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University of Hradec Králové



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Excellence of UHK
confirmed by the
prestigious European
quality **HR Award**

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The University of Hradec Králové has been awarded the international HR Award by the European Commission

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

The University of Hradec Králové (UHK) ranks among the institutions that were awarded the HR Excellence in Research Award, an international prestigious quality mark, in 2021. According to Pavlína Springerová, UHK's Vice-Rector for Strategy and Development, the Award confirms that even a regional university can perfectly care for its scientists at the highest European level.

What was the first thought that crossed your mind when you heard that we were recognised by the European Commission?

It is a huge achievement. The Award recognises and underlines the many years of work we put into preparing and implementing the project leading up to the Award. It is now officially known that UHK is and wants to be a quality and attractive employer that meets the highest European standards.

What does the award actually mean to us? What does it mean to the University of Hradec Králové?

With this Award, UHK seals its commitment to continuously bolster and improve the management of human resources in accordance with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. In addition, the HR Award, which stands for HR Excellence in Research, means that our research projects will be better evaluated and that we are more likely to win



major grants in science and research, which is another substantial bonus.

Yet this is definitely not the end of the story. What must we do to keep the quality mark?

In the next two years, the UHK will significantly improve the university-wide process of recruiting new domestic and international staff and will reinforce the onboarding process and set up a good mentoring programme. These and other processes are quite common in modern scientific research and educational institutions and they are institutionally set up to create an inspiring and transparent environment, especially for budding scientists.

How ambitious is the UHK in attracting international scientists? Are we succeeding in being an attractive brand abroad that is worth working for?

Absolutely. I am deeply convinced of that. In 2020 alone, the University of Hradec Králové had 130 international employees from all around the world, and internationalising research is the path we want to take. This globally recognised quality certificate will certainly

tent of the survey and what were its main conclusions?

Almost 600 colleagues participated in the survey, which I consider to be a more than representative sample. We mapped five areas, namely professional and ethical aspects, working conditions and social security, development and education, evaluation of people employed at UHK, and communication outside and inside our University. We found all survey findings to be very stimulating and we started working on those areas where gaps were identified. We now know that we need to continue to strengthen areas that guarantee safety, give equal access and sustain openness; that we have to strengthen our ethical environment and knowledge of the related processes. When it comes to working conditions, it is important for us not only to improve the working environment, but also to ensure sufficient and motivating financial compensation and benefits, which is obviously a big challenge for university and faculty management with regard to university funding. We would like to continue optimising the employee evaluation process and we aim to help guide senior staff members to better evaluate situations and students and to give compre-

"It is a huge achievement. The Award recognises and underlines the many years of work we put into preparing and implementing the project leading up to the Award. It is now officially known that UHK is and wants to be a quality and attractive employer that meets the highest European standards."



Pavlína Springerová
Vice-rector for Strategy and Development

help us to reach out to other researchers from abroad, who can also choose their future location based on the HR Award.

An extensive questionnaire survey was conducted among UHK employees on the way to receiving the Award from the European Commission. How many of us took part in the survey, what was the con-

hensive feedback, which in turn can minimise possible demotivation and help to better assess the needs of individual employees. We need to focus on balancing work activities. We should also improve communication within the institution, leading senior staff members to pass information to their subordinates in a timely manner. On the other hand, and this is clear from the questionnaires, and I am very pleased about this, our employees value good relations

in the workplace, which contribute significantly to everyone's greater satisfaction.

In any case, we compiled all the outputs into a robust GAP analysis, which we used as a basis to develop an Action Plan for the upcoming period. All five of the areas that we mapped need to be developed and strengthened, and I sincerely appreciate the responses and open comments. Both documents are of course available on the UHK website, under the HRS4R/HR Award section.

The HR Award is not the only achievement by which UHK confirms its growing role abroad. Where else have we done well in 2021?

Yes, that's right, because we continue to confirm our position in international rankings and comparisons. We have managed to stay in the UI Green Metric ranking, for example, which focuses on the environment and sustainable development. More importantly, the Times Higher Education and QS University Ranking Emerging Europe & Central Asia continues to rank us. Our premiere ranking in the QS World University Rankings, one of the three most prestigious and trusted international comparisons that measure the quality of universities means the world to us. We took a shared 801st–1000th position, which puts us among the top ten universities in the Czech Republic.

What strategic challenges in development await the UHK in 2022?

We face the first year of planning the priorities of our University's strategic plan, which will be linked to a new funding framework, the so-called Strategic Management Programme. In terms of human resources development, we will work on standardising the recruitment process and also on setting up a new mentoring programme. We continue to labour over improving our Campus and sports infrastructure in the student halls of residence. ●

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How does one live in a world that melts under one's feet? Zdenka collected testimonies from hundreds of people

ADÉLA KARÁSKOVÁ SKOUPÁ TEXT ADAPTED FROM UNIVERSITAS, A MAGAZINE FOR UNIVERSITIES **PHOTO** ELIZABETH BOURNE

How do you live in a world that is getting ever warmer, where more and more people want what few can have? Social anthropologist Zdenka Sokolíčková went in search of the answer to a seemingly unexpected place: the Northern Lights, in the world's northernmost human settlement – the town of Longyearbyen, a town of two and a half thousand people that lies in the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard. And she found more than she had bargained for. In the end, she spent two years there and interviewed 220 people. Some people's destinies are deeply ingrained, she admits.

In February 2019, Zdenka Sokolíčková packed her bags (or rather barrels) and together with her three young sons and her husband – biologist Jakub Žárský – she set out to Svalbard

to experience the polar night. She travelled to the frosty reaches with their colourful houses, where people don't leave town without a rifle so that they can protect themselves against

polar bears. Zdenka strived to explore the dramatic challenge climate change may pose to the practicalities of life. She was helped by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship grant of 5.5 million crowns, awarded in the second round through a national grant scheme. Also supporting her was eminent Norwegian anthropologist Thomas Hylland Eriksen.

Her goal was ambitious: to interview 350 locals and record their way of life in a world that is melting beneath their feet and which brings unexpected weather fluctuations as well as social movements. She asked the locals about the changes of recent years in order to demonstrate, in a miniature Nordic town, how immense processes – not only climate change, but also globalisation – affect the lives of smaller communities.

„Longyearbyen is one of the places where climate change is the most visible on our planet – it is getting increasingly warmer, sea ice is disappearing, intense rainfall is increasing, permafrost is melting. And the economy there has changed rapidly too,” Zdenka Sokolíčková describes the specifics of the place.

Originally a mining town founded at the turn of the 20th century, Longyearbyen boasts the highest quality black coal that can be mined. It has in recent years become more of an exotic tourist destination – also due to global efforts to curb the fossil fuel industry.

The emerging tourist business creates jobs that the Norwegians do not want. The area attracts people who are glad that they don't need a visa or even a work permit. Thus, the frosty Svalbard region is home to, for example, a Thai or Filipino community, most of whom do not speak Norwegian. And people often pass through the place quite quickly. They live in Longyearbyen for an average of four years, but about half of the population now only stays in the town for two years and then moves on.

And to make matters even worse for the small town, researchers from all over the world are flocking there. *“This has caused a massive demographic change. What used to be a predominantly small Norwegian town has suddenly become a cosmopolitan village. It's a seemingly geographically remote location, but many things are going on at the same time and at a very fast pace.”*

As an ethnographer, Zdenka was attracted to the local community because it is relatively straightforward – you can easily find out which population groups you are dealing with and so you can fully devote yourself to research. To do this, the anthropologist only needs a few tools: a dictaphone, and pen and paper. Naturally, listening skills, an open mind and a clear head are vital. Regular reading of local newspapers and social networks has also helped Zdenka Sokolíčková to stay in the loop and get a better understanding of the field.

To blend in means to learn Norwegian

Soon after arriving, she realised that if she wanted to learn as much as possible, she had to blend in and work on her Norwegian. *“I have an intense memory of my first conversation. She was Norwegian, we spoke English and I shivered as I listened to her recall the avalanche that hit the town in 2015, knocking down houses and killing two people. The world literally came tumbling down on the locals: they suddenly realised that they were not safe; not even at home,”* the researcher says, admitting that it cannot be said for certain that the avalanche was caused by the climate crisis. But locals see the changes and attribute them to it.

“I saw tears well up in the woman's eyes as she recalled what had happened. But it was difficult for her to find the right words in English. I saw a story unravel behind her tears that I couldn't capture because I didn't know the language, and it was my fault,” the anthropologist says. She worked hard to learn the language and after about a year was able to conduct research interviews fluently in Norwegian.

“Over time, it became clear that rather than do a large number of interviews, it was better to establish a deeper relationship with key respondents and meet with them repeatedly or informally. We became friends and spent time together. That too is how you generate data. This way is perhaps much more comprehensive and extensive compared to sitting in a coffee shop with a dictaphone.”

Because the Arctic is warming up faster than the rest of the planet, the melting permafrost has the population struggling to keep their houses together so they don't crack, move or fall down.

“Norwegians, who live in an environment where you are exposed to the elements, also have a very strong relationship with nature. Cold and dry winters are important to them, they like to have the stars and the Northern Lights above them 24/7. And suddenly, when a downpour comes during a polar night, it's mentally very hard for them to cope with it,” the anthropologist says.

A new fear: of beloved nature

She has observed a condition known as environmental grief in some locals.

„They feel sad because the things that they love most are disappearing before their very eyes and they cannot control it. They don't know if they can continue to live in Svalbard. They are following a process that is 'out there' but is manifesting itself here and now: they can no longer get to their cottage on their snowmobile because the fjord they refer to as icy will not freeze. Nobody has seen ice there for about ten years.”

She considers one of the most dramatic impacts of climate change on life in Svalbard to be the uncertainty, even a sense of dread, of fear of nature. Yet not so long ago, locals used to see nature as a powerful ally. *“Suddenly it's an unpredictable entity that can trigger a downpour in*

January, causing the tundra to freeze and reindeer to die because they cannot graze. It was 22 degrees Celsius again in July in 2020. Then people tell you it was great to go for a walk in a dress, but you feel out of place – should I be happy that it's a beautiful sunshiny day, or has the planet really gone mad now that it's 22 degrees even in Svalbard?”

But as is often the case in society, the situation is much more complex – there are climate change deniers even in places that have been changing dramatically over a longer period of time. The key to understanding lies in the past: *“The town's identity and collective memory is closely linked to mining – that's why the town was founded, that's why it is maintained,”* the anthropologist points out. But this too is changing, as it was recently decided that the mine would be shut down for good in two or three years. Norway says that its future lies in tourism and in developing green technologies and selling them elsewhere.

Solidarity as a survival tool

Zdenka Sokolíčková notes that to the villagers, these changes are a bad omen. *“They live in an environment where just being a short distance from the town without weapon or good clothes puts your life in danger. In such a place, collective solidarity is a very important principle. Many villagers have told me that the social climate in the town has changed in the most adverse way.”*

With more people due to tourism or science, the environment becomes anonymous and an absurd big-city feeling arises on the frosty periphery.

“What's more, mining work, which used to be valued partly because it helped to keep Norwegian sovereignty in place, has suddenly become something people should be ashamed of because it stands for climate change, the tragic consequences of which we are all witness to,” the anthropologist explains.

This sense of injustice was often reflected in the way the villagers viewed the effects of climate change. Some of them even vehemently denied

it. *"They are usually educated people. But they believe that nature goes through natural cycles and we are now in a warming phase, which they believe has nothing to do with human activity. I've met a surprising number of people who felt this way,"* the anthropologist notes, admitting that her initial idea of local awareness of climate change was probably a bit naive.

She also believes that the cause of the Svalbard climate crisis lies in Norway's handling of mining. *"People there don't agree that unlike mining, tourism is a greener activity and that is why they have been very protective of their mining activities since the 1990s,"* she says. Because tourism has led to an increase in the number of people flying to Svalbard for short periods of time and arriving at Norway's shores in huge boats. *"Thousands of tourists get off these boats, they take pictures of everything, trample the tundra, sail past a glacier and leave again. It's another chain of human influence on nature."*

Tourism as a problem was very much a topic in her conversations with locals, but then came the pandemic... And everything seemed to go out the window. *"Almost overnight, tourists were diverted to the mainland because there's a hospital on the island that only treats two patients at a time. So, if there had been a complicated epidemic situation, we wouldn't have stood a chance. People started to panic and suddenly nobody was allowed on the island. The industry hasn't recovered to this day and I'm sure that many companies won't survive. And Norway realised that opening the door like that to tourism, which is built on global labour mobility, was not going to lead to what they wanted. Because what the Norwegians actually want is their Norwegian town,"* explains Zdenka why Scandinavia has recently started to retreat and is slowly but surely closing its doors to tourism.

The fallacies of globalisation: children without a homeland

No matter how well an anthropologist prepares for a trip, they never know exactly what they will encounter on the spot – Zdenka Sokolíčková also went to Svalbard expecting

to find a living laboratory in which she could study how people's lives are changing due to climate change. But it turned out that the story of the town is far less straightforward than the media-pleasing narrative of a town plagued by the effects of global warming.

"During my research, I found that some villagers are literally allergic to the topic. There were times when right after shaking hands they would say: I hope you aren't going to ask me about climate change. That's when the anthropologist pipes up and says to himself: What's going on here? I once interviewed a journalist who said to me: Climate change is the only thing that this town has going for it. I had to disagree – when doing ethnographic research, you more often than not see that there are too many stories. It's just that no one wants to talk about them: the marginalisation of 'non-Norwegian' workers, the working conditions of guides..." she lists but a few.

In her first year she discovered a phenomenon that had never before been described and it pertains to the offspring of immigrants from Thailand and the Philippines: *"The children grow up there, they learn Norwegian, maybe even forget the language of their parents, and have minimal ties to their country of origin. They want to live in Norway, but they are nothing to Norway,"* the anthropologist gives an insight into a heart-rending issue.

The division of power in Svalbard is governed by an international treaty that grants Norway sovereignty over the territory, but specific legislation applies. It is seemingly easy to settle there, as there are no immigration laws like in Norway, but there are a number of disadvantages too, such as there being no social system in Svalbard. It's a place for healthy, productive people who can take care of themselves.

"By the time these immigrants' offspring reach adulthood, they have no health insurance, no social security coverage. They bear the same status as if they had just arrived from their parents' or grandparents' motherland. These children have hybrid identities – they themselves say that when they go to Thailand for the holidays they are not

Thai enough, in Norway they are never Norwegian enough,” Sokolíčková describes the unenviable status of these children.

There are about twenty of them in the village, which might seem like a small number, but not for anthropology. The topic can be illuminated simply because it exists. In addition, the village is home to about a hundred children of non-Norwegian parents. In the middle of the freezing tundra, it was the human-interest stories that attracted the researcher the most. Having said that, she was also interested in the animals that inhabit the Nordic regions, like birds, for example, which she enjoys watching as a member of the Czech Ornithological Society with her husband and sons, and then also whales and walruses, which her then five-year-old son went to see with his kindergarten.

And even polar bears. The researcher and her family weren't far from encountering one. People spotted a polar bear's tracks in the village during Christmas 2019. *“At the bus stop where my son, then a first-grader, was waiting for the school bus, a polar bear was said to have been walking at five in the morning. They then shot the poor thing,”* she says. A miniature figure of a polar bear gleams on her ring and bracelet. *“I got it from one of my veteran responders. She is a jewellery designer originally from Holland. She has lived in Svalbard for twenty-five years and makes two kinds of jewellery: with and without the polar bear. And she always says that the ones with the bear are marketable, the other ones are not,”* laughs the anthropologist.

She was inspired by the iconic animal – other than climate change – in her research: she named the immigrants' children *“teenagers without land”* in reference to the polar bear movie *Queen without land*. The film did well at festivals, putting across a chilling message – that of a climate crisis. It shows these majestic animals as their habitat disappears beneath their feet. *“A starving bear on an iceberg is a powerful motif; no eye will be left dry. But I thought: Does anyone wonder what conditions these children are living in? Like the polar bears, they have only limited ways how to*

actively influence their environment,” Zdenka Sokolíčková offers an analogy.

“Nobody cares about these people; they are a negative effect of globalisation. But I find their plight interesting and I would like to give their story space.” So, in addition to doing a lot of research on the changes in Svalbard, the researcher also got funding to explore the phenomenon further. She interviewed twenty-five male and female respondents, got the permission from the ethics committee to talk to people under the age of sixteen, and gathered insights from their parents or teachers. She captured fragile stories before they disappear. She would like to show them to the locals, which is why Zdenka and a fellow photographer from Poland are planning an exhibition of photographs of some of the interviewees. *“The exhibition will be in a closed coal-fired power plant: a power plant without coal, children without a homeland,”* Zdenka Sokolíčková reflects as she talks on the roof of a house near Prague Castle.

Zdenka Sokolíčková will make a book out of her research. It will be published by London-based Pluto Press

Last July, after two and a half years in Svalbard, Zdenka and her family went back home to the Czech Republic and she began writing a book about life under the Northern Lights. It will be published by Pluto Press, a London publishing house that also publishes books by the eminent anthropologist Thomas Hylland Eriksen.

The book will revolve around a central dilemma: We live in a world that is undergoing changes to which we have contributed, but at the same time we are not on the same page in how we carry the consequences. *“There are big differences in the effects of climate change. And in Longyearbyen, the big topics of today's world are projected as if in miniature: over-consumption, luxury, the comforts we have become accustomed to and demand, the capacity for solidarity, the desire to accommodate otherness... You can't close yourself off from the outside world, it will come to you. In Longyearbyen, this is especially true when it comes to tourism,”* explains Sokolíčková.

And even though she ended up interviewing fewer people than she had originally intended, she did more than she had planned. She noticed seemingly inconspicuous, previously undescribed social phenomena, such as the children of immigrants. She and her colleagues also wrote a paper on the impact of the pandemic on the community (incidentally, not a single person from the town was infected), and she and other researchers then collaborated for some time with an architectural studio. She helped find out how people felt about the town and how they perceived the changes it had undergone in terms of urban development. The expert team is soon to receive an award from the Applied Anthropology Network EASA (European Association for Social Anthropology) for all their hard work.

And this is not the end of the list of topics that have opened up for Zdenka Sokolíčková in Svalbard: they will keep her busy for several years to come.

When you have the support of a star in the industry

What brought Zdenka to the Arctic in the first place? A confluence of circumstances: the graduate cultural studies major suddenly felt like she was overstaying her welcome. She had been teaching introductory social anthropology courses to students studying Transcultural Communication at the University of Hradec Kralove for several years, she had two children, and she realised that if she were to keep teaching, she would have no room to develop. The field didn't exactly facilitate her beloved specialty, which is the relationship between humans and nature.

The topic fascinated her back in the days when she was taught by sociologist Jitka Ortová. *"She played a crucial role in my life. If she had taught something else, I might have been interested in something else. I think that people who came across to me as authentic and credible in what they do influenced me the most,"* she explains.

She and her husband agreed that it would be a good idea to go abroad for a while. At the same time, another important figure entered the social researcher's life: Norwegian social anthropologist Thomas Hylland Eriksen. He is considered a leader in the field, at least in Europe. *"Thanks to funds from Norway, I could spend two weeks with him and 'shadow' him. I came to see him at the Faculty in Oslo. He took me to a conference, we attended seminars... For a living anthropology legend, he is a perfectly normal person. And what really surprised me was that he actually listens to what you say to him. That's not at all commonplace for someone who has written hundreds of books, dozens or even hundreds of articles and conference papers, and led various professional organisations,"* she notes.

Then, thanks to a colleague, she received an invitation to a seminar for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship – this allows for a roughly two-year trip, which is exactly what she was looking for. It's important who the applicant identifies as the host institution and the mentor who will oversee the applicant's research, but Sokolíčková didn't have to think about this for long. She contacted Eriksen.

"It was in the winter of 2016, when he got pancreatic cancer, so it was a difficult time for him. But he is a strong man. He said that he would support me as much as he could, which encouraged me a lot," recalls Sokolíčková, who is very grateful to the anthropologist and often thinks of him when a stranger asks her for help, for example a student interested in Svalbard.

"It helped me tremendously that someone who already had a perfect career and who could easily ignore an e-mail from a completely unknown scholar from the Czech Republic accepted me and allowed me to follow him around at work for two weeks. I try to do the same," she says.

And what does Eriksen himself have to say? „Our cooperation goes back several years. She impressed me from the very start. She is obviously very

smart and she also has a passion for what she does, which shows. She believes that knowledge makes us wiser and better human beings, and she is not afraid to explore new areas of interest,” reads the introduction to an email from the social anthropologist, who responded with lightning speed to a journalist's request to say a few words about the Czech researcher.

“Her fieldwork in Longyearbyen is very impressive: she interacted with the local community in a way I have rarely seen in an anthropologist. Her long stay in one of the most inhospitable and remote places on the planet went far beyond ethnographic fieldwork. She organized cultural events, helped people in distress, and was a key person in the town by the time she left. I assume Zdenka will continue to go back to Svalbard for many years to come, she is deeply connected to the place,” says the scientist. *“And of course – her anthropological work is first class. It is already very promising and in the coming years Zdenka could become an important figure in European social science,”* Eriksen is convinced.

