

žurnál

Magazine of Palacký University Olomouc, 2021/1

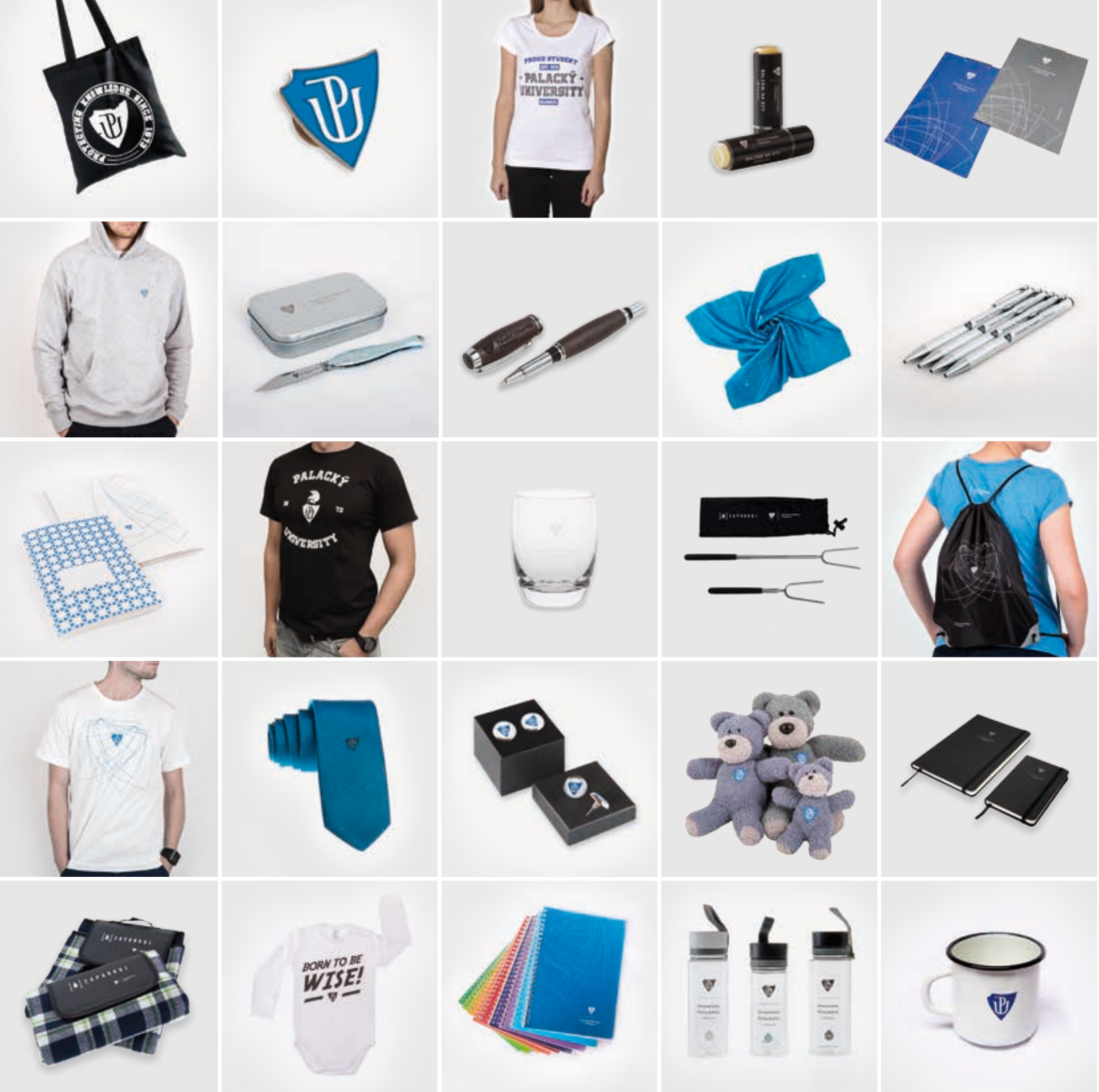
alumna

**Terez Wrau: I do
what I enjoy – playing
and singing for
myself and others**



Palacký University
Olomouc

Genius loci...



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contents

- 2 — You can count on us – on UP
- 6 — Covidoscope
- 8 — New simulators for obstetric and gynaecological examinations
- 8 — Oldest cave drawing in the country found by Faculty of Arts archaeologists
- 9 — Faculty of Health Sciences publication on quality of life in patients with dementia
- 9 — UNIS programme supports athletes in their studies and career development
- 10 — Faculty of Science terrace decorated with thousands of plants
- 10 — Second UP Faculty of Law journal included in Scopus database
- 11 — International recognition for Robert Buček
- 11 — Faculty of Theology first in Czechia to offer complete on-line study
- 12 — RCPTM launches magnetic nanoparticles against Covid-19
- 13 — App from the Faculty of Physical Culture for measuring employee stress
- 14 — Simple screening test detects the presence of new coronavirus in one hour
- 15 — Portrait – Milan Kolář, former dean of UP FMD, Head of the Microbiology Department at UP FMD and University Hospital Olomouc
- 18 — Success
- 22 — Kaleidoscope
- 24 — Faculty of Law Library named in honour of Milada Horáková
- 25 — Interview – Jaroslav Miller: It's time to reconsider our way of life
- 29 — Expedition Without Barriers: Even a person in a wheelchair can conquer the highest peak
- 30 — Unique book of heraldry by Jiří Louda published with an introduction by Prince Charles
- 31 — When universities help the world together: UP joins prestigious international university alliance
- 32 — "Park It!" – the summer hit
- 33 — Experience – #doingwhatican. Even from the other end of the world
- 35 — Alumna – Terez Wrau: I do what I enjoy – playing and singing for myself and others
- 37 — Tabata – Ideal exercise for the whole body
- 38 — Classical philologist, former rector, and poet gone mad: Michael Franz Xaver von Canaval (1798–1868)
- 39 — Reflection – USA
- 40 — Connected

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MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



Dear colleagues, students, and
friends of Palacký University,

The new academic year which we
have embarked upon will not be
an easy one. The university, just
like all of society, has been facing
the circumstances caused by the
world-wide Covid-19 pandemic
ever since the spring. For us in
practice, this means primarily that
we have to teach in a different
way than to that which we were
accustomed. We will make use of
new technologies and tools which
allow us to teach remotely. We
managed it in the spring, and
I believe that we will succeed even
better at it now. Let us find the joy
in education, no matter in what
form it takes place.

The role of the university – and its
employees, academics, students,
and scientists – is not limited solely
to the confines of the university
campus. Last spring we proved
that we are a strong component
of our society and that we are
not indifferent to the lives of the
people in this country. We were
able to swiftly give a helping hand
wherever it was needed. And we
are doing the same now and we will
continue to do so in the future.

I believe that together we will sail
through these difficult times. I wish
you all good health and lots of
strength in the days and weeks to
come. Palacký University stands by
you.

Jaroslav Miller
Palacký University Rector

theme

text: Ivana Pustějovská
photos: Vojtěch Duda

**You can count
on us – on UP**



It was unbelievable. Closed borders, closed schools, half-deserted streets, people wearing masks. Life, as we have never known it – and could only have imagined it from sci-fi films, at best. Last spring the coronavirus pandemic struck the entire world, including our country. But like every crisis, even this one became proof of our strength, courage, and solidarity. Palacký University – our students, academics, employees, and scientists – were among the first to lend our country a helping hand: our knowledge, abilities, readiness, technical infrastructure, and scientific discoveries.

In this edition of the university magazine, we commemorate several of our activities and personalities. It will not – nor cannot – be a complete enumeration, just as we are not able to write the names of all who pitched in. Nor is it necessary. We would simply like to show that the university is not an ivory tower, remote in time and space. Just the opposite. What we are learning, what we are working on, what we are exploring... we do for society as a whole. “The universities and the Czech Acade-

my of Sciences in the time of the pandemic definitely rose to the occasion and clearly showed what great human and technological capital our country has. This country can rely on its academic workplaces,” stated the declaration of the Initiative of Academic Workplaces, an informal group of university laboratories and institutes and the Czech Academy of Sciences which was created in the spring, and helped out during testing for the presence of the coronavirus infection. And Palacký University played a very active role in it.

Face masks, shields, disinfectant. We give what we have

We’ll get to testing later. We began by sewing face masks, we transformed the “bibliobox” in the Armoury meant for returning library books into a “maskbox”, into which volunteers placed face masks. We then distributed them where needed. At the beginning, that meant everywhere. Masks were sewn at home, at university faculties – in short, wherever possible. Also needed were face shields, for protecting healthcare workers and police. They were nowhere to

be found, so the Faculties of Education and Science fired up their 3D printers and began printing shields.

But not only masks and shields were in short supply. According to the public health officials, we were supposed to keep disinfecting our hands. But with what? Hand sanitiser was in inadequate supply. And so our experts went to work. Both in the laboratories at the Faculty of Science and at the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials. The result was thousands of litres of the necessary solution, distributed to the Olomouc Department of Public Transportation, the Young Offenders Institution in Nový Jičín, and in grammar schools, where children were looked after by employees of the integrated rescue brigade. “Academic” hand sanitiser found its way to the Olomouc Charitas, the Klokánek Children in Need foundation, the Olomouc hospice on Svatý Kopeček, and the Slatinice spa, just to name a few. Solidarity worked. And when supplies ran out, one call was all it took for volunteers to arrive with new canisters of supplies. →



We provide help on the spot

Volunteers. The word took on a clear meaning and content during the time of Covid-19. Students from all eight faculties began helping out. Future doctors, healthcare workers, physiotherapists from the faculties of Medicine, Health Sciences, and Physical Education went into hospitals and various other health and social care facilities, wherever a helping hand was needed. They helped at blood stations, testing centres, they manned telephone helplines, helped triage patients, etc. And not only in Olomouc, but for instance in Šumperk and Nový Jičín in Moravia, and even in Bratislava and Martin in Slovakia. Help took on many forms. Telephone help lines were launched so people who suddenly felt isolated had someone to confide to. Psychology students from the Faculty of Arts pitched in, as did students from the Faculty of Theology, who helped seniors with calming words and even grocery shopping, while students from the Faculty of Law helped people resolve existential problems. And it was body as well as soul, when students from the Faculty of Physical Culture gave advice on home exercise for those housebound.

And the pandemic brought collateral troubles as well. Primary and secondary schools were closed, children were sent “home”. So into the fray went volunteers from the Faculty of Education. These future teachers helped with tutoring chil-

dren for example in the Prostějov Children’s Home as well as the children of those working round the clock at University Hospital Olomouc.

We also wanted information on this new, invisible enemy. Students of Geoinformatics invented an interactive map which depicted the actual state of infection in the region. Data was provided by the laboratories of the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc.

In short, students and academics offered their abilities and knowledge. And we have only mentioned a few examples.

Knowledge in practice

Universities teach, educate... and they also conduct research. Science and research are integral parts of every university’s mission. From time to time we hear questions such as: What exactly are they studying at these universities and in the Academy of Sciences? What use is it? It’s just academic theory, isn’t it? The time of Covid-19 gave convincing answers to such questions. Dozens of universities and academic workplaces pitched in to help during the pandemic, from all over the country: theory was put into quite real practice. Like at Palacký University.

Two top scientific centres, the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine (IMTM) of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials (RCPTM) of the Faculty of Science, of-

fered their scientific capacities. RCPTM workers developed magnetic nanoballs, which became an important component of new technologies in testing for Covid-19, created at the Department of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with other partners. The development of the testing protocol was a reaction to the lack of commercial testing kits during the time of the coronavirus crisis. IMTM again, as one of the first academic workplaces, joined in to work on Covid-19 tests. Its head Marián Hajdúch became the national coordinator for testing and is now also one of the authors of the Czech National Strategy for Covid-19 Testing. He even manned the testing stations in Olomouc, Litovel, and Uničov.

By the way, their contributions were appreciated by the Czech Ministry of Education, which presented both centres’ activities in its informational brochure *European Steps in the Fight Against the Coronavirus*: “The coronavirus pandemic has clearly shown that investing in research and education makes sense, whether it’s from national or European sources.”

And as this text began with a quote from a statement by universities and the Czech Academy of Sciences, so too will it close. These words can also be found there: “Our initiative is not ending, we remain on standby, and if it is deemed necessary and a critical situation returns, we’re prepared again for active deployment.”



→
Photographs taken from
the Facebook profiles of UP
students and employees.



Our heartfelt thanks
to all our student
volunteers!



covidoscope

T.G. Masaryk, Hippocrates, and...

Absolutely everyone was (and is) thinking of safety. For example, the first president of Czechoslovakia, T.G. Masaryk, wore a symbolic face mask in a temporary installation at our dormitory campus by street artist Chemis. And Hippocrates was also found wearing a mask at the construction site of the new headquarters of the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

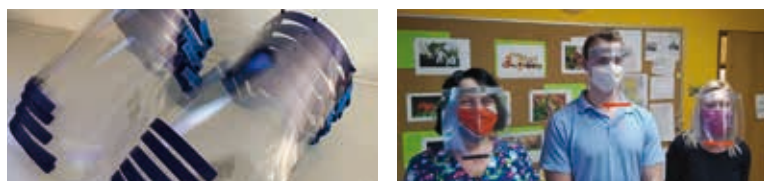


Information in English



They traded in their white scrubs for telephone headsets. We're talking about the students in the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's English-language General Medicine programme, who fielded calls in English on special emergency hotlines. The hotlines were prepared by Palacký University in cooperation with the Olomouc Regional Public Health Authority for all foreigners who were affected by the pandemic within the city and region.

UP Shields



At the beginning of the epidemic, there wasn't enough of anything. And those in the front lines – healthcare professionals, including paramedics – couldn't even protect themselves, running the risk of infection. They lacked face shields. And that's why the firm Prusa Research developed a face shield prototype in record time and asked all with 3D printers to join in their production. They launched a huge wave of solidarity among the professionals who ran the machines, the businesspeople and merchants who had the necessary materials at hand, and the volunteers who assembled the individual parts and then distributed them once ready. Even the 3D printer at the Department of Art Education was called into the fray to produce face shields that were sent as far afield as to hospitals in Prague and Otrokovice. The shields were also printed at the UP Faculty of Science. Their Department of Geoinformatics scientists seized the initiative, even improving upon the model so that the shields could be printed and assembled even faster, in cooperation with the Palacký University UPrint 3D centre.

