

žurnál

Magazine of Palacký University Olomouc, 2015 / 2

theme

AFO – The University's Fifty-Carat Gem



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Olomouc

Genius loci...



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Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends
of Palacký University Olomouc,

Due to the fact that the last half of the spring semester was literally full of important events, I am at sea in deciding which of them to include in this foreword. AFO, which celebrated its incredible 50th anniversary and has become a phenomenal success, must be mentioned. Academia Film Olomouc today is a world-class festival in its category and has become such a highly esteemed trademark that it draws some of the most important scientists and popularisers of science in the world. During the festival, the university opened its popular science centre, the Fortress of Knowledge. I am pleased that we have been able to save such a valuable, beautiful and historic building, which has a chance to become one of the main attractions for visitors to the city. The university also opened UPoint, its information centre set right in the heart of the city, on Olomouc's main square. This issue of Žurnál+ however also features a number of personal stories. The Tomoszekes show us (with apologies to Oscar Wilde) the importance of being (a) Fulbrighter in the realm of science, and the profile of our graduate (and my fellow student) also shows the importance of being David Drábek in the realm of the arts. The magazine that is in your hands however offers much more. For example there is a portrait of my esteemed bard, Prof Jan Vičar, reportage from student Majáles celebrations, and an interview with Mons Michael Weninger, who sits on the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. And most important of all, this year we "celebrate" the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, the cruelty and violence of which affected all countries involved, including the Czech Republic. Please remember all the innocent victims, who should have lived ordinary lives, had children, and enjoyed life. Glory to their memory.

Jaroslav Miller
Rector, Palacký University Olomouc

Internationalisation as the Road to Quality

Palacký University wants to be a modern Central European university, opening its doors wider to foreigners. Rector Jaroslav Miller sees internationalisation as essential for its further existence, and stated that the nineteenth-century concept of a national university is no longer viable.

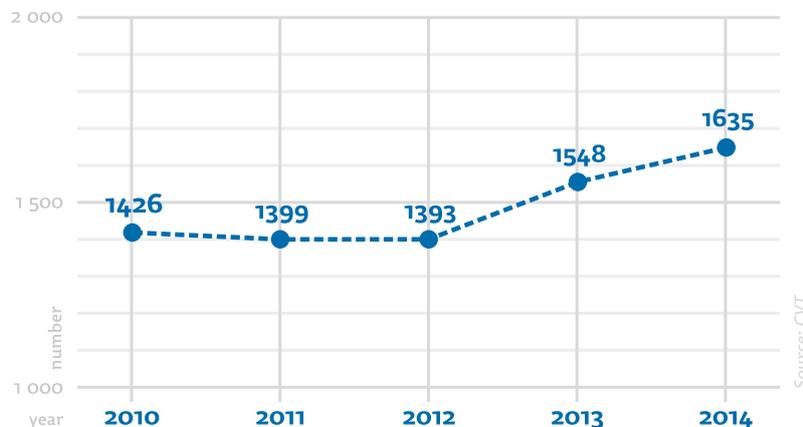
To operate solely in the national context is the road to obscurity. The Czech Republic, according to the rector, has been intellectually picked over too many times.

“Metaphorically speaking, we have too many hunters and too few pigeons. If we want to conduct quality research, we are going to have to compete for motivated young academics, of whom there are always too few. With respect to the number of universities in the Czech Republic, we have no other option than to look elsewhere. We will not stay in the premiere league of research universities if we select experts only from the Czech Republic. We are going to have to recruit players from India, from Asia, and from Russian-speaking lands,” Miller explained.

The rector is betting on young academics whose market value is relatively low because they have not yet made a name for themselves. Those who already have made a name for themselves are expensive, and usually past their prime. This is why the university should focus on post-docs, positions after doctoral studies. “We have about one hundred and sixty post-docs, and it can already be seen that we have some aces in our hand,” Miller said.