With her work in Svalbard, Sokolíčková builds on Eriksen's work. Thanks to the ERC Advanced Grant, which is awarded by the European Research Council to the most promising researchers, Eriksen has been working on how different global processes, such as climate change or globalisation, affect local communities. The project, called Overheating, ended in 2017 and was very well received by the professional community.

When the enthusiasm of her husband, who had already taken a liking to Svalbard as a biologist, was added to the mix, the destination of the family of five was decided and sealed.

Stories that stick

“Souls are tiny fragrant herbaria of smiles, glances, memories...” sings Karel Plíhal in one of his songs. If this is true, then Zdenka Sokolíčková's herbarium is pretty full. After

all, the two hundred and twenty people she interviewed in two years in Svalbard make up one tenth of the local population. *“I stopped at that number. I didn't want to be like a hamster on a wheel and do endless amounts of interviews. There would be no point as the motives would repeat themselves,”* she explains.

Some just sailed passed, but a few have burrowed deeper under her skin and have pride of place in her collection of memories.

Take Mark Sabbatini, an American journalist who came to the island in 2009 and founded the news server IcePeople.net for example. *“He reported on Svalbard in English for twelve years, for free, and with a passion. He played an indispensable role for the growing number of people who lived in the small town but did not speak Norwegian,”* Sokolíčková recalls the distinctive man she refers to as a loner. His story eventually evolved into a narrative about a victim of climate change – though it is again more complex. *“He bought a flat in a brick house. There aren't many like that there. But because of the ever-receding permafrost, its structure was compromised and cracks appeared in the walls of the house. The whole thing supposedly happened because someone turned off the freezer in the basement of the house that was supposed to freeze the permafrost,”* the anthropologist describes the surprising context.

As soon as the authorities learned of the cracks, they had Sabbatini evicted in two hours. *“A financially secure man suddenly became a man balancing on the verge of survival and homelessness,”* says the anthropologist. Although the house is still standing, the journalist cannot move back into his flat or receive compensation for it.

What's more, the new governor has decided to have him deported. Only people who can take care of themselves can live in Svalbard. *“So now Mark is sitting in Oslo waiting for the American embassy to lend him money for a plane ticket to Alaska, where he must return. There, he will start all over again, from the beginning,”* Sokolíčková describes the harsh fate of her friend, who occasionally proofread for her.

She also established a friendship with journalist and Norwegian writer Line Nagell Ylvisåker. A mother of two, she captured in her book *My World is Melting* (Verda mi smeltar, 2020) the personal feelings of a person who sees the place where she has decided to live with her family and even build a house (which is already quite exceptional in Svalbard) changing before her eyes.

"Then came the avalanche in 2015, the weird, illogical weather in 2016, and another avalanche a year later. That made her want to find out what climate change was all about. She did a series of interviews with both scientists and ordinary people, like an old trapper who had lived in a hunting lodge in Svalbard for forty years. She wrote a slim, impressive book that in my mind embodies one approach to coping with living in a place that is changing dramatically. And it's not hysteria, but the honest inner concern of someone who loves the world she inhabits and cares about people," Zdenka Sokolíčková says, giving us a glimpse of her friend's thoughts. She agrees with her in her belief that there is no barrier between the world of people and the natural world. *"We were interested in the same topics, but we processed them differently."*

At the mercy of ice and snow

Even a professional anthropologist sometimes gets too weighed down by the stories she soaks up like a sponge. *"Sometimes you feel that some sort of injustice is happening to a person, but you can't help because, in principle, you just can't. Or someone wants to talk to you, to share their problems with you, and they believe that your work can help their cause a little,"* Sokolíčková says of the ethically complicated situations she faces when in the field.

"I can't commit to helping, but at the same time it is the moral duty of a researcher not to be indifferent. My work should not end with me publishing a paper and scoring scientific points. I do this so that stories can be told and someone will listen," she explains.

"I went through two very hard phases. At the time, it helped me quite a bit that a film about our family was being made (it should be finished next year – ed.). When the filmmakers couldn't come because of the pandemic, film director Veronika Lišková asked me to send her my monologues, which will run in the background. I sent her a total of eighty-five recordings, which helped me talk myself out of my difficulties," says the researcher.

Her husband mirrors her thoughts. *"Working as an anthropologist in the field with your family is definitely something you bring home. You can't work from eight to five and then not think about things when you're at home,"* Zdenka Sokolíčková shrugs.

Uprooting her family and moving to the frosty town did, however, open doors for her in her research. *"I didn't go there from a hierarchical position of someone from the outside wanting to explore the place. That's a nonsensical notion. I was there with my whole family as someone who is at the mercy of the place and has to overcome a lot of obstacles, which people told me about afterwards. These include the language barrier, the cost of living, integrating our children into a new environment, climate, language, to name but a few. This was quite a complex task for our family to begin with, which added to the credibility of my interest in the place. People took me more seriously when they saw that I was struggling with the same things they were,"* explains the anthropologist.

Our children liked the place and did not want to go back to the Czech Republic. *"My eldest son, eight years old, was friends with a group of boys and he loved reading Norwegian comics. We were also very happy with the kindergarten. The children spent most of their time outside, playing with natural materials, in mud, ice, snow... even when it was minus 20 degrees Celsius. And when it was minus five degrees Celsius, they lunched outside. And they were never sick!"* says the anthropologist.

She already knows that she will be returning to Svalbard for work. Since May last year she has been employed as a postdoc at the Arctic Centre at the University of Groningen in the

Netherlands, where she studied several years ago. She is about to take part in a tracking project where she will work with colleagues to find out how to combine knowledge on the changing environment in Svalbard harvested from long-term scientific monitoring with what we know from other sources, including human-interest narratives, experiences, memories. Keyword: environmental memory. She is also looking forward to taking part in a scientific expedition to investigate how scientific knowledge is produced in the Arctic – to conduct what she calls “an ethnography of science.”

Although she has uncovered many topics relating to the locality that will keep her busy in the coming years, Zdenka herself already sees her future mainly in the Czech Republic. Also because of her family, with whom she will settle in Vysočina. She is no longer attracted to Prague; the life of Longyearbyen in its simplicity and short distances would be missed by her family in a big city.

„It shouldn't be that only work in a remote exotic destination is interesting,” she adds.

Then she gently sighs and whispers quietly that she has long been dreaming about Japan.

After all, she spent a semester studying there, as she did in the Netherlands. *“But going to Japan will probably remain a dream that will never come true. But never mind, even such dreams are good. Now I'll be happy if I can ride the wave I've jumped on thanks to this project. And let's see if postdoc spills over into further collaboration either with a Dutch university or with one of my teammates,”* concludes Zdenka Sokolíčková happily. ●

And what about her scientific dreams?

„It would be good if I could join the network of Czech anthropologists interested in environmental topics. The Czech Association for Social Anthropology does not yet have an environmental anthropology section, but I see potential there. And it would be easier from a family life perspective to be employed in a project involving fieldwork in the Czech Republic,” the scientist reflects, emphasizing that doing anthropology at home is not a bad thing, although one might think of an anthropologist as a traveller wading through the jungle looking for lost indigenous tribes.

Czech Science Foundation to support new projects of the Faculty of Science UHK

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK

The Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové has been awarded three new projects by the Czech Science Foundation. Researchers hail from the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Physics.

The Department of Chemistry won two projects. The first project is referred to as the Biodistribution and real-time monitoring of free or apoferritin-encapsulated cholinesterase quaternary reactivators. The lead researcher is prof. PharmDr. Kamil Musílek, Ph.D. The project aims to improve the effectiveness of therapeutic procedures in diseases of the nervous system, such as Alzheimer's disease. Professor Musílek's team at the Faculty of Science (UHK) has been specialising in this field for a long time. The second project awarded to the Department of Chemistry is the Development of methods for complex monitoring of metabolic changes in central nervous system disorders. The lead researcher is doc. Ing. Miroslav Lída, Ph.D.

The Department of Physics was awarded one project by the Czech Science Foundation. It is called Asymptotic and spectral analysis of operators in mathematical physics. The lead researcher is RNDr. Jiří Lipovský, Ph.D. This is his second project supported by the Czech Science Foundation. The first one he ran was a Junior Category project that focused on the spectral and resonance properties of quantum models. The new project will allow him to follow up on this work. Based on mathematical physics, it will deal with a total of 4 subtopics and will be researched by experts from the Faculty of Science (UHK).

„Mathematical physics is a field that rigorously explores physically motivated models. As it constitutes basic research, the practical application of the findings cannot be easily predicted; the results may be applicable decades from now in a now unknown field. However, it is already possible to measure the properties of quantum graphs using so-called microwave graphs and to model quantum chaos on them. In the future, they could be used, for example, in the description of carbon nanofiber structures or in the development of quantum computers,” says Dr Lipovský.

Since its establishment in 2010, the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové has participated, or is currently participating, in 18 projects supported by the Czech Science Foundation. It has also won several projects supported by other agencies, like the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, for example. •

The UHK ranks among the top 1,000 universities in the world. Scientific performance and growing internationalisation lead to a premiere ranking in the QS World University Rankings

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

In 2020, UHK made it through to the sub-rankings of the QS World Ranking Emerging Europe & Central Asia. But just one year later, QS World University Rankings placed it amongst the top 1,000 universities in the world. In the Czech Republic, UHK is in the top ten.

„It is really hard to qualify for the QS World University Rankings and it is certainly no matter of fact. Many factors and evaluation criteria are considered. The fact that we have taken a shared 801st–1000th position is a huge success and is excellent recognition of our scientists' joint work,” says Rector Kamil Kuča. He adds that the evaluation of individual universities and their comparison takes into account not only the internationalisation of each individual institution, but also academic reputation and research intensity.

“We got a lot of points for academic reputation and research intensity because more and more of our superb publications and citations find their way into prestigious journals, and that is why we have ‘grown’ so much,” adds Kuča, who as a toxicologist himself regularly contributes to the growing reputation of the UHK through his publications. Most recently, he and an international team of co-authors from the Faculty of Science published an article in one of the world’s most prestigious peer-reviewed

journals, Alzheimer’s & Dementia, with an IF rating of 17.127.

Alongside the Shanghai Rankings and the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings, the QS World University Rankings completes the trio of the most prestigious and trusted international comparisons that measure the quality of universities.

“Fifteen universities from the Czech Republic were included in this comparison, and we share our position with the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Mendel University in Brno and the Technical University of Liberec,” says Ondřej Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities (UHK).

According to Krejcar, the University of Hradec Králové is constantly improving its scientific research thanks to the undivided leadership of Rector Kamil Kuča. This is evident, for example, when you compare the UHK of today and that of 2016, when he became the University rector. *“Since 2016, there has been a marked growth in the number and the improved quality of published articles indexed in the JCR, the prestigious index of the Web of Science database. This has resulted in the Rectorate and the faculties*

realigning their goals and focusing more on going in the right direction and supporting the production of high standard publications and international collaboration on their production. All of this has led to the number of excellent articles doubling from 150 to 300. According to the IF JCR, the articles are better and better,” explains Vice-Rector Krejcar.

In addition to science and research, the degree of internationalisation is also an essential indicator of the evaluation process. And this is also an area in which the University of Hradec Králové, albeit a regional university, scores high and it can shamelessly compete with any of the Czech traditional universities.

“The number of international students and employees at the UHK is steadily increasing, as are the numbers of incoming and outgoing students. The absolute mobility numbers at the UHK are in the range otherwise reported by universities with significantly higher numbers of students. UHK even draws 10% of the budget for international credit mobility under the Erasmus+ project in the Czech Republic and is one of the three most successful Czech universities,” continues Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector of UHK responsible for international cooperation.

In addition to its prestigious place among the 62% top world universities in the QS World rankings, UHK has also earned its place in the diverse Times Higher Education rankings and the UI Green Metric sustainability rankings.

“I know that my colleagues’ opinions on rankings and international comparisons differ, and that not everyone shares UHK’s desire to score in these rankings. However, it is vital we keep in mind that international scholars and international students



very often evaluate the quality of potential partner institutions on the basis of these comparisons. Not to be in these rankings means not to be on the map of world universities, which is a path that I will definitely not lead the University of Hradec Králové down as rector. Independent comparisons of this type are also linked to the willingness of partners to participate in joint research, publications and cooperation within a European university alliance. It is, in short, a trend that we may not let slip away. On the contrary, we have the power to set the direction and be among the best in the international community,” concludes Kamil Kuča. •

Four-day international conference: *Why and How We Give and Ask For Reasons: Philosophical and Scientific Perspective*

PETR MATĚJČEK DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES (FF UHK)

A four-day international conference entitled *Why and How We Give and Ask For Reasons: Philosophical and Scientific Perspective* took place in the main building of the Museum of East Bohemia from 19 to 22 October 2021.

The conference was held as part of the EXPRO grant project Naturalized Inferentialism: Norms, Meanings and Reasons, which was awarded to an international team of researchers led by Professor Peregrin in 2019. Thematically, the conference focused on one of the pivotal questions of the project, i.e. how and why we justify our actions based on various philosophical perspectives (especially inferentialism). It also delved into the results of other relevant sciences such as logic, cognitive psychology and evolutionary theory.

Given the pandemic situation, the conference took on a hybrid form and participants, especially speakers and the audience, could join the conference either in person, or online. A total of 22 lectures were included in the programme. Robert Brandom (University of Pittsburgh) gave a talk on Reasoning, Reason Relations, and Semantic Content, Bahar Köymen (University of Manchester) gave a talk on Ontogeny of Human Reasoning, Josef Perner (University of Salzburg) spoke about The Seven Heavenly Virtues of Teleology and Hilary Kornblith (University of Massachusetts



Amherst) joined the conference in person and gave a talk on The Social Practice of Giving and Asking for Reasons. Speakers from universities in Canada, the USA, the UK, Ireland, Germany, Italy and Qatar also gave talks on selected topics. ●



One step closer to international scientific cooperation! The University of Hradec Králové, the University of Granada and the Technical University of Košice sign a Partnership Agreement in support of the Technology Transfer Together project

MATYÁŠ STRNAD PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (UHK)

The University of Hradec Králové builds on its long-standing good relations with international universities in Spain and Slovakia. Together they would like to further the transfer of knowledge and technology. The institutions will work together on transferring technological and industrial innovations to the business environment, especially with regard to the patent and copyright protection of scientific research. The UHK will be able to learn from partners who have been developing technology transfer over an extended period of time. The grant is worth EUR 169,000.

Strategic partnerships in higher education are based on projects that aim to generate innovative educational outputs, practices and ideas and where the focus is on the promotion and dissemination of results. Such partnerships must involve at least 3 organisations from 3 programme countries and the project

must span over a time period of 2 to 3 years. “Higher education institutions which hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) may apply for the projects. Businesses, research institutes, libraries, hospitals and other educational institutions may also apply,” says Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector for International Affairs.

„The ground-breaking project focuses on the development of the entire spectrum of academia at the UHK, the University of Granada and the Technical University of Košice. It will contribute to the dissemination of the knowledge and skills necessary for the successful transfer of technological progress to the market through spin-off companies of teachers who pass the acquired knowledge to students, as well as among students themselves and university staff who administer activities related to this activity,” Ondřej Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities, describes the project.

“Naturally, emphasis is placed on the regional specifics of the institutions involved and the effective practices being shared. The course, as one of the outputs of the project, is scheduled to be introduced into the curricula during 2021 and 2022,” adds Petra Marešová, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Cooperation with Practice.

To this end, the institutions decided to establish a unique summer school that will focus on technology transfer and intellectual property. The summer school curriculum has been designed to cater for the target group made up of the three participating universities and will be run in cooperation with domestic and foreign experts. Methodologically speaking, the summer school should facilitate an improvement of institutional conditions for the further

education of students and scholars in the field of knowledge and technology transfer. Plus it is expected to provide them with experience from international and multicultural environments.

“The long-term impact of this new cooperation will touch on more than just the development of the skills of the academic staff involved. A more effective transfer of the technological progress generated at universities to the commercial sphere will also lead to the development of the market as such,” adds Kamil Kuča, Rector of the University of Hradec Králové. At this point, scientific and technical-operational staff need to be equipped with the necessary know-how. The first phase of the project includes a preparatory workshop at the UHK that will develop key points in the process of technology transfer, intellectual property and the legal aspects of the whole issue in individual countries.

Approximately 80,000 people study or work at the University of Granada. With its 82 spin-off companies, it is a very important research institution in Spain and in the field of applied science in general. Yet its structure is similar to that of the UHK in terms of the faculty of humanities, faculty of social sciences, and technical and natural science faculties. Thanks to its long-standing tradition in the region, the Technical University of Košice can also share the good practice of its functional and efficient Innovation and Technology Transfer Department and one of the strongest spin-off companies among Slovak universities. •

RUR – 100

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

It is an interesting tidbit of literary history that the world premiere of Karel Čapek's play *RUR – Rossum's Universal Robots* (January 2, 1921), took place in Hradec Králové, the city of the author's first years of grammar school, by lucky coincidence. The conditions at the National Theatre in Prague at the end of 1920 being what they were, the proud and headstrong amateur actors from the Klicpera troupe in Hradec Králové wanted to outmatch the larger and more famous Prague theatre, and they were excellently suited to the task.

"It was this play that made author Karel Čapek internationally famous. It was a phenomenal success. It presented a topical, appealing theme in an interesting way. The play and the young playwright perfectly represented the recently formed Czechoslovak Republic. The performance of Karel Čapek's play in 1921 was one of the greatest events in the literary and cultural history of Hradec Králové," explains Jan Bílek from the Department of Czech Language and Literature (Faculty of Education, UHK).

To commemorate this unique event, the Drak Theatre, the Faculty of Education (UHK), the Klicpera Theatre and Komité Čapek Hronov banded together and prepared an event entitled *RUR – 100* years after the world premiere.

In January 2021, Jan Bílek (Faculty of Education, UHK) and Martin Sedláček (Klicpera Theatre) launched a virtual exhibition on the theatre's website, which is still on-going, called *The First*, though coincidentally.

Part of the exhibition is an accompanying interview with Jan Bílek.

Due to COVID restrictions, the day-long programme could not take place until 6 October 2021. First on the programme was the second annual Hradec Králové Literary and Historical Conference, which is dedicated to the Čapek family. It was held with the support of the Hradec Králové Region at its headquarters. Mgr. Aleš Fetterers talked about Helena Čapková, Dr Michal Pehr focused on Helena Koželuhová, Dr Jan Květina (Philosophical Faculty, UHK) gave a lecture on Karel Čapek, Dr Jan Bílek (Faculty of Education, UHK) spoke about the world premiere of *RUR* in Hradec Králové, Josef Vašát discussed the word robot and Mgr. Lenka Lázněvská contemplated the contemporary staging of plays by the Čapek brothers.

The two afternoon programmes featured a staged reading by the Klicpera Theatre called *Between Science and Mysticism – deux in machina*. Written by playwright Martin Satoranský and staged by actors Anna Kratochvílová, Jan Bílek and Vojtěch Říha with



The event came to a close in the evening at the Drak Theatre, which presented its own production R.U.R. 2.0, which develops the motif of Čapek's play that emphasizes emotion as a manifestation of the humanising factor. Tomáš Jarkovský gave a guided tour of the installation Utopia Factory in the theatre exhibition hall. The shows remain in the theatre's repertoire and we recommend you see both of them.

the support of Artistic Director Pavel Khek, it focused on the central RUR theme. Karel Čapek's own texts were read by actors František Staněk and Martina Nováková. The reading was followed by the interdisciplinary panel discussion Man – Robot featuring Professor Pavel Janoušek (Institute for Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences), Dr Jana Kostincová (Faculty of Education, UHK), Professor Jan Libiger (University Hospital Hradec Králové) and Bc. Tomáš Kracík (Faculty of Informatics and Management, UHK). The discussion was moderated and concluded by Dr Nella Mlsová from the Faculty of Education, UHK).

Initiated by the Department of Czech Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education (UHK), Hradec Králové thus commemorated the centenary of Karel Čapek's phenomenal play, first performed on its premises. •



With all the Senses, September 30th

Researches' Night is a traditional event in which the University of Hradec Králové brings science to the general public and presents the research achievements of scientists in an entertaining way. <https://www.nocvedcu.cz/en/city/hradec-kralove>

The nineteenth annual Hradec Economic Days (HED) 2021 scientific conference was held online. Attendance equalled that of previous years

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

The Hradec Economic Days (HED) conference has been co-organised by the Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK), the University of Economics in Wrocław and the University of Economics in Kraków since 2003. In 2021, another co-organiser joined the two-day event, namely the South Bohemia University and Academic Centre for Technology Transfer, which joined the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education.