Handy

We soon got used to them. To gels, sprays, aqueous solutions. We carried them in our purses, backpacks, encountered them in offices, shops, and at the university. Simple everywhere. Hand sanitisers.



Even books were forced into quarantine



What would university study be without books? And even when the university library attempts to help students and academics during a state of emergency by granting access to all possible electronic text sources, some paper books are simply necessary. Thus the UP Library made a "take-out window" in the Armoury main branch. Those interested could order books thanks to a special reservation system and pick them up at a specific time. Books were then returned via special "biblioboxes" to reduce contact. And just like people, the borrowed books then spent several days in quarantine. Because safety comes first, new artefacts appeared in the Armoury courtyard: reflective cones, which indicated the proper 2 metres' safe distance for queueing.

Gadgets



Even tiny things helped. People were sewing masks, and some seamstresses had trouble sewing the necessary diagonal seams. The UPrint 3D centre in the UP Science and Technology Park came up with an idea for that and began to print a feeder for diagonal stitches. UP's Fort Science joined in, also making use of its 3D printers. These clever gadgets, which saved time and frayed nerves, were made available for free.

Words of Thanks

“Our Children’s Home is maxed out in terms of its workforce, and there’s just not enough to go around in a state of emergency. So I asked your Faculty of Education for help and it’s patent now that your help has fulfilled the task. For each of our caretakers, to get eight kids ready for school is truly a Herculean task, and Faculty of Education students really helped us out in a difficult situation. Thank you so much.”

Vladimír Brablec, Director of the Prostějov Children’s Home

“They worked in the interest of our patients, took part in activities in the wards, they were interested in both the practical and the theoretical aspects of our work. I’m convinced that all of them will mature to become our exemplary, dedicated, and empathetic colleagues.”

Zdenka Polzerová, Director of the Paseka Therapeutic Treatment Centre, on UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry students

“Dear Rector, I’m writing to you to thank the workers at the Regional Centre for Advanced Technologies and Materials at the UP Faculty of Science, who at the beginning of the pandemic selflessly provided seniors living in an assisted living home and family doctors in the town of Hlubočky with hand sanitiser. This help was greatly appreciated in Hlubočky, especially with respect to the situation we had, in that it was provided immediately. In the first days of the announced state of emergency and epidemiological measures it was impossible to find any hand sanitiser on the market, and supplies requisitioned from Emergency Services and the Olomouc Region were put on backorder.”

Eva Hasníková, Mayor of Hlubočky

“The fact that our colleagues from the Olomouc Faculty of Law sewed and sent us face masks is proof of how inter-university solidarity should work. The partnership of our faculties has lasted for over twenty years and is standing the test now in the fight against the coronavirus. Huge thanks go to Leona Černá, who came up with the idea, and all her colleagues who took part in this endeavour.”

Christine Bertrand, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Université Clermont Auvergne

“Dear Dean, we’d like to use this communication channel to express our great gratitude to your student Markéta Procházková. We would like to thank this student from the bottom of our hearts for ‘pitching in’ during this difficult time and for giving up her domestic bliss for her impromptu vocation. She helped us on a daily basis and took over work from others who could not be on the job due to the coronavirus crisis. We really appreciate the mutual cooperation and hope it can continue.”

Leona Krejčířová and Marie Sáňková, Municipal Social Services Administration in Boskovice, about a UP Faculty of Health Sciences student

“Dear Natálie Vaicová, Prokop Bret – UP Faculty of Law students. I’m writing on behalf of my mother, who was given legal advice by you in mid-April. My mother does not have access to a computer these days (the libraries are closed), she only has access to the Internet infrequently, and so she asked me to thank you for your elaborated legal analysis in resolving her situation. She appreciates the work which you did on her legal matter in this difficult time – it was a huge help for her.”

LN, daughter of a Student Legal Advice Centre, UP Faculty of Law client

“Dear Dean and Vice-Dean, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you for such students as Kateřina Slováková and Lucie Černíková. Kateřina has been helping us during holidays since last year, and really helped out during the coronavirus epidemic, and she continues to be helpful. Lucie joined her this year. Both are absolutely reliable, responsible, eager, and have great rapport with the children. They were up and running here very quickly, have been a huge help to us during the holidays and during the temporary lack of personnel. Thanks again, and wishing you many more such students.”

Eva Kovářová, Head Nurse of the Children’s Ward, Vsetín Hospital, regarding UP Faculty of Health Sciences students

Just some of the thanks addressed to UP faculties and/or management which arrived during the state of emergency in reaction to help given by UP.

Talks from Quarantine

Jan Gregar, from the UP Faculty of Education’s Institute of Foreign Languages, thought that even during a state of emergency, it’s important to just talk and keep up with one’s contacts. So he launched online interviews entitled Talks from Quarantine, and invited guests from the ranks of students, academics, alumni, and personalities from the cultural sphere into his imaginary chair. In that way, he tried to compensate for the “social withdrawal” which gradually affected so many people. “My goal was to at least try to introduce people and get them talking together. You don’t learn as much by reading books or even by watching instructional videos about life than you do by talking to people, discussing things,” said Gregar.

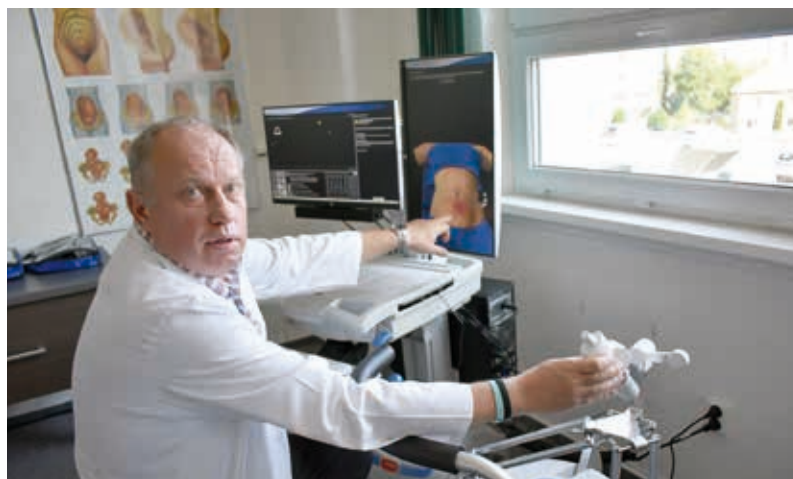


You take really good care of me

We learned how to properly wash our hands, safely cough and sneeze, and also how to take care of our new friend: the face mask. And at the university we created a quick instruction manual on how to take care of our new fashion accessory.



8 faculties
1 university



New simulators for obstetric and gynaecological examinations

Four new simulators for teaching obstetrics and gynaecology were supplied to the Centre for Telemedicine and Simulators Olomouc (CENTESIMO) at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Students learn the specifics of working with top-notch medical technologies on these devices to practise the most frequently used examination procedures.

In particular, they learn to coordinate the movement of the instrument with what they see on the screen and with the orientation in the body. “It is important to realize that anatomy is learned from the patient’s perspective, with the heart on the left, the right hand on the right, and the head on top. However, in hysteroscopy, when a uterine endoscope is inserted into the cavity through the vagina, from

the point of view of me as a surgeon, for example, the isthmus of the right fallopian tube is by my left hand. Also, through the camera and with the image on the flat monitor, I do not perceive the space in the body in the same way as I do when I operate directly with my hands. This may sound trivial, but it is vital for high-quality medical care,” said Prof Radovan Pilka, the head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc.

Two ultrasound simulators were acquired, one with a vaginal and the other with an abdominal probe, and two surgical simulators for hysteroscopy and laparoscopy training. All are equipped with monitors and Internet connection, allow-

ing one to record the training session and share it with other users or download it to a flash drive. The ultrasound simulators have two monitors: one highlighting where to move the probe, the other directly monitoring the examined area. The built-in memory of the simulators contains several model cases of patients in different stages of pregnancy, and it can be extended with more cases. The hysteroscopic simulator allows one to insert uterus models, and real electrical surgical instruments can be used to practice the examination. Finally, the laparoscopic simulator mimics a small pelvis. The simulators were purchased within the OP RDE project “Modern Teaching Methods for Comprehensive Education” for almost €170 thousand. (vim)

Oldest cave drawing in the country found by Faculty of Arts archaeologists

Black lines on a massive stone – called “The Brain” due to its wrinkled surface – are the oldest cave art in the Czech Re-



public. The boulder is located in the Main Dome of Catherine’s Cave in the Moravian Karst, and among its discoverers were archaeologists from the Faculty of Arts. The lines were probably an artistic complement of the Brain as a cult stone in the Stone Age, some 7,000 years ago.

“The uniqueness of the drawing, which may not make sense to people today, was discovered by a complete accident. Curiously enough, the Brain was photographed about a hundred years ago by the discoverer of the Venus of Dolní Věstonice and the speleology pioneer, archaeologist Karel Absolon. However, the lines were not visible in his pictures. They do not create a clearly defined object, such as an animal. In the giant

cave hall, they perhaps rather completed the stone visually and possibly helped create a shrine for the people of that time, some kind of spiritual place directly connecting our world with the world of ghosts or ancestors,” said archaeologist Martin Golec from the Department of History.

Archaeologists used C_{14} radiocarbon analysis to determine the age of the drawing. “The pigment was made from ashes, a piece of charcoal. Organic samples remained in it, and it was possible to determine their age. However, we needed three attempts to be able to analyse the Brain’s lines,” added Golec. He added that prehistoric hunters had a developed imagination as early as in the Stone Age. (map)

Faculty of Health Sciences publication on quality of life in patients with dementia

A publication by Helena Kisvetrová from the Faculty of Health Sciences, entitled *Dementia and the Quality of Life*, is intended for health professionals and medical students as well as social workers and family caregivers. The book summarises the results of a study focussed on the quality of life in elderly patients in early stages of dementia, also providing theoretical informa-

tion about dementia and its most common forms and an overview of research tools.

“The study involved 623 respondents over 60 years of age from three regions of the Czech Republic. Out of them, 294 patients were diagnosed with dementia in its early stages, while the second control group consisted of seniors without dementia so that we could compare differences in the assessment of their quality of life. We tested them three times at twelve-month intervals. The resulting timeline showed that for patients with dementia who were in worse condition at the initial measurement, the quality of life further deteriorated within those two years; however, we did not find a statistically significant deterioration in the control group,” said Kisvetrová.

The research focussed on physical fitness, self-sufficiency in everyday activities, attitudes towards ageing, dignity, and social relationships. The results of the initial

evaluation showed, among other things, that the only common factor influencing the quality of life in both groups is depression. Personal dignity and self-sufficiency were also important in patients with dementia. “The measurement after two years showed, however, that these factors were no longer so significant; the issue of social relations and social involvement was reflected more. That surprised us, since only the elderly living at home were included in the study. A greater deterioration was seen in men,” added Kisvetrová.

The book, published by UP Press, resulted from a four-year project “Trajectories of quality of life by the elderly in the early phase of dementia”, in which University Hospital Hradec Králové and University Hospital Ostrava also participated. The project was nominated for the 2020 Minister of Health Award for Medical Research and Development. (vim)



UNIS programme supports athletes in their studies and career development

In 2020, thirty-one UP students were selected for UNIS, a new programme of the University Sports Centre run by the Czech Ministry of Education, the aim of which is to provide maximum support for outstanding athletes in their studies and sports career development. Palacký University also strives to create conditions for its athletes that will make it easier for them to commit to both their school duties and training.

“We are aware that elite athletes are subject to high demands in terms of successful study as well as excellent sports results. Our aim is to create a system that will enable students to succeed in both areas with respect to their sports development. This system includes both support for their studies and in specific areas of training, such as sports psychology, stress testing, nutrition, and sports physiotherapy,” said Pavel Háp, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education for Development and External Relations.

The chosen athletes are entitled to a scholarship covered by the Ministry of Education; at the same time, they are provided with additional support. “In terms of study, a tutor who can be consulted dur-

ing their studies and who helps them set up a schedule is key, at the same time motivating and supporting them in finding a balance between fulfilling their sports and study duties and using their potential optimally,” added Háp, and named the tutor: Svatopluk Horák, the head of the faculty’s Student Affairs Office. The coordinator of sports training is Marek Polach from the Continuing Education Office. Furthermore, Michal Šafář shares his ex-

perience in sports psychology, and Michal Botek helps in stress testing. David Smékal and Ondřej Laštovička provide professional support in physiotherapy, Michal Valenta helps in fitness training, and Zuzana Svozilová advises on nutrition.

Based on their last year’s results, 31 students were selected for the UNIS programme, including judoist Renata Zachová, fencer Jakub Jurka, and road cyclist Tomáš Bárta. (vim)



8 faculties
1 university



South-east terrace of the Faculty of Science decorated with thousands of plants

A nice resting place with a view of the rock park and nearby Svatý Kopeček Hill was created at the renovated south-east terrace of the Faculty of Science. Preparations for the roof repair and subsequent renovation took eighteen months. “In addition to replacing the old walking surface with a new one, the technical properties of the roof were also improved, and the skylights were removed. In their place, space for greenery was created. Because there is relatively in-

tense sunshine on the terrace, we chose extensive greenery, able to endure and maintain adequate quality without regular watering and professional care,” said Ondřej Kolář from UP Maintenance Services.

Rather than in hot summer, the greenery was planted in early autumn. “Václav Dvořák, head of the Botanical Garden at the Faculty of Science, and Milan Antropius from the Perennials Nursery took part in the selection of plants. More than

a thousand perennials, bulbs, and succulents were planted,” said Kolář. Given the extreme conditions the plants will be exposed to on the roof, experts chose to plant a small selection of grasses, bulbs, and rhizomatous plants. The majority of plants on the terrace consist of succulents – stonecrops and houseleeks.

The faculty terrace is open to the public, so those interested can come and enjoy a remarkable place with a magnificent view of the city. (cho)

Second journal associated with the UP Faculty of Law included in Scopus database

The peer-reviewed journal *European Studies – The Review of European Law, Economics and Politics*, created and published by experts from the Faculty of Law, was included in the prestigious abstract and citation database Scopus. Scopus is one of the key tools for bibliometric evaluation of the quality of scientific journals.