And he adds that the same principle applies to students. “We want better motivated students, but in one population-year of a relatively small country, the percentage of such applicants is more or less constant. So again, we have to look beyond our borders,” Miller added.

Development of the number of foreigners at UP





The university is seeking students from surrounding countries, such as Slovakia and Poland, because these students are able to study in Czech-speaking programmes. “Ukrainian students are also of interest to us. The problem there is that their school system is set up differently from ours and is not completely compatible,” Miller observed.

The stumbling block of foreign languages

The first step on the road to internationalisation is a common tongue. According to the rector, this does not mean just printing brochures in English, even if English is the main lingua franca.

“Coming to Olomouc from the opposite end of the world must be a shock,” avers Roxane Authorsen. She comes from Essen, Germany, and though she speaks Czech fluently, she studies medicine in English. “The programme in English has been in place now for twenty years, but there is not a single sign in English at the Faculty of Medicine,” she said, with exasperation. The Academic Senate decided on her initiative that the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry should be furnished with bilingual sig-

nage. “In order for the students to feel more at home, first they have to understand their surroundings, and only then will they study better,” Roxane stated.

Rector Miller goes further than that, insisting that the entire city must undergo change. We must offer services to foreign students and academics; there must be an infrastructure for them.

“If we are going to get incredible young academics from countries all over the world, a number of them remaining here for some time, coming here with their families, this will mean enrichment of the economy of the town and its cultural life. And if we want to attract them in the first place, we must guarantee English nursery schools and grammar schools for them. I am expecting that within five years, such schools will be at Envelopa, in the building complex we recently purchased,” the rector stated.

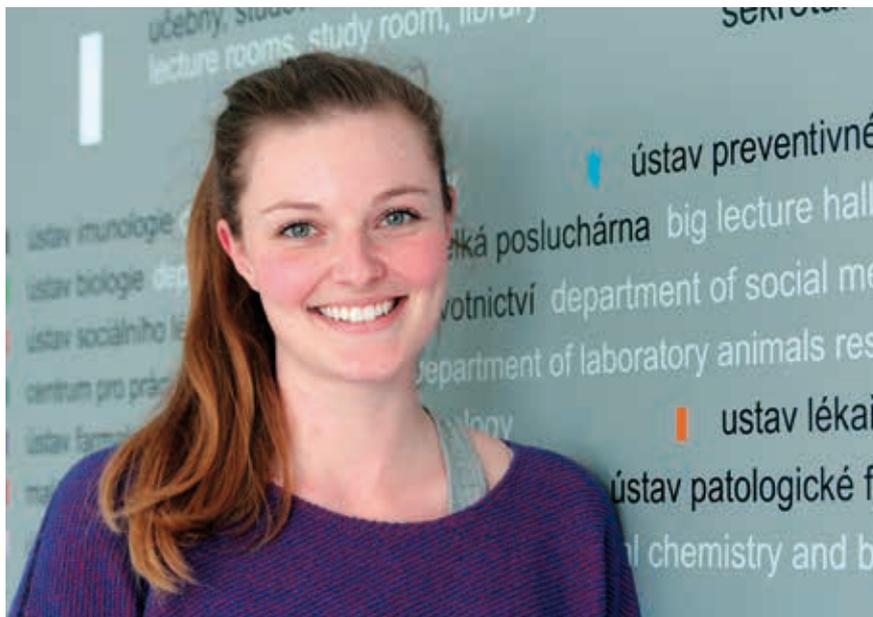
And this is where the first step on the part of the university can be found. “It is necessary to create the most sympathetic environment so that future scientists, teachers and students have easy access to the university, so that there will be no problem for example in arranging visas,”

said Ivana Oborná, Vice-Rector for Foreign Relations. As of this year, foreigners do not have to go to Přerov to arrange their visas, it is taken care of by an Olomouc branch of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Office of the Czech Ministry of the Interior, which is housed in the Dean’s Office of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

Genius loci

Olomouc could attract somebody from Indonesia by being the Oxford of Haná, as opposed to Anonymous Prague or Industrial Brno. “We have to place our bets upon the quality of the place. The genius loci and the ubiquitous university atmosphere is our foreign currency. In the case of the sciences, it is the felicitous infrastructure and successful science-research teams, especially in such fields as nanotechnology, optics, biotechnology, and biomedicine,” Yvona Vyhnánková, Director of the UP International Liaison Office, enumerated.

