned and celebrated Czech poet. As a teacher, his favourite subject was Czech poetry dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries, especially the work of Karel Hynek Mácha, Jan Neruda and Vladimír Holan. He was loved and respected by his students for his lively teaching style. From 2008 to 2011 he served as the Chairman of the Czech Writers Society. He was a member of the PEN Club. In addition to his research, he published several critically acclaimed collections of poetry. •

Homo academicus cultivates καλὸς κάγαθός

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic put a temporary stop to the UHK hosting the Academic Run, the year 2022 saw runners on the starting line again. A total of 346 athletes joined the race, which also acted as a fundraiser; one third of the entry fees collected was donated to People in Need in view of the Ukraine Emergency Appeal. Trophies for individual winners of the 2,2 km and 5 km races were complemented by the UHK Rector's Cup, which went to the faculty that had most runners enter the race – the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. ●



EGM in Porto

The Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM) is the biggest Erasmus conference where the Erasmus Generation meets to learn and discuss the future of mobility in Europe and beyond. In 2022, the EGM took place in Porto, Portugal. The University of Hradec Králové was represented by Maríia Ximena Suárez (ESN Hradec Králové President

for the period 2021 to 2022) and Alexia Klie Tojal (ENS Hradec Králové Local Representative for the period 2021 to 2022). Our representatives attended the Flag Parade, Career Fair, Mobility Fair and many of the sessions hosted by ESNers, institutional and commercial partners. ●

May

Ibero-American Week

The second Ibero-American Week was held in Hradec Králové from 9th to 15th May 2022. The University prepared a variety of lectures, an educational trail and a pub quiz about Latin America. All events were open to the general public for free. ●



Students made Pardubice dance at EUforia stage fest

In May, six Czech universities teamed up to organise the *EUforia Stage Festival*. It is a one-day event during which information is provided on the main priorities of the Czech Republic during its presidency of the Council of the European Union to university students and the general public. The University of Hradec Králové came up with a special panel debate on the membership



of the Czech Republic in the European Union. UHK was represented by Assistant Professor Milan Hrubeš, Head of the Department of Political Science, Philosophical Faculty UHK. The programme included lectures, trivia quizzes and friendly contests between the participating universities. Popular Czech bands such as Vanua2,

Europe Day Celebrations in Hradec Králové

The University of Hradec Králové participated in the Europe Day celebrations at Pivovarské náměstí in Hradec Králové where it presented international study opportunities to secondary school students. Pavlina Springerová, UHK Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, spoke about the benefits of our membership in the European Community: *“It is essential we talk about European issues, especially now when we are about to preside over the Council of the European Union in the second half of the year. I think we should strive to become a more potent driver of EU activities, which is why our pro-active approach is so important. Our University can help by organising similar events for the general public here in Hradec Králové and elsewhere.”*

National Festival of Amateur Chamber and Symphonic Orchestras

On 23 May 2022, a concert was held in the main hall of Building A (Fourth Stage) as part of the *National Festival of Amateur Chamber and Symphonic Orchestras*. The concert featured

Minister Bartoš appreciated UHK’s cybersecurity project and FIM’s e-sports classroom

Ivan Bartoš, Minister for Regional Development, accompanied by the representatives of the Hradec Králové Region, paid a visit to the University of Hradec Králové, where he discussed cybersecurity and the development of infrastructure for digital transformation at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. The Faculty showed Minister Bartoš its specialised artificial intelligence and cybersecurity labs, where UHK is working on the ARTISEC project on the use of artificial intelligence for Smart City cybersecurity. The Faculty also presented its plan to open a new information and network security study programme. *“In*

VOXEL & Spol. and Sto zvířat concerted. *EUforia Stage* was the main output of a 2022 centralised development project sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports titled *Communication of Priorities and Topics of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union Focusing on Higher Education and Education”*. •



As part of the programme, UHK and ESN Hradec Králové organised the so-called *Human Library*, which is a fun activity during which students communicate with international UHK students in English. •