Unfortunately, like most events in 2020 and 2021, the conference was also affected by the pandemic, which meant that the event had to be moved to MS Teams. The event was moderated by Dr Ivan Soukal, one of the main organisers of the conference, who handed the floor to the Rector, Kamil Kuča, and the Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK), Josef Hynek, after initial introductions. Petra Marešová, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Cooperation with Practice and also the chair of the conference, then officially opened the conference.

This was followed by presentations by three established experts in their field. The first

speaker was Zdeněk Tůma, former Governor of the Czech National Bank and current Chairman of the Supervisory Board of ČSOB. He spoke about two recent major crises and what we may expect in the future. Dr Pavel Čejka, a FIM UHK graduate from Tableau Software (London), also contributed to the topic. In his presentation he pointed out several projects focused on possible solutions to decision-making in crises. He mainly emphasised the importance of speed and accuracy of solutions, which can be achieved by better data analysis and visualisation. The third speaker was Dr Tiam-Lin Sze from IPI Singapore, Singapore's technology transfer institution, who introduced technology commercialisation and open innovation



SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

and made recommendations on how to best connect academics with practice. Dr Sze also works with the Technology Transfer Office of the University of South Bohemia and his years of experience gave a nice touch to the plenary session, which was watched by an average of over 170 people.

The second part of the conference was devoted to papers by authors from nearly 13 countries. „In 2021, 95 peer-reviewed papers were accepted and included in the HED 2021 journal, and we strongly believe that the journal will appear in the Web of Science database again this year. We have celebrated success more than ten times in the past. Moreover, the Hradec Economic Days conference is in the final stage of evaluation for indexing in another prestigious scientific database, namely Scopus. So let's wish ourselves luck,” says Ivan Soukal from the Department of Economics (FIM) with a smile.

The conference also included peer-learning sessions on technology transfer led by Professor Ondřej Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities (UHK), and international guests from Oslo Metropolitan University and the University of Granada. Drs Čižmár and Michalek, speakers from Košice Technical University, were very well received. Dr Čižmár

presented the ecosystem and processes of the University Science Park Technicom and Dr Michalek spoke about best practice at Ceelabs. He described the seven-year journey to success and presented a product that has been successfully commercialised for domestic and international customers.

Another guest at HED 2021 was Professor Oldřich Rejnuš. In his presentation, he very much warned against the hazards of future economic development, reckless expansion of the money supply and debt. Many students attended the lecture, probably because they did not expect such a negative forecast. *“Even though the Department of Economics differed on some points presented in the lecture, we were happy to see that students will take the issues concerning debt in the public finance system and the monetary policy much more seriously after this lecture,”* Dr Soukal clarifies.

“Even though the 19th conference was a success, the entire organising team hopes that this was the last time the conference had to be held online and that the 20th conference will be held in attendance. After all, nothing can replace the true atmosphere of the conference and people meeting in person,” Ivan Soukal summarises HED 2021. ●



September 21st
the grand opening of FF UHK

Professorship procedures for ICT in Education will be newly held at the Faculty of Science UHK; habilitation procedures in Didactics of Physics will continue

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK

The Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Kralove has been newly accredited to hold professorship and habilitation procedures in the field of Information and Communication Technologies in Education. These are the first professorship appointment rights accredited by the faculty acquired only after 10 years of its existence. At the same time habilitation procedures in Didactics of Physics will continue.

Information and Communication Technologies in Education study program is guaranteed by the Department of Applied Cybernetics at the Faculty of Science UHK. "This program has been taught and paid attention to since 2007 within the framework of the doctoral study program of the same name," says Štěpán Hubálovský, the head of this Department and vice-dean for Strategy, Development and Legislation of the Faculty of Science.

"Strong need for experts in this field has also been shown in current situation of almost a year-long

pandemic and online teaching. The integration of information and communication technologies including mobile technologies and social media in education is currently an indisputable process. There is a growing need for a change in the ways ICT is used, from the mere distribution of educational content to the development of students' key competencies and to increasing responsibility for their own education," Hubálovský further says.

Education in the field of Informatics at the Department of Applied Cybernetics at the Faculty of Science UHK is guaranteed at all levels of studies. It offers a bachelor's degree study

program in Informatics focused on education, a follow-up master's degree study program in Teaching computer science at secondary schools and a doctoral study program in ICT in Education. Štěpán Hubálovský adds that the development of this field in the Czech Republic is essential for maintaining a high-quality level comparable to international standards: *"It is our new accreditation that will significantly support the professional growth of new experts throughout our country who can subsequently further develop and modernize this area."*

"I consider the acquisition of the rights to professor appointment procedures and rights to two

habilitation procedures to be a huge success of the faculty. I perceive this as an appreciation of the significant publishing and other creative activities of our employees. In addition, we are pioneers in ICT in education in the Czech Republic," says Jan Kříž, Dean of the Faculty of Science at UHK.

The rights to hold habilitation procedures in the field of Didactics of Physics at the Faculty of Science UHK have been in progress since 2012. *"We can therefore continue to habilitate important experts in physics didactics not only from the Czech Republic but also from Slovakia and Poland, as the recent past has shown,"* concludes Dean Jan Kříž. •

Nina Fárová has been awarded a Fulbright-Masaryk Scholarship

TOMÁŠ VODÍČKA DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK **PHOTO** OPEN SCIENCE, CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Mgr. Nina Fárová, Ph.D., (Department of Sociology, Philosophical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové), has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Masaryk Scholarship. She is currently spending a year at San Francisco State University working at the Science, Technology and Society Hub. Her research deals with the impact of contemporary technology on the gender division of household labour.



Obviously, getting the prestigious scholarship was very difficult. *"First of all, I had to find a university in the USA that would cater for my planned research, as well as a contact person who would provide professional support for my research stay and become my mentor. Next, I had to compile a research project not only about what I specifically plan to research in the USA, but also how my activities here in the Czech Republic would contribute to enhancing Czech-American research cooperation in the future. Last but not least, since I applied directly for the Fulbright-Masaryk scholarship, I also had to demonstrate that I had already engaged in some civic activities aimed at cultivating public space, which is one of the conditions of this scholarship,"* said Dr Nina Fárová, Department of Sociology.

"During my fellowship at San Francisco State University, I will be examining how modern

‘smart’ technologies affect the arrangement of the gender division of labour in the household. That is, whether and how these technologies contribute to changes in household work, childcare or partner relationships. In the US, I will conduct research interviews with people who live in these smart households, and with the developers of such technologies in Silicon Valley. I will also learn how to research topics related to the intersection of gender and technology, because this is an area that has not received much attention in the Czech academic environment so far,” adds Dr Fárová.

In her research practice, Nina Fárová studies gender issues mainly from the sociology

and anthropology perspectives. She has been researching men and masculinity in education for a long time, and she also focuses on the relationship between gender, science and technology. She is dedicated to qualitative research. She works as a researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in the National Contact Centre – Gender and Science Unit, where she partakes in several research projects that focus on the Czech scientific community. She is a member of the Gender Expert Chamber of the Czech Republic and a member of the Working Group on Men and Gender Equality (Government of the Czech Republic). •

An American with Czech roots returned to her native country thanks to a Fulbright scholarship

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

Professor Dina Frutos-Bencze taught at the FIM UHK and pursued research work at the Department of Management. Her dream was to live and work in the country of her ancestors and it came true thanks to a prestigious Fulbright scholarship. She enjoyed staying in the Czech Republic for 4 months.

Dina was born in Prague to a Czech and a Costa Rican family who were living in Mšeno near Mělník at the time, so she is not a complete stranger to Czech and understands the language quite well. Yet she prefers English, which is her language of choice and in which she also teaches at the Faculty. When she was about three years old, her family moved to Costa Rica, where Dina attended primary and secondary school. There, she took a liking to Spanish thanks to her father, who spoke to her in Spanish, and she went on to use the language extensively throughout her professional career. But neither the country nor the language appealed to her enough to make her want to stay. At the age of 18, she set off on her own to study in the United States, leaving Latin America for good and separating herself from her parents and her two younger siblings,

a brother and a sister. *“Costa Rica is a beautiful country and I can always go back to see my parents and my sister, but I never did fit in and so I don’t want to stay there,”* Dina explains her leaving the country and she adds: *“I managed to get a scholarship to Louisiana State University in the United States and I definitely don’t regret taking advantage of the opportunity.”*

Having started the next chapter of her life in Louisiana, she moved to New Mexico to study at the University of New Mexico. There she met her soul mate, with whom she now has three children. In addition to living in the Czech Republic and in Costa Rica, Dina also lived in Hungary with her husband for 4 years (he comes from Hungary.). *“It was a challenge for me. I thought that if I knew a little Czech it would be easy, but it wasn’t. The beginning was*

very difficult. But then I started working for an American company at an HR Department, where I also helped put up the Prague office, among other things. Later, however, I started to focus more on the US and I was offered a position in Florida and then in other states in the US, so we eventually came back,” recalls Dina, who also lived briefly in Toronto, Canada. Although she holds both a Czech and an American passport, she clearly considers herself a citizen of the United States. Still, the idea of one day returning to the country where she was born for an extended period of time never ceased to entice her.

Dina originally studied chemistry, which she dropped, when she switched to business. Subsequently, she worked quite extensively in Human Resource Management in corporate companies. After the birth of her first son, she found it necessary to change her profession and she again took up her studies with a view

of becoming a professor. She has now been teaching for 8 years at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, where she has also settled with her family. *“I think I’ll live here to my dying day. I think I feel at home here. But you never know where the wind is going to take you. I like to call myself a Global Citizen,”* she adds with a mischievous smile.

Because of her love for travelling, she thought she would take advantage of her Fulbright scholarship and go back to the country of her ancestors for a while.

“I always had this idea in my head, this dream of what it would be like to try living, working and basically ‘functioning’ in the Czech Republic for a while as an adult. Not just to visit relatives, as it has been so far. So as soon as I found out about the Fulbright scholarship, I immediately headed to the Czech Fulbright office in the US and tried to find out more. I attended information sessions and seminars to see if I could even qualify as a good candidate, because I knew that competition was tight,” says Dina, describing how the idea to apply for the scholarship was born.

“It’s quite a long process that takes about 6 to 8 months. I started working on my application sometime in 2019, but then Covid-19 struck, so it took me almost two years to finally find myself here at FIM,” she explains.

Dina made it clear right from the start that she did not want to go to a university in Prague. One of the reasons for this was the belief that she would be more successful in winning the scholarship if she applied to go to another town, because, according to her, all Americans want to go to Prague. And the second reason was the opinion that everything has been heavily concentrated in big cities for the last two decades, so she wanted to pass on her experience and knowledge within a smaller university.



Dina succeeded with her application at the Faculty of Informatics and Management at the University of Hradec Králové, where she taught two courses and also pursued research activities, which she says is also very fulfilling. She based her course Introduction to Social Innovation mainly on the Design Thinking approach, which is relatively new. *“Naturally, innovation is mostly about products and other things that need some improvement, but social innovation has only been gaining momentum in the last 10 years or so. It’s really about the contemporary view of things, in terms of how a given thing can be improved by modifying or reorganizing part or parts of what we already have in place in order to solve a specific problem or issue. It is, in a way, about finding and using the resources that are currently available. It pertains to both a small scale and a fairly broad scale,”* the Professor explains.

“Let me give you an example of how Design Thinking is used in practice. Take Africa and the high number of HIV positive pregnant women. The main goal is for the mother to behave in such a way that the virus is not transmitted to the baby, not only during the pregnancy but also through subsequent breastfeeding. Many African mothers are not educated and have no or very little access to any knowledge. The traditional solution to this problem, then, is to find more money, more doctors and the necessary resources to prevent the spread of the virus from mother to offspring. But instead, you start by working with what is immediately available – with mothers who have experienced the situation first-hand. In this case, the ‘chosen ones’ need to be consistently addressed. Emphasis is placed on the correct use of medication and the right course of action. A personal approach is particularly important. And you do all this so that local mothers who have successfully protected their child from the virus can become mentors,” Dina explains the main idea behind Design Thinking, and she concludes, *“True, this new approach has not helped to solve the problem, but it has helped to take the solution one step further.”*

Another course that Dina taught at the Faculty was Managerial Methods. She based the course on the X-Culture platform, which is partly

related to the International Management and Human Resource Management courses she teaches in the US. *“We place students in global virtual teams of about 4 to 5 members. These teams then interact virtually with real companies across the world and try to find ways to expand to other countries. The students must therefore work on analyses, design a marketing plan and find ways to make a name for themselves in a highly competitive market,”* Dina explains.



Dina has already returned home to her family and her regular job. She wants to support her children in their studies. But she is still toying with the idea of going on another adventure sometime in the future. *“Saint Anselm College has an exchange program in Orvieto, Italy, so I thought maybe I could try it out. I just love these semester exchanges!”* adds Dina with a smile. A brilliant woman who spent her long autumn evenings in the Czech Republic not only improving her Czech, but also making bobbin lace. ●



Professor Bohuslav Mánek wins a major award from the International Federation of Teachers of Foreign Languages

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

The 2021 Annual Prize was awarded to Professor Bohuslav Mánek for his outstanding achievements in teaching English literature and language and for his contribution to the advancement of good Czech-English relations.

Professor Bohuslav Mánek is an expert on the translation of poetry. He has devoted his life to the theory and history of translation, especially to the Romantic period, specifically Lord Byron, and to the translation of modernist and modern poetry (including the first translations of William Shakespeare into Czech). Currently, he focuses mainly on the reception of English literature in the Czech lands. His Renaissance-like background is also evident in the wide range of courses that he teaches. As an active translator, he has been involved in the translation of poetry, audio-visual translations

for film and television and in the translations of specialist texts. His translations of poetry (about 300 poems) have appeared in magazines and anthologies since 1967. He also frequently consults on and assesses academic papers and theses, both in the field of literature and translation and in the field of didactics. His popularization and organizational activities are also remarkable. He is a respected personality in all these areas.

The award was presented by Professor Jana Králová, the chair of the Circle of Modern

Philologists, a scientific society associated in the Council of Scientific Societies of the Czech Academy of Sciences, which nominated Professor Mánek for the award on behalf

of the Czech Republic. A lecture by the great Professor Mánek himself on the Beginnings of Czech English and American Studies preceded the award ceremony.

Prof. PhDr. Bohuslav Mánek, CSc.,

studied English and Czech at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. From 1970 onwards he worked as an assistant professor at the Department of Foreign Languages at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Králové, where he taught English. He received his PhD degree in 1971 and his CSc degree in 1984. He habilitated at his Prague alma mater in 1992 and became an associate professor of English literature. In the same year he transferred to the Department of English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové, where he has

been working ever since. He was appointed Professor of History of English and American Literature at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University. He teaches, among others, English and American literature and the history of translation into Czech. He is a renowned expert. He has lectured and still lectures at several faculties and universities. He is a member of the scientific boards of several universities and a member of the editorial boards of professional journals (e.g. Foreign languages, Lingua viva). He has also served on the accreditation committee at the Ministry of Education. ●

The 20th eLearning Competition and the 21st eLearning 2021 Conference took place in Prague

BLANKA KLÍMOVÁ DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS (FIM UHK)

Originally, the eLearning Conference and the eLearning Competition were scheduled for 2020, but owing to the Covid-19 pandemic they had to be rescheduled and finally saw the light of day on 2 and 3 September 2021. This time, both events, organised by the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Kralove (FIM UHK), the Czech Technical University in Prague (ČVUT) and the interest association EUNIS-CZ in conjunction with the 30th Annual Conference of the European Association for Education in Electrical and Information Engineering (EAEIE), took place in the futuristic premises of the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics in Prague. The Czech Association of Distance Teaching Universities also co-organised the conference and the competition. The event was supported by the Czech Convention Bureau of the CzechTourism Agency.

The opening plenary lecture was delivered by Professor Josef Hynek (Dean of FIM). It covered a very current and relevant topic, namely Strategic Management in University Internationalization from the perspective of

a regional university such as the University of Hradec Králové, which is doing very well internationally despite having to face a number of problems.



After the plenary lecture, the President of the eLearning Conference and the main organiser of the eLearning Competition, Associate Professor Petra Poullová, kicked off the competition. A total of nine eLearning products from both Czech and Slovak schools enrolled. All of the products presented very interesting and innovative solutions and will undeniably contribute to improving the quality of not only Czech but also foreign educational systems, as many were multilingual.

„What really caught my attention were the online tools for practicing mathematics ([Math4U, http://math4u.vsb.cz](http://math4u.vsb.cz)) and the interactive online materials for teaching various subjects (<https://vovcr.cz/portal>). That is why I am already looking forward to what next year's conference and competition will bring,” says the author of this article, Associate Professor Blanka Klímová, Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics at FIM UHK. •



A podcast of the University of Hradec Králové.

www.uhk.cz/studiouhk

The Hradec Králové Days of Social Work were again held online

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

The 18th Hradec Králové Days of Social Work were once again held online in 2021 due to circumstances related to the Covid-19 outbreak. Topics covered included political, economic, social and technological challenges for social work.

Fortunately, the online format of the Hradec Králové Days of Social Work did not really impact the usual conference structure. We managed to present six blocks, one of which was, as usual, international. People attending the conference did not miss out on the accompanying programme either.

"The main morning programme and the afternoon sessions were held in a very pleasant and cooperative atmosphere, which at least partially compensated for the absence of direct social

contact. We were delighted by the surprisingly high turnout at our conference and by all the positive feedback that we got. It was clear from the participants' reactions that the conference facilitated a very welcome and important space for many academics, practitioners and students to share their knowledge and experience," summarised Lucie Smutková, Conference Manager. •



Mediálním partnerem
konference je časopis:



Hrabal and other Czechs in Bernhard Setzwein's texts

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK PHOTO MARIA VON STERN

Hrabal and the Man at the Window premiered in Brno in November 2021. Our colleagues Jindra Dubová and Helena Dědičová from the Department of German Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education (UHK) lent a hand in getting the play on stage.

The play was staged for the summer, but the premiere had to be postponed to 6 November 2021 due to the pandemic. The play was first performed in June 2015 in Reisgau, Germany. It is a black comedy about one of the most significant Czech writers of the 20th century and was brought to the stage of the Municipal Theatre Brno by director Stanislav Moša.

Hrabal and the Man at the Window is a play by German writer and playwright Bernhard Setzwein. It highlights the personality of Bohumil Hrabal in a non-violent but also unorthodox way.

The motif of the victim (Bohumil Hrabal) and his spy stands in the foreground of the play. The former informer, who spied on his victim for many years with malicious hatred, ironically goes on to become a guide in the newly opened Bohumil Hrabal Museum and in so doing he actually and practically pays tribute to the writer.

Jindra Dubová and Helena Dědičová (both from the Department of German Language and Literature from the Faculty of Education UHK) were invited by the Brno theatre to introduce Setzwein's work and to place it in a broader context. The result of their effort is a detailed analysis published in the programme for the play.

According to Dubová, the reason why contemporary Bavarian authors seek and find their

inspiration in Bohemia is the proximity of the Bavarian-Czech border and our common Czech-German history. *"Most of these authors are in some way intertwined with the border region. They were either born there, spent a long time of their lives there, or settled there. Interestingly enough, they usually have no family ties to the Czech Republic, such as among the Germans forcibly displaced after World War II. Their knowledge of the area is reflected in their works, like the historical novels of Manfred Böckl and Friedl Thorward."*



Bernhard Setzwein is a very prominent personality and he is currently one of the best-known Bavarian authors. He visited the University of Hradec Králové in 2018 and gave an author reading there. Czech aspects (themes, motifs) in contemporary Bavarian literature have not been given adequate attention by literary theorists, which is why Dubová focuses her scientific work on this topic.

"Bernhard Setzwein gives clues in his texts. Traces of what time takes away, what could fall into oblivion (...). But he also records the present. He tries to cross all kinds of borders, not only geographical ones, to show us the seemingly impossible. But in doing so, he opens and uncovers new questions. He gives us a fresh perspective on the subject. He helps both the viewer and the reader to become aware of new contexts while still preserving the capacity to remain very entertaining. He discovers the big world in little things, the essential in the seemingly inferior. (...) The essential comes to the surface through the mundane stories of everyday life. Isn't that what Bohumil Hrabal did?"

(excerpt from a booklet by Jindra Dubová and Helena Dědičová)

Setzwein lived up to the legacy of the most published and translated Czech writer in his play. In their analysis and context of Setzwein's work, Dubová and Dědičová offer the general public the results of their literary and scientific work in a popular-scientific manner. Their work flows with the same wonderful ease as does Setzwein's.

Bernhard Setzwein (*1960)

Bernhard Setzwein was born in Munich. He studied German and Ethnology in his home town. He now lives in Waldmünchen, Bavaria. He has been a freelance writer since 1985. He regularly gives talks on culture and literature on the Bavarian Radio. He started out as a lyricist, but now writes mainly prose and plays. For decades he has been focusing on the Bavarian-Czech region from a literary point of view, especially in his trilogy *Die grüne Jungfer* (2003, the Czech translation was published in 2007 under the title *Zelená panna*), *Ein seltsames Land* (2007), and *Der neue Ton* (2012). In his latest novel, *Der böhmische Samurai* (2017), which is set in the first half of the 20th century, he tells the fascinating

story of the Coudenhove-Kalergi family, who lived in Poběžovice in the foothills of the Bohemian Forest.