Katsuyuki Tanizawa is one such happy foreigner in Olomouc. He appreciates the quiet, small city with its parks and beautiful historic buildings. →



Student of General Medicine
Roxane Authorsen.

“I came here for two years, primarily to publish scientific articles for the Centre of the Haná Region and to tutor highly motivated young scientists,” explained the scientist from Osaka, who concentrates on enzymology and biotechnology. At present he is working on a project dealing with the atmospheric conditions of unstable enzymes, which existed on Earth during the time when there was no oxygen in the atmosphere.

Olomouc is by far the “most university” university town in the Czech Republic. And students concur. “The town is charming, quiet, and everything you need is a short walk away. This is a great place to study,” said Nabil Ibrahim from Malaysia. Any exam stress can be released with fellow students in the town tearooms. Asian students visit home once a year – in summer.

The UP International Liaison Office cannot do everything to help foreigners. “Our first year here we could not handle the winter. Now, after three years, we’re ok with it, and we love the snow,” the Malaysian students laughed.

Roxane Authorsen also likes Olomouc: “It’s just right, not too large, not too small. There’s a lot to do here, loads of students, young people... and few tourists,” she said, admiringly.

A course on differences

The seminar “Europe: A User’s Guide” should contribute to an understanding of the roots and founding values of European culture, especially for students from the Muslim community. “We had thirty students enrolled in that course, which

is promising,” commented Vice-Rector Oborná.

The course offers foreign students an interpretative key to help them understand European culture and orient them in its values. “We try to introduce an interpretation of Europe, based on Christianity, arising from Greek philosophy, from Roman law, and with an emphasis on freedom, also taken from Jewish philosophy,” as Jaroslav Franc summarised the seminar.

So far, thanks to her language skills and excellent Czech, the “spokeswoman” for the foreign students has been Authorsen. “Students often come to me, with lots of questions. I’m a kind of medium for them, and sometimes even a mediator. I even interpret, if they need to resolve something with teachers. If they have a problem with scheduling, I am happy to help,” Roxane said.

As a German, she sees the biggest cultural difference in manners. “Here there is great respect and a certain distance between teachers and students. In England or Germany everyone calls their teachers by their first names. Teachers have greater authority here than in Germany. And the tests are tougher,” she summarised.

The majority of frictions between faculties and foreign students are as a rule communication problems, and according to Vice-Rector Oborná these are not serious. One, for example, were requests by Muslim students for a prayer room. “We explained that our university is strictly secular. There will not be a prayer room for any religion here. We can discuss religion, but no one group will be preferred or discriminated against,” Oborná shared.

Accredited Study Programmes in Foreign Languages at UP Faculties

Medicine and Dentistry

2 Master’s programmes (in English)
General Medicine – 6-year
Dentistry – 5-year

In Doctoral and Post-Graduate study there were 23 programmes accredited for 2015/2016, with selection procedures in 10 programmes.

Arts

5 Bachelor’s programmes (in English)
8 Master’s programmes (in English and in German)

1 Doctoral programme (in English)
The programme with the most applicants is Euroculture.

Sciences

2 Master’s programmes (in English)
19 Doctoral programmes (in English)

Education

1 Bachelor’s programme (in English)
3 Master’s programmes (in English)
1 Master’s programme (in Russian)
5 Doctoral programmes (in English)
1 Doctoral programme (in Russian)

There is a plan to extend foreign-language instruction to 80% of the student programmes which are suitable for foreigners.