Clarinet Ensemble Prachatice, the New Town Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of the University of Hradec Králové. •



addition to talking about the University, its pending and future IT study programmes and our research in

UHK ANNUALLY IN A NUTSHELL

cybersecurity, we also discussed the various problems that UHK faces and which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry for Regional Development. For example, we talked about the inaccessibility of certain types of public funding for eGovernment, cybersecurity and digital transformation projects, which impose extraordinary financial costs on public universities

such as ours,” said Pavlína Springerová, UHK’s Vice Rector for Strategy and Development, adding that “Minister Bartoš, who himself likes to play computer games from time to time, also appreciated the e-sports classroom at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK, which is only the second of its kind in the Czech Republic.” •

UHK Riders placed second in the national finals of the collegiate volleyball league

The national finals of the collegiate volleyball league for mixed teams, organised by the Czech University Sports Association, were hosted by TJ Slavia Sports Hall on 25 May 2022. The University of Hradec Králové put out two of the total seven teams on the roster. UHK Ducks took seventh place. UHK Riders made it to the final, where they played against The Snails from West Bohemian University in Pilsen. Although the teams were evenly matched and there were many exciting exchanges, the WBU Snails won 2:0 and UHK Riders finished second. •



Inter-Regional University Council

Nine Czech universities established the Inter-Regional University Council in May (IUC). The Council aims to strengthen the role of universities in their regions and to help them learn how to cooperate in developing the competitiveness of their respective regions and municipalities. The Council also strives to advertise the

importance of education and social responsibility in the regions, and to promote the principles of transparent and fair evaluation of universities in the context of their funding. Rector Kuča represented the University of Hradec Králové at the inaugural meeting of the Inter-Regional University Council. •

June

UHK’s International Advisory Board meets in the flesh for the first time

The International Advisory Board was set up to advise the Rector. Due to the pandemic, the Board only convened online, but 2022 changed all that. From 6 to 8 May 2022, the members of the International Advisory Board finally met with University staff in person. The Board has five permanent members – Prof. John R. Anchor, Ph.D. (United Kingdom), Teresita Maria Sevilla Peñuela, Ph.D. (Colombia), Prof. Ts. Dr. Ali Bin Selamat, Ph.D. (Malaysia), Prof. Hamido



Fujita, Ph.D. (Japan) and Prof. Enrique Herrera-Viedma, Ph.D. (Spain). The principal goals of the International Advisory Board are to provide

the University with valuable feedback on the University's strategic direction and to share examples of good academic practice. •

"Let's Play with Our Head" Was Surfing the Waves

On 23 and 24 June 2022, the Na Soutoku Campus flew abuzz with a flurry of experiments for young and old alike. After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, *Let's Play with Our Head*, the biggest popular science event organised by the Faculty of Science UHK, returned in full force with a programme called *Surfing the Waves*.

The 13th year of *Let's Play with our Head* allowed students of science education at the Faculty of Science UHK and the Faculty of Education UHK to put to the test their presentation skills before groups of children of various ages and gave other



schools and institutions from Hradec Králové the opportunity to join the marvellous programme. •

Young Programmers competed at "FIMka"

On the last weekend in June, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK hosted the finals of the 36th annual Programming Contest. Ninety primary school and secondary school pupils and students were selected for the national finals based on their results from the regional rounds. The Programming Contest is one of many competitions organised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for talented students. The contest is held under the auspices of the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic. •



Tandem Evening

The Tandem Evening is an event that is very popular with international students as it allows them to practise their language skills over a good cup of coffee and a piece of cake. The mother tongues

of our volunteer teachers also include Czech, the most sought-after language of our international students. Students can also taste Czech sweets and a traditional drink – Kofola. •

July



Sustainable UHK

The University of Hradec Králové added a new logo to its uniform visual style toolbox. The logo encapsulates the University's engagement in

sustainable development activities. The *Drž UHK* (*Sustainable UHK* in English) brand will be used in UHK's events and materials to promote the University's commitment to sustainable development (SDGs). The logo was designed by Assistant Professor Jiří Toman, creator of the UHK's uniform visual style. •