Mgr. Jindra Dubová, Ph.D.

Jindra Dubová specialises in literature. She works at the Department of German Language and Literature at the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové. She studied German and art education for secondary schools at the Faculty of Education of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. Her diploma thesis, *Deutsche und tschechische Melusine*, discusses popular prose romances. In 2014 she defended her dissertation *Bernhard Setzwein und der tschechische Aspekt in seinem Schaffen* at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University in Olomouc. Her research focuses on Czech aspects in Bavarian literature. She gives lectures on Czech-German topics at domestic and foreign universities (Bayreuth, Magdeburg, Giessen, Istanbul, Funchal). In her spare time, she loves spending time with family and friends and she enjoys going to cultural events, doing creative activities, travelling and nature.

PhDr. Helena Dědičová, Ph.D.

Helena Dědičová has been working at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové since 1992. She studied at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University in Olomouc, majoring in secondary school teacher training, specifically German language and Czech language and literature. In 2008, she defended her dissertation titled *A Comparative study of word order in German and Czech and a definition of canonical order of syntactic relations* at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Now, at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové, she concentrates on German syntax, textual linguistics and teaching about the Federal Republic of Germany. She teaches and lectures at domestic and foreign universities, e.g. Eichstätt, Graz, Sakarya. She enjoys travelling and spending time in nature. She also devotes her free time to culture, especially theatre and music. ●

Once again, the Broumov Monastery hosted the UHK Summer School of Philosophy

TOMÁŠ VODÍČKA DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

In September 2021, the Broumov Monastery opened its doors to the UHK Summer School of Philosophy for the fourth time. Morning and afternoon lecture blocks were held every day as part of the main programme.

Summer School kicked off with a panel discussion on Russia in Perspective. The main guests, journalist Libor Dvořák and publicist Alexey Kelin, took the floor. The discussion focused on the history and current dynamics of Czech-Russian relations.

"People attending the Summer School could also listen to any one of 13 lectures that covered current philosophical and social science topics and to talks on history, political science and religious studies," said Petr Matějčíček, an organiser of the Summer School of Philosophy. The lecturers were: Václav Bělohradský (Will Democracy Survive the Anthropocene?), Ivana Karásková (European-Chinese Relations in the Light

of Propaganda and Disinformation), Tomáš Nejeschleba (Tadeáš Hájek of Hájek (1525–1600), Polymath of the Late Renaissance), Zora Hesová (Islamic Thought Paradigms), and Tomáš Hejduk (Protesting, Reflecting and Creative Dissent).

"The Summer School ran alongside the Broumov Grammar School and together they dedicated one of the morning blocks to grammar school students in their final year. Ivo Pezlar and Jan Černý took the floor. They spoke about the philosophy of video games and the origins of philosophical inquiry," Petr Matějčíček concluded. ●





"It is important to connect seemingly incompatible and thus look for new ways of research," says Kamil Musílek involved in the elite international program

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK

Professor Kamil Musílek has been chosen as the only Czech to participate in the first year of the European Crucible international programme. This programme has been based on already existing successful British-Scottish Crucible programme with the aim to connect prominent scientific personalities from various research institutions in Europe and to help them establish new interdisciplinary collaborations.

"Being chosen to participate in the programme is a success for me and I consider the participation as an appreciation of my work so far," says Kamil Musílek at the beginning.

Participants are invited on the basis of their scientific results, innovative thinking and experience in leading research projects. There

is a respectable number of such projects in Kamil Musílek's career: he has become a solver or co-solver of more than 10 national and 4 international projects. He is also the first Czech to hold the Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia Award from the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry.

In the selection process of the programme a great emphasis is placed on individual researchers' diversity of their research focus. Therefore, the process is attended by doctors, economists, engineers, historians or archaeologists. *"The greatest benefit can be found in making contacts with other scientist; there is never enough of them in the scientific environment,"* explains Kamil Musílek.

Scientific directions of individual participants may seem to be incompatible, but the opposite is true: *"Interdisciplinarity is an important element of contemporary science and helps combine individual disciplines and develop them. Therefore, it is appropriate to connect seemingly incompatible and look for ways of connecting within both natural sciences and the humanities. So, for example, knowledge in laser physics can be applied to living tissues, or you can motivate*

socially excluded groups of people to design a space station."

During the programme the participants attended lectures on the topic of scientific leadership, together they also prepared draft projects and informed one another on the research they are currently working on. *"Thanks to this programme, we are preparing a new research project with several colleagues from various branches and countries. It will be focused on anti-tumor theranostics (i.e. therapy and diagnostics) and nanoparticles,"* describes Kamil Musílek practical benefits of the entire program.

The inception of the European Crucible programme is partially a response to Brexit and an effort to maintain and develop contacts among scientists after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU.

prof. PharmDr. Kamil Musílek, Ph.D.

Kamil Musílek graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Králové where he also completed his doctoral studies in the field of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (Ph.D. 2007, PharmDr. 2008) and then habilitated in 2012. He works at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Hradec Králové as its head. In addition, he works at Biomedical Research Centre at the University Hospital Hradec Králové. Since March 2019 he has also held the position of Vice-Dean for International Affairs for the Faculty of Science.

So far, he has published 14 chapters in a monograph, authored 5 patents and more than 190 original articles in the Web of Knowledge (H-index = 32). Among other things, in June 2019 he became the first Czech to receive the EFMC Prize for a Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia 2019 (2nd–3rd place).

In his free time Kamil Musílek enjoys travelling and recreational sports. ●

Having been attracted to science since her childhood, now Veronika Skoupilová is studying toxicology in the USA thanks to the Fulbright scholarship

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK

Veronika Skoupilová, a graduate of the Master's degree program in Bioorganic Chemistry, received the prestigious Fulbright scholarship. Thanks to the scholarship she will study at the American University of California, San Diego (UCSD). She will join a research group dealing with acetylcholinesterases in order to study new oxime reactivators and their characterization in vitro and in silico afterwards.

“As a child, I was attracted to natural sciences and in the backyard I kept carrying out various ‘experiments’,” says Veronika laughing at her childhood beginnings in chemistry. However, the turning point came in 2013 when she went to Egypt to work at a hotel resort in the summer.

“One of my friends working there was a Syrian. At that time there were attacks near Damascus from which my friend came. Those were probably attacks in which nerve gases were apparently used. All that affected me considerably so I started thinking what I could do for the people of Syria. I asked myself whether an individual has the power to contribute to solving such complex problems,” she describes.

Studying at university brought new horizons., Veronika began studying the Toxicology and Pollutant Analysis program at the Faculty of

Science of the University of Hradec Králové. Since local research teams deal with antibodies in nerve-paralytic poisoning, she could soon get involved in the research. *“I finished an English-written bachelor thesis dealing with new reactivators of acetylcholinesterases, ie substances potentially effective in the treatment of poisoning by nerve paralytic substances.”* Her thesis was awarded the Dean's Award of the Faculty of Science UHK.

Veronika also gains experience from internships: *“I wrote part of my bachelor thesis during an internship in Zagreb. I completed another internship at the Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. There I dealt with my diploma thesis on the topic of aging and testing of substances that could have a senolytic effect (senolytics are substances that suppress aging and diseases resulting from aging at the cellular level and thanks to their effect it*

is possible to increase the quality of life of aging patients – editor's note)."

In the future Veronika would also like to carry out a research: *"I am starting my doctoral studies in the Toxicology program. I enjoy science and I will be happy to pass on my experience to other students – academic ones as well as foreign students met during my trips abroad. I also intend to*

motivate and encourage students to travel abroad to expand their horizons."

The J. W. Fulbright Commission is a Czech-American organization founded on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement in 1991. It supports educational and cultural exchanges between the Czech Republic and the United States of America. ●

Czechia – Uruguay symposium contemplates the centennial of mutual relations

SOŇA JANČUROVÁ PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (UHK)

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Czech-Uruguayan diplomatic relations, the University of Hradec Králové and the Honorary Consulate of Uruguay in the Czech Republic organised a Czech-Uruguayan symposium. The diplomatic relations between the two countries are rather unique in that they have never been interrupted, since unlike many other countries, Uruguay with its deep-rooted democratic tradition, never recognised the German occupation of the Czech lands in 1939. It is therefore one of the few countries with whom the Czech Republic cradles unbroken diplomatic relations. The symposium was held at UHK premises. The conference featured 12 prominent personalities who spoke about Uruguayan history, politics and culture.

The symposium was opened by the Ambassador of the Republic of Uruguay to Austria, Juan Carlos Ojeda, who discussed the dynamics of contemporary Uruguay. The Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, Patricio Alejandro Utreras Díaz, who also attended the conference, emphasised the importance of Czech ties to Latin America. The conference was moderated by the Honorary Consul of Uruguay in Prague, Mrs Adriana Dergam.

"The Symposium has been organised as part of the Latin American Studies programme to promote the awareness of Latin American issues in the Czech Republic," explained Associate Professor Karel Kouba.

The lectures delivered over the course of the day presented Uruguay from a variety of

perspectives. Czech historian Michal Zourek introduced his new book on Czech-Uruguayan history 100 años de relaciones checo-uruguayas. Professor Josef Opatrný gave a lecture on Czech travellers to Uruguay (including





the famous Hanzelka and Zikmund duo) and their enthusiastic portrayal of the country to the Czech public. Other topics included the growth of the Czech and Slovak communities in Uruguay, a comparison of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes in the history of both countries, and a discussion about the unique practice of direct democracy in Uruguay as an inspiration for Czech democracy. The speakers also talked about national identity, successfully linking national consciousness to football, which provoked a positive response.

At the conference, which was also streamed online via ZOOM, we also welcomed speakers from Uruguay, José Ramiro Podetti from the University in Montevideo, who presented

a paper on the Czech reception of the work of the essayist and writer Jose Enrique Rodó, and Diego Hernández Nilson from the University of the Republic, Uruguay, who discussed the societal challenges currently faced by present-day Uruguay. •



Please check out our University YouTube channel for the full recording of the stream.

Partners:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

The Embassy of Uruguay in Vienna (Embajada del Uruguay en Viena), Austria

Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Uruguay (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores – Uruguay)

Charles University

"International reach and relations remain UHK's priority No. 1 even in these worrisome and strange times," comments Vice-Rector Leona Stašová after a recent visit from the German Ambassador

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

A special visitor arrived at the Na Soutoku campus at the end of 2021. Representatives of the University of Hradec Králové welcomed His Excellency Mr Christoph Israng, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, to the Czech Republic.

"We truly appreciate that His Excellency found the time in his tight schedule to visit our University. I believe that the visit shows that international reach and international relations remain one of the top priorities of our University even in these worrisome and strange times. And I very much appreciate the support and encouragement bestowed on us by Mr Israng as a representative of Germany for our efforts," Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector for International Affairs commented, as she and the Vice-Dean for International

Affairs of the Faculty of Education welcomed the German ambassador and his suite.

"Our meeting with His Excellency is an important symbolic confirmation of our continuing effort to bolster and improve Czech-German relations. We presented our international reach efforts on teacher education and other study programmes. We discussed how German is taught in Czech schools and how Czech is taught in Germany, and we went over the study programmes that we have been accredited to teach in English," added Daniela Vrabcová, the Vice-Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Education.



One of the principal instigators of the close cooperation between the University of Hradec Králové and the various bodies and institutions of the Federal Republic of Germany is the Department of German Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education. Associate Professor Jana Ondráková, the Head of the Department, outlines the scope and the content of those activities: *"His Excellency*

welcomed all the work we have put not only into our own Department but also into other study programmes where we teach German, including our participation in the Lifelong Learning programmes. In His Excellency's opinion, the number of German companies operating in the Czech Republic is continuously on the rise, as is the demand after experts who have a good command of the German language. He commended our cooperation with numerous German universities and the many universities and institutions in Bohemia and Moravia. He also inquired about our online courses for international students and our programme for teaching Czech as a foreign language through

the German language. As soon as the pandemic restrictions subside, he will gladly welcome our students at the Germany embassy in Prague."

Germany is one of UHK's leading partners. For example, under the Erasmus+ programme, the University has established cooperation with 25 German universities. "Germany is a very popular destination for our exchange students. In recent years, Germany remained in the top five most popular destinations for our students with a study abroad experience," concludes Vice-Rector Stašová. •

The Ambassador of Argentina gave a lecture at the Philosophical Faculty


TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

On Tuesday, 13 February 2021, the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové streamed an online lecture to its students and the general public by His Excellency Roberto Salafia, the Ambassador of Argentina to the Czech Republic, about the Falkland Islands and about the Mercosur integration process.

"The opportunity to conduct a live discussion with the ambassador of a major Latin American country is invaluable to both our graduate and post-graduate students. Roberto Salafia, Ambassador of Argentina to the Czech Republic, engagingly spoke about two key aspects of his country's foreign policy," said the lecture organiser, Associate Professor Karel Kouba from the Department of Political Science of the Philosophical Faculty.

"The main focus of the lecture and of the follow-up discussion was the history and the current status of the Falklands Islands, a British overseas territory, whose sovereignty status is a part of an ongoing dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina to this date. We will soon commemorate the quadragenial anniversary of the war for archipelago initiated by the Argentine military regime ruling the country at that time. Since the downfall of the military regime in 1983, Argentina has preferred a diplomatic resolution of the dispute," Associate Professor Kouba said in conclusion. •

Dozens of viewers listened to the Ambassador speak about Argentina's membership in the international Mercosur trade block organisation, which will celebrate the tricennial anniversary this year.



The Exhibition *A Republic of Two Nations: A Story of the First European Constitution* was opened by four international representatives

SOŇA JANČUROVÁ | PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (UHK)

On the occasion of the 230th anniversary of the Constitution of May 3, 1791, the University of Hradec Králové hosted four distinguished guests at a cultural event combined with an official meeting. We had the honour to welcome the Ambassador of Lithuania, Laimonas Talat-Kelpšus; the chargé d'affaires ad interim of Poland, Antoni Wręga; the Directors of the Polish Institute in Prague, Maciej Ruczaj and Dzianis Kuchynski and the Foreign Affairs Officer of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya.

Despite difficult times, the representatives of the four nations accepted the University's invitation and attended the meeting together with officials from the Hradec Králové Region and the City of Hradec Králové. They even managed to open an outdoor exhibition in Students' Park, the Common Education Facility of the University of Hradec Králové (the exhibition was open till 29 November 2021). It was a great honour to welcome the guests who found the time in their busy schedules to support the University and discuss future cooperation options. Our esteemed colleague from the Institute of History, Dr Jan Květina, curated the exhibition *A Republic of Two Nations – A Story of the First European Constitution*, which connected all those nations.

The historian Jan Květina was as kind as to outline the historical development in the region on display in the exhibition.

"I am delighted to see that the citizens of Hradec Králové have come here today notwithstanding the cold and damp autumn weather to learn about the fascinating and tragic fate of

the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and to recognize that the roots of constitutionalism and civic society in Central Europe can be found in our own history. Looking at the current events in our region, the exhibition could prove to become a unique testimony to the times when the inhabitants of the Commonwealth, which spread across the territory of today's Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, acted as compatriots joined by their civic and constitutional rights, and appreciated their own liberty as an expression of the freedom of their republic rather than as a manifestation of an injudicious libertarian whim. I believe that this is just one of the important lessons that we could learn from the first European Constitution, the Polish-Lithuanian Constitution of 3 May 1791," comments Jan Květina.

Every state should bear in mind the importance of democracy. *"As they did 230 years ago, the Polish, Lithuanian and Belarusian people once again stand up side by side to defend their freedom,"* Dzianis Kuchynski, the Foreign Affairs Officer of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, commented at the exhibition.

The exhibition was followed by an official meeting. *“The University of Hradec Králové adheres to common values and sees great potential in further cooperation between our nations. And in addition to shared historical experience, we also hope for a successful future. At the meeting, all representatives expressed the idea that they would like to come together and pass on their knowledge to the students of the UHK. We believe that this event could be very motivating for our students and for the citizens of the Hradec Králové Region in general. I believe that with this meeting we have managed to further support and strengthen our existing cooperation,”* sums up Leona Stašová, UHK Vice-Rector for Foreign Affairs.

The University of Hradec Králové already entered into numerous bilateral agreements with

the universities from the foregoing countries, specifically twenty-six agreements with Polish institutions and six with Lithuanian institutions. Students from the Faculty of Education in particular have increasingly opted for the opportunity to study in Poland to gain more practical experience. UHK scientists and researchers from both countries also frequently publish together. Their joint papers can be found at the Web of Science website. More recently, the University also took up a cooperation with the Vilnius University, Lithuania, by participating in the same project. In this regard, the University of Hradec Králové continues to develop opportunities for students and scientists alike. ●

It was somewhat risky, but still the best decision ever. We really benefited from the Florida internship

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

Filip Oborník and Tomáš Pařízek have long planned to study abroad with the Faculty of Informatics and Management, but their plans were continuously foiled by the coronavirus pandemic. Finally, in 2021, the students of Applied Informatics managed to grab the opportunity and win an internship in Florida. They spent 3 months at the Institute for Human & Machine Cogitation (IHMC) in Pensacola, Florida. But getting there was not easy.

You have strived for this opportunity for a long time, haven't you?

Absolutely. We'd been wanting to go to IHMC for some time, but we were cut short in our tracks by the pandemic. And I also wanted to try out a summer school in Hong Kong, having heard Tomáš praise the school; he'd been there the previous year. Unfortunately, in the end that did not work out either, once again because of the covid situation. When we realised that the restrictions would probably not be lifted, Tomáš and I decided to give it a go anyway, even though it was somewhat of a risky endeavour. Getting our visas was especially

difficult, since the American embassy here in the Czech Republic was in full-scale lockdown, so we first had to go to Madrid.

So, to get to the USA, you had to make a detour via Spain?

Yeah, we packed our bags hoping that if things worked out the way we hoped, we could fly from Madrid directly to Florida. But we did not have the slightest idea how it would all turn out. If we failed, we would have to quarantine back home in Czechia and we would risk administrative complications in our future US visa applications. Luckily, we were told

at the Embassy that the visas should not be problem as long as we would be willing to wait them out. We did not know how long it would take, though, so we booked a hotel at our own expense, and extended our stay day by day, until we finally got our visas 12 days later. We took a PCR test the very same day and the next morning we were on a flight to Pensacola.

that they could be processed later at the visualisation stage. Tomáš worked on a platform that aimed to monitor network data flows. At the start of the internship, he worked on an android app that monitored the network communication of a hardware device. Two weeks later, he transitioned to a project that designed a web application for the visualisation of the moni-



What are the principal areas of interest of a research institute such as IHMC?

They mostly focus on robotics and computer science. They also research various diets and other matters that affect human performance. Many of their research tasks are for the US military or the government.

Tell us about your projects.

I worked on a data visualisation project. It was an ongoing project that aimed to visualise the flow of network data. We were tasked to modify the project to allow for visualisation of sensor data collected by a combat aircraft during a test flight. In my project segment, we worked to optimise the system for storing that data so

toring data, where he created the front end in React and the back end in Node.js

Did you learn anything new?

It was a completely new experience for me. I had never worked with large data before, I just knew the general theory. This was also the first time I could work more extensively with Docker technology, which I encountered only in passing at the University. The projects assigned to Tomáš allowed him to choose the technology he would prefer to use. Tom opted for a combination of very interesting technologies. He intentionally decided to select technologies that he had little practical experience

with so as to learn something new, and it all worked out pretty well for him.

Did you apply what you learned at the Faculty of Informatics and Management?

We really benefited from our background in diverse technologies, which helped us take a look at the projects from a broader perspective and get a fairly good grasp of the problems we had to deal with. As students, we were also quite used to learning something new, which was really useful as we got to work with technologies with which we had no prior practical experience.

Did you both combine work and study? Has this experience benefited your professional career?

We have both gained plenty of experience with new technologies. We are also both quite used to developing custom software, so it was quite a change to dip our toes in proper research and take a look at our field from a different point of view. We had to deal with different kinds of problems compared to what we normally do at school and at work.

Has the journey also contributed to your personal development?

Absolutely, we both learned a lot from our travelling experience. I think that I speak for both of us when I say that the most important thing that we learned was that any problem can be solved, as long as one is not afraid to face it head-on and to take a few risks, if necessary.

Did you have any free time? To explore new places, to travel?

The internship at IHMC was quite demanding, but we always found the time to go exploring. Sometimes we just took a walk in and around Pensacola. We also made an 8-hour drive to a nearby city where we spent the weekend. We also did lots of fun things with our Pensacola friends and colleagues, which helped us better appreciate the American kind of life. This was something that we certainly would not have been able to experience first-hand had we travelled through America just on our own.