The Scopus database now contains a total of six professional law journals published in the Czech Republic. Two of them are closely connected with the UP faculty. In 2019, the faculty peer-reviewed jour-

nal *International and Comparative Law Review* was included among the elite scientific titles, and in 2020, the journal *European Studies – The Review of European Law, Economics and Politics* succeeded. “It is a great success for our law school as well as a proof of strengthening our excellence in science. Inclusion in this database not only reflects the content quality of the journal but is also based on several years of diligent editorial work. My thanks go to the editorial team of the journal, especially editor-in-chief Naděžda Šišková and executive editor Ondřej Hamulák,” said the faculty dean, Václav Stehlík.

The journal is published by the Czech Association for European Studies and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at UP FL. Editor-in-chief Šišková is also chairwoman of the association and head of the Olomouc Jean Monnet Centre. “It is definitely the success of the entire team, especially the editorial board. At the same time, it is a confirmation that our decision to es-

tablish this journal years ago was the right one, and it is also an evaluation of the scientific quality of its content,” said Šišková.

The journal originated in 2014. It is published in English by the leading international publishing house Wolters Kluwer. Since its inception, the journal was conceived as an international scientific interdisciplinary forum. “We strive for diversity in terms of authors as well as the thematic scope, which is definitely broader than just European law. We give space to political, economic, and historical topics that relate to the European Union,” said Šišková. The editorial board consists of top experts from various countries. These include world-renowned EU law expert Peter-Christian Müller-Graff of the University of Heidelberg, Jorg Monar, Professor and former Rector of the College of Europe, Miguel Maduro, former Advocate General of the European Court of Justice and Professor at the European University Institute in Florence, and Takis Tridimas, acclaimed professor at King’s College London. (eha)



International recognition for Robert Buček's work

Robert Buček from the Department of Art Education at the Faculty of Education became the Artist of the Month for June 2020 at the international platform Itsliquid. Buček's exhibition project called 4+1/3+kk [4 bedrooms + 1 kitchen / 3 bedrooms + kitchen nook] was one of the reasons for his award.

"It's a great honour for me to have my work highlighted by Itsliquid within its project Artist of the Month – June 2020," said Buček. He perceives the award as a certain satisfaction for the preterm closure of his exhibition. "Let's say it's a form of compensation. The 4+1 / 3+k exhibition was terminated before its due time because of the lockdown. Only then did I learn about the call for the Itsliquid competition from my friends in Italy," added the artist from UP.

Originally, Buček wanted to prepare a larger retrospective exhibition in Olomouc, but finding a venue with a sufficient space that would meet the needs of some of his realisations was impossible, so he decided to separate the exhibition into several venues. It eventually turned out that this decision was a benefit to the whole project, because the involvement of specific places, their architectural aspects and atmosphere, added an element of play.

In the end, the 4+1 / 3+kk exhibition took place in four venues: in the Caesar Gallery, the XY Gallery, the Church of Our Lady of the Snows, and the UP Arts Centre Atrium and Basement Gallery: a unique connection of academic, sacral, and artistic premises. "Next year, one artist will be selected from the finalists as the winner of the competition for whom the platform will organise an exhibition in Venice. Whatever the outcome, it was a marvellous experience for me. The communication itself

with the curators of a group such as Itsliquid opened a lot of new possibilities for me. For instance, I'm looking forward to a two-week international ceramic art meeting in Latvia – Ceramic Laboratory 2021," said Buček. (map)



Faculty of Theology first in Czechia to offer complete on-line study

UP's Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology became the first university in the Czech Republic to offer a study programme that can be completed in distance form. The three-year Bachelor's programme Theology in Distance Form is intended for those who are interested in a basic orientation in theology.

The main benefit is the fact that everyone can organise the time spent for their study according to their own needs. However, the course has a given structure with

precise conditions and rules. "I might even say that on-line learning is more demanding than the regular type. The educational process has a different logic and requires a high degree of self-discipline," said Gabriela Ivana Vlková, the guarantor of the programme.

A large portion of the curriculum can be experienced by enrolled students at any time in the form of video lectures. Once a week, there is a "live" webinar which is close to a standard class, allowing students

to discuss selected topics. Individual teachers also have on-line consultation hours allowing mutual contact. Furthermore, the programme enables participation in "hybrid" classes: once a semester, a class is held in Olomouc, at which point students' personal attendance is expected. They can either be physically present in the classroom or attend the on-line broadcast of the class at home. In addition, the individual teaching modules contain fixed "checkpoints", for example in the form of tests by which students can verify what they have learned in the subject. Each subject is completed by a credit test or a distance exam.

The programme will provide students with a comprehensive philosophical and theological background. Its aim is to lead students to a systematic reflection of various life experiences. "The graduate should be able to find answers to countless questions, even within the perspective of a dialogue between people of different cultures and values," added Associate Professor Vlková. The first students were admitted into this domestically unprecedented on-line programme at the Faculty of Theology already in this academic year. In the future, the faculty is considering applying for the accreditation of a Master's degree and an English version of the programme. (vim)



RCPTM launches magnetic nanoparticles against Covid-19

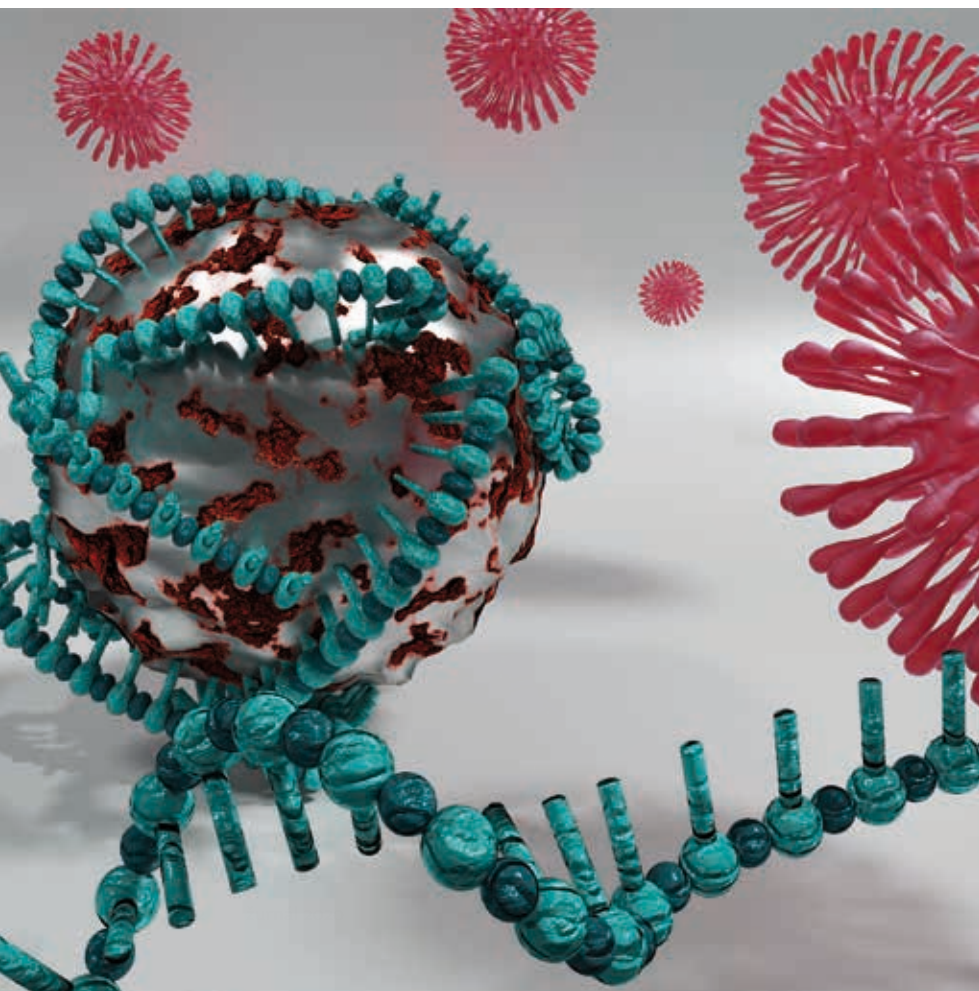
Extraordinary situations call for extraordinary actions. Such was the case of the rapid reaction of scientists from the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials (RCPTM) at the UP Faculty of Science. In a very short time, they developed magnetic nanoballs for the isolation of viral RNA in Covid-19 testing. Nanoparticles are an important part of the new Covid-19 testing technology designed at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Bio-

chemistry (IOCB) of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and its application was fundamental at the peak of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Interest in Olomouc nanoballs is growing.

“Silicon dioxide, which coats magnetic nanoparticles, has a great ability to bind nucleic acids. Owing to the vast surface of the nanoparticles, large amounts of viral RNA can effectively get captured on them. Such bound RNA molecules can be easily isolated

for diagnostic purposes by the PCR method, using an external magnet,” said one of the authors of the study, Radek Zbořil from RCPTM, describing the principle of their functioning.

According to Pavel Šácha from IOCB, the isolation of viral RNA was the bottleneck in the whole process of preparing the new technology. “At the time of the coronavirus crisis, RNA isolation kits manufactured abroad were not available, so we looked else-



Miniature particles with a magnetic core and a thin silica shell on the surface are only about 30 nanometres in size. They gather in micron-sized clusters, which is advantageous for the rate of nucleic acid separation.

where for suitable magnetic particles capable of binding viral RNA. Nanoparticles from RCPTM proved to be the best: they have a rapid response to the magnetic field, a large capacity for RNA binding, and they can be prepared in huge quantities,” said Šácha, who coordinated the design of the new test protocol.

Thanks to extensive experience with research into nanomaterials for biomedical applications, they were able to prepare, within a couple of days, a new type of magnetic nanoball, only a few dozen nanometres in size, with a suitably modified surface. And they can produce the nanoparticles in bulk.

“In one cycle, we are capable of preparing material for tens of thousands of Covid-19 tests. This is a several-stage synthesis

which is, however, fully convertible to a larger scale. We can increase the capacity by orders of magnitude,” explained Ivo Medřík, who was involved in the development of nanoparticles.

The technology was successfully verified at the National Institute of Public Health in Prague, in Motol and Bulovka hospitals, at Brno’s CEITEC, Prague’s BIOCEV, and the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine in Olomouc. The National Reference Laboratory for Influenza from the National Institute of Public Health tested the RNA isolation kits from IOCB-RCPTM and confirmed their equal effectiveness compared with kits produced by the world’s leading suppliers of materials for nucleic acid isolation – Roche and ThermoFisher Scientific.

“The results confirmed that our magnetic particles are comparable to commercial materials in terms of their efficiency of viral RNA isolation. With regard to production capacity and lower production costs, they are very attractive for many commercial partners in the market,” added Zbořil.

This is also affirmed by the director of the UP Science and Technology Park, Roman Jurečka. “We have already supplied material for tens of thousands of isolations, and the interest in magnetic nanoballs – both from commercial companies and academic institutes – is still growing. In addition, the range of their use is further expanding. Our colleagues from Charles University, for example, use the material from Olomouc for the development of diagnostic kits for other viral diseases,” concluded Jurečka.

App from the Faculty of Physical Culture for measuring employee stress

Scientists from the Faculty of Physical Culture, in cooperation with the UP Science and Technology Park, developed a unique algorithm for evaluating heart rate, which can be used to monitor stress in employees. Thanks to the significant shortening and simplification of measurements, the application can also be used at home as well as during work.

Measurement of heart rate variability (HRV) is still commonly used, especially with athletes. Physiological fluctuations in the heart rate reflect the activity of the nervous system and are an objective indicator of the body’s response to physical and mental stress, regardless of the individual’s feelings. The measurement results can also be used to evaluate the condition of employees who have to work under some kind of pressure. It is possible to determine the level of their overwork and help reduce the risk of work injury or incapacity to work.

“The main advantage of the application is the reduction of measurement time to three minutes from the original fifteen, which was needed for measurement by an older desktop application developed at the faculty more than twenty-five years ago by a team of researchers around Assoc Prof Salinger and Prof Opavský. The first significant shortening of the examination al-

gorithm to ten minutes was proposed by Assoc Prof Botek, who has long been involved in the use of HRV measurements in athletes. However, it is this new mobile app that finally allows the radical saving of time required for HRV measurement,” said Jakub Krejčí from the Department of Natural Sciences in Kinanthropology.

The measurement, using ordinary chest straps communicating via Bluetooth, is taken during one minute of standing and two minutes of lying down. The tested person also answers several questions regarding their feelings. The app then evalu-

ates the data, and proposes specific recommendations concerning further training or workload. The results and recommendations can be viewed in the mobile app and in the web interface and shared with a coach or authorised employee in the company. The app can be adapted according to the actual needs of the client.

This new diagnostic tool was created thanks to a Proof-of-Concept project of the UP Science and Technology Park, which was co-financed by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic within the GAMA programme. (vim)



photo: Martin Viřna

Simple screening test detects the presence of new coronavirus in one hour

The new screening test developed by researchers from the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in collaboration with the Czech company Institute of Applied Biotechnologies (IAB) can reveal the presence of the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and detect infection even in asymptomatic individuals in the acute phase of the disease only one hour after sampling. It is now being offered for pilot testing on various occasions, including sports and cultural events. Thanks to its simple application and low cost, the test can complement the existing diagnostic programme and reduce the spread of Covid-19.

Researchers from the Department of Immunology, who have been working on this issue and the role of the immune system during and after Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, were involved in the development of the screening test. An article describing the key aspects of the test was published in the August 2020 issue of the prestigious scientific journal *Diagnostics*. “The test allows obtaining results without the demanding RNA isolation within an hour after sampling. Our ambition is not to fully replace diagnostic determination

of the virus; however, the test can help find asymptomatic people with acute infection who are most involved in the spread of the virus,” explained department head Milan Raška. The test has sufficient sensitivity and is suitable for the acute phase of the disease, which is critical for transmission between individuals. On the contrary, it does not show positive for those individuals who have already had an infection in the past.

Simple, fast, and cheap

The first phase of testing can be done by anyone, even without the assistance of a healthcare professional. A swab is inserted into the nose and then sealed in a microtube with a special medium. The rest is done in the laboratory. “The virus is then inactivated by heating so that it loses its ability to infect, and the evaluation is carried out immediately by PCR. The test is very easy to perform for laboratory staff as well as trained students with experience in PCR techniques,” explained Regina Fillerová, who participated in the development of the test.