Physical Culture

1 Doctoral programme
Kinanthropology (in English)
2 Magister programmes are being prepared for accreditation – *Adapted Physical Activity and Physical Activity and Active Living*

Theology

1 Doctoral programme *Teologia sistematica e filosofia cristiana* (in Italian)

Law

Accredited Doctoral programme
European and International Law (in English)
The study board will soon decide if it will be opened.

(source: Registrar’s Office)



Study programmes and departments

The flagship of English language study is formed by the two core departments in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry: General Medicine and Dentistry. “They have the longest tradition, and also the greatest demand,” Yvona Vyhnančková stated. Students are recruited primarily from Asia and Great Britain.

“Medicine in a way is a narrow field, because it is the same the world over. One cannot say that about law. Czech law differs considerably from Anglo-Saxon common law. Thus for some faculties internationalisation is more difficult,” Vice-Rector Oborná underlined.

A good example for internationalisation according to her is science, especially the natural sciences. At the Faculty of Sciences, one can observe two strategies of internationalisation, thanks to which the individual workplaces can build and develop relationships with international partners.

The greatest number of study programmes in English offered by a faculty is nine, offered by the Faculty of Arts. Among them are English and Chinese Philology, European Studies, International Relations, and Jewish and Israeli Studies. “Next semester the Faculty of Law will also open their Master’s degree programme in English,” Vyhnančková noted.

Recruiting foreign students has four phases:

- 1) providing the personnel
- 2) accreditation
- 3) marketing
- 4) study programme

According to Vyhnančková, UP is now in the phase of creating new concepts and strategies in international marketing. “It goes hand-in-hand with the offer, which at present is somewhat limited, so it is difficult to invest larger sums in marketing,” she explained.

Not just English

From her own experience, electronic media and social networks are foremost in recruiting students. “It does not make sense to travel around the world to university fairs. For example in India and Southeast Asia what has worked best for us is cooperation with local agencies,” Vyhnančková said.

While Rector Miller says that the competition in recruiting foreign academics is the same between UP and Vienna and Shanghai, Vyhnančková states that in the case of foreign students, our main competition is Masaryk University in Brno, which has a similar make-up of departments.

While English is the most prevalent language in internationalisation, UP offers studies in other languages. At the Faculty of Arts, German Philology is offered in German, at the Faculty of Education there is instruction in Russian, and at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology there is instruction in Italian.

The presence of foreign students, scientists and teachers also enriches the lives of Czech students. It is one of the key means of increasing the quality of studies and the level of teaching and research.



Foreigners (with Czech residency permits)		
Country code	State	Number
DZ	Algeria	3
AR	Argentina	1
AM	Armenia	1
AU	Australia	2
AT	Austria	2
AZ	Azerbaijan	1
BY	Belarus	5
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	8
BR	Brazil	1
CM	Cameroon	5
CA	Canada	3
CN	China	11
CY	Cyprus	11
DK	Denmark	3
EG	Egypt	1
ET	Ethiopia	1
FR	France	10
GE	Georgia	3
DE	Germany	12
GH	Ghana	2
GR	Greece	4
HU	Hungary	2
IN	India	14
ID	Indonesia	1
IR	Iran	1
IE	Ireland	3
IL	Israel	19
IT	Italy	6
JP	Japan	7
KZ	Kazakhstan	5
LY	Libya	1
LT	Lithuania	3
MK	Macedonia	2
MY	Malaysia	94
MD	Moldova	3
MN	Mongolia	2
NA	Namibia	1
NL	Netherlands	8
NZ	New Zealand	1
NG	Nigeria	6
KR	North Korea	1
NO	Norway	1
PK	Pakistan	3
PS	Palestine	1
PL	Poland	27
PT	Portugal	7
RU	Russian Federation	48
SA	Saudi Arabia	1
RS	Serbia	8
SK	Slovakia	1044
SI	Slovenia	1
ZA	South Africa	3
ES	Spain	3
LK	Sri Lanka	1
SD	Sudan	1
SE	Sweden	5
SY	Syria	3
TW	Taiwan	29
TH	Thailand	1
TR	Turkey	3
UG	Uganda	1
UA	Ukraine	50
GB	United Kingdom	105
US	United States of America	10
VE	Venezuela	1
VN	Vietnam	7
YE	Yemen	1
Foreigners Total (with Czech residency permits)		1635