The management at IHMC was also as kind as to allow us to take a one-week vacation at the end of our stay, which we used to explore the north-eastern part of the United States, specifically Washington D.C., New York and Boston. Our visa also allowed us to stay in the US for an additional month after our internship ended, and so we made a 14-day trip to Puerto Rico.

How did you manage the financial aspects of your stay? Did you have to live on a shoestring or did you rather invest your own money?

The living costs in the United States are rather high, so had we wanted to make ends meet from just the internship, we would have had to live a very modest life and even then, it probably still would not have been enough. Tomáš and I agreed that we wanted to enjoy this opportunity to the full, so we opted for the second alternative and sponsored our stay from our own savings. But it was certainly worth it!



Would you recommend the experience to your fellow students?

Oh yes, definitely. We will never forget those few months. It was a truly enriching experience both personally and professionally, and we feel so lucky to have had the opportunity. The Faculty of Informatics and Management offers incredible opportunities to its students so it would be a shame not to make the best of it. •

Meeting Belarusian Poetry

JAROSLAV SOMMER DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

In June 2021, the students of the Department of Russian Language and Literature and the members of the general public had the rare opportunity to chat with Belarusian poet Nasta Kudasava. The poet spent a month in the Czech Republic on a residency scheme during which she attended several author readings and panel discussions, and recited some of her latest poetry.

Nasta Kudasava (Наста Кудасавя, born in 1984 in Rahachow) graduated from Russian Studies and the follow-up Literary Science Master's degree programme at Belarusian State University. She published

became the laureate of the Michaś Straľcoŭ Award, and published her first comprehensive poetry collection *The Spring*. The Lips Feel Tight (Вясна. Вуснам цесна). During her residence, Nasta Kadasava worked on a collection devoted to the Belarusian year of turmoil of 2020; she wrote new prosaic texts and translated the poetry of Udmurtian poet Larisa Orekhova.



The interview conducted by Dr Jakub Kapitchiak highlighted the most recent poetry composed by Nasta Kudasava in response to the current situation in Belarus. In addition to the poet's own distinctive personal view of the world and her own oeuvre, people logged into the interview through MS Teams could also gain a better understanding of the literary life in Belarus and the inspiration drawn by the poet from the dramatic events of the past few months.

her first poems at the tender age of 15 in the weekly newspaper *Nasha Niva*. She first drew public attention by her collection *Leaves of My Hands* (Лісце маіх рук, 2006). After graduating from her studies in Minsk, she lived with her husband in Saint Petersburg, in Gomel, and the Belarusian countryside. Following her divorce, she returned to her hometown Rahachow by the Dnieper River, where she continues to raise her son and daughter. To this date, she has published four books of poetry. The third one, *My Unimaginable* (Маё невымаўля, 2016) won the Book of the Year Prize awarded by the Belarusian Pen Club. In February 2021, she

Nasta Kudasava ended her interview by reciting three of her latest poems in Belarusian, which the participants could also follow thanks to an excellent translation by Maks Ščur, a Belarusian translator, writer and poet living in Prague. •

The University of Hradec Králové offers a helping hand to Belarusian Students

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

In 2021, the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) joined other Czech educational institutions who have decided to support students from Belarus fleeing to the Czech Republic in fear of them being persecuted by the current authoritarian regime.

“Right at the start of the repressions by the Lukashenko brigands following the rigged elections, we at the University of Hradec Králové condemned the violence against the peaceful population, and especially the harassment of many members of the academic community at Belarusian universities. It is them to whom we have addressed our invitation to study at UHK,” Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector, comments on the current situation and the announcement of the new scholarship programme. The invitation covers several study fields across all faculties.

“We pay a monthly scholarship of 10 to 15 thousand korunas to Belarusian students who are interested in studying at UHK, depending on the

programme of their choice,” continues Leona Stašová, Vice-Rector for Foreign Affairs, adding that the study programmes are offered in both Czech and English.

Belarusian students used to study at UHK even before the new scholarship programme was opened. A total of 11 Belarusian students finished a term in UHK during the past few years.

“Belarusian students are appreciative, competent and hard-working, and we have had the best experience with them so far. Usually, the students finish their first term in English while learning Czech and then they go on to complete their studies in Czech. A good example of a very diligent and talented UHK student from Belarus is Liya Ubilava, a member of the local association of the Erasmus Student Network at UHK, who helps incoming international students adapt to life in the Czech Republic,” concludes Vice-Rector Leona Stašová. •



The Philosophical Faculty adds another Double-Degree Programme

JOSEF LEŽÁK DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

The Philosophical Faculty continues to extend the number of double-degree study programmes on offer. Students enrolled in a double-degree programme receive two diplomas after graduation. Following the conclusion of the partnership agreement with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, Columbia, for the undergraduate programme in Political Science, we have gone on to initiate cooperation with a university in Slovakia.

Last year, we managed to sign a partnership agreement with the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra for a double-degree Master's programme in History. Only the approval from the National Accreditation Bureau is now needed to open our second double-degree programme. The

The second agreement is not our last, since the Faculty is committed to signing at least three such agreements as part of its double-degree project. Our Faculty is currently engaged in intensive negotiations with our partners in Mexico, Brazil and Columbia that would allow us to open an additional undergraduate programme in Political Science. To open a programme that would allow our students to graduate with two diplomas, we need to conduct a close comparative examination of both study programmes and identify similarities that would make such a programme feasible. At our current stage of negotiations, we have been matching the individual study subjects and preparing a joint study plan for both institutions.

Cooperation and collaboration does not end by the signing of an agreement and upon accreditation from NAB. Once the programme opens, both universities must agree on a common administrative process for enrolling new students and on other procedural matters. We hope to enrol the first students in the Winter Term 2022/2023. ●

NAB will also review the option to add a new accreditation to our previous agreement, which should extend the time period during which we should be able to run the programme.



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International Day 2021

SOŇA JANČUROVÁ PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (UHK)

Another annual International Day has come and gone. In November, we tried to explain to our UHK students that they should not be afraid of international mobility despite the recent COVID restrictions. Thanks to the virtual mobility concept, many of our students had the opportunity to spend a term or two at an international university even in these difficult times.

At a two-hour lecture organised by the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research followed by a panel discussion organised by our students who shared their experience with the Fulbright Scholarship Program, we got to know a little bit more about how international study stays are financed.



Our UHK alumni also talked about their international study trips in previous years. We managed to criss-cross almost all the continents, as we talked about international study opportunities in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

the slogan Travel the World! To make the quiz more interesting, students were encouraged to compete and converse in English. This was an excellent illustration of the University's ongoing internationalization effort and its commitment to welcome and cater for both domestic and international students.

Our International Day was brought to a close by the first international trivia quiz, prepared in cooperation with the Erasmus Student Network of Hradec Králové, in which participants competed for prizes consisting mostly in university merchandise. The quiz centred around

As there was a great deal of interest in the international trivia quiz, we expect to try it again in future years. We hope to add this event to the list of traditional events here at UHK. •



The Alumni Club of the University of Hradec Králové offers the opportunity to stay in touch with alma mater. Restore contact with former classmates, meet together, follow the events at the university and get involved in life at the UHK.

The Philosophical Faculty launched a new Erasmus+ Project

MARKÉTA DOLEŽALOVÁ, JOSEF LEŽÁK DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

Starting November 2021, a new project was launched at the Philosophical Faculty under the Erasmus+ programme, specifically the Cooperative Partnership project titled Enhancing Quality Teaching of Humanities and Social Sciences in Higher Education for 21+ (SSHTeaching21+). This is not the first project of this type in which the Philosophical Faculty participates. Since 2019, our Faculty has been the promoter for the SensiClass project. But while the University of Hradec Králové participated in the SensiClass project as a partner institution, in the upcoming SSHTeaching21+ project it will act as the project coordinator.

With SensiClass, the Philosophical Faculty first dipped its toes in a KA2 project, a type of collaborative project joining at least three different institutions from participating countries that together generate pre-defined outputs. The SensiClass project combined the work of four institutions, namely the University of Tartu in Estonia, the SGH Warsaw School of Economics in Poland, the Central European University in Hungary and our very own University of Hradec Králové. As the name suggests, the main objective of the project was to develop a new toolbox of didactic instruments and materials that teachers would be able to use to tackle sensitive topics in the classroom. The project is currently close to its completion, as the final outputs should be presented in August 2022. The final meeting of all project partners should be held in Hradec Králové on UHK grounds.

In 2021, the Czech team in charge of the SensiClass project organised a workshop where they tested for the first time the materials developed for the project. The workshop was initially scheduled for the first quarter of the present year, but due to the pandemic restrictions, it was postponed until October and relocated to an online forum. Over 70 experts attended the 5-day workshop titled Joint Training for

the Teachers of the Network Universities on Teaching Sensitive Issues, including Dr Gull Törnégren and Dr Maria Deldén from the Dalarna University in Sweden, who joined the event as special guests.

With the freshly acquired know-how, the Philosophical Faculty, or rather its Institute of History soon decided to submit a project of its own, this time in the capacity of a project coordinator. It was the specific experience with this type of project that helped the Faculty to succeed as one of 13 out of 44 total project applicants. The Faculty will be joined in the new project by the University of Adam Mickiewicz, Poland and Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The somewhat cumbersome abbreviation SSHTeaching21+ refers to the principal aims of the project, which are to improve the quality of social sciences and social science disciplines at participating universities. As in the case of SensiClass, we may also look forward to a range of dissemination and training activities in Poland, Slovakia and in our own alma mater. ●

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





The Portuguese Journey of Self-Discovery and Inspiration

VITVAROVÁ ANNA | STUDENT AT THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

In spite of the recent anti-pandemic travel restrictions, many students still seized the opportunity to study and live abroad and to get to know new people from all across Europe or even from overseas. One of those adventurous spirits was an undergraduate trainee teacher, who spent several months in Portugal on an Erasmus programme in 2021.

I am a third-year student at the Faculty of Education, enrolled in the study program Art Education and Fundamentals of Technology. I also cooperate with the University as a photographer, which allows me to get to interesting places and attend interesting events. In my free time, I enjoy baking, travelling, going to the theatre and organising picnics with friends. And I love to dabble in all things creative.

The Polytechnic Institute of Viana de Castelo in Portugal is situated at five locations. Most of the buildings are located in the town of Viana do Castelo, while two are in the surrounding towns in the same district. Erasmus+ students are usually accommodated in the same building or two, if their number is high. Thanks to the cooperation between the dormitories and the university, finding accommodation is not difficult, since the university sends you a form that allows you to settle in their recommended

hall of residence, unless you have some other preferences. You may live in a single bed room or you may share an apartment with another person or two. Compared to other towns, accommodation is not particularly costly in Viana do Castelo. School buildings are scattered throughout the city, but you can walk to all of them conveniently from the dormitories. You can also rent a bicycle from the school for a small fee, but it's hardly necessary, as you can get everywhere comfortably on foot. In my case, the ocean was just a 15-minute walk from the door to my room, so what more could I ask for?

The most famous feature of Viana do Castelo is the iconic mountaintop church Santuario de Santa Luzia, which welcomes all pilgrims and visitors from afar. You must climb a long stairway to get to the church, but the exquisite panoramic view is very much worth the effort. I fell in love with the ubiquitous mosaic

tiles that adorn most of the façade. If you are lucky enough to get inside a residential house, you can see that they don't skimp on them in interiors either.

At the Institute, I studied Portuguese as part of my education studies major and also a range of art subjects (such as videography, photography, drawing).

What I noticed most was the different approach to teaching art subjects. In each subject, we were expected to create a project to work on during the term, which we were asked to consult with our classmates on a regular basis. I struggled at first, because I was instructed to come up with topics for 5 projects and I did not know the boundaries of the assignment. But there were hardly any boundaries. I just needed to open up my mind and think hard about what I wanted to do. When we came to the drawing class and said we had always wanted to learn more about animation, the professor got excited, brought the necessary materials, and supported the idea.

It was my first long-term stay in another country. At first I thought I would get used to the excitement of the exotica, but even after five months, I was still walking around orange trees in awe and with a sticky mouth.

While Czech schools organised on-line and remote learning, I attended the university in Portugal for the entire term. They introduced many precautionary measures such as physical distancing, wearing facemasks, disinfecting hands and also the entire classroom at the end of the day and all other places where we stayed during

the day. In some classes, the teacher lectured from another room via a projection system, and there were cameras installed in each classroom to check that we follow all precautions. I appreciated how conscientious the Portuguese people were in observing the restrictions.

What have I learned from my journey? I proved to myself that I would not get lost in the world, and that was a good lesson to learn. Even when I encountered some problems, there were always some good people willing to help me. In Portugal in particular, I always felt safe with strangers in public spaces, even though we did not know each other and our cultures varied. The important thing is not to be afraid to ask for help, but that's something that you will learn fast. And even though it may sound like a cliché, the journey opened up in my mind a new perspective on my own country and myself. When you are far from home with just a small suitcase, you will learn what you really need, which things you might be missing,



which things you carry out needlessly, which relationships you keep just for appearances and which people truly matter in your life. The one thing that no one ever mentions is the heartache you feel when you must say the final goodbye to everything and everyone you



encountered, when you realise, just before your departure, that this stage of your life and this temporary home you have created for yourself have ended and you have to leave them behind. I guess that is the price you must pay for all the good times you went through on your journey and your stay.

I am grateful for all my new friendships. I still keep in touch with some of my friends, we plan mutual visits and we would like to show each other our home countries, and I already made one such visit. At first, it was not easy for me to make contact with my new classmates. Maybe it was the anti-covid precautions, maybe I felt too shy speaking a foreign language, maybe a combination of both. But after a few weeks I started talking to a classmate who ended up becoming one of my best friends. We created a project together, we met regularly, and I enjoyed listening to her stories about her beloved homeland. Since there were so many restrictions regarding our leisure time activities, I and the other Erasmus students spent most of our

time together at our dormitories and came up with a programme of our own. We had such great times together, but the experience of going to the school garden with my Spanish friends, lying in the grass, watching the sky with its unique Portuguese shade of blue, eating fresh tangerines that we just picked from a nearby tree; those are the moments that I will never forget.

I would hate to forget to thank all the great teachers for their support. I did not have a single problem relating to my journey, so I would like to thank them all for their graciousness. And I would like to thank the amazing Mrs Martinková from the International Office, who helped me immensely on my journey for her patience and effort. •



FIM students cooperate with Czech-American TV. Student Jakub Veselý received an award for his pro-active approach

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

Almost two dozen students from the Travel & Tourism Management programme cooperate with Czech-American TV (CATV USA) as part of their practical project work. Their collaboration is mutually beneficial and presents the Czech Republic to the world from a wide variety of perspectives.

At the end of May 2021, FIM was visited by producer John Honner, the founder and creator of the Czech-American TV project. The programme consists of 30-minute shows about the beauty and the customs of the Czech Republic. The shows are broadcast in English every week at 7 pm in 60 American cities on cable TV, which is watched by 2.5 million American households. John Honner has been involved in this non-profit activity for over 18 years. In addition to FIM UHK, whose students have been collaborating in the production of the broadcast since January 2020, John Honner also cooperates with other universities and schools in about 15 areas of interest.

The founder of CATV USA was born and grew up in South Moravia. Even though he later moved to the United States and settled down in Florida, he has never forgotten about his native land. Quite the contrary: "My goal is to show the beauty of the Czech Republic to our viewers.

To show foreigners where the Czech Republic is situated, and what they may see and experience in this gorgeous country apart from world-famous Prague. The shows are intentionally designed to age as little as possible. The project is intended to function as a long-term PR campaign for the Czech Republic, and is targeted mostly at viewers overseas," explains John Honner, who also very much appreciates his cooperation with Czech students.

"They are our future. They always bring fresh ideas, they are the wind of change. They can look at things from a broader perspective, always looking forward. They give us the strength and the encouragement to continue in what we are doing."

For FIM students, cooperation with an American TV station represents an excellent practical opportunity to communicate and to learn how to operate various systems and applications.

At the meeting held at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, UHK, our student Jakub Veselý received an award for his pro-active approach. *"This has been a great experience. I have learned many new things and I am truly glad for the opportunity to join the project. Strangely enough, the opportunity came at the most opportune moment, during the pandemics, when I could communicate with all destinations from my home. I only needed my laptop and my mobile phone to participate,"* comments Jakub

Veselý, a third-year student of the Travel & Tourism Management Programme.

"It was so nice to finally meet John in person and to discuss further opportunities for engaging our Travel & Tourism Management students in the CATV USA project. We exchanged interesting practical insights and agreed to continue in this mutually enriching cooperation. When we discussed the cooperation at the start of the Autumn term, we wondered whether students would be interested in this kind of project. And I am truly pleased with how many got involved and how interesting their practice was," says Dr Petr Hruša, Head of the Department of Recreation and Tourism, about the cooperation. •

Tradition of the Summer School of Geometry and Topology maintained also in 2021

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK

Even in 2021, the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science, University of Hradec Králové, organised a summer school focused on geometry and topology, this time online.

The Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science, UHK started organising summer schools in 2018, with over 140 participants since that time. Although dozens of students attending seminars and workshops and getting to know the Czech Republic could not be welcome face to face this summer, the online form offered one indisputable advantage. The summer school in 2021 noticed a record attendance: almost 160 participants from nearer or farther countries of the world enrolled in the summer school: Austria, Portugal, Chile, Argentina, Greece, Spain and others. Lectures were delivered by experts from the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové or Russia, and some lectures were delivered by participants themselves.

"We are happy to be able to maintain the tradition of summer schools of geometry even at this difficult time with such high attendance. For many, the online form of the summer school is more accessible, but we will be happy to meet our future participants in Hradec Králové in person if only more suitable conditions are set. Personal contact between students and teachers is valuable and irreplaceable," concludes doc. Anton Galaev, a school organiser.

The Summer School of Geometry and Topology was supported by the University of Hradec Králové and the Mathematical Centre in Akademgorodok of the Novosibirsk State University. •



The end of September welcomes new international students to the Faculty

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

Although the numbers were not as high as before the start of the COVID outbreak, we could still welcome 39 new international students at FIM. Students from Spain and Portugal prevailed, but we also welcomed with open arms students from Taiwan, Columbia, Malaysia, a student from Hong Kong and from Korea.

This year, international students first got acquainted with the Faculty in a lecture room rather than in the auditorium, where over a hundred new faces used to gather in previous years. After a short introduction by Dean Josef Hynek, the new students listened to a presentation of the most important facts about their studies at the Faculty and life in Hradec Králové.

"It's the first time I welcomed freshly enrolled international students and presented them with basic information about their studies at FIM and Hradec Králové, and it was very exciting. I firmly believe that the students will benefit



from their term at our Faculty and that they will enjoy their time with us," said Eva Pospíchalová from the International Office, who joined FIM in April 2021. •

African and Latin American experts give online lectures at the Philosophical Faculty

TOMÁŠ HERČÍK INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

In the Winter term of the academic year 2021/2022, the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové organised 8 online lectures by international experts. In cooperation with partner universities from the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility programme, we selected 4 experts from Africa and 4 experts from Latin America.

The first lecturer was Professor Isaac Kyere from the University of Ghana, who talked about the history of Africa before the year 1500 B.C. in his September lecture. Three additional lectures by experts from Africa followed in October – Rex Hibajene from the University of Zambia discussed politics in the Southern African region, Sylvia Gyan from the University of Ghana broached the topic of culture and reproductive health, while Fred Jonyo from the University of Nairobi in Kenya presented an introductory talk on political economy.

In November, the lecturers from Africa passed the baton to experts from Latin America. The first speaker was Lucía Alonso from Universidad de Montevideo in Uruguay, who lectured about political communication and democracy. The lecture was followed by that of Pedro Valenzuela from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Columbia, who discussed violence against civilians in armed conflicts. In early December, Lucas Christel from the Universidad Nacional de General San Martín in Argentina spoke about environmental conflicts in Latin America. And the lecture series was concluded by Florent Frasson Quenoz from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Columbia, who analysed international security in Latin America.

Students who attended the lecture series were awarded 6 ECTS credits. The series was attended by almost 60 undergraduate and graduate

students from a broad variety of study programmes including political science, history, philosophy and sociology. The diversity of students enrolled in the lecture series was enhanced by the fact that the course was attended by both Czech and international students on their short-term stays as well as by international students in self-funded study programmes at the Philosophical Faculty and the international students participating in virtual mobility programmes.

Time shift issues dictated that the lecture series be organised so as to permit lecturers and participants to join the online platform together. The lectures therefore started and ended always at the same time, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:25 pm to 8:40 pm. The lectures were presented over the Zoom platform, while the study materials and other details were uploaded to the Moodle app and distributed to students by e-mail.

The attendance rate at individual lectures ranged from 20 to 35 students, and despite minor technical setbacks, all lectures were followed by a lively discussion between the lecturers and the students. The completed feedback forms have shown a high level of satisfaction with this lecture format on both sides. ●



Erasmus+

The Faculty of Science has celebrated its double anniversary

KRISTÝNA VÁVROVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF SCIENCE UHK

In 2020 ten years have passed since the establishment of the Faculty of Science of the University of Hradec Králové. However, due to the unfavorable epidemic situation, it was not possible to celebrate this anniversary. Only a year later, on a symbolic date of 10 November 2021, the Faculty of Science finally commemorated not only its tenth, but also its eleventh anniversary.