Thanks to the low price (below €20) and speed, testing can be repeated regularly. “Whenever using the test at larger social or

sporting events, sampling staff with protective equipment would be present. The test can make a significant contribution to alleviating fear of the disease and reducing restrictions on culture, travel, and sports. We think that it can complement the current diagnostic scheme and slow down the spread of the virus,” said Eva Kriegová, head of the university research team.

According to her, the test validation has already been completed. Thanks to the new test, rapid testing for Covid-19 is possible almost anywhere – at airports, workplaces, sporting events, or cultural events. “We are also considering the possibility of a mobile laboratory, which could be ordered by interested parties in order to acquire a comprehensive solution from sampling to obtaining results,” added Petr Kvapil from the company IAB, which has been collaborating with Olomouc academics since 2015 when a joint project, OLGEM, was established between the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava.

Immune system after Covid-19

In addition to the development of rapid tests for the detection of the new coronavirus, the Department of Immunology is also involved in research into changes in the immune system after infection. “The project was created in collaboration with physicians from the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc, and aims to determine changes in cellular immunity, antibody production, and the effect of genetic factors on acute and long-term respiratory impairment and post-Covid infections,” added Raška. Experts and students of existing fields as well as the new study programmes Immunopharmacotherapy and Bioinformatics & Computational Biology, which were newly opened at the department this year, are also participating in this challenging research.



text: Martin Višňa
photos: Jakub Čermák

portrait

Milan Kolář

Former dean of UP FMD, Head of the
Microbiology Department at UP FMD
and University Hospital Olomouc



Milan Kolář (b. 1964)

Head of the Department of Microbiology at the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc, former dean and currently vice-dean of the faculty for legislation, internal organisation, PR, and special education. A native of nearby Prostějov. He has been attached to UP FMD since 1982, when he was accepted as a student in General Medicine; he has been working at the Department of Microbiology since 1988. His scientific work is mostly aimed at antibiotic treatment of bacterial infections and the problem of bacterial resistance. He is the author or co-author of some two hundred original articles, dozens of monographs, more than 400 lectures in the Czech Republic and abroad, roughly 4600 citations, and has an h-index of 26. He is a member of the scientific boards of several medical faculties in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, is the chair of the Olomouc Medical Association, and is the scientific secretary of the medical microbiology division of the Czech Medical Association of J.E. Purkyně. His favourite hobby is the study of history, especially antiquity. He is married; his son is a graduate of the UP Faculty of Law.

He's always on the go, though always helpful, smiling, and optimistic – sometimes a person might suspect he has some hidden source of energy. He carries out his work with enormous enthusiasm, for him it is a matter of the heart, for he only has a few free weekends a year. There's probably no one more intimate with the UP FMD motto *Mente et corde* (Mind and Heart) than he. Milan Kolář. Professor of microbiology, respected doctor and scientist, popular teacher and colleague, who in the years 2011–2019 was the dean of the faculty and is now vice-dean in the team headed by Dean Josef Zadražil.

In Milan Kolář's veins runs one-quarter Slovak blood, which might explain his temperament. He comes from Prostějov, but thanks to his father's job spent part of his childhood in India, Iran, Brazil, and Egypt. The monuments of Alexandria, Cairo, and other places encouraged his interest in history, and he even considered it as a field.

At gymnasium, history met a competitor who later prevailed: medicine. "It's hard to say what was the first impulse. I do not come from a medical family. But I loved biology, and my photographic memory helped in school, and maybe the TV show *Nemocnice na kraji města* [Hospital at the Edge of the City] played a role, too," he surmises. Practical consideration contributed to his decision to apply to the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: medicine is no mere hobby.

He arrived at microbiology thanks to the world-renowned bacteriologist and one of the most-cited Czech scientists of the 1970s, Václav Hájek, who offered him a position as an assistant. "Thanks to him I got to go deep into microbiology already as a student, and I realised it was a good field for me, including the fact that it touches

every aspect of medicine. Against the wishes of Prof Hájek that I focus on the taxonomy of staphylococcus, I began focussing on clinical microbiology. I have a feeling he still holds that somewhat against me."

Medical microbiology is a much more sovereign and imposing field these days, in Kolář's opinion. "It always used to be a service for clinics, like biochemistry, in addition to diagnostics, but now it's more actively entering into the treatment of patients, too. For example, antibiotic therapy for bacterial infections, especially for patients in intensive care, is led by a clinical microbiologist who basically determines the bacterial agent and then the optimum treatment for a specific patient. At the same time, they have to consider the safety of the entire community. We're facing the threat that we will no longer be able to treat serious, life-threatening infections, as bacterial resistance is becoming a more and more common cause of death. To maintain the efficacy of antibiotics is the biggest task in microbiology today and perhaps soon will be the biggest task in medicine as a whole," he explains. He has dedicated his own efforts to bacterial resistance, antibiotic treatment, and developing new antibacterial substances.

He has been hiring workers at his department to deal with the more media-visible problem: the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. "It's demanding, I cannot remember anything like it. The epidemic has shown however how capable our medicine is, and the enthusiasm doctors and other health-care personnel bring to their work. I have seen it first-hand in our department – our team came together as one and worked with the conviction that we can conquer this together. I will always be proud of our work and our workers in microbiology.

It's truly uplifting when a person looks forward to going to work and has the feeling that what they're doing has meaning, and that they're helping others."

As a teacher, Kolář places the emphasis on interesting content and lively lectures, keeping students on their toes and communicating with them. His opinion is that students should learn from exams, and if they are unsuccessful, they should know exactly why. During his own studies he only retook two exams, and to this day he is unsure why for one of them. Other than that, studies for him were easy, and he even used to play cards with his fellow students during lectures. "I missed getting straight 'A's due to one 'D' in a mandatory military training class – which was the most important subject in the world, according to one of the teachers in the programme," he remembers.

"I always tell my medical students that these are the greatest years of their lives, unforgettable. Medicine is a difficult field

of study, but the friends they'll make here are ones they'll have for life. It will mature them; the theme of health and death will transform them," adds the professor, chosen by his students last year as the best teacher in preclinical studies.

Since 2004, Prof Kolář has also taken part in running the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and was its dean for eight years. "I wanted the faculty to be seen as a prestigious school, student-friendly, with first-rate scientific results and excellent relationships – primarily with University Hospital Olomouc. I think we have accomplished that. I had a great team of vice-deans, and the advantage of building upon the work of Prof Zdeněk Kolář, who jump-started the scientific boom at the faculty. It was also a joy to have such a great hospital director like Roman Havlík as a partner. I'm convinced that our friendship and mutual accord contributed to successful development of the faculty and the hospital, which together is creating one body and soul."

For his strongpoint in dealing with people he credits a proportionate ratio of rationality, optimism, and empathy. Nevertheless, he is trying to spend a little less time on his work responsibilities than before, even though he still goes to work on Saturdays. "I love my work. But now I try not to work when I'm at home. I prefer reading or watching films. I love historical films – and Star Trek. I also like listening to audiobooks, and Czech plays when I am driving. On holidays I take an e-reader with me, loaded up with books. And when I can, I cycle," he says, enumerating his hobbies.

And from his hobbies, he has gleaned a recommendation for a time lorded over by the epidemic. "It's important to take things rationally, calmly, not to get swallowed up in catastrophic scenarios. The coronavirus is dangerous, but instead of reading negative news reports, it's a better use of your time to uplift your soul, to do something positive," Dr Kolář prescribes.

"It's important to take things rationally, calmly, not to get swallowed up in catastrophic scenarios. The coronavirus is dangerous, but instead of reading negative news reports, it's a better use of your time to uplift your soul, to do something positive."



Yvona Lovečková

Deputy chair of the Department of Microbiology and Therapeutic Care

My first meeting with Milan Kolář goes back to our student years, when we met at what was then the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and both of us were working on academic projects. Our mutual interest in the field brought us together and has continued to do so. We've been together at the same workplace for years, and the dominant feature of our mutual interest has become especially the problem of antibiotic therapy in close connection with patients. I appreciate Milan not only as a leading expert but also as a person. I can truly say that I don't know anybody with such a high working tempo who manages to keep their sense of humour and who is such a source of life energy for those around them, who has such a good mood, is so socially oriented, and is a favourite not only with their colleagues, but also with the student community. It's a pleasure to have such a good colleague and friend.



Marek Šlachta

Former head of the Association of UP FMD Medical Students, sixth-year student in General Medicine

There's probably nobody at our faculty who doesn't know Prof Kolář. A great teacher. A serious researcher. An excellent lecturer. A man with a remarkable amount of positive energy and an aura radiating calm. And that's just a modest account of the effect Prof Kolář has on his community. As a professor, he is always interested in his students' opinions, and though they may only have a grain of truth to them, he's always on their side. There's no question he's one of the academics who lives the motto of our faculty: "Mente et corde". From his lectures, knowledge, and even in the favourite role of Father Christmas, one can immediately see that he is not only the mind of the faculty but also its heart. I look forward to our next meeting, perhaps when resolving patient complications during my clinical residency.

success



National Security Council Award granted to the Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law is the laureate of the 2020 National Security Council Award for significant contribution to the security policy of the Czech Republic. The Council thus appreciated the long-term and progressive work of the faculty in matters of security and in the field of international humanitarian and operational law.

The Faculty of Law succeeded in the main category. “The faculty was awarded for its activities in the security community, both domestically and internationally, with its focus on raising public awareness, education, and scientific research,” stat-

ed the resolution of the National Security Council.

Dean Václav Stehlik also appreciates receiving the award. “It reflects the long-term work of the academic workers at our faculty, especially our colleagues in the Department of International and European Law and the Department of Political and Social Sciences. Thanks are due not only to Vice-Dean Faix, who heads the team on security issues and international humanitarian law, but also to all those involved in this area. After all, the activities and continued interest of the

faculty in researching this issue resulted in the opening of the Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law. I firmly believe that the reflection of their work in the form of a prestigious award will be another encouragement for our colleagues,” said the dean in regard to the success.

The awards ceremony took place at the Lichtenstein Palace. The faculty was represented by Zdenka Papoušková, who was the dean in the time of nomination, current dean Václav Stehlik, and vice-dean Martin Faix. (eha)

Benjamin Hildenbrand of the Faculty of Arts wins translation competition



The winner of this year’s Susanna Roth Award was Benjamin Hildenbrand from the Department of Romance Studies, UP Faculty of Arts. The competition for the promotion and dissemination of Czech literature abroad is announced annually by the Czech Centre in Paris.

“It’s a recognition of my work and an encouragement for the future to continue translating, because for now it’s more of a hobby for me. In 2015, I received the Václav Černý Award; it is nice to have my name associated with people who have done so much in the field of translation of Czech literature. Especially Václav Černý, the resistance fighter and dissident. Compared to such personalities,

one feels small,” said the award-winning translator.

The international translation competition, named after the Swiss Bohemist and translator Susanna Roth, is for beginner translators from Czech up to 40 years of age. This year, the contestants had to translate an excerpt from the book *Exhausted Region* by Veronika Bendová. The competition is organised by the Czech Literary Centre in cooperation with Czech Centres. Twelve centres took part in this year’s event, for example in France, Japan, Great Britain, and Poland; in addition, four embassies participated as organisers, from countries such as Lithuania and Northern Macedonia. (map)

Student's research may open door to new type of effective antibiotic

A project by a student of the UP Faculty of Science, Ondřej Kováč, who focussed his research on the first total synthesis of the antibiotic Kibdelomycin, could significantly help the development of a new type of effective antibiotic. This substance has an interesting broad-spectrum antibacterial activity and has a great chance to become the cornerstone of a new antibiotic, with the help of which doctors could better fight the growing resistance of life-threatening bacteria. Thanks to this project, Ondřej Kováč is one of the two recipients of a grant by the Experientia Foundation this year.

“Total synthesis would help prepare Kibdelomycin and confirm its chemical structure. This could lead to the development of a new type of antibiotic based on Kibdelomycin and having interesting antibacterial properties. Of course, due to its very complex structure, the synthesis will certainly require more than a year's work

in the laboratory,” said Kováč, who studies organic chemistry at the UP Faculty of Science.

According to Kováč, researchers believe that the substance Kibdelomycin is an inhibitor of DNA gyrase and bacterial topoisomerase IV, which are important enzymes necessary for DNA replication of bacterial cells. Reducing the activity of these two enzymes with Kibdelomycin would have a significant antibacterial effect.

Kováč will receive 950,000 CZK (€35,000) from the Experientia Foundation, thanks to which he will get a one-year internship at the University of Innsbruck, where he will continue working on the project. “I was very pleased to receive the grant – my dream come true. The Dvořák couple, who run the foundation, are amazing at what they do. They support young scientists in order to facilitate the beginning of their independent scientific careers and



promote the good name of Czech chemistry,” said Kováč.

The student of organic chemistry will join the club of fifteen outstanding young scientists under 35 years of age in the fields of organic, bioorganic, and medicinal chemistry, who will be able to spend a year at research stays at top scientific institutions thanks to the support of the foundation. (cho)

Faculty of Education participated in the winning project in Lemur

The absolute winner of the fifteenth year of the Lemur – Czech Public Relations Award 2020 (Lemur 2020) was “Czech Children in the Cyber World”, a project focussed on children's behaviour on the Internet. It was created by O2 Czech Republic in collaboration with the E-Bezpečí (E-Safety) portal team at the UP Faculty of Education and

the PR and marketing agency Fleishman-Hillard.

“For us, the award is proof our faculty can conduct remarkable and meaningful activities with a great societal impact,” said Kamil Kopecký, head of the Centre for the Prevention of Risky Virtual Communication at the Faculty of Education. He

added that the goal of the winning project is primarily to raise awareness of the risks that the Internet poses to children. Their project succeeded in the competition of 119 entities, who submitted a total of 243 applications in 31 categories. “Without the connection to the world of commerce, it would be much more difficult. O2 created a campaign with us which aimed at online safety; part of our work was to conduct research, find cases, and popularise the issue through public debates. The project also became an inspiration for the filming of the documentary *Caught in the Net* which maps online sexual harassment of young girls. I think that our work is an example of a functional connection between the academic and corporate spheres,” added Kopecký.