August

FIM's Day Camp Welcomed the IT LAB CROWD

At the end of summer, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK and the Faculty of Science UHK organised a day camp for children interested in information technologies. The camp, intended for 10 to 14 year olds, was called the *IT Lab Crowd*. One of the children's favourite activities was designing 3D models and then printing them on a 3D printer. The children were guided through the process by the members of the Institute of Modern Information Technologies, Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. Other popular activities included computer gaming in the e-sports classroom and using the high-resolution microscope at the Faculty of Science UHK. •



National Youth Conference at the Na Soutoku Campus

Once every five years, young Christians from all over the country meet at the National Youth Conference (CSM). In 2022, this large-scale event

was hosted by Hradec Králové, or rather by the Na Soutoku Campus and other University facilities, such as the University Halls of Residence. •

25th Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK Induction Week

In the last week of August, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK and its senior students organised a week-long induction course for the new first-year students. The event called *Welcome to the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK* was attended by over 120 first-year students, most of whom had been admitted to the undergraduate study programme Applied Informatics. *Welcome to the Faculty of Informatics*



and *Management UHK* is an event organised by the student club *First Steps at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK* (PKNF), which helps new classmates settle in the Na Soutoku Campus and get off on the right foot in their studies. PKNF also

helps new students get around town, socialise and find out where to spend their leisure time, and it introduces them to other university clubs and student organisations. •

September

Inaugural Sustainability Week at UHK

The University of Hradec Králové organised its first *Sustainability Week*. The lecture series on environmental protection showed how to incorporate sustainability in everyday life.

Lectures were given by the representatives of companies such as Sonnentor, Maluna, the zero-waste grocery store *Bez obalu HK*, the CEO of Hradecké služby (the city's waste management and utility service provider), and many others. *Sustainability Week* also included a clothing and household goods swap, which started with 116 kg of clothing



and 63 kg of household goods and ended with just 22 kg of clothing and 39 kg of household goods, which means that 94 kg of clothing and 39 kg of other staff changed hands in total. •

EAIE Conference

UHK representatives joined the Study in the Czech Republic national stand at the EAIE (European Association for International Education) Conference held on September 13–16, 2022, in Barcelona. •



Record turnout at Researchers' Night

The traditional science fair offered a fresh insight into the inspiring scientific milieu at the University of Hradec Králové. The topic in 2022 was BY ALL SENSES. Researchers' Night covered artificial intelligence, virtual reality, insect communication, chemical experiments and aviation archaeology, and much more. An all-time high of three thousand visitors attended the event to see that science and research can be interesting and fun. In addition to UHK's faculties, the event was co-hosted by the Municipal Library of Hradec Králové, the Study and Research Library, the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Hradec Králové and the Observatory and



Planetarium in Hradec Králové. There was no shortage of entertainment on the last Friday of September in Hradec Králové. •

Re-UNI/on

The second Re-UNI/on started the new term at UHK. Re-UNI/on is a single-day event organised by university clubs and student organisations. The morning programme was held in the Na Soutoku Campus and in the recently renovated building of the Philosophical Faculty UHK. It started off with a brunch attended by the members of student clubs and student organisations. In the afternoon, senior students gave practical presentations for first-year students and they arranged contests, improvised theatre and stand-up performances. In the evening, students could dance to the *Good*



Times Only band and Michal Horák at Václav Havel Square. •

Career Counselling

The UHK's Information, Career and Counselling Centre (IPaKC UHK) offers career advisory to UHK students, counselling them about their career possibilities and opportunities and about the labour market. Students may also arrange an

individual appointment with trained counsellors, who will advise them on how to write the best resume or motivation letter, or how to succeed at a job interview. •

Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK greeted first-year primary school pupils in Zbečnick