At the beginning of the social event, the first duly elected dean, doc. RNDr. Pavel Trojovský, Ph.D., who led the Faculty of Science between 2011 and 2019, reminded the guests of the first moments and years of the faculty. Many personalities connected with the faculty came to say congratulations, among many for example Mgr. Arnošt Štěpánek, Deputy President for Education and Sports, or Ing. Jiří Seidler, Ph.D., Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director of Tepelné hospodářství Hradec Králové. Professor František Petrovič, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Constantine the Philosopher

in Nitra (FPV UKF in Nitra) presented the Dean of the Faculty of Science UHK Jan Kříž with a silver medal of FPV UKF in Nitra as an expression of collaboration and partnership between the faculties.

A special award was presented to RNDr. Jitka Kühnová, Ph.D., historically the first chairwoman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Science of the UHK, for her fundamental contribution to the development of the faculty, especially in the field of legislation. RNDr. Jitka Kühnová, Ph.D. led the Academic Senate of the





Faculty of Science of the UHK for 9 years, until 2020, and she remains its member.

The Czech boys' choir Boni Pueri, led by choirmaster Marek Štilc, prepared a cultural programme for the evening. Especially for that occasion they presented their version of Gaudeamus Igitur.



„I think the Faculty of Science has gone a long way in the course of 10 years, which is a really short period in the life of such an institution. From the faculty created by ‚renaming‘ five departments of the Faculty of Education, today we can see a proud institution presenting its scientific results. The path towards this point has not always been easy, so the more bound to continue this path to success we should feel. In a last year's report by the International Evaluation Panel, we can read that the Faculty of Science is a very young faculty that is just gaining wings to fly. I am convinced that our faculty does have wings already. Now we must fly in the right direction. I wish you all a successful and happy flight!“ •

Jan Kříž
Dean of the Faculty of Science, UHK

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We launched a new website for applicants mojeuhk.cz



A new website for applicants. More information at mojeuhk.cz



The Rector of the University of Hradec Králové awarded prizes for outstanding performance. The University Choir and the University Orchestra underlined the festive atmosphere of the commemoration of the November events

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

As has come to be tradition, Kamil Kuča, the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové, honoured exceptional students, scientists and scholars during the UHK Social Evening on the occasion of Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day and International Students' Day. The Rector's Medal was awarded to Professor Vladimír Palička, Director of the Hradec Králové University Hospital (FN HK). The institution was recognised for its extraordinary deployment during the coronavirus pandemic and for saving many lives.

“The award bestowed on the University Hospital is an earnest and lasting memento of gratitude for the many lives we saved. It is also confirmation of the long-standing partnership between our institutions. Both the UHK and the University Hospital are ready to help and assist in the event of a society-wide crisis,” the Rector of the University of Hradec Králové explained during the award ceremony why the Rector's Medal was awarded to the University

Hospital and its staff. The original venue of the award ceremony was moved to the auditorium of the Building of Common Education on the Na Soutoku university campus. The accompanying musical programme was breath-taking. It featured the UHK Chamber Orchestra, the UHK Mixed Choir, the Kácov Mixed Choir from Nové Město nad Metují and the Bonifantes Boys Choir from Pardubice.

In addition to the Rector's Medal, the Rector awarded 8 more awards. Read on to find out more:

Faculty of Education (UHK)

Lada Vondrová

Lada is a second year Social Pedagogy student. She attends the Institute of Social Studies of the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové and she specialises in educational work in ethopedic facilities.

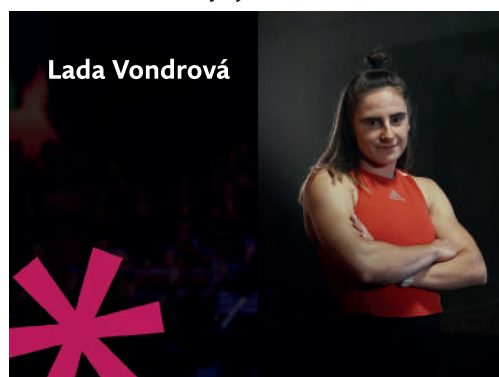
Aside from her excellent academic achievements, Lada is an athlete who fought her way up to the semi-finals of the women's 400m event at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, where she finished 23rd overall. Shortly before her Olympic debut, the quarter-miler became the European U23 champion. At the European Championships in Tallinn she helped the team take gold in the mixed relay race.

Mgr. Jan Suk, Ph.D.

Jan Suk is the head of the Department of English Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové.

Suk is a scholar of English and American literature. He has been nominated for prestigious publications. He is also one of the main organizers of the international Hradec Králové Anglophone Conference and editor-in-chief of the Hradec Králové Journal of Anglophone Studies. He has been awarded the International Prize of the Society for Contemporary English Theatre and Drama and the Václav Königsmark Prize of the Theatre Studies Society for his publications presenting a unique approach to Anglophone theatre research.

Suk regularly lectures abroad and at universities in the Czech Republic. He was invited to lecture at the School of the Arts Institute in Chicago, Stanford University, and at universities in Leeds, Porto and London, to name but a few. He has also worked closely with DAMU Prague, Comenius University in Bratislava and King's College in London.



Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK)

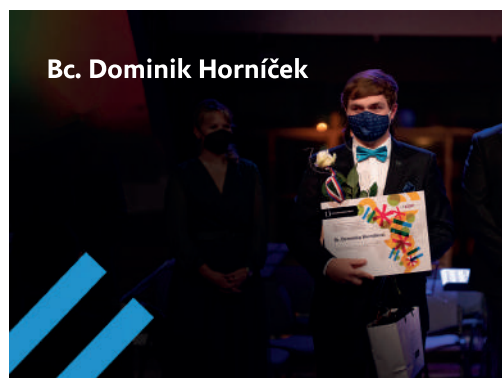
Bc. Dominik Horníček

Dominik is enrolled in a Master's degree programme and specialises in Information Management.

Dominik is a long-standing member and the leader of the First Steps team at the Faculty of Informatics and Management. The team helps new students start off on the right foot. Until

recently, Dominik served as Vice-Chairman of the Academic Senate of FIM UHK and he continues to represent the Faculty in the Academic Senate of the UHK. He opened several of the popular Blue Bash events. Dominik is always willing to participate and help with the organisation of various FIM promotional and popularisation activities. Interestingly

enough, he has taken to doing shooting sports in his free time.

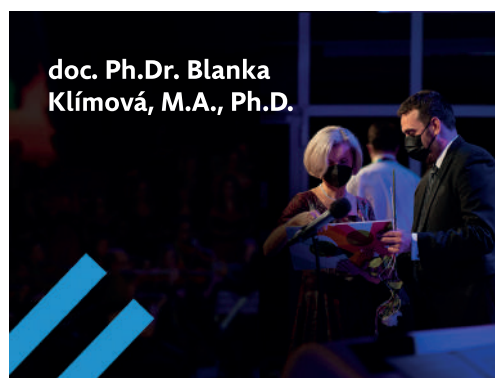


doc. Ph.Dr. Blanka Klímová, M.A., Ph.D.

Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics (FIM UHK).

Blanka Klímová was nominated for her extensive and prestigious publishing activities. According to a Stanford University ranking, she is among the top 2 percent of the most successful scientists in the world in the field of education and social sciences. She ranked

4th overall in the FIM scholarly work rankings in 2020, and 1st overall in the 2016–2020 average, which is a testament to her steady publication performance. She is a member of several international research teams, including the Excellence Project at FIM UHK, and a several editorial boards around the world and Czech Science Foundation panel. She also works for the Circle of Modern Philologists. In what regards the Language in the Human-Machine Era Project, she is a member of the steering committee for the Czech Republic and the chair of a working group whose aim it is to explore how to use state-of-the-art technologies for teaching and learning foreign languages.



Philosophical Faculty (UHK)

Mgr. Matěj Pudil

Matěj is enrolled in the Philosophy doctoral programme.

As a PhD student he has already published several outstanding articles. Some of his articles and papers are listed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases. Pudil and his supervisor and co-author, Dr Filip Jaroš, won the 2020 Biosemiotics Achievement Award, a prize awarded annually to the best paper published in Biosemiotics, a journal emphasising innovative scientific contribution.

In 2019–2021, he was a member of the research team of a project entitled Adolf Portmann: Pioneer of the eidetic and semiotic approach in the philosophy of the life

sciences. The project was funded by the Czech Science Foundation.

He continues to systematically develop his scientific interests and this autumn he is co-organising a student workshop at the Philosophical



Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové on the topic Nature – Knowledge – Postpositivism.

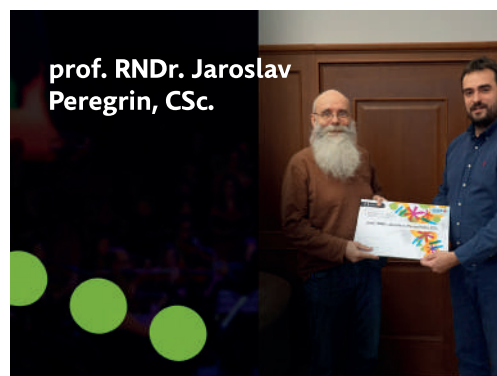
Pudil initially studied at the Czech Forestry Academy in Trutnov. He spent the next two years working hard on continuing his studies. He also worked at a forest kindergarten, which was equally demanding. He continues to play the violin and can be seen with his band on concert stages in Hradec Králové and elsewhere.

prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Peregrin, CSc.

Jaroslav Peregrin is a philosopher, logician and a pioneer of so-called inferentialism.

Professor Peregrin was nominated (not only) for his outstanding publication achievements. In 2020, prestigious international publishers published two of his philosophical studies. But what is particularly noteworthy is that Professor Peregrin won and in 2020 successfully started working on the prestigious EXPRO scientific grant, which significantly contributes to the internationalization of science at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové. He has been working at the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences since day one, and thanks to his professional reputation, the Department

has quickly established itself as one of the main Czech centres of analytically-oriented philosophy. Professor Peregrin is a laureate of the Promotion and Popularization of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation award of the President of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He was also awarded the Bernard Bolzano Honorary Medal for Merit in the Social Mathematical Sciences.



In addition to being a leading figure of Czech analytical philosophy, Professor Peregrin is a passionate and professionally demanding consumer and reviewer of beer specials. His active exploration of the quality of microbreweries is systematically chronicled on his popular vlog *Do they serve pints? (Čepují pinty?)*.

Faculty of Science (UHK)

Mgr. Radomír Jůza

Radomír Jůza is a PhD student of Applied Biology and Ecology.

Jůza's outstanding research achievements were published in the highly prestigious journal *Medicinal Research Reviews* in 2020. The journal ranks in the top 5% of the best journals in two categories according to the Article Influence Score. The article, whose authors include Mgr. Jůza, who was listed first amongst all authors, was selected for the front page of the issue and has already been cited 10 times in a very short period of time.



RNDr. Filip Studnička, Ph.D.

Filip Studnička is a physicist working at the Department of Physics and the Centre of Advanced Technologies (Faculty of Science, UHK).

Studnička has long achieved excellent scientific results in both basic and applied research. In 2020, he and his co-authors published two excellent Q1 category publications according to AIS (one of them is actually a D1 category, according to IF). In addition, he was the lead researcher of two applied research projects – the Epsilon Project of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic titled Development of an intelligent electronic management system for a specialised hospital bed for patients in critical condition and the project funded by the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education titled PERSONMED – Centre for the development of personalised medicine in age-related diseases.



Studnička is mainly involved in the design of new sensors (not only in the field of biomedicine) and the analysis of signals measured by sensors. He now specialises in the use of neural networks in signal analysis.

He plays the bass guitar and drums and has performed in several rock bands. Another hobby of his is drone racing, which he also partly uses in his research.

The University of Hradec Králové Social Evening is held annually with the much appreciated support of partners, which last year included Česká spořitelna bank and Elektrárna Opatovice power plant. While Česká spořitelna contributes to the development of science at our University by, among other things, providing financial incentives for outstanding scientists, Elektrárna Opatovice supports award-winning students with generous scholarships. And, thanks to their gracious support, UHK students have access to the ARL Library System. The third partner was the Hradec Králové Park Na Větvi, which served refreshments.

The Social Evening was preceded by a commemorative get-together which took place earlier during the day at Václav Havel Square. The day was special, because it was the 17th of November 2021, a national holiday. Students from UHK and the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Hradec Králové worked hand-in-hand to get the event rolling. Three hundred people heard the Czech national anthem, Karel Kryl's song Bratříčku, zavírej vrátka and salutes. They then marched from



the campus in a procession with lit candles in remembrance of the victims of the totalitarian regimes to the Faculty of Medicine in Šimkova Street, which was festively lit in the colours of the Czech flag. ●

Professor Tomáš Petráček was awarded the Silver Commemorative Medal of the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

Miloš Vystrčil, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, underlined the importance of Czech Statehood Day and awarded 15 Silver Commemorative Medals to persons of great public and social merit. Professor Tomáš Petráček (Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové) was among those honoured.

Professor PhDr. Tomáš Petráček, Ph.D., Th.D., is a Catholic theologian, priest and an ecclesiastical historian. He is the head of the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové and an academic chaplain. Petráček also lectures at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University and the Catholic Theological Faculty of Charles University. He is the postulator of the beatification process of Father Josef Toufar, a priest tortured and murdered by the State Security in 1950. Professor Petráček is the author of a number of scholarly texts and nine monographs, which have been published both in the Czech Republic and abroad. He is also a much loved priest and educator, and a respected public communicator of history and education in the media and in public lectures all over the Czech Republic. •



University of Hradec Králové became a holder of the prestigious HR Award, which is a guarantee of the European standard of employee care, the quality of the working environment, transparency and openness of the selection procedure.

The Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové (FIM UHK) has succeeded yet again. It can now offer a habilitation procedure and a professor appointment procedure in the field of Applied Informatics

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

The last two years have been exceptionally kind to the Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK). Last year, FIM's Tourism Management study programme was accredited by the Ministry of Education and the Faculty opened a follow-up Master's programme in Economics and Management. This year, its Applied Informatics study programme was accredited as was a brand-new follow-up Master's programme in Data Science. Moreover, the Faculty has been authorised to appoint associate professors and professors in Applied Computer Science over the next 10 years.

Applied Computer Science has been one of the Faculty's core programs since its founding in 1993. The Faculty offers Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree programmes. Now it can offer students and scholars alike the opportunity to reach professorship in this field. *"I am very pleased that the NAU evaluation committee, when assessing*

our application for accreditation, concluded that our institution has adequate facilities, resources, background and staff qualifications to offer habilitation and professorship procedures in the field. The committee voted unanimously," says Ondřej Krejcar, Vice-Rector for Science and Creative Activities at the University of Hradec Králové, who, together with the Vice-Dean, Professor Mohelská, helped put the application together.



This is the Faculty's second accreditation of this type. Currently, FIM UHK is also accredited in the field of Systems Engineering and Informatics.

"The right to hold a procedure for the appointment of a professor is the imaginary cherry on top, because, in our country, accreditation by the Ministry of Education is the highest form of recognition any university-based facility can obtain. Given that our university has four such accreditations, two of which run under the Faculty of

Informatics and Management, this is an achievement that can be celebrated by all UHK!" Josef Hynek, FIM Dean, added with a smile.

Over 1,700 students are currently studying at FIM UHK in five study programmes. In

addition to Applied Informatics, students can also take courses in Data Science, Economics and Management, Information Management and Tourism Management. Moreover, more than half of them can be studied in English. •

The University of Hradec Kralove continues to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Future teachers helped children with their lessons

JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

Despite the discomfort associated with university distance learning, they still helped. Two hundred future teachers from the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové tutored primary school pupils who could not cope with online teaching, while the UHK donated additional computers to the neediest.

„Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the University of Hradec Králové has strived to do its part, whether by itself or through its students volunteering to help out where necessary, for example by producing and distributing forty thousand pieces of protective face shields,” recalls Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector, and he adds that UHK students, in addition to pursuing their studies, have always been very actively engaged in public life.

“We know of about two hundred Faculty of Education students who helped primary school pupils with distance learning, both as part of their compulsory teaching practice and also privately in the form of group or individual tutoring in schools or directly in families in Hradec Králové or their hometowns. The Faculty recognised the students’ activities as teaching practice and rewarded them with the credits attributable to a standard course. It is for this reason that a completely new course, Volunteer Practical Training, was created, which students could enrol in for the first-time last

summer semester,” explains Michaela Mádlová, Vice-Dean for Practical Training at the Faculty of Education (UHK).



It is common knowledge that distance learning has a detrimental impact on children from socio-economically and culturally disadvantaged backgrounds, which is why the UHK donated another twenty computers specifically for educational purposes. In the first instance, the Faculty of Science (UHK) and the Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK) donated laptops to the Children’s Home in Vrbno pod Pradědem. The second donation was made

by the Philosophical Faculty (UHK) to the Children's Home in Nechanice. *"The primary role of any philosophical faculty lies, among other things, in social responsibility, especially towards disadvantaged groups. Donating the laptops was the least we could do and we are very glad that helped the children's homes at least a little,"* concludes the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty (UHK), Jan Prouza.

The University of Hradec Králové continues to connect organisations in need of various forms of aid with UHK students on its website. Should you or anyone you know be in need of assistance, please use the Form for organisations looking for volunteers at UHK (Formulář pro organizace hledající dobrovolníky na UHK). •



The Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové signed a memorandum of cooperation with *Novinářský incubator*, a media incubator for journalists

ANNA JOHNOVÁ, BARBORA PETROVIČOVÁ STUDENTS (DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK)

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

Early in the academic year, the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové intensified its relations with *Novinářský incubator* ("Journalism Incubator"). By signing a memorandum of cooperation, the Department of Political Science of the Philosophical Faculty UHK built on its former association with the journalistic platform and together they opened a course titled **Practical Journalism Workshop**. The course gave students the opportunity to learn from professional journalists and then create and publish their own media content.

"The Faculty and the Incubator will work together primarily to help educate students in the field of independent journalism and to strengthen their confidence in working with information in an ethical and responsible manner. They also aim to enhance students'

resistance to manipulation and misinformation," says Jan Prouza, Dean of the Philosophical Faculty (UHK).

Tomáš Bouška, founder of the Journalism Incubator, chose the 1950s as the study topic for the winter semester, specifically

the infamous labour camps in the Jáchymov region. During a three-day excursion to Jáchymov, students enrolled in the Practical Journalism Workshop learned about its grim past and about the fate of some of the political prisoners of the time. Apart from visiting the

that the students were tasked with taking during the excursion. The periodical contains a photo essay and the story of famous hockey player Augustin Bubník, whose life is closely linked to the Jáchymov labour camps and about whom his son Gustav Bubník told the students.



Collaboration between the Philosophical Faculty (UHK) and the Incubator should also expand the students' awareness of recent history, democracy, the climate crisis and the rule of law.

"I sincerely appreciate our cooperation with the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové.

Our bilateral agreement constitutes a new era. The practical training of future journalists, spokespersons or presenters is now linked by a stronger partnership that will benefit everyone involved," said Tomáš Bouška, founder of the Journalism Incubator.

Sokolov Museum, students also visited Drift No. 1, where the inmates had to mine uranium under very harsh conditions. The chilling atmosphere also touched on the nerves of experienced journalist Daniel Anýž. He accompanied the students along the Jáchymov Hell trail. During their stay in Jáchymov, students visited photographer Filip Vonka, an expert in audiovisual art.

Following their excursion, the students put all the knowledge and experience gathered from their field trip into articles that they wrote and edited. They created an entire issue of the Journalism Incubator newspaper in Flipsnack. The issue focuses on the Jáchymov region and depicts the places that the students visited and how they perceived the gloomy atmosphere. A particularly gruesome place that the students saw was the former convict changing room. It was nicknamed the Chain Factory and is located in an old mine called Rovnost (Equality). The issue also presents original photographs

The Journalism Incubator is an independent platform that serves to cultivate and raise the visibility of the media production of aspiring journalists. The Incubator's editorial team facilitates career experience to those interested in working in real media with the support of professionals. ●

**NOVINÁŘSKÝ
INKUBÁTOR**



The University of Hradec Králové strikes back. We defeated Pardubice's best in the eSports derby of East Bohemian universities

ZUZANA DOSTÁLOVÁ DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND MANAGEMENT UHK JAKUB NOVÁK UHK SPOKESMAN

The second eSports derby between the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) and the University of Pardubice (UPCE) was dominated by the Hradec Králové team. They evened out the score from 2020, when the then virtual derby was dominated by the Pardubice team.

"I kept my fingers crossed for our team and naturally watched the derby. I am so happy that the Cup is coming back home to Hradec Králové. That is where it undoubtedly belongs," Kamil Kuča, UHK Rector, praises the team. He also noted that the second eDerby of East Bohemian universities follows from the traditional standard ice-hockey derbies. The University of Hradec Králové is the more successful team with a 6:1 ratio.