“Czech Children in the Cyber World” won not only the title of Absolute Winner, it also took first place in the categories of Social Responsibility & Philanthropy, Integrated Communication, Technology & IT. The competition is organised by the Association of Public Relations (APRA) whose mission is to promote and cultivate PR. (map)



success

Stronger position in the European Federation of Biotechnology

Palacký University significantly strengthened its position in the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB). Ivo Frébort, Director of the Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnology and Agricultural Research (CRH), was elected Vice-President of this non-profit organisation associating national biotechnology companies, scientific societies and institutes, universities, biotechnology firms, and individuals. Concurrently, he will lead the newly established division of Plants, Agriculture & Foods. Michaela Holecová from CRH became a member of the EFB Executive Board.

“I regard the post of EFB Vice-President highly. It is the result of our centre’s long-term cooperation with this organisation. I will happily contribute to the fulfilment of

the main goal of the EFB, which is to promote and support the development of biotechnology in Europe,” said CRH Director Frébort. CRH, which brings together scientific teams from the Faculty of Science and the Olomouc branches of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Crop Research Institute, has been a member of EFB since 2011. CRH also works closely with the Asian Federation of Biotechnology.

EFB has 80 members from among institutions across Europe and more than 25,000 member-experts. It promotes the safe, sustainable, and beneficial use of basic research and innovation in the biological sciences, at the same time providing space for interdisciplinary and international cooperation. (srd)



efb | european federation of biotechnology

UP Literary Competition: Exceptionally strong year

For the 26th time, students could submit their poetic and prosaic texts to the Literary Competition for UP students announced by the rector. This year, a professional jury, consisting of literary expert Jana Vrajová, poet and Magnesia Litera Prize winner Radek Malý, writer Michal Sýkora, and visual culture expert Martin Foret, evaluated a total of 84 entries by 76 students. As a novelty, the Comics category was also introduced.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the results of the competition were only published on the web. “The huge interest in the competition and the high quality of contributions prove that there are many literary

talents at our university. As always, the difficult task of selecting the best works was undertaken by the expert jury. I wanted to personally support all the participants in their literary activities at the ceremony, however the pandemic thwarted our plans. Please continue your literary work – no matter what your rank on this imaginary chart – since the act itself is important,” said Rector Jaroslav Miller.

The winner of the Poetry category was Ondřej Hrabal, a student of the Faculty of Arts. Second place in Poetry went to Matěj Kulišťák, a student of the Department of Philosophy, and Radek Touš, a doctoral student in Czech literature. Martin Schweitzer, a student of the Department of English and American Studies, received Honourable Mention.

Barbora Hermanová, a student of the Faculty of Arts, won in the Short Story category. Second place went to by Tereza Sládečková, a student of the Department of Media

and Cultural Studies and Journalism. Helena Siegerová studying at the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and Toby Wehle studying at the Department of English and American Studies shared third place. Terezie Krejčí, a journalism student, won Honourable Mention for her short story.

In the Comics category, Honourable Mention was awarded to Magdaléna Michlová for the comics “Changes Come in Waves”.

“I agreed with my colleagues on the jury that this year was extremely impressive, a large number of fascinating and very original contributions were submitted, and we had so much to choose from. The competition was very tough, which should please all of you who eventually were awarded. Congratulations on behalf of the jury to those who placed high and let me say to those who left empty-handed: Keep writing!” said Michal Sýkora, the chair of the expert jury. (krej)



UP repeats its placing in the Shanghai Rankings

The 501st to 600th place in the world, and second place in the national comparison of universities – these are the results of Palacký University in the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 (ARWU). The oldest Moravian university has repeated its historically best placing made last year.

ARWU, also known as the Shanghai Rankings, compares one thousand world universities, focussing on their scientific performance. As in the past, Harvard University dominated the rankings; second and third place were defended by

Stanford University and the University of Cambridge, respectively. Czech higher education is represented by seven schools. Charles University is the best domestic university in the rankings (201st to 300th positions). Masaryk University (601st to 700th) again occupies third place after UP; UP was ranked for the first time four years ago.

The Shanghai rankings also rank universities in individual disciplines within the natural sciences, technical sciences, life sciences, medical sciences, and social sciences. “An important indicator that helped us secure the second position in the

rankings of domestic universities was particularly our numbers in the Highly Cited Researchers database. At the same time, it is gratifying that we got to the first position in the country in the evaluation of results in some fields, such as in Materials Science & Engineering and in Agricultural Science, where we share first place with Charles University. This confirms the quality of scientific work at our university, so we owe thanks to all those who contributed to these results,” added Hana Marešová, UP Vice-Rector for Strategic Planning and Quality. (srd)

Czech for foreigners in a hip, modern guise. Another *Czech it UP!* textbook is out now

Austria, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Spain, Romania, Finland, Russia, Taiwan, and of course, Czechia. There, wherever foreigners are learning advanced Czech, it's from the *Czech it UP!* textbooks published by Palacký University Press at the C1 level in February 2020. These were the first of a series of a new concept in textbooks teaching Czech for foreigners. UP Press has now added other volume to the series – at the B2 level.

“The first textbooks for C1 level quickly became favourites of students and teachers alike. We believe that these new textbooks at the B2 level will also meet with success. This time we put a large emphasis on spoken Czech and different varieties of our national language, which for non-native speakers is useful and attractive,” revealed Darina Hradilová from the Department of Czech Studies at the UP Faculty of Arts, head of the group of authors.

Czech it UP! for B2 level makes use of the Oxford style of language learning textbooks, where each theme is dealt with “magazine style”, on facing pages. Students working with the book will learn to communicate not only on traditional themes, but also on modern ones. They can discuss e.g. the equal rights of men and women, cultural differences in perceiving and spending free time or questions of faith.

“One of our visions is also the attempt to strengthen the role of Palacký University in the area of teaching Czech for foreigners, which already has a long tradition in Olomouc. The publication of an additional

volume in the *Czech it UP!* textbook series is another step on the path to fulfilling our goals. I believe that *Czech it UP!* will find its way throughout the world, and also will help to further expand our activities for foreign students,” said Martin Kudláček, UP Vice-Rector for Foreign Relations.

Just like the C1 level textbook, the new B2 level textbook is connected to the web-pages czechitup.eu, on which supplemental audio-visual materials are available. The creative team has again made their own video and audio recordings for each chapter, as well as photography and the vibrant and catchy design.

“We're very happy with the *Czech it UP!* series. The textbooks satisfy the most demanding criteria in terms of form and content and at the same time provide interesting new flair to textbooks of Czech for foreigners. I believe that entire series will become a favourite on the Czech market,” added Aleš Prstek, UP Press Director.

The entire *Czech it UP!* series should be finished in 2021. In addition to the C1 and B2 levels, the other end of the spectrum will be covered in February 2021 with a textbook for complete beginners (A1). The remaining two textbooks (A2 and B1 levels) will complete the series. (tof)



Medal for Prof Hrabová

During a ceremony on the Day of Czech Statehood, 28 September, Silver Commemorative Medals were awarded by the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic. Among the laureates was Professor Emerita of the Faculty of Arts, historian Libuše Hrabová, who received a medal for her “exemplary tenacity and perseverance and raising the standards of historical science in the Czech Republic”. Prof Hrabová specialises in the history of Polabian Slavs. In addition to her comprehensive and systematic research of this extinct ethnic group, she also deals more extensively with medieval historiography and Christianization. She began her scientific and pedagogical career at the UP Department of History but was forced to leave in 1970 for political reasons. During the following period of repressive “Normalisation”, she worked as a librarian at the State Scientific Library in Olomouc. The communist regime did not allow her to publish and teach. Nevertheless, she tried to pass on her knowledge to others, either through samizdat publications or unofficial lectures. In 1990, she returned to UP and built a modern scientific workplace out of the Department of History. In 2014, she was awarded the František Palacký Prize for her service.



(ipu)

UP has a new Academic Senate

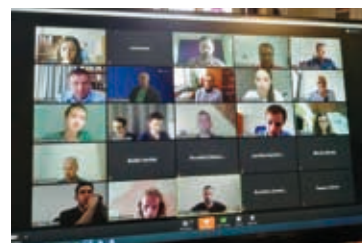


Michal Malacka from the Faculty of Law is the new chairperson of the UP Academic Senate. The first vice-chairperson of this body for the new term 2020–2023 will be Irena Smolová from the Faculty of Science; students will be represented by Marek Stratilík from the Faculty of Law in the role of the second vice-chairperson of the Senate. Michal Malacka is a long-term member of the UP academic community, former dean of the Faculty of Law and UP vice-rector. He used to be a member of the legislative and economic committee in the Senate. The UP Academic Senate is a self-governing representative academic body and has 24 members. Its members are elected from amongst the members of the academic community; each faculty is represented by two academic senators and one student senator.

(map)

Honey vending machine wins

UP found its Enterprising Mind once again. The winner of the eleventh year of the competition, organised by the UP Science and Technology Park, was Tomáš Jelínek with his project of a vending machine with honey from local beekeepers. Second place was taken by David Podola with his idea of intelligent traffic mirrors, while František Špás finished third with his Loklok project, producing an unsweetened fizzy soft drink made from kombucha. The jury also gave the 2020 Female Entrepreneur award to Eliška Brázdilová. The evaluation of the submitted projects and the announcement of the winners took place online. “We selected from a total of 22 projects, and all of their business plans were very interesting,” said Roman Jurečka, director of the UP Science and Technology Park, and one of the members of the jury. The winners received prizes worth a total of €11,000. In addition, they can consult the jurors and other partners in the course of realisation of their projects.



(nov)

New book on Bishop Karl von Lichtenstein-Castelcorn



The Department of Art History and the Department of History at the UP Faculty of Arts published a new publication entitled *The Communication Network of Bishop Karl von Lichtenstein-Castelcorn (1624–1695)*. The catalogued list of correspondence with an index of correspondents and a list of sites. The book was published by UP FA Press. This new publication by Zuzana Orálková, Sona Topičová, and Kryštof Kouřil, doctoral students at the Department of History, is the result of extensive archival research. It should be vitally helpful in further research into early modern history.

(map)

Faculties compete in blood donation



The Faculty of Health Sciences Student Association challenged UP students and employees to a contest in blood donation. Those interested can easily join: they just pick up a form at any faculty during the winter semester, receive a stamp after the blood donation at the selected donation point, and then place the form into the collection box. Faculties compete mainly in the total volume of blood donated by their students and employees and in the percentage of donors among their students. The contest will culminate during the traditional event Donate Blood with the Rector in February. “We also prepare accompanying programmes in order to increase awareness about donations and blood itself,” added Jiří Kozel from the organising association. More details are available at www.daruj.upol.cz or the faculty’s Facebook page. (vim)

Insect meadow at the Faculty of Science campus



A colourful “insect meadow” became part of the Faculty of Science campus. Not by a coincidence, but due to an initiative of naturalists who have deliberately created a unique grassy area for insect pollinators. Thanks to this activity, the animals had access to food until the first autumn days. When improving the space, the faculty staff used forty species of flowering plants and ten species of typical grasses. Recently, experts have pointed not only to the disappearance of rare and endangered species but also the decline in the number of species that have been considered common until recently. There is a study that reports a 75% decrease in the number of all flying insects. The lack of pollinators in particular may mean a global crisis. (cho)

CATRIN institute established at UP

UP grew even bigger on 1 October. Based on the decision of the UP Academic Senate, an organisational change came into force consisting of the establishment of a university institute – the Czech Advanced Technology and Research Institute (CATRIN), which integrates three university scientific centres. Together, they will look for opportunities to solve global problems, including the use of biomedicine, biotechnology, and new materials. The institute will connect the Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research, the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials, and the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine. The Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Czech Academy of Sciences and University Hospital Olomouc have declared their interest in cooperation. (srd)

University town Olomouc 2021



Olomouc and the university belong together. And if you want to be reminded of this certainty every day next year, there is nothing easier: just go to the Palacký University shop and information centre UPoint on the town’s main square, Horní náměstí, and choose from the variety of university calendars and diaries. Or visit the UPoint e-shop! The photographer is Vojtěch Duda. (ipu)

Debate on climate change

Changes in agriculture, better land management, stronger support for the transfer of knowledge into practice, necessary political decisions, and less bureaucracy were called for by the participants of the September debate “Climate change: What will we breathe, eat and drink?”, organised at the University of Ostrava by several Czech universities within the project University Partnership for Social Responsibility. Palacký University, which also participated in organising the event, was represented in the debate by plant geneticist Aleš Pečinka from the Olomouc branch of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research. “We are trying to develop methods that will allow breeding plants with required properties that cope best with changing climatic conditions,” said Pečinka. The debate was broadcast live by the *Universitas* academic magazine. (srd)



Faculty of Law Library named in honour of Milada Horáková



As a lawyer, Milada Horáková advocated women's rights. During the Nazi Occupation, she was active in the anti-fascist resistance, due to which she was later mercilessly interrogated by the Gestapo and imprisoned from 1940 to 1945. After World War II, she joined the renewed National Socialist Party and was elected to the National Assembly. She was a critic of the undemocratic tendencies of the Communist Party, due to which she was followed by the secret police and arrested on 27 September 1949. She became the central figure in a political show trial, at which she was sentenced to death on 8 June 1950, along with three other defendants (Záviš Kalandra, Jan Buchal, and Oldřich Pecl), for alleged high treason and espionage. She was executed on 27 June 1950. The day of Milada Horáková's execution has been made the Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Communist Regime.

The UP Faculty of Law has named its new library after Milada Horáková, the Czech lawyer, politician, human rights advocate, and victim of judicial murder during the communist show trials. Permission was granted by her daughter, Jana Kánská.

The mission of the Olomouc faculty since its re-establishment in 1991 has been to support the values of freedom, democracy, and civic society. "Thus we decided to name our new library after Dr Milada Horáková, a symbol of the anti-communist opposition and resistance, a brilliant lawyer, and a forceful personality. We believe that we are thus offering a worthy tribute to her memory and propagating her legacy, and by doing so, our students will be conscious of the deeper meaning of the study of Law," explained Blanka Vitová, vice-dean for organisation and development, who together with vice-dean Martin Faix oversaw the library's construction.