Every year, Josef Hynek, the Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK visits a small village primary school in Eastern Bohemia to greet first-year pupils on their first school day and wish them good luck. This year, Professor Hynek met with the pupils of the Zbečnick Elementary School in the Náchod District. In addition to giving the children small gifts, Professor Hynek also invited them on a field trip to the Hradec Králové University Campus. •



Talent Counselling

In September, the UHK's Information, Career and Counselling Centre started its Talent Counselling programme. It helps students discover their strengths, special talents and predispositions. Follow-up consultations with a talent coach aim to teach students how to develop their personal

talents and how to apply them to their studies, career and personal life. •

October

Professor Jindřich Hellberg passed away

TEXT PROF. K. KOLÁŘ

On October 27, 2022, prof. RNDr. Jindřich Hellberg, CSc. passed away.

Prof. RNDr. Jindřich Hellberg, DrSc. was born on 13 December 1927 in Prague. He studied at a grammar school in Prague and after passing the Maturita exam he continued his studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague. Professor Hellberg majored in Secondary School Teacher Training in Mathematics and Chemistry. After graduating, he taught at the Grammar School in Orlova and then at a Grammar School in Ostrava.

His interest in the research of the theory of chemistry teaching brought him to join the Research Institute of Education and a few years later to the Faculty of Education in Hradec Králové. Over time, he became the Head of the Department of Chemistry, the Vice-Dean for Science and Foreign Affairs, and the Dean of the Faculty of Education UHK.

He lectured on organic chemistry, biochemistry, didactics and the history of chemistry. As a researcher, he had a broad impact on a wide range of fields. He explored the theoretical foundations of the didactics of chemistry, the special didactics

Career Booster

In October, the UHK's Information, Counselling and Career Centre (IPaKC UHK) launched a series of lectures aimed at preparing students for future job interviews and applications. Students learned

IEFT International Education Fair

People visiting the International Education Fair in Istanbul, Turkey, learned about study programmes taught in English at the UHK and about the perks

of organic chemistry and biochemistry, the application of experiments in chemical education, different models of chemistry education, international chemistry education and so forth. He published numer-

ous research papers and articles, co-wrote many secondary school textbooks on organic chemistry and university textbooks on chemistry didactics. His extraordinary command of foreign languages proved essential in the expansion of the international cooperation of his own Department and the entire Faculty. He was the recipient of many awards for his educational and scientific contributions, such as the Vilém Baur Award by the Czech Chemical Society and the Marie Curie-Sklodowska Medal by the Polish Chemical Society.

Professor Hellberg had an extraordinary range of interests. He was a lifelong student of history and art (literature and music in particular) and he enjoyed exploring foreign countries. Professor Hellberg was a remarkable person and he significantly influenced the education and training of future chemistry teachers both at the Faculty of Education UHK. He is respected in the Czech Republic and abroad. •



PHOTO: UHK ARCHIVE

how to write a good resume and a motivation letter. FAQ that they may be asked at a job interview were discussed as were the benefits and a LinkedIn account and how best to use it. •

and benefits of being a UHK student. The fair was held on October 22–23, 2022. •

November

First Electronic Elections to UHK Academic Senate

At its inaugural session on 14 December 2022, the new Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové elected its officials. The Academic Senate will be chaired by Hana Tomášková, Associate Professor from the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. This will be her fourth term in office. The Staff Chamber will be chaired by Assistant Professor Lukáš Vízek from the Faculty of Science UHK; he was elected to the Academic Senate for the first time. Vice-Chair will be held by Mr Michal Pajer; a student representative of the Faculty of Education UHK in his second term in office. For the first time, elections were held electronically as was the extensive campaign that promoted the elections. As a result, compared to 2019, academic staff voter turnout increased from