The UHK is generally in favour of eSports and supports them. For example, the Faculty of Informatics and Management (FIM UHK) recently built a modern eSports classroom. It will be used, among others, by the Student Gaming Academy (SGA). The winning university team is led by Lubomír Mikuš, a trainee teacher from SGA: *"It is an honour for me to be in charge of eSports and the gaming activities at the University of Hradec Králové. Our teams have confirmed that they belong among the top university eSports teams in the Czech Republic. We thank both*

universities for their support, and especially for their trust. We look forward to winning the eDerby again next year."

"We would like to congratulate the winner – the University of Hradec Králové. Thank you for a great derby; you kept us glued to our chairs right up to the last minute. We pass the cup to UHK and look forward to our next duel in 2022. I believe that today we managed to breathe new life into our students, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic closed everything down,"

said Lucie Košťálová, Chancellor of the University of Pardubice.

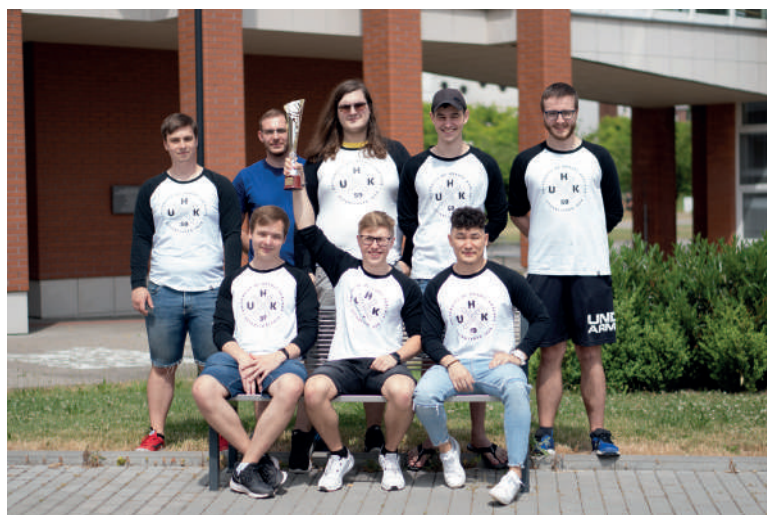
Teams from both universities competed in three types of computer games – Hearthstone (best of five matches), Counter-Strike:GO (best of three matches) and League of Legends (best of three matches).



A series of discussions and lectures kicked off the programme at 10 am on Friday, March 19. The adverse epidemic situation did its worst to hinder this year's event, preventing students from both universities from meeting face-to-face like they did last year, but that did

Given the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Czech government, students were forced to train either on their own or online. *"All in all, practice can be divided into three parts. Naturally, the players' individual approach is vital and we do nothing to regulate it. Everyone tries to work on themselves. If they discover that they are not good at something, they train harder to eradicate*

their weakness. Then we work together to come up with some specific tactics and we rehearse the timing of when a particular person does a particular action. Think of it as a kind of test run as nothing is at stake and we can calmly break down every move and then work together as a team on improving our moves. The best way to learn is by playing. So we play unofficial matches



not stop them from playing on their own from the comfort of their homes. The entire derby was broadcast live by the Esports Student Association (ESA).

during which we try out tactics," says Jan Ferkl as he describes how players get into shape. •

Students Jan Ferkl, Petr Krtička and Choimaa Urjinkhand have been playing for two years and after two players left the student body, they asked Dominik Tobola and Pavel Dvořák to join the team in autumn. In the past two academic years, the players took part in the 3E Academic League and the Academic Championships. They have taken second place three times in 4 semesters.

Best Faculty of Education teachers commended for their dedication and hard work

PETRA KUBAŘOVÁ | DEAN'S OFFICE FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

The Faculty of Education has once again shown its appreciation towards its faculty members. They have been commended for their dedication and the hard work they put into the practical training of their trainee teachers in a presentation ceremony of five annual FAMOS awards.

“The award is our expression of respect,” said František Vaníček, the Dean of the Faculty of Education (UHK), at the award ceremony. He reminded those present that the award-winning teachers are great partners who tirelessly stand by trainee students on their road to becoming teachers themselves.

František Vaníček awarded the prizes to Jana Eibová, a primary school teacher (SNP Primary School, Hradec Králové); Jana Kopřivová, a faculty teacher of music education students (Předměřice Primary School) and to Hana Kudelková from the Secondary School of Services, Trade and Gastronomy in Hradec Králové who was commended for mentoring Russian language and literature students undergoing practical training. The FAMOS 2020 award also went to Ivana Pleskačová, a faculty teacher of art education from Masaryk Primary School in Platiště. Among the awardees was also faculty teacher Petr Slezák, who teaches physical education students and who works at the Božena Němcová Grammar School in Hradec Králové.



The FAMOS 2020 Awards Ceremony was hosted by the Drak Theatre Studio on Wednesday 6 October 2021.

The FAMOS award statue has been given a brilliant facelift consisting of two shaped prisms protruding from a common star-shaped base. It symbolises the combined care exerted by the Faculty and the faculty teachers alike in the preparation of future teachers. The new FAMOS award was designed and created by Petr Voňka, who He majored in graphic design at the Department of Art Education and Textile Design of the Faculty of Education (UHK). ●

And the Primus inter pares award goes to PhDr. Zdeněk Zahradník

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA | DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK | PHOTO | ZDENĚK PUŠ

The City of Hradec Králové held an award ceremony on Wednesday 30 June 2021. The laureate of the Primus inter pares award was the historian and conservationist PhDr. Zdeněk Zahradník, from the Department of Auxiliary Sciences of History and Archival Studies at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové.


The Primus inter pares award is given by the City of Hradec Králové for exceptional and long-standing achievements in culture, science, education and sport. This year it was awarded to the estimable historian and conservationist PhDr. Zdeněk Zahradník.

PhDr. Zdeněk Zahradník entered the museum industry in 1982. He went on to become the Director of the Museum of East Bohemia in Hradec Králové twelve years later. He stayed until 2010 during which time he turned the museum into a top-notch institution. He also helped breathe new life into the famous Kotěra building on the waterfront, which he developed into a cultural and social centre in Hradec Králové. He introduced the traditional Museum Advent Market, he stands behind the Museum Nights idea and thanks to him several Gloria musaealis awards made their way to Hradec Králové in the National Competition for Museums and Galleries. Without him, not even the monuments of the Prussian-Austrian War of 1866 could boast their present-day splendour.

Zahradník is not only a knowledgeable historian and monuments expert, he is also an excellent companion. Behind the continuous avalanche of jokes hides a brilliant but modest



scholar with tremendous insight. He is one of the best in his field of expertise. Moreover, he stood at the birth of the unique two-volume Encyclopaedia of the City of Hradec Králové published by Garamond and he has facilitated the origin of many more regional publications. He co-authored a film and an award-winning publication as part of project The Gate of Wisdom Opened – Baroque Cultural Heritage of the Broumov and Rajhrad Monasteries. Currently he is also the head of the Bishop's Library of the Bishopric of Hradec Králové. PhDr. Zdeněk Zahradník is a renowned and much respected teacher at the Institute of History and the Department of Auxiliary Sciences of History and Archival Studies at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové. ●



Can time be stopped? What secrets did Researchers' Night in Hradec Králové divulge?

MATYÁŠ STRNAD PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (UHK)

Once again, research institutions in Hradec Králové welcomed curious visitors young and old to show them that science really is fun! Apart from the University of Hradec Králové, several other major research institutions participated in Researchers' Night; it took place in Hradec Králové at the end of September 2021.

Exactly 14 hours and 14 minutes. That is how long it took Jana Procházková, a primary school trainee teacher from the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Kralove, to fulfil the dream many long-distance swimmers have: to cross the English Channel. The smiling swimmer commented on her performance laconically. *"I admit that I was a little worried whether I was mentally prepared to give a peak performance, but I was looking forward to the experience so much that I didn't let the little things bother me."* Exemplary student Jana also answered questions in the packed classroom about how she prepared for the swim outside the swimming pool, how cold the strait is, and what actually motivated her to embark on such an adventure.

Dr Tomáš Nacházal from the Department of Information Technology of the Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK) prepared 2D interactive models of artificial life, where different species compete with each other and evolve over time. The model includes an environment generator that creates a world

for virtual animals based on operator-specified parameters, thus making it possible to simulate evolution.

At the UHK campus Na Soutoku, visitors could see the Historybook subtitled Maria Theresa and social networks. What would a social network full of warlords wishing each other much success before the next dramatic battle look like? What if they exchanged congratulations online on the marriages of ancient queens? Or can you imagine early 20th century politicians critically commenting on Twitter about expanding suffrage? Dr Jan Květina from the Institute of History, Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové presented a new tool not only for teaching high school history.

If you sometimes feel that time is passing through your fingers, you must have enjoyed the lecture by Dr Jan Šlégr from the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, UHK, entitled: Can time be stopped? His lecture, which doted on science experiments, was the most requested item on the

2021 programme. If you missed it, fear not, we won't give anything more away. We recorded the lecture and you can find it on the Faculty of Science YouTube channel.

Hundreds of children set off on an adventurous journey of discovery around the city with the Hradec Králové City Library. They were given a fun booklet with tasks to complete, a mystery to solve and a map to help them. Everyone who successfully completed the tasks and correctly solved the riddle got a prize. The Research Library opened an important topic online. A recording of the lecture by Professor Michal V. Mark's lecture Global Changes and Us – Are We Playing for Time? is again available on the Library's YouTube channel.

Most of the programme of the Charles University, Faculty of Medicine in Hradec

Kralove is still available for viewing online. If you'd like to see the last edition of Researchers' Night, tune in to the Faculty's YouTube channel. You'll find a lecture on how fast the human body regenerates. You can also watch how a human develops from a tiny embryo into an old man. Robotic medicine could be of interest to you as could a lecture on the journey from acute COVID to full recovery. At the Faculty itself, you could visit the facilities and touch the teaching aids used by the Department of Anatomy.

For more information on Researchers' Night 2021 in Hradec Kralove, as well as an up-date on future events, please go to the national website nocvedcu.cz. •

First Science of Failure Course in the Czech Republic! And only at FIM UHK!

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

FIM UHK students could take an interesting new optional course in the winter semester of the 2021/2022 academic year. The course referred to as Science of Failure was prepared by Faculty Dean Josef Hynek and Tomáš Studeník, organiser of the popular FuckUp Nights. In addition to the theoretical perspective on human errors and failures, the three-month course also provided students with case studies on various types of human activity. The course was also taught by a number of inspiring guests, such as surgeon Tomáš Šebek, the founder of Zonky Lucie Tvarůžková and the owner of STRV, a successful digital start-up, Lubo Šmíd. The aim of the course was to make students more resilient to failure, better able to cope with adversity and ready to succeed in a turbulent world.

The course builds on similar programmes run at Harvard University and ETH Zurich (where Albert Einstein studied) for example. Tomáš Studeník, the organiser of FuckUp Nights in the Czech Republic, explains what led him to the idea of bringing failure to Czech academia. *"The imperative of success, excellence and happiness is omnipresent. There is no escaping it. The belief that failure is not a normal part of one's career, business and life leads young people*

in particular to feel inferior and depressed and has them a step away from resigning. Understanding failure as a prerequisite for success is crucial for university students."

Professor Josef Hynek adds: "Failure is inevitable. Are you afraid that someone attractive might reject you? Do you dread speaking in public? How about



opening your own business – scared? Bob Dylan failed the first time round. Tomas Bata failed, and even Steve Jobs was fired from Apple. Not trying is a mistake and a lost opportunity will probably make you want to pull your hair out. When you fail, it's important you learn from your mistakes and that you move on. That's what we tried to convey to our course students."

Nine students completed the course (three male students and six female students). They each received a course certificate and valuable advice on how to manage their future personal and professional lives. ●

Unique study programme by the Institute of History of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové

JAN KVĚTINA PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

The Presentation of Historical and Cultural Heritage is a bachelor's degree programme that constitutes a modernised and significantly updated version of the previous programme referred to as the Presentation and Protection of Cultural Heritage. The new programme is conceived as an academically oriented study programme that combines synergy and practice, which clearly distinguishes the programme from the majority of predominantly theoretically-based humanities. The programme is currently open to full-time students.

The aim of the study programme is to prepare versatile specialists to present historical and cultural heritage, and who will find employment in a wide range of memory, historical and cultural institutions, such as museums, galleries, archives, monuments, historical libraries and information centres, to name but a few. For this reason, students will become sufficiently competent in history, cultural history and art history and they will acquire vital know-how in regards to presentation methods, public relations, management of cultural institutions and related project activities.

Thanks to the unique combination of the professional study of history as a science on the one hand and the acquisition of practical experience in the popularisation of culture and the past in a 21st century environment on the other hand, programme graduates will have perfect speaking skills, they will master sophisticated media communication, acquire organisational and managerial skills and they will be able to use the most state-of-the-art technologies in the field of digital presentation. ●

New Bachelor's Degree Programme in Digital Historical Sciences

TOMÁŠ VODIČKA DEAN'S OFFICE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY UHK

Digital Historical Sciences is designed as a professionally oriented full-time study programme.

Digital Historical Sciences aims to turn students into versatile experts in the digitisation of cultural heritage. They can work in a wide range of memory, historical and cultural institutions, like museums, galleries, archives, monuments and historical libraries. The use of modern technologies by these institutions and those like them is definitely on the rise.

The new study programme will combine the acquisition of knowledge and its practical application in two areas – historical sciences and informatics, or ICT in the broadest sense.

The programme was backed by the Strategic Development of the University of Hradec Králové Project (Registration no.: CZ.02.2.69/0.0/0.0/16_015/0002427). •

Come and study Data Science in Hradec Kralove – one of the most sought-after future professions

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

The Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové (FIM UHK) has obtained accreditation for a follow-up Master's degree programme in Data Science.

This is the third time the UHK has been accredited. The UHK's accreditation of the Tourism Management study programme was extended to 2030 and a follow-up Master's degree programme in Economics and Management was created anew. Last but not least, FIM UHK has also obtained accreditation for a new follow-up Master's degree programme in Data Science.

A Data Science graduate is a professional who has a sound knowledge of several key fields, namely computer science, mathematical statistics and big data processing. They can also manage the entire data life cycle.

As Anna Nosková said in Forbes magazine, *"The demand for people who can analyse and work with large amounts of data is growing. This is also mapped by The Future of Jobs Report, which predicts how the labour market will develop in the near future. We will continue to delegate more and more administrative and manual work to machines. In the meantime, however, humanity cannot do without human skills, specifically deciding how to handle data, reasoning, engaging ethics and emotions."*

"Our faculty has always tried to keep up with the times, and when we were racking our brains three years ago on how to move forward, we decided to place our bets on Data Science. We are very

pleased that the latest forecasts and estimates of the IT job market confirm that this decision was the right one. Personally, I see this field of study as slightly more challenging, but all the more adventurous. If I were to choose my line of study and my future career path today, the position of a data

detective would definitely be one of my favourites and I would not be worried about getting a job,” said Tomáš Kozel, Vice-Dean for Study Affairs at FIM UHK, in his evaluation of the new accreditation. •

The Logical Olympiad attracted the highest number of participants in the history of the competition. The regional semi-finals were traditionally held at FIM UHK

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

The regional round of the Logical Olympiad took place on 5 November 2021 in the auditorium of the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové (FIM UHK). This year, 75,237 participants from 3,286 schools registered for the competition, exceeding the previous year's turnout by almost 11,500. It is the highest number of participants in the entire history of the competition.

Children from kindergarten kiddies to high school students competed in six categories. Four competitions were held at primary level during October – contestants solved various word conjugations, number series and other logic problems. The top 180 contestants from the Hradec Králové Region advanced to the regional round.

Jan Gubanec (Úprkova Primary School, Hradec Králové) won Category A (3rd–5th grade). Milan Szatmári (Grammar School of Božena Němcová, Hradec Králové) won

Category B (6th–9th grade and multi-year grammar schools), and Lukáš Poul (Grammar School of Božena Němcová, Hradec Králové) won Category C (secondary schools).

“We are very happy that contestants could participate in the regional round in person. The kids that made it to the top 11 of the regional round will advance to the national finals, which will take place on 29 November 2021 in the Ball Games Hall in Prague Castle,” said Marta Kubánková, the coordinator of the regional round for Mensa Czech Republic.



The Logical Olympiad is a competition in logic tasks organised by Mensa Czech Republic and is intended for children and young people. The competition aims to teach children to be independent and creative. Acquired knowledge plays no role here as independent logical thinking and quick decision-making is what matters. It is a unique competition because it is not only a knowledge test. •

The university run has seen unprecedented interest from students and the public. People ran or walked an incredible 23,247,650 steps together! The proceeds were donated to a charity that helps and supports disadvantaged children on their way to getting an education

MATYÁŠ STRNAD PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (UHK)

The target was 5,000,000 steps. And together, people who took part in the UHK USO Challenge 2021 with BATIST Medical on Tuesday, 4 May 2021, managed to conquer the target just one day after the start of the event. And with five days still to go, it was clear that the final number would be much higher than originally planned. There were 16 runners who collected the maximum number of steps (210,000).

With so many steps (23,247,650) we could have made it to almost anywhere on Earth, as the crow flies of course, even New Zealand. *"We are happy that we managed to run or walk the necessary number of steps to meet the charitable goal of our event. I would like to thank everyone involved,"* Kamil Kuča, Rector of the University of Hradec Králové, comments on the result of the week-long effort. Thanks to BATIST Medical, a company based in Červený Kostelec, the entire CZK 50,000 was donated to the Hradec Králové Regional Charity. The Fundraiser took place from 3 to 9 May 2021.

Seven best runners:

1. Martin Vavřena – 261,450 steps
2. Libor Klempíř – 250,639 steps
3. Markéta Čížková – 242,656 steps
4. Libuše Svobodová – 232,525 steps
5. Martina Kepková – 228,754 steps
6. Zuzana Kroulíková – 227,712 steps
7. Jan Kříž – 223,025 steps



A total of 639 people actively participated in the challenge, each recording their steps using the Pacer app. The aim was to reach a total of 5,000,000 steps, but people were so enthusiastic that the target number was surpassed the very next day. On the days to follow, participants competed to win prizes awarded by UHK, such as university clothing and caps. *"Our only regret is that we could not give prizes to everyone involved, but we trust that at least knowing that we have helped families in need will serve as a moral reward,"* said UHK Rector Kuča.

The pandemic situation meant that the cheque had to be presented online. Representatives of the UHK, BATIST Medical and the Hradec Králové Charity met online and the cheque was handed over in an impromptu fashion.

"Taking care of those in need takes top priority for BATIST Medical. That's why I'm glad that we could be a part of this event. I believe that the funds raised will be rightfully distributed by the Charity and that they will go to single-parent families. We look forward to being invited to similar events in the future," says Tomáš Mertlík, Managing Director of BATIST Medical, East Bohemia, who is also on the Board of Trustees of the University of Hradec Králové and is one of the most successful Czech entrepreneurs according to Forbes magazine.

At an online meeting attended by the representatives of all three institutions, Aneta Maclová, Director of the Diocesan Charity Hradec Králové, reminded everyone of their long-term cooperation, which was already evident in 2020 when university students produced protective shields for the Charity's staff on 3D printers. *"We appreciate all acts of mercy and compassion directed at those who have been less fortunate and we humbly accept the gift,"* said Vojtěch Šústek, Director of the Hradec Králové Regional Charity. *"Thanks to the donation, we can help single-parent families purchase basic school supplies for their children, or buy medicines that otherwise would not be available to some sick children due to their difficult financial situation,"* concludes Zdeňka Koutníková, Head of the Home for Women and Children. •

From lecture to charity run

JIRÍ DRTINA STUDENT, INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES FACULTY OF EDUCATION UHK

Every year, students from the Institute of Social Studies (formerly the Department of Social Pathology and Sociology) of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové help organise a charity run in support of Victims of Violence. The story of one of them, published here, may motivate others to join the upcoming run.

The sixth annual Run Against Violence took place in the Autumn of 2021. It was my second run. It seems only like yesterday when I was quietly sitting in a lecture room as a certain alumnus came by and asked me to join in and help organise the next charity run. I calmly considered my organisational skills, I mean I can't even manage to organise my own daily routine, and my love of sports, which awakens only when I have to catch a train, but then I said to myself, heck, why not, I'm in. I don't remember much from my first run. Except that I had no idea what was going on around me and that I had let my more experienced colleagues guide me.

I decided to repeat the experience in 2021, but without my more experienced colleagues by my side. Even though the team kept convincing itself that we had six months to go and that there was no need to stress, we did. We still have a month, we'll make it. We couldn't keep up. One week to go, we'll make it. We won't make it, it's a bust. And all of a sudden, D-day was here.