The negotiations with Jana Kánská were mediated by the Dr Milada Horáková Club and went smoothly from the start. "I think the Law Faculty's idea is a very good one. It's a fine way to pay tribute to my mother's memory. They have my approval. Thank you for this good deed," wrote Jana Kánská, who lives in the USA, reacting to the Faculty of Law's request. After her approval, all the formalities were resolved by the faculty in cooperation with representatives from the Dr Milada Horáková Club.

The date the Memorandum on Cooperation was signed was intentionally set for 27 June 2020, exactly 70 years since the judicial murder of the democratic politician. The subject of the Memorandum is both the use of the official title Milada Horáková

Library, and also the right to use the name of Dr Horáková, e.g. in conjunction with selected student competitions, workshops, and academic conferences. The parties to the Memorandum also agreed that the library space will be decorated with artworks created to commemorate Milada Horáková. "We asked university art departments to announce a contest for their students. We will implement the winning design," said Vitová.

The library, which also includes a study room, makes up the core of the new central wing of Building B of the Faculty of Law. The faculty was able to construct the wing thanks to the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education, financed from EU funds, to the tune of 1.6 million euros. The basic construction took 15 months. Now the spaces are gradually being completed and furnished.

The Faculty of Law has long needed spaces of this type. "The students have finally been given a modern and comfortable facility. In doing so we are also glad to bring our standards up to those of universities abroad. We also decided to purchase a large number of new publications. And the books will be arranged according to field," said Vitová. She added that the library and study room could also be used for holding professional/society events. One section of the library has a large, attractive room which can hold meetings of the Academic Board, the Dean's College, or the Academic Senate.

The addition was planned from its inception in conjunction with modern trends. These include air conditioning, a floral "green wall", and a shaded terrace with decorative flowers and herbs.

text: Ivana Pustějovská
photos: Svatopluk Klesnil

interview

A full-page photograph of Jaroslav Miller standing in a doorway. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt, dark blue trousers, and a black belt. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera. The doorway is framed by dark wood with oval-shaped decorative panels. A red patterned rug is on the floor in the doorway, and a chandelier is visible in the background.

**Jaroslav Miller:
It's time to reconsider
our way of life**

Perhaps the time has come to reconsider the way of life we're leading. Do we really need everything we have? Are we in solidarity with those who haven't been so lucky in life? These are some of the questions which the worldwide coronavirus pandemic is forcing us to ask ourselves, according to Palacký University Rector Jaroslav Miller.

— Two years ago, when I interviewed you for this magazine, I used your quote "History never repeats itself" as the title. It was in the context of democracy and freedom of speech. Do you think it's still relevant when another "Iron Curtain" has fallen – not due to politics, but to a pandemic?

I would say that it was unplanned time travel back to the period before 1989. We were reminded, only for the limited time of a few weeks, of what kind of ghetto we used to live in. In the past three decades we've gotten used to travelling freely wherever we went, throughout the world. Suddenly we realised that even that kind of freedom can have some limits, for other than political reasons. I'm convinced that that experience could be a certain signal for more humility, in order for us to realise that the "goods" we won thirty years ago are not free and not guaranteed. We ought to appreciate our freedoms more and reconsider our way of life with greater humility.

— As a historian, do you see any parallels with our situation historically?

We see similar situations for example during wartime, when they decreed a state of emergency – curtails on movement, activities, and the like. But when we take a look back into history, into times when various epidemics raged, then the parallels to our current situation are quite clear: people who were able to leave the cities for the countryside, where there was "better air", did so. Those who could not leave stayed behind, closed up in the city, in quarantine. Nobody was allowed in, so as not to catch the virus, and on the other hand citizens were not allowed out, so as not to spread the virus. That is quite similar to today, even if we are closed as a nation. If we remember what the nearby towns of Uničov and Litovel went through in the spring, closed off from the surrounding world by the military, then we are speaking of similar measures which were employed during medieval epidemics. I think that in this respect our quarantine measures have not changed all that much.

— But I suppose it was more difficult for us to accept such restrictions than it was during the Middle Ages, when people's entire lives were often circumscribed by the town walls.

It's certainly more difficult mentally, because today's society is much more mobile than in the past – people are used to travelling. People are used to meeting up with others, travelling on holidays, taking extended weekend trips, even going shopping abroad. In the spring suddenly all that was no longer possible, and so the psychological shock was that much greater.

— In the spring we all suffered through quite a strict regime but adjusted to things without much grumbling. Could that obedience turn against society sometime? That some might begin to enjoy that kind of governing?

I don't think so, but I'm going to divide my answer to your question into two parts. The first dimension is the mental setting of today's society, which in my opinion is not really inclined in its majority to return to the past. Don't forget that the limitations we faced did not only mean that we couldn't travel beyond our borders – the pubs were closed, cultural events were called off, etc. Those blanket measures were oppressive for 95% of the population – even social contacts were drastically curtailed, for adults and children alike. That's why I don't think that that experience would revert us mentally to the former times and that we would desire that.

The second dimension of my response to your question is that a state of emergency can be abused by an irresponsible government, let's say a certain more authoritarian way of governing. In other words, temporary measures can lead a nation down the slippery slope of long-term measures. I must say that that has not happened here yet, nor were there limitations on freedom or on democratic mechanisms. Luckily.

— We talk a lot here about the "third role" of the university – community outreach: we do not only teach and conduct research, but we actively engage in the life of the society. How did Czech universities stack up in that context during the first wave of the virus?

I don't want to overstate things, but I have to say that at one point Czech universities – mainly those with faculties of medicine, like ours – were keeping the healthcare sector afloat. The universities were really doing a lot: they manufactured disinfectants, they ran testing centres, and they even created unique technologies, such as the nanoballs from the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials at the UP Faculty of Science, allowing the creation of testing kits, which were in short supply. (*Editor's note: You can find the article on nanoballs on p. 12 of this publication.*) And I don't think I have to go into detail about the humanitarian help the universities pro-

vided: for example medical students worked in hospitals, as did our Faculty of Health Sciences students, who together with their colleagues from the Faculties of Education and even Theology served in social facilities, senior homes, children's homes, etc. We helped across faculties; the list goes on and on. I admit that I am proud that the universities kept things together in our country last spring. We showed that we were able to be quite flexible: that we can be relied on, that we are a solid partner for the state, and that we fulfil that third role admirably.

— What's going to happen at the university in the near future? How will our experience transform things – technologically, in terms of personnel, even socially?

They say that every cloud has a silver lining. I can see a positive aspect in this "mess" in that our colleagues gained specific expertise in working with technologies which make it possible for us to teach on-line. I'm thinking about a whole range of tools such as Moodle and Zoom. I don't think these teaching methods are going to disappear after Covid-19; the university will take advantage of them from time to time because they are a relatively comfortable method – and when done properly, the quality is the same as teaching in person. Indeed, you can even teach while away on assignment, you can still have consultations long-distance. Another advantage is its mass nature: there are no limits to the numbers of students in the room – whether it's a lecture hall or seminar. We're already hosting the first early birds of this study option. Our Theological Faculty has accredited the first on-line Bachelor's programme in Theology. It's totally unique in the Czech context, and it's one path that university teaching will take.

In the same breath I must add that teaching in person, physical contact between students and teachers, mutual dialogue, is priceless and cannot be fully replaced by technologies. I would not like to live in an era when we'll all be sitting in our living rooms, the university buildings will be empty or sold off, and we'll create some kind of 100% virtual university. To me, that does not fulfil the university's mission. On-line teaching makes sense for example in combined studies, in life-long learning, and certainly in a number of study programmes when no hands-on training is involved – primarily in the humanities. But I've always seen it as a supplement to attending classes in person. I think that technology can help modernise the style of our teaching, perhaps even make it more effective. But we cannot let it rule us.

— If a person is lucky, each crisis can make them stronger – is UP and/or Czech society after what we've been through any stronger?

Jaroslav Miller (b. 1971)

He studied history and sociology at UP, Central European University in Budapest, and the University of Oxford (Lady Margaret Hall). In 2012 he was named Professor of History and was the head of the UP Faculty of Arts History Department until 2014. Since 2014 he has been University Rector and Chair of the Czech Conference of Rectors. He has had teaching stays at leading world universities and research institutions in Hungary, Germany, the USA, Canada, and Australia. In 2008 he had a Fulbright scholarship in Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia, USA. He was a guest professor at the University of Western Australia in Perth. Since 2012 he has been the Fulbright Ambassador to the Czech Republic. He is the author of many studies, articles, and monographs, most recently the book *Czech Exiles in Australia (1948–1989)*, together with Jana Burešová and Miloš Trapl. He has been awarded a number of academic and scientific honours, including the R. John Rath Prize for Best Study in Habsburg History in 2005 and the Best Urban History Monograph Award.



There are two sides to that coin. Society has been strengthened in the sense that it is better prepared mentally for similar blows of fate. We're prepared in case something similar happens and we're stronger in our use of technologies. This is true not only of the university but also the private sector and state administration. We've become aware that many activities can be held on-line, and companies are certainly taking note in terms of cutting expenses. And it can mean the development of entirely new sectors of the digital economy. So we're definitely stronger there. At the same time, we are a bit weaker in some things. In my opinion, the epidemic is still revealing a number of existing gaps which have been developing for some time in society. I'm thinking of social issues – lots of people found themselves in a difficult financial situation due to the epidemic and the subsequent brakes on the economy; inequality increased substantially.

— Are we, as a society, more frail?

I think that the pandemic has weakened societal consensus, the mythical social contract which keeps society together. To a certain extent it has had a tendency to also weaken the social contract with the government, with political representation. That can be seen in the moment when the government does not rule as it should. I think that society after what it has gone through is a bit more neurotic and less stable, psychologically weaker. That can be risky, because as we know from history, weakened societies are susceptible to unpredictability. When we look at history, we see that truly deep social changes followed certain crises – be they starvation, epidemics, or war. Suddenly the society destabilises, social inequalities increase,

and a certain type of tension can generate which could erupt into some deeper structural changes.

— Is there a bulwark to prevent that?

Tough question. The answer has several levels to it: for society to run, it needs to keep an elementary faith in state institutions and the hierarchy of power. That's the first thing. The second is the need to maintain people's social contacts, to maintain the dialogue between them. In the moment that everyone is locked up in their homes and flats and we only communicate on-line, we become accustomed to not having social contacts. That would have a devastating effect on social cohesion and on society as a whole.

Last but not least, we should also think more about the issues connected to charity, to solidarity with people who are not as lucky as we are, and we ought to slightly reconsider our way of life. I have the feeling that's already happening. We have started to think more about the climate, which didn't interest us much previously, and discussion is mounting as to whether the social order in which we live is the best one possible, if the time hasn't come to lead a debate on its modification. There is talk for example about unconditioned basic acceptance in conjunction with roboticization, when much human labour is being replaced by machines. These are all things which demand serious consideration. What I see as basic for maintaining stability is that we do not leave the fate of any social group behind – young or old, male or female, weak or strong. We have to always be able to look after them. Not let them fall into those gaps. For me that is an example of responsible social cohesion to which we, our university, can contribute.

expedition

text: Martin Višňa
photos: Gabriela Adámková



Expedition Without Barriers: Even a person in a wheelchair can conquer the highest peak

An unforgettable week was had by those taking part in the Expedition Without Barriers (Expedice PřesBar), in which a dozen guests with various physical disabilities took part, together with students from the Faculty of Physical Culture. Physical and mental barriers were overcome on cycling trails in the Lednice-Valtice chateaux complex, on the Vltava River in Český Krumlov, and on the slopes of the Czech Republic's highest mountain.

The final ascent on Sněžka (Snowy Mt) was the most difficult point of the entire expedition. Its peak, at 1602 metres a.s.l., was reached by all, despite the fatigue from the previous days, and the fog, wind, and rain to slosh through. Each of the seven participants in wheelchairs made it to the top – over stone stairs, roots, and mud – with the help of five to six students, ropes, and using a special beach buggy.

“But we enjoyed ourselves. During rests we sang and told jokes. Those in wheelchairs would count how many steps we'd already climbed,” remarked student Veronika Procházková, pointing out that the student team was mostly made up of women, who sometimes really worked up a sweat while assisting their guests. But the men were always there to help. “Nobody avoided work, just the opposite: some of them actually overdid it. Everyone truly deserves praise. We were a great team,” added her fellow student, Gabriela Adámková.

Barbora Antonovičová, who has been in a wheelchair due to childhood cerebral palsy, took part in the expedition as one of the guests. “It was the best week in the wilderness I've ever experienced. Before, I never would have believed that I could go dozens of kilometres on a handbike, cross weirs on

the Vltava River by boat, and even conquer Sněžka's summit. Thanks to all those enthusiastic people however, I found out that nothing is impossible, that it's all a question of the right motivation and perspective,” she revealed.

The Expedition Without Barriers is not only about experiences – it's primarily a practical school subject where students from the Department of Applied Movement of the Faculty of Physical Education try their hand at organising events for physically challenged people and gain “hands-on” experience and capabilities for their future work. “The expedition changed my world view. I learned that no barrier remains a barrier when a person chooses to overcome it. And that it's necessary to communicate together if you want to overcome those barriers better,” said Adámková in closing.



Unique book of heraldry by Jiří Louda published with an introduction by Prince Charles



UP Press has published an important book by Jiří Louda. In the photographs are the first and second copies of the book off the press, reserved for the British Royal Family.

More than three years of editorial work, more than a thousand distinctive drawings of coats of arms, and its imprimatur via an introduction by Prince Charles of Britain. Palacký University Press, in cooperation with the Olomouc Regional Museum, announced the publication in the presence of British Ambassador Nick Archer and the Mayor of Olomouc Miroslav Žbánek, also marking what would have been heraldist Jiří Louda's centennial. The book maps the nearly seven-century history of the Order of the Knights of the Garter, one of the most important such orders in Europe, at whose head sits Queen Elizabeth II.

Jiří Louda: Coats of Arms of the Knights of the Order of the Garter / Erby rytířů Podvazkového řádu is the title of the ambitious bilingual English-Czech – bordering on the bibliophile – publication summarising the life's work of the world-famous heraldist Jiří Louda, who spent the majority of his life in Olomouc, the author of the Greater Coat of Arms of the Czech Republic, among others.