49% to 65% and student voter turnout increased from 8% to 11.5%. •

SILENCE IS GOLDEN – How to discuss controversial topics

On 24 November 2022, supported by the Czech Academy of Sciences, the University of Hradec Králové and the Hradec Králové Region again organised a conference on ethics education, this year under the name *SILENCE IS GOLDEN – How to discuss controversial topics*. The morning segment of the conference was devoted to the possibilities and the necessity of communicating important social topics to the general public. The afternoon segment consisted of panel discussions with experts. The media were represented by Miloš Čermák, a columnist for *Seznam Zprávy*, and Ondřej Vaňura, a scientific reporter for *Czech Radio*. Ondřej Beránek, an expert on Islamic Studies and the Vice-President of the Academy Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Jaroslav Petr from the Institute of Animal Science accepted the invitation on behalf of the scientific



community. Klára Šedová, an expert on classroom communication and dialogic teaching and the Scientific Director of the National Institute for Research on Socioeconomic Impact of Diseases and Systemic Risks, and Josef Šlerka, a lecturer at Charles University and a social network data analyst also made interesting contributions to the panel discussion. •

Lateral Thinking with Tomáš Sedláček

On the second Friday in November, the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK hosted a lecture by renowned economist, philosopher

and university lecturer Tomáš Sedláček, who had served as an advisor to the Minister of Finance and President Václav Havel. The auditorium

soon filled with students interested in Tomáš Sedláček's thoughts on lateral thinking. The charismatic lecturer soon captured the attention of everyone present and after a short while, his monologue turned into a lively debate. The central topic was *Education in the Czech Republic* and it became the backbone of the discussion in which the lecturer and the audience shared their thoughts on topics that ranged from the creation of the

Faculty of Science UHK Hosted Náboj Junior

On 25 November 2022, the Faculty of Science UHK once again hosted *Náboj Junior* – an international maths and physics contest for teams of up to four students. Primary school pupils enrolled in 8th and 9th grade, and 3rd and 4th year students attending eight-year grammar schools could enter the contest. The contest is open to students from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, the Netherlands, Croatia and Spain. The actual contest lasts for 120 minutes and tests both the knowledge and skills of individual team members and

Educational Treat

In November, the Information, Career and Counselling Centre (IPaKC UHK) organised a lecture as part of the Educational Treat programme. Dr. Michaela Karsten, a Grand Master of Mind Sports and the holder of a Guinness Book record, presented several mnemonic techniques and aids that could help students learn faster and prep for their exams. ●

UHK International Day Focuses on Fostering Mobility for Students with Disabilities

The UHK International Day once again combined education and entertainment. Students got the opportunity to share stories from their international travels and gain inspiration for their own adventures. One of the main priorities of Erasmus+ is to encourage and help students with disabilities to partake in mobility programmes. Following this example, we listened to Ladislava Blažkova's account of her own incredible wheelchair pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Visitors also practiced



PHOTO: ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ

world, through the importance of self-knowledge, to the meaning of life. ●



their ability to work together. The winning team in the Hradec Králové round came from Jirásek Gymnasium in Náchod. ●



PHOTO: VERONIKA PLCHOVÁ

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speaking foreign languages and could try learning a few words in Ovambo and Herero. At the end of the day, Czech and international students played

several rounds of the International Quiz, created for this event by the student organisation ESN Hradec Králové. •

Career Booth

Throughout the academic year, UHK's Information, Counselling and Career Centre frequently ventures out among university students and November was no exception. At its Career Booth, the Centre presents its various activities, internships and temporary jobs, and also offers its delicious pancakes to passers-by. The Centre's Career Booth always includes a display stand by a company that presents various job offers to students in their field of study. •



December

Devil's Experiments

After a two-year pause, the Faculty of Science UHK once again welcomed dozens of children from the entire Hradec Králové Region, who came to enjoy the traditional Devil's Experiments.