We all gathered in the square on the UHK campus after noon. Up until that moment I had believed that our nerves were steady and that our minds were calm, but the colour of our faces suggested otherwise. We could have tutored any chameleon on the spot. Our faces boasted all colours bright and beautiful, from

the colour of a tomato, to the colour of freshly cut grass, to the shade of snow that had just fallen. Many of us mastered the reverse order, repeatedly. Anyway, we got down to work. We set up tables, prepared refreshments, put up tents, recruited volunteers... Speaking of volunteers, I must at this point thank my impeccable memory of faces and names. While I greeted some people up to three times (without remembering their name), I ignored others purely for the sake of convenience. And I'd prepared a list of names to take with me (note to self: add photos to names). During my constant trotting from one station to the next, my pedometer repeatedly sent me alerts to switch from walking mode to bicycle mode, yet the tasks piled up at the same rate they were being fulfilled. Knowing myself and the fact that I had already had first-hand experience of the situation, I had spent the previous night making plans. This helped a lot on the day. Well, to be exact, it would have had I remembered where I had put the file with all my papers. Despite all the setbacks, the starting gun was about to go off and the event was running smoothly. I stood quietly by and watched the runners warm up. A simple question flew through my mind, *"How can anyone run five or even ten kilometres? It's impossible."* Well, being a non-believer, I had to see for myself and try it.

I went to my car to put away my paper file, which I had on me at that moment (of course, when I didn't need it), and to put on my beautiful running shoes (not used until then). I was expecting various comments to come my way, that I was the one going for a run. But no one commented on my being so brave, as my colleagues were at a loss for words. They merely looked on with eyes like saucers and mouths contorted into a perfect letter O. I was pleased with myself, I had managed to surprise everyone.

My feeling happy with myself ended the moment I stepped up to the starting line. What am I doing here? All around me were professionals setting their stopwatches and nervously pacing themselves in anticipation of the events to come. Well, here we go, the starting gun rang

in my ears. As an individual who knows the basics of ethics, I let the elders and the ladies go in front of me. Some of them may even have been younger than me, but you know what,



I like to keep on the safe side. On the other hand, I could enjoy running along the beautiful trail without being overshadowed by the other participants. I met my classmate at the first stop: she was cheering all of the other racers on, but she looked at me like I was an apparition of St John. A few more kilometres down the line (well, one kilometre according to the map, but I didn't believe it, even though I measured the course myself) I was already cursing this brilliant idea of mine and the whole running thing. And I did so several times.

The minute I considered peacefully collapsing into a ditch and letting myself get transported to the base as a dummy for the medics to practise first aid on, my mood was lifted by a runner who passed me (graceful movements, smile on her face). Oh yeah, no big deal for her since she's running harnessed to a huge dog that's pulling her. It wasn't until a few seconds had passed that I realised the dog was only touching the ground with three paws. And after

a few more seconds, I stopped thinking of the mysterious object as a dog, because I realised that it was actually a baby carriage and that she was pushing it in front of her. No way, I can't have a lady with a pram outrun me! I set my mind to getting in front of her. Normally my lungs would have protested, but I had already left them behind me at the first kilometre.

I ran through the park, crossed the bridge, and metre by metre, step by step, I approached the finish line. I have to make a minor detour at this point. If anyone reading this has no running experience, adjust the music list you'll be



listening to on the course beforehand. Songs like *There at the Gates of Heaven* and *When the Angels Call Me* are not appropriate when you are in the middle of a meadow trying to remember what the first signs of a heart attack are. But back to the trail. I crossed the car park, ran under the bridge and finally!! saw the tarmac. I had one more kilometre to go. I knew I could make it, right foot, left foot, right foot, left foot. Come on, it's not that hard! I told myself. I crossed the bridge, rounded the park, jogged over the footbridge and there, in plain sight, was the finish line. Okay, I forgot I still had to run around the building, but I was almost on top of the finish line. Friends were calling out to me, the announcers were saying something, but I didn't pay any attention to them. I was only aware of my heart, which was disgustingly telling me that tomorrow it would be moving on to someone who would treat it better, and the three racers between me and the finish line. No, absolutely not. They will all finish behind me. I'm not sure where I dug up the last of my strength, perhaps from seeing the

finish line so close and knowing that if I were to collapse, I wouldn't have to be dragged too far. I passed the one runner, and the second runner and I did all I could to also pass the third runner. I don't know if I'd rather have that third runner or that damned finish line I'd been dreaming about for the last four and a half kilometres (I actually enjoyed the first half kilometre) behind me.

This is where I stop making a fool of myself. The feelings that I experienced after I had completed the race were worth it. The feeling that I had proven to myself and everyone else that I could do it. The feeling that I had left three other competitors behind me in the last stretch of the race. The feeling that I had done something I would have thought impossible just an hour ago. It may be routine for some people, but for me it was the experience of a lifetime. And I was even more delighted when two of my teammates finished far behind me. My joy was stauncher a little when I found out that they had run the 10 Km race instead of the 5 Km one, and that they had managed to take first and second place in the women's category (and yet they looked fitter than me at the finish). But whatever, maybe next time. I didn't make it to the victory stand (big surprise), but the experience was more valuable than the medal. True, my colleagues had to promise me right after the race that they would talk me out of any similar idea I might get in the future, but you know what? Let them convince me that I can't do it, that it's nonsense, I already know the truth. I can do this. What about you? Are you going to convince yourself that you can't do something, or are you going to throw away your doubts and dive in headfirst? So which one of you will I meet at the start next year? ●

ŠKODA Biz Sim Cup 2021 – Online Team Competition

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

The ŠKODA Biz Sim Cup 2021 national final took place on Friday 26 November 2021. Originally, teams putting their management and economic skills to the test were to meet at the Škoda Museum in Mladá Boleslav, but things didn't go as planned and they ended up competing online.

A total of 129 students from three universities, namely the University of Hradec Králové (UHK), the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (ČZU) and the Prague University of Economics and Business (VŠE), took part in the competition. Some 43 competitors in 9 teams advanced to the final round. Students who had won the school tournaments competed in 5 rounds of a simulation game, where each round had 10 virtual days. The team bearing the original name Team looking for a name from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague took first place. It also won the cup for overall winner and a financial prize of CZK 40,000. Second and third places both went to the Prague University of Economics and Business (VŠE). Competitors from the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové (UHK) took



fourth, sixth and eighth place. A total of CZK 200,000 was awarded, originally donated by ŠKODA AUTO as the general partner. The technology partner was SAP ČR, which gave the winners a tour of its laboratories.



“Business information systems are often discussed at IT faculties and faculties of economics. Nonetheless, students rarely get the opportunity to get hands-on experience of specific enterprise information systems. The competition gave students the opportunity to do just that. They got to work with the prestigious SAP S4/HANA business information system in a virtual market economy. Participating students gave the competition a thumbs up, thus confirming that they like gaining new knowledge in a competitive environment,” says the main coordinator of the competition, Associate Professor Pavel Čech from the Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové (UHK). •

Blue Bash – In your face, Covid!

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

The Faculty of Informatics and Management of the University of Hradec Králové celebrated its 28th birthday in spite of Covid. As the Coronavirus pandemic did not subside, on the contrary – things got much worse, students and staff decided not to throw the white towel into the ring and together they organised the Blue Bash event online and via social networks.

UHK Dean Josef Hynek kicked-off the week-long event with a toast and a short speech in which he said, among other things, *“I hope that each and every one of you will choose an activity to participate in and that, given that we have come together, even if remotely, we will show the world that we, the staff, the students and the alumni of the Faculty of Informatics and Management, are still here.”* He also expressed his wish: *“Make our faculty full time again,”* meaning that a faculty without students is a strangely empty and sad place.

The event started on Monday, February 15. Professor Franěk gave a live-streamed lecture on the topic *“We want a university tomb!”* From Tuesday onwards, the Department of Recreation and Tourism posted an early morning exercise routine every day, which they called Be Blue and Fit. Student societies organised a tournament in computer games, a quiz, a photo competition, a competition for the best-rendered blue bun and a Language Café, where participants could join various language or nationality groups and practice their foreign language, learn about the culture of international students, their country, cuisine, and the like.

The event went according to plan, and judging by people's reactions on social media, they were able to enjoy the online celebrations with their feet up from the comfort of their homes. ●




**SPORT TEAM
UNIVERZITA
HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ**

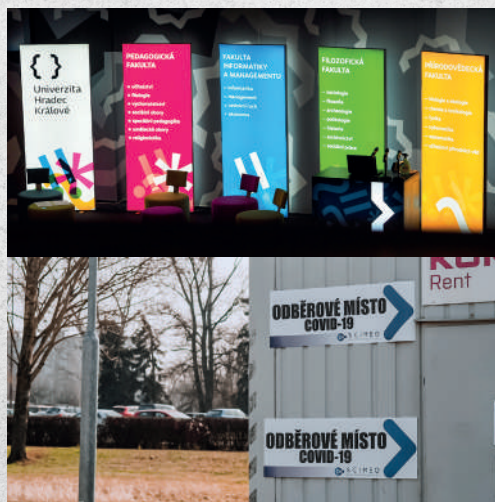
SPORT TEAM UHK associates top athletes, aims to support their dual careers and offers financial and other support to obtain a higher education without disrupting their professional sports career.

UHK Annually in a nutshell

January

On 8 and 9 January 2021, the University of Hradec Králové welcomed prospective students at its traditional Open Days, this time organised online. As part of the Open Days, the University streamed a live panel discussion with its guests directly from the University auditorium Na Soutoku, and broadcasted presentations from individual UHK departments and institutes. •

In view of the ongoing COVID pandemic, a PCR and an antigen sampling centre was set up at the University's parking area in the Na Soutoku campus. UHK staff and students may now get tested under more favourable terms. •



February

Associate Professor PhDr. Miroslav Rázek, CSc sadly passed away on 6 February 2021 at the age of 96. Dr Rázek joined the Faculty of Education in Hradec Králové in 1964. After the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968, he was persecuted for his political beliefs and was forcefully evicted from the Faculty in 1970. He then worked as a crane operator in Ferona, a metal product supplier, and later



as a warehouse worker for the District Building Cooperative in Hradec Králové.

After the Velvet Revolution, he was actively involved in the organisation of the Civic Forum, and in 1990 he returned to the Faculty. He helped establish the Department of Social Sciences and Civics, which later blossomed out and transformed into departments of Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy and Social Science. He was a member of the Faculty's academic staff until 1994, and held lectures for University students as an external lecturer until 2000.

He was loved by his colleagues for his courage and for his active engagement during the turning points in history. He was appreciated and highly respected for his moral integrity, his kindness, modesty and graciousness. •

March

With great sadness we announce the passing of Professor Martin Gavalec (78), a renowned mathematician and scientist, and much respected, always good-natured colleague.

Prof. RNDr. Martin Gavalec, CSc., was born in Žilina, in today's Slovakia. He graduated from the

Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University Bratislava in the field of mathematics.

Before he joined the Faculty of Informatics and Management (UHK) in early 1998, Professor Gavalec taught at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics of the Technical University in Košice.

“When he joined our university, he immediately became an active and dedicated member of the Department of Information Technologies. His analytical approach to problem solving and his attention to detail inspired both his colleagues and his PhD students, whom he guided methodically and conscientiously on their journey to in-depth scientific education and the follow-up research work. Always calm and judicious, he supported all colleagues who struggled with any professional work problems. Martin Gavalec kindly and graciously helped and supported everyone who came to ask for his aid,” said Professor Vladimír Bureš, the Head of the Department of Information Technologies.



Professor Gavalec was a successful promoter and coordinator of several basic research projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation. He was the founder and the head of ODEMA (Optimisation and Decision Making) working group,

and he taught and pursued research in multiple areas of mathematics. In recent years, as one of the leaders in the field, he has been working on problems in non-standard optimisation methods and extremal algebra. He was also interested in fuzzy and soft computing methods. He regularly published in journals such as Information Sciences or Fuzzy Sets and Systems, which rank among the top ten most prestigious journals in computer

science and applied mathematics. In 2006, having passed a stringent appointment procedure at Ostrava University, he was appointed the Professor of Applied Mathematics.

Dean Josef Hynek has very fond memories of Professor Gavalec: *“Martin Gavalec was an exceptional colleague who regularly published in the most prestigious journals, won research grants and ranked among the best scientists at the Faculty and the entire University. And yet, he was always very humble, kind and eager to help. I will always remember his gentle humour, or how he always carried with himself his pencil and his notebook or just a piece of paper, in which he recorded and developed his algebraic theories during dull meetings or during breaks between state exams. He was a great mathematician and yet a very sensitive, perceptive and friendly human being.”*

The most prestigious publications and scientific work of Professor Gavalec include the monograph Periodicity in Extremal Algebras (2004), the monograph Decision Making and Optimisation (2015) and the university textbook Algebra and Theory of Numbers (1995), which is used nationwide. He was also the promoter of several successful projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation, such as the project Discrete and Nonconvex Optimisation in Economy and Management. He published many of his findings in prestigious scientific journals, such as in Fuzzy Sets and Systems, Information Sciences, or Mathematics. He trained a number of successful PhD graduates. •

April

Online HIT Career event attended by over 30 companies

Despite certain doubts whether we did not have our fill of online activities already, FIM UHK organised a traditional job opportunity fair HIT Career.

At first we were uncertain whether to even hold the 13th annual HIT Career event. After all, one of the most important aspects of a job fair is to offer students and their prospective employees the opportunity to meet in person. *“We were thinking whether the idea of organising yet another virtual event after*

more than a year of tiresome pandemic restrictions was really worthwhile, but having discussed the matter with partner companies, we decided to give it a go and hold the fair,” explains Petra Poullová, the Vice-Dean for Development and International Affairs of FIM UHK and the main fair coordinator.

In the end, a total of 29 companies registered for the event. The job fair was held from 12 to 16 April 2021. The companies were invited to present a lecture via MS Teams or introduce themselves via the official website of HIT Career through a pre-recorded presentation. This allowed students

to get “virtually” in direct contact with the companies and ask them questions or even initiate a cooperation. “HIT Career offers the opportunity to discuss with students their practice projects or their thesis assignments. Another benefit is that students

may get real-life job offers at their fair. And we know that several of them have already accepted such offers whether during their studies or after graduation,” added Associate Professor Poullová. •

June

Ing. Kateřina Frončková Received a Medal

Ing. Kateřina Frončková from the Department of Informatics and Quantitative Methods was nominated for the Mayor's Student Award for Creative Achievement in 2020. She won a medal for her work.



Ing. Kateřina Frončková is a PhD student at UHK's Applied Informatics study programme, and already a very successful researcher with an excellent publication track record. Her principal areas of interest are mathematics, statistics, computer science and their application, but she is also well educated in other areas. For example, she is proficient in both English and French languages.

As a PhD student, she currently focuses on functional data analysis, a state-of-the-art field of statistics that promises a broad variety of practical applications. She has published papers in mathematics, statistics and computer science in peer-reviewed journals and held talks at international conferences. She is also a co-researcher of the Specific Research Project IT4Neuro(degeneration). •

As one of the most promising students in the city, Mgr. Milan Školník received a medal from the Mayor

Mgr. Milan Školník from the Department of Political Science at the Philosophical Faculty, UHK, was nominated for the Mayor's Student Award for Creative Achievement 2020. He won the medal for his research and publications about corruption, Czech local government and social media.

Milan Školník is a PhD student of Political Science – Latin American Studies at the University of Hradec Králové. In 2020 alone he published seven academic papers, six of them in renowned journals from the database of Web of Science or Scopus.



In 2020 he made a breakthrough in his research of local governments. He co-created an original method that can locate municipalities throughout the Czech Republic with councillors working a full-time job. On that occasion, he also identified accounting errors in over three hundred municipalities and helped correct them in cooperation with regional authorities. •

August

In August 2021, the University of Hradec Králové, aided by its Information, Counselling and Career Centre, launched a hot line for secondary school graduates who wish to apply for admission to the University. The hot line also functions as an advisory service and is available for five days a week. •

Second Year of Summer Day Camp at UHK

In the penultimate week of August, the Faculty of Informatics and Management and the Faculty of Science jointly organised an IT-themed summer day camp.

Twenty children aged 11 to 16 enjoyed the busy programme for an entire week. The children had the opportunity to programme their own robots, do puzzles or play games in the University's new e-sports classroom. They got a glimpse into the daily life of firefighters, they learned how to cook a healthy meal for themselves, they visited an astronomical observatory and the city library.



"I really enjoyed the week. I was here last year and I can say that unlike all other day camps, this one really focuses on information technologies, which I would like to study in future," commented Ondra from Hradec Králové. Almost half of the children visited the summer camp for the second time in a row, which shows that everyone had fun here and left the camp smiling.

"Our main goal was to show children the world of IT in its all diversity, which is what we spent doing all morning sessions of the camp. We tried to teach them something new while improving on what they knew already. And to show them how rich the IT world is and that it is not in any way boring. In the afternoons, we focused on sports and games to balance out the morning educational sessions. This is how I would generally describe the summer day camps organised by FIM," said Helena Holubičková, the camp's main coordinator. •

We welcomed new FIM students

On Thursday, 26 August 2021, we had a traditional orientation day for new students who start their studies at FIM UHK in September. This year, the welcome speech was presented for the 24th time.



Over 800 prospective students applied for admission to the Faculty in 2021, the most sought after study programme being Applied Informatics. Starting from the winter term, the Faculty also began to offer the new Data Science programme.

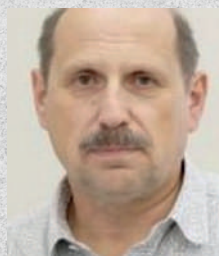
"The main benefit of the welcome lecture is that it helps the first-year students integrate in the university environment. The students receive useful information about their study programmes, on how to organise their schedules, about the STAG information system and they learn more about their international study stay options both directly and through remote access," explains Dr Strnadová. •

September

The inaugural Re-UNI/on party started the new term at the University of Hradec Králové. The Re-UNI/on is an event organised by student associations that kicks off the new academic year at the University campus. The attendees could break their fast and have their little chit-chat and tittle-tattle with the members of student associations and clubs throughout the day, and enjoy a music festival at the Václav Havel Square in the evening. •



October



Associate Professor PaedDr. René Drtina, Ph.D. passed away on Saturday, 30 October 2021. René Drtina graduated from the University of Education in Hradec Králové in Physics and Fundamentals of Technology. He obtained his

PhD degree in the Theory of Education of Technical Subjects at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové. He completed the habilitation procedure at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

From 1986 on, René Drtina taught at the Department of Technical Subjects of the Faculty of Education, UHK, focusing mostly on the subject of electrical engineering. He was a coordinator of research projects in auditoriology, audio-visual technology and power electrical engineering, and a holder of 4 patents. He was the laureate of the Annual Prize of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering – Praemium Scientificum, which he received in 2020 for his research achievements. •

November

In November, we launched a new, fully interactive website for prospective students located at the address mojeuhk.cz. In cooperation with the Hradec-based Ler webdesign studio which developed the website's contemporary design, we have created a platform where UHK applicants can get all information about our study programmes, the admission process and general conditions for admission. The website shows the photos and video recordings of our students and alumni, who helped us create a more authentic application campaign. •

The project Certificate of Good Citizenship 4.0 – Skills for Democratic Culture comes to an end



At the end of November 2021, the project Certificate of Good Citizenship 4.0 – Skills for Democratic Culture was finally brought to a close. The project aimed to create educational curricula for secondary school students and teachers.

The goal of the project was to engage secondary school students in the civic life in a democratic society. The project was co-funded by the European Union from the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education. One of the partners

of the project, which was coordinated by the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Culture and co-developed by the Masaryk University and Palacký University in Olomouc, was the Philosophical Faculty, UHK.

During the three-year project, the team of experts from the Philosophical Faculty participated in the development of curricula for students and for teachers. The Philosophical Faculty team created two 16-hour student curricula titled “Political

Literacy for Grammar Schools” and “Political Literacy for Secondary School Students with Special Needs”, which seek to develop the students’ general civic knowledge and civic skills and improve their engagement in political and public life.

The specific feature of the second curriculum is that it focuses on students with hearing impairments. ●



EUROPEAN UNION
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December



The writer, film theorist and literary critic, university teacher, Associate Professor PhDr. Jan Dvořák sadly passed away on 8 December 2021.

Jan Dvořák taught at the Department of Czech Language and Literature of the Faculty of Education of University of Hradec Králové since 1992. As the head of the department, he significantly contributed to the department’s growth and development after 1994. He was a renowned and respected film and literary critic and theorist. In his creative

writing classes, he inspired generations of students in their own creative endeavours.

Jan Dvořák was a much loved and respected literary personality. His love for Hradec Králové region clearly stood out in his work. His devoted much of his time also to the editorial work, especially during his long-term cooperation with the Kruh publishing house. As a literary manager and script editor he collaborated with the Drak theatre and with the Hradec branch office of Czech Radio. He made a lasting contribution to the cultural development of our region. ●