8 faculties
1 university



Building of the Year: Honourable Mention for the Faculty of Education

The addition to the Faculty of Education won Honourable Mention in the Olomouc Region's contest for 2014 Building of the Year. It was announced by the Olomouc Region President together with the Czech Chamber of Authorised Building Engineers and Technicians.

Architect Miroslav Pospíšil began to "sketch" the addition to the Faculty in 2006. "One of the main constraints was the dimensions of the lot, therefore we tried to create a building of minimal volume, out of which arose a cube, requiring a small footprint. We also tried to make sure the building fit in sensitively with the existing building," as Pospíšil explained the concept.

One component of the addition is a modern auditorium with 275 seats, equipped with a data projector and interpreting facilities; another interesting component is the data centre, which ensures adequate computer performance and memory capacity for research and teaching activities.

According to the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Čestmír Serafín, the addition has proven itself. For more than a year, all study programmes have had classes there and research has been carried out which should pay off in submitted projects.

"Students and employees are completely satisfied, because they have been given

dignified, modern, and highly useful spaces even for the demands of specialised training. And we got the labs which the Faculty has been lacking," Serafín emphasised.

Miroslav Pospíšil has been involved in projects for the university for some time and he states that for him this was a matter of the heart. "It's wonderful to work with the university. It is one of the few investors who knows exactly what it wants, which is important for us," he added. Although the prize is an honour, for him what is more important is that the building's occupants have expressed their satisfaction in working and studying there. (caf)

Tomáš Halík Spoke at the Faculty of Theology on the Dialogue between Religions and Secular Society

The dignity of man, human rights, and interreligious dialogue were the themes of a lecture by the internationally renowned theologian, sociologist, and last year's recipient of the Templeton Prize, Tomáš Halík, who was one of the main guests at the international conference Religion and the Common Good.

The liaison making possible mutual dialogue, according to Halík, can be found

in all major world religions in the form of "the golden rule" – to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

"All major religions are a kind of schooling on how to overcome human selfishness, how to subdue human instincts, especially aggression, and how to learn the basic rules of coexistence," said Halík. At the same time, he pointed out the importance of differences between individual faiths and the necessity of respect for differences. "We shouldn't transpose these differences too quickly in favour of a common denominator, but instead learn to live with diversity and understand it not as an immediate source of danger and peril, but as something which in certain conditions can supplement and enrich us," Halík underlined.

In conjunction with the theme of the conference, Halík called for a dialogue with today's secular society. At the same time he differentiated between secularization as a certain historical-cultural process, and

secularism as a type of ideology. "In today's world we meet with aggressive secularism, one of whose representatives is Richard Dawkins, who attempts to banish religion from the public space and to attack it. But there also exists secular humanism, which is open to dialogue. One example was the dialogue between Cardinal Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI, with the German philosopher Jürgen Habermas in 2004, in which they agreed that Christianity and secular humanism need each other in order to overcome their subjectivity," Halík explained.

According to Halík, Christianity has an extraordinary chance to mediate the dialogue in today's world of value transformations and to be a translator between Islam and the secular society. "Christianity should play a role similar as it did after the fall of Rome. At that time Christian and classical traditions were handed over to new cultures – Roman law, Greek philosophy, the wealth of all of pagan Rome," Halík reminded. (mav)



photos: Vělena Mazochová, Martin Višňa, Pavel Konečný

Olomouc Academics Contribute to *The History of Czechoslovak Comics in the 20th Century*

The three-volume complete academic *History of Czechoslovak Comics in the 20th Century* emerged from the Faculty of Arts. The collaborators were Martin Foret and Tomáš Prokůpek from the Department of Journalism; and Michal Jareš, a graduate of the Department of Theory and History of Dramatic Art, now working at the Institute for Czech Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The fourth collaborator is the comics theoretician and publicist Pavel Kořínek.