Visitors listened to a fairy tale about the Devil's Enchanted Garden. They could also learn more about Devil's Algebra which lets fiends and rascals talk to computers. The children could also engage in some chemical frolicking with magical colours, do science experiments with a thermographic camera and have fun with infernally large insects. •



The University of Hradec Králové hosted a presidential debate

On 13 December 2022, Czech presidential candidates Jaroslav Bašta, Karel Diviš, Marek Hilšer and Tomáš Zima participated in a debate in the UHK Auditorium. The panel discussion, attended by hundreds of people in the auditorium and many more online via live stream broadcast, was organised by the Department of Political Science of the Philosophical Faculty UHK with the support of the UHK's Political Science Club. •



New Concert Series Opening Night

UHK to Hradec is the name of a new concert series first presented to the public in the auditorium of Building A in the Na Soutoku Campus on 7 December 2022. The concept, which contemplates regular musical meetings being held at least once every term, was inaugurated by two local ensembles – UHK Mixed Choir and UHK Chamber Orchestra on the occasion of the start of the Advent season. ●



UHK Strategy and Development Will be Managed by Assistant Professor Michal Strobach

The Academic Senate of the University of Hradec Králové discussed UHK Rector Kuča's proposal to appoint Michal Strobach the new UHK Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development as of 15 December 2022. Assistant Professor Strobach replaced Assistant Professor Pavlina Springerová as she resigned from her position in view of her being elected the Mayor of the Statutory City of Hradec Králové in November 2022.

“As the Head of the Projects Department of the Philosophical Faculty UHK and an experienced manager, Michal Strobach has all the skills and expertise needed to manage UHK strategy and development. I am pleased to say that the team of Vice-Rectors is once again complete after Assistant Professor Springerová resigned from her post and is still as professional and creative as ever,” commented Rector Kuča, adding that Vice-Rector Strobach's term of office will end on the same date as the term of office of the rest of the Rector's team, i.e. in June 2024.

“As new UHK Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, I have several priorities. I believe that it is necessary to ensure a smooth transition from the operational programme for the period from 2013 to 2020 and a successful follow-through to the framework programme for 2021–2027, which generates a substantial portion of the external funding necessary for the future development and stability of our University. We were highly successful in this regard in the past and I would like to continue in this trend, especially with respect to the JAK operational



programme. I believe it is also equally important to follow in the footsteps of my esteemed predecessor and defend the HR Award given to the University in 2021”, said Vice-Rector Strobach regarding his plans for the future.

Assistant Professor Michal Strobach joined UHK in 2022, first as a student of a graduate study programme at the Faculty of Education UHK and then as a student of a doctoral programme at the Philosophical Faculty UHK. He has managed and administrated a diverse portfolio of projects, operational programmes and innovation vouchers. At the Philosophical Faculty UHK, he coordinated an extensive investment project involving the renovation of the Faculty's main building, and represented the University in working groups involved in the Integrated Territorial Investments of Hradec Králové – Pardubice Agglomeration from 2014 to 2020 and after 2021. In 2019 he completed an

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internship at the University of Helsinki specialising in the technology transfer ecosystem, and in 2018 he attended a seminar in Vienna organised

as part of the programme *Knowledge Exchange in Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts*. •

Professor Hana Mohelská Named Teacher of the Year at the Blue Advent Ceremony

The Blue Advent Ceremony was held at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK for the first time. The event was opened by a Christmas carol singalong under the baton of Professor Marek Franěk of the Department of Management at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK. Dean Hynek then welcomed everyone and presented the Faculty's Teacher of the Year Award to Professor Hana Mohelská. *"For most people, the Advent Season portends the coming of the most beautiful time of the year, Christmas – a period of peace, grace and family reunions. For me, the Blue Advent at the Faculty of Informatics and Management UHK is a gathering of people who share the same goal – to teach and to learn. I humbly accept the Teacher of the Year Award from last year's winner, Assistant Professor Otčenášková, who received the award, a trophy, from the hands of the previous winner Professor Franěk. I am very happy, and I much appreciate the award. Thank you all,"* concluded Hana Mohelská, FIM's Vice-Dean for Science and Research. •



Student Business Breakfast

The UHK Information, Counselling and Career Centre (IPaKC UHK) organised a lecture series at which inspiring and interesting Czech entrepreneurs presented their insights from the business world to UHK's students. In December, the lecture series was brought to a close at the Student Business Breakfast, where students could meet movers and shakers from diverse sectors of business and industry and listen to their valuable advice and know-how in an informal environment. •



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