Connection between the Czech Republic and Great Britain

“The England of the knights became Jiří Louda's muse for decades. He found his passion for it during World War 2, when he was a parachutist in the British Royal Air Force, and his fascination with the history of the Knights of the Order of the Garter never abated. The personal and typically British style which Louda brought to countless drawings of the Order's individuals' coats of arms was even mentioned by Prince Charles in his introduction,” UP Press Director Aleš Prstek commented.

Proof that the book's publication is resonating on the British Isle is underlined by the active participation of British Ambassador Nick Archer in the book's launch.

During the launch, university representatives also symbolically handed diplomat Otakar Fojt the first two copies of the book – intended for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, her successor to the throne and to the helm of the Order.

Among the members of the Knights of the Garter, whose history has been in the writing for 672 years, we can find the names of many world-famous personalities in political, cultural, and society life. Readers can find not only the personal coats of arms of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, but also for example the coats of arms of Prince Philip, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, Sir Winston Churchill, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Sir Edmund Hillary, and Prince William.

“The close connection between Jiří Louda and England was evident in nearly every piece of his legacy which we reviewed in preparing the book. What is more, all those materials revealed a story which we could not keep only to ourselves, which is why we have prepared such a remarkable exhibition,” reminded Břetislav Holásek, Director of the Olomouc Regional Museum, of the exhibition entitled “Jiří Louda – Život mezi erby” (Jiří Louda – Life Among Coats of Arms), planned to run until 10 January 2021. “Jiří Louda, due to his extraordinary life story and his aristocratic noblesse, is one of the most exceptional personalities of the 20th century – not just in Olomouc, but in the whole of the Czech Republic,” added Holásek.

“I've always known that Jiří devoted an enormous effort to depicting the coats of arms of the Order of the Knights of the Garter. However, examining the extent of his work in the materials he left behind was shocking to me – in the good sense of the word. None of us were prepared for something so complex and on such a large

scale,” revealed Karel Müller, Director of the Regional Archives in Opava, a long-time friend of Jiří Louda and the co-author of the publication.

Towns Unite! or, A national crowd-funding

Jiří Louda is not only the author of the Great Coat of Arms of the Czech Republic and the Knights of the Garter coats of arms. He also authored hundreds of coats of arms for Czech towns and cities. And Louda’s “trail” across the country became an important component in the book’s publication.

Work on such a magnificent publication as *Jiří Louda: Coats of Arms of the Knights of the Order of the Garter / Erby rytířů podvazkového řádu* required a huge financial investment. In order for this magnum opus to be carried out in appropriate style and format, UP Press decided to appeal to Czech cities and towns for whom Louda

designed their coats of arms for a contribution to the publication of the book.

“The feedback we got was wonderful. We received small financial donations, from 50 to 1000 euros, from over twenty Czech cities and towns. And the City and Region of Olomouc of course also contributed significantly to the publication,” Prstek recounted.

Together with a contribution from the National Cultural Fund they were able to collect more than 15 thousand euros, which enabled the publication of the book in its final form. “It was like a national crowd-funding,” added Prstek, with some slight exaggeration, referring to the large number of small donors who supported the book’s publication.

“Jiří Louda was the prototype of the modest hero in whom are combined lifelong dedication and courage. I’m incredibly happy that this timeless work has lived to see such a magnificent, deserving

publication. I consider the participation of our university in the creation of this book as a logical responsibility,” added UP Rector Jaroslav Miller. In 2004, Louda was awarded an honorary doctorate by Palacký University Olomouc. During his lifetime he also received awards from the City of Olomouc, the Olomouc Region, and last but not least, the Medal of Merit, given to him personally by the President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel.

More detailed information on the book is available at louda.upol.cz.



When universities help the world together: UP joins prestigious international university alliance

Palacký University Olomouc has joined the prestigious international Aurora Alliance, bringing together nine universities across Europe. The Aurora Alliance is one of the selected 41 European University Alliances under the flagship Erasmus+ programme aiming at revolutionising the quality and competitiveness of European higher education. The consortium is made up of research-intensive universities committed to the social impact of their activities and with a history of engagement with their communities, paying great attention to sustainable development and other challenging issues of contemporary society, including climate change and digitalisation.

The Aurora Alliance is determined to generate graduates equipped to contribute to addressing societal challenges as social entrepreneurs and innovators. “All the universities that have joined this alliance have significant scientific and research results. But we realise that is not enough today. Universities do not exist separate from the world. It is important to use the knowledge acquired in practice for the benefit of society, whether it be climate protection, social issues, or elsewhere. Universities should be leaders in innovative approaches to sustainable development and social responsibility in all their forms. It is not only our responsibility, but also our duty,” said UP Rector Jaroslav

Miller about the engagement of Palacký University in Aurora.

The Aurora Alliance aims to focus on issues such as climate change, social responsibility and sustainability, the digitalisation of society, and cultural diversity and identity. “Our associate membership in Aurora is positive for us not only in terms of responsibility and sustainability, but also in terms of strengthening our internationalisation. The development and deepening of the international environment at UP is part of our main strategy, and such a form of cooperation strengthens it all the more,” added Martin Kudláček, UP Vice-Rector for International Relations.

An important part of the Aurora Alliance is the creation of an extended network of associate partners from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as neighbouring regions. Through this network, Aurora Alliance members will be able to share best practices and support associate universities in strengthening their capacity for academic excellence and societal relevance, narrowing the quality gap in higher education and research for different parts of Europe. Palacký University will lead this activity, playing the important role of a bridge between the West and East. Several universities from Slovakia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Northern Macedonia will be involved as associate partners. (nih)

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University of Rovira i Virgili
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Federico II University of Naples
Italy

Palacký University Olomouc
Czech Republic

“Park It!” – the summer hit

The UP initiative “Park It! – Embrace the Public Space” had a very successful season, despite spending the summer in the shadow of Covid-19. Or perhaps, thanks to it.

Cancelled summer festivals, holidays spent within the country, and the overall thirst for culture after its spring outage – all of this had a positive effect on attendance at concerts, film screenings, workshops, and sporting activities held at the UP Arts Centre city ramparts walls, in the parks, or even in the streets of Olomouc.

“From June to September, we organised about thirty events, including concerts by Lenka Dusilová and the legendary band Už jsme doma. We expanded our portfolio of board games and sports equipment, participated in the accompanying programme during the spring

and summer Flora Theatre Festival, and thanks to us, two dozen musicians and performers brought life to the streets during the summer. We also organised two two-day festivals, and last but not least, we obtained washable cups for drinks, thus reducing waste to a minimum,” said the coordinator of the initiative, Ondřej Martínek, from the UP Communications Office.

For the third year in a row, the successful Park It! picnic basket rental was available in cooperation with the Coffee Library bistro, thanks to which more than a hundred people enjoyed their picnics in Olomouc’s parks. “We expanded our activities to completely new premises, such as the courtyard off Sokolská Street where we organised two events with the Cen-

tre for Movement Olomouc, and the Armoury courtyard where we participated in a night of Spanish food and music,” added Martínek.

The Park It! team also took part in events for seniors, the disabled, and families with children, organised by other entities with the support of the university and the initiative. “We anticipated that we would have to do without larger events such as the May Student Festival, the Olomouc Half-Marathon, welcome parties for first-year students, and summer festivals, so we divided our powers into a larger number of smaller open-air events and began to diversify life in Olomouc immediately after the end of the spring state of emergency,” said Martínek, who has been in charge of the project for the past six years.



text: Milada Křížková Hronová
photos: Barbora Sedláková archives

experience



#doingwhatican. Even from the other end of the world

Barbora Sedláková, a postgraduate at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, some time ago flew to Portland, Oregon, USA mainly to conduct research and gain professional experience. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, this doctoral student in clinical psychology is now enriched with a plethora of other experience. That happened thanks to her #delamcomuzu [#doingwhatican] initiative, through which she helped people in the Czech Republic even from her internship overseas.

“Despite the many dangers involved, today I perceive the coronavirus crisis as being a challenge for each of us. It could lead us to a reconsideration of our current way of life and a realisation of what truly matters. A realisation that each of us co-creates the world, even in the way we take

care of ourselves, our emotions, how we care for the climate, how we influence others through our relationships, how we influence the world through the work we do,” says the vivacious Czech psychologist. She has been staying in Oregon for almost a year, working on her dissertation at the Process Work Institute, where process-oriented psychology, i.e. process work, is the focus.

“The internship satisfied my expectations. I should return to the Czech Republic soon, but it is possible that I will still stay in the US to complete my psychotherapy degree. To sum up my stay briefly, I must say that it took me about six months to settle in here and feel competent in what I do. It took me a while to immerse myself more in the research areas that interest me in relation to my dissertation,” she adds. →





In Portland, Sedláková found perhaps the best place for her passion, research into process work with physical symptoms. This is where the Process Work Institute is located – the oldest and most famous of its kind.

“Process work is a psychotherapeutic approach, the roots of which are related to Jungian psychology, quantum physics, Taoism, and the teachings of indigenous peoples. This approach promotes the integrity of human experience. It is used in psychotherapy, when working with the body and symptoms, in conflict resolution, and group work. It’s rather a paradigm than a strict school. It’s based on a phenomenological approach that gives space to all parts, supports integrity, and acknowledges the displaced experience,” she explains. She appreciates her stay in the United States as a great cultural experience and is convinced that she has broadened her horizons in psychotherapy, health care systems, and socio-culturally.

“With regard to the topic of my dissertation and my long-term interest in psychotherapeutic work with the body and physical symptoms, I am actually glad to have been in the USA at the time of the pandemic. I was given a unique opportunity to focus on how Covid-19 and the pandemic can be grasped from a psychological and psychotherapeutic point of view,” she says. Thanks to the Internet and many communication platforms, she also quick-

ly became involved in helping people in the Czech Republic.

“I helped through the #delamcomuzu initiative, which brought together more than six hundred trained therapists. I was part of its coordination team. In the spring, at the time of emergency, I focussed mainly on the frontline, specifically on informing hospitals and other medical facilities and associations about the activities of the initiative. Together with others, I tried to extend our support even to professionals – who were put under enormous pressure. All the help we offered was for free. Speaking of which, I very much appreciate all those in the Czech Republic who in any way – by sewing face masks, shopping for a neighbour, listening to others, or giving a kind word – shared part of their time and energy in order to help.”

At the peak of the crisis, everyone worked at full stretch. In addition to coordinating, she also worked online as a stress debriefing therapist for frontline workers. She organised a webinar focussed on fear management and strengthening resilience during the pandemic.

“The people we helped were worried about the health of their loved ones and often suffered from feelings of isolation and loneliness. They were worried about losing their jobs and worsening financial problems. Some were worried about their health, even their life. The emotions they encountered most often included mood swings, anxiety, sadness, and stress. Inter-

estingly, we found out that the vast majority of them took much better care of their mental health during this period, most often through manual work, sports, relaxation, and self-education. Among other things, the coronavirus pandemic taught us to take care of our mental health more than ever before,” emphasises the young psychologist.

She worked from home. Her host educational and therapeutic organisation, the River’s Way Clinic at the Process Work Institute, transformed smoothly online during the pandemic. This is how she participated in regular on-line group supervision, meetings, and seminars. And she took good care of herself every day. Whenever possible, she took energy from being in natural surroundings, where she went for exercise and to let her eyes recover from the computer screen. Every evening she took a short run in the park, and her daily routine included morning yoga, a short meditation, and the Wim Hof method.

“Everything bad is good for something. Even though no one knows what the reality will be like in a few months or years, let’s stay aware of what the crisis has taught us, that is, understanding what matters in life, how all of us are interconnected, how we influence each other, and how we co-create the world. May we not return too quickly to our entrenched ways of doing things and too often selfish way of being. The world is what we make it.”

text: Milada Křížková Hronová
photos: Jakub Čermák

alumna



**Terez Wrau:
I do what I enjoy – playing and
singing for myself and others**



Terez Wrau (b. 1985)

She graduated with a degree in Special Education and Music Education from the UP Faculty of Education. She considers herself a busker – an artist who travels the world living off street performances. She has been collecting songs from all over the world and sings in thirteen languages. She plays the violin and guitar. Her debut CD, *Foxes*, came out in 2017. She dedicated her second CD, *Bohyním* (To The Goddesses), to her mother, and is now working on her third. Half the profit from every CD she sells goes to the mobile hospice *Nejste sami* (You Are Not Alone).

When she's singing on the street corner, she can feel people's energy. How tired the passers-by are. So she begins to play in a Spanish rhythm – or anything to liven them up. Or on the contrary, when the streets are full of hustle and bustle, she gives them a calm, relaxing song. Terez Wrau, with a degree in Special Education and Music Education from the UP Faculty of Education, has found herself in street art, busking. But that's not all: she'd like to channel her energies into helping people via music therapy.

She fell under the spell of music when she was just a girl. She began playing the violin when she was five and started on the guitar when she was thirteen. Her parents also had a certain musical influence on her. She grew up listening to Zuzana Navarová and the group Nerez with her mother, and thanks to her dad she has a fondness for bluegrass. Despite the passing of years, those childhood memories still appear in her repertoire. She loves Romany, Slavonic, and Celtic music. In addition to Czech, she sings in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French – not to mention Ukrainian, Belarusian, Polish, Slovak, and Scots Gaelic, Irish, and Manx. She has a special fondness for faraway places and returns to them whenever she needs to recharge her energy. She's also started to take an interest in Brazilian indigenous tribal songs in Huni Kuin and Shawanawa.

"Recently, a friend of mine asked me who am I when I don't have a guitar in my hands. I had to think about that for some time. I know I need freedom. Music is something that pleases me, and I feel that it pleases the people around me. That's the starting point for me. And that's why dur-

ing the difficult time of the pandemic I sang the song 'Kiss Me' at the UP Arts Centre. I sang it for everyone who works at UP with such great enthusiasm.... Thank you so much for recording it for me!" says Terez Wrau, referring to the praiseworthy house concerts which the UP Department of Foreign Relations organised.

She's originally from Pilsen and came to Olomouc for the first time for a visit with her first boyfriend when she was fifteen. She moved here only later when she started studies at Palacký University. Then she was known as Tereza Tothová. But during her twenty-fourth birthday celebration, a friend wrote the word "Wrau" on her tennis shoe as a symbol of her unbridled and courageous energy. And that was how her pseudonym was born, by which she performs to this day.

Although she taught for a while after she got her degree, she very soon realised that it was not the profession to which she was born. "I'm not the typical teacher type. I'm not the kind of person who tells others what to do. Actually, I need to be told what to do occasionally. I don't know how to divide my energy into days. It would do me in, and I think it would not be good for others," the petite brunette explains. She reminisces about Prof Pavel Klapil, who taught a seminar on harmony, which she rarely attended. "In the professor's eyes, I wasn't such a great student, and he told me then that I probably shouldn't be a teacher. Maybe he'd get at least a little satisfaction from what I'm doing now," the UP alumna added. She is convinced that she's much better at holding one-time events and workshops which should motivate, restart, and give people energy (or calm them down) than teaching.

The coronavirus pandemic hit her when returning from Indonesia. The young busker spent a month there after playing concerts in Israel and playing and singing in Costa Rica. They were all journeys in which she tried to recharge herself with new energy after the loss of a close loved one.

"Our mum died. The last eight months of her life my sister and I took care of her. It's very difficult to spend a long time in a bioenergetic field with a dying person. I went through very profound times and afterwards I needed to get my head together," she says. She admits that it did not work out so well. When she returned, the reality of having just lost a loved one hit her anew – and on top of that, she was depressed about current events.

"I felt the sadness of other artists who suddenly felt themselves useless, and on top of that I didn't feel so great myself. Plus I still had some mental laundry of my own to deal with. Over time, however, I think that the pandemic was actually useful to me. Like me, other people also had an opportunity to restart their lives. They could get out of their stereotypes and do a lot of other things," she adds, with a head full of new ideas. And many of them came directly from acquired experience. When remembering the last times spent with her mother, she often makes reference to the mobile hospice *Nejste sami* (You Are Not Alone).

"And it is in this direction to which I am focussing my energy now. I see a future there. I'd love to take part in visits to those people on request. If music can ease their pain, I want to be there. Together with street concerts and traditional herbal medicine, which I'd also like to dedicate myself to, music therapy makes sense to me in the future," says the young busker.

text: Martin Višňa
photos: Jakub Čermák

life style

Tabata – Ideal exercise for the whole body

Exercise is life, says Iva Dostálová from the Faculty of Physical Education. She set an example as vice-dean during the anti-coronavirus lockdown when she shared her recipe on how to keep yourself physically fit—even in quarantine. She created a set of cards dedicated to the high-interval training called the “Tabata” regimen; the cards can be arranged in an order that best suits one’s own abilities and needs.

“I’ve tried several exercise systems like Pilates, TRX, and others, but Tabata had the best appeal for me. I can squeeze the maximum out of myself, at the same time it gives me a full-body workout. I’ve been following the Tabata regimen for about two years and I can see the effect it has on my condition – on my cardiovascular system, and on strengthening the body and firming my lines,” she says.

Practicing Tabata does not require a lot of space. Basically, you just need an exercise mat, the exercise cards, and a laptop or music player. The connection with music is essential in Tabata, as it determines the tempo and interval of exercise:rest. However, the typical interval, which can be adjusted, is twenty seconds of intense exercise and then ten seconds of rest, with eight repetitions, followed by a longer pause before the next series.

For each series, the practitioner chooses various exercises from the cards, and these exercises are alternated, such as focussing on the lower versus upper limbs, or focussing on the core versus on increasing the heart rate. Thanks to music with a countdown, you can focus better on the precise execution of exercises and their correction. At the same time, exercising with the mu-

sic goes quickly and motivates you for better performance.

“Obviously, it is good to read a bit about the basic positions before the exercise or to consult someone about your possibilities and modifications of the exercises so that the exercise is not counter-productive, and you don’t hurt yourself. In order to diversify the exercise, you can also use various aids, for example plastic bottles full of water as dumbbells when practising at home,” adds Dostálová, who used her rich experience in physical education for health when creating the cards. In addition, her work includes not only the text descriptions but also the drawings of individual exercises.

The cards can be downloaded at the website of the Faculty of Physical Education.



Classical philologist, former rector, and poet gone mad: Michael Franz Xaver von Canaval (1798–1868)

When on 31 July 1817 history professor Joseph Leonhard Knoll of the Imperial Royal Lycée in Olomouc held German “patriotic festivities” with lycée students on Svatý Kopeček Hill near Olomouc, which included a poetry writing competition, dramatic reading of German poetry, and athletics, the winner of both the poetry writing and reading competitions was Michael Franz Xaver von Canaval – while the winner of the races was a student named Kunec, the winner of the highest stone throw was a student named Fučík, in the distance stone throw a student named Vrána, in wrestling Zbořil and Kunec, and in jumping Zbořil. Von Canaval was not less successful in the ensuing “patriotic festivities” on Svatý Kopeček on 16 July 1818, but further academic events of this type were cancelled by the Austrian authorities after the assassination of the German dramatist, poet, and Russian consul August von Kotzebue.

This gifted student of the Olomouc lycée and member of the Olomouc Poetry School (Olmützer Dichterschule), Michael Franz Xaver von Canaval was born on 6 July 1798 in Brno, the son of Michael von Canaval, a gubernatorial clerk, and Barbora née Skupilová. He graduated from secondary school in Brno and then studied philosophy for two years at the Brno episcopal semi-

nary, later continuing as a private student at the Olomouc lycée. From 1818–1821 he studied law, but did not take his final exams until 1823, due to illness. Afterwards he worked at the university in Vienna, in 1827 he taught at the Imperial Royal Philosophical College in Przemysl in Galicia, and passed his doctoral exam on 4 September 1829 at the Silesian Friedrich-Wilhelms University in Breslau (formerly Prussia, now the University of Wrocław, Poland, where incidentally the father of modern Czech medicine, Jan Evangelista Purkyně, was working from 1823–1849). In 1832, he held the function of dean of the philosophical faculty at the same university. In 1833, Michael Franz X. von Canaval returned to Olomouc, where he lectured on philosophy for first- and second-year students of Latin philology and alternated teaching one year of aesthetics and the second year of Latin Classical literature and Greek philology until 1844 at the Philosophical Faculty of the Imperial Royal Franz Joseph University. From October 1842 he substituted at lectures there on general history and the history of the Hapsburg monarchy, to which he also added a lecture on numismatics. In 1835 and 1842 he was elected dean of the Philosophical Faculty and in 1839 he was made rector of the Franz Joseph Imperial Royal University. From 1844, Canaval’s place of work was the Philosophical Faculty of the Imperial Royal Charles-Ferdinand University in Prague, where he lectured first- and second-year students in Latin philology, and in 1844 also Greek philology and Classical literature, and from 1845 also aesthetics. In 1847 he was made dean of the Prague Philosophical Faculty.

M.F.X. von Canaval made his debut as a poet as early as 1816, in the magazine *Archiv für Geographie, Historie, Staats- und Kriegskunde* (Archive for Geography, History, Government – and War Studies), published in Vienna by Joseph von Hormayr, Freeman; his verses included, among others, a revamped legend of Přimda Castle. During the first festivities on Svatý Kopeček in 1817 he got to see recognition of his ode on the given theme “Saving Germany via Austria in the battles of 1813–1814”, i.e. in the Napoleonic Wars with France; he acted as a herald, announcing individual disci-

plines with short verse introductions. One year later, von Canaval won a wreath of oak leaves for the German poem “Saving Europe from the Tartar Annihilation near Olomouc in 1241, Thanks to Jaroslav of Šternberk”, where the role of herald gave him the opportunity to distinguish himself via his own verse, for example in the running competition: “Auf, auf! Im behenden Lauf,/ Durch die weite Ebene dahin!/ Zum Ziele gerichtet den scharfen Blick:/ Dann bringt ihr den Sieg von dem Laufe zurück/ Und des köstlichen Kranzes Gewinn.” [“Onward, on! In the nimble run,/ Through the wide plain!/ Keep your eyes peeled to the main/goal: then bring us Victory in the backwards heat/ and win the precious wreath!”] In later years he wrote and printed epic poems, ballads, and sonnets, usually in Viennese magazines or in the German-language Brno magazine *Moravia*; he also published obituaries of significant personalities including those of the Olomouc teacher Joseph Leonhard Knoll and his brother-in-law Julius Urban Ritter von Schwabenau.

Of the occasional publications of Michael Franz X. von Canaval, we have his preserved German *Speech for the Opening of Public Lectures at the Imperial Royal Philosophic School in Przemysl in the 1830 School Year* “by Michael Franz von Canaval, Doctor of Philosophy, Public Professor of Latin Philology and General World History”, published in 1829 by Joseph Schneider in Lvov. Von Canaval declared egoism and frivolity as the main obstacles to successful studies, “as weeds carelessly sown and grown, particularly in this century, on the wheatfields of education”.

In 1848, Michael Franz Xaver von Canaval was afflicted by an unspecified mental illness, allegedly as the result of the revolutionary events of that year. When in 1855 his wife died, the daughter of the appellate counsel Franz Urban Ritter von Schwabenau and sister of the Moravian historians Johann Friedrich Anton Urban Ritter von Schwabenau and Julius Urban Ritter von Schwabenau, he was placed in an institution for the mentally ill in Vienna, likely in the infamous Fools’ Tower, built in 1784 (now the Pathological-Anatomical Collection of the Natural History Museum), where he died on 18 April 1868.

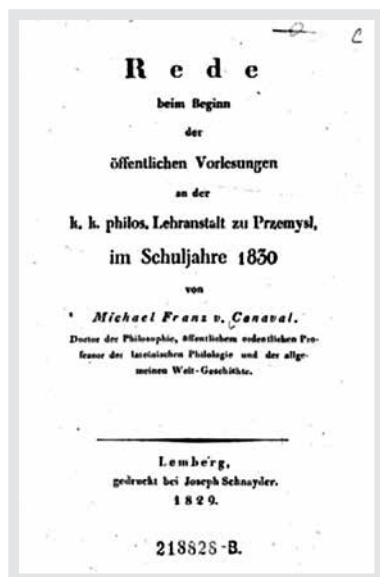


photo:
Jakub Čermák

reflection



David Livingstone came to what was then Czechoslovakia in 1990. He began teaching at Palacký University in the autumn of 1992, medieval and Renaissance English literature, British Modernism, and even American folk music at the Department of English Studies. He is married and has three children. He wanted to visit his family last summer in California, but due to circumstances, the trip is still on hold.

Ze všech předmětů, které obvykle každý semestr učím, mám nejraději kurzy Americká lidová hudba a Česká kultura pro zahraniční studenty. Když nás zasáhl koronavirus a výuka se přesunula online, snažil jsem se, stejně jako většina kolegů, přizpůsobit nové situaci. I když to nebylo ideální, začal jsem natáčet videa svých přednášek a občas jsem také nahrál, jak zpívám a hraju na banjo.

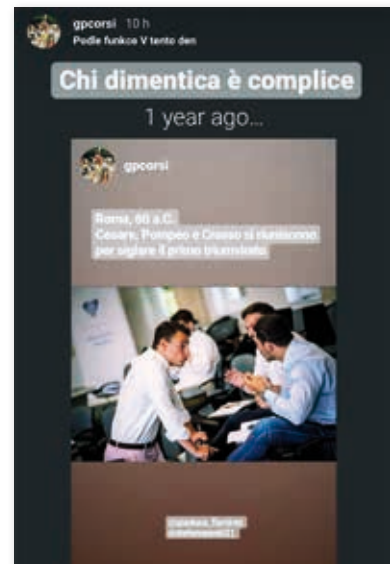
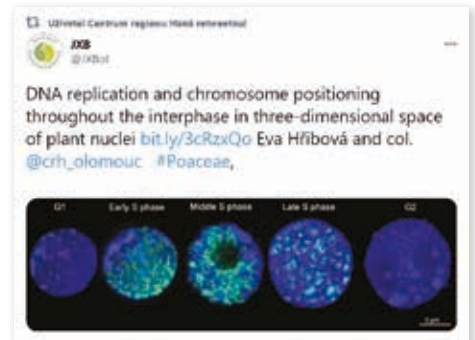
Celkově vzato mi čas strávený doma během nejtěžších koronavirových měsíců připadal docela příjemný. Dohnal jsem svou práci, venčil psy, cvičil, a dokonce jsem si nechal doručovat přímo k sobě domů místní pivo... Chyběla mi však přímá setkání s mými studenty a začal jsem přemýšlet, jak bych mohl naše vztahy budovat online.

Když jsem se dozvěděl o situaci s karanténou zahraničních studentů, dělalo mi to starosti. Probral jsem situaci s Terezou Kalouskovou a Klárou Henzlovou ze zahraničního oddělení. Rozhodly se uspořádat sérii koncertů pro zahraniční studenty, aby jim zvedly náladu. Požádaly mě, abych byl prvním účinkujícím. Za pomoci mé ženy, dcery a mladšího syna jsme se do toho pustili a doufám, že se bavili všichni.

Out of the various classes I usually teach each semester, I enjoy the most American Folk Music and Czech Culture for foreign students. When the coronavirus hit and classes went online, I struggled to adapt to the new circumstances, as did most of us. Although not ideal, I began making videos of my lectures, including occasional recordings of me singing and playing the banjo.

On the whole, I found the time spent at home during the toughest coronavirus months fairly pleasant. I caught up with my work, walked the dogs, exercised and even had local beer delivered directly to my home.... I did miss, however, the personal interaction with my students and began to wonder how I could cultivate our community online.

I was concerned when I heard about the quarantine situation with the foreign students. I discussed the situation with Tereza Kalousková and Klára Henzlová at the International Department and they decided to organise a series of concerts for the foreign students in order to cheer them up. They asked me to be the first performer and, with the help of my wife, daughter, and younger son, I hope a good time was had by all.



New words. New concerns. New methods. New fears. New challenges. Lots of things are new since last spring. With every new day, the pandemic has turned life upside down. In addition to everything new, which was really not a joyous occasion, even very old – or more precisely, re-established – things have resurfaced: our ability to come together in times of crisis, to improvise, to lend a helping hand, to give our thoughts to others. It's not something minor that every one of us is able and willing to do something for others – from the great discoveries which will put paid to this demon invisible to the naked eye, to the use of new technologies in teaching, to simply going grocery shopping for someone in quarantine. We can do it. We have done it. Those of us here at the university and you, anywhere else on the planet. Yesterday, today, and certainly tomorrow and the day after, whenever necessary.

Good luck and good health in the coming days.

Ivana Pustějovská,
UP Media Editor-in-Chief



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