The academic *History of Czechoslovak Comics in the 20th Century* follows the development and history of the comic form in today's Czech Republic and Slovakia in periodicals from the late Austro-Hungarian Empire to the rapid boom after 1989. The volumes are clearly organised, readable, and attractive. Foret gives credit to the graphic designers and publisher.

It took five years from putting pen to paper to the finished book. The authors researched primary sources. "First we went through newspaper and magazine archives, and often found comics in things we hadn't expected – like *Railroader* or *Diver* magazines. At the same time we conducted interviews with historians, authors, and editors," said Martin Foret, from the Centre for the Study of Comics at the Faculty of Arts.

The authors placed an emphasis on original work. The publication fixes or directly refutes a number of often-cited simplifications and errors – notions such as comics proliferating only after 1989, or that they were dramatically censured by the two totalitarian regimes. The Czech and Slovak tradition of comics is quite rich, according to Foret, and there were only a few years in which it was impoverished. (map)



Martin Foret delivers a copy of *The History of Czechoslovak Comics in the 20th Century* to Rector Jaroslav Miller. The three-volume work, with 550 reproductions, is the most extensive and erudite mapping of the history of comics in this country.

Former Chairperson of the Academy of Sciences Complements University

Helena Illnerová, the world-renowned physicist and biochemist, visited the Fortress of Knowledge and the Science Centre in the Holice scientific complex at the end of April. She had only words of praise for the university.

"Olomouc has become one of the leading universities and academic centres in the Czech Republic in terms of creativity, science, and academics," she said.

She visited the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials (RCPTM) and the Centre of the Haná Region for Biotechnical and Agricultural Research (CRH)

for the first time. "I had already heard about the RCPTM and read that it is one of the most promising centres in the country. After seeing it with my own eyes, I can say that it is the truth. It is a centre of reasonable size and it is without question using the most amazing nanotechnologies important for both medicine and ecology. Well done!" Illnerová enthused.

In addition to the RCPTM Director Radek Zbořil, she was also accompanied by Pavel Hobza, the most-cited Czech scientist. "We agreed that the research on nanotechnologies which we are carrying out can one day

significantly influence the world of biomolecules and biomedicine. We believe that molecular biology and nanotechnology will one day break through," said Zbořil.

Illnerová had the most to say about CRH, where she mentioned the work of Jaroslav Doležel in genomes, among others. She was also taken to the Laboratory of Growth Regulators (LRR), a workplace shared by the Faculty of Sciences and the Institute of Experimental Botany of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. "Our outstanding personal and professional contacts were and are the result of shared academic interests. Especially in the area of indole derivatives, of which the most significant one in animals is melatonin," said LRR Director Miroslav Strnad.

He stated that the meeting could result in further cooperation. The team of his colleague Eva Hényková recently developed in collaboration with the Neurological Clinic at the Olomouc Teaching Hospital a very sensitive and selective method for identifying indolamines in blood plasma and cerebrospinal fluid. These are derivatives of the amino acid tryptophan, which include melatonin and serotonin. "Prof Illnerová promised to help with the identification of biological processes in people, where the new method would be of practical use. And she promised to help in finding contacts for teams which are looking at psychological and sleep disorders. Indolamines play a key role in these," Strnad revealed. (srd)



Prof Illnerová was Chairperson of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic from 2001 to 2005. She is a founding member of the Academic Community in the Czech Republic. Her academic work is concentrated on biological clocks, which influence the life of both mammals and humans.

8 faculties
1 university



Thanks to the Empress, Doctors Learn How to Deliver Children

The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry now has the second birth simulator in the Czech Republic. The birthing manikin has been named Maria Theresa, after the empress famous for bearing 16 children. The medical students call her Mary. She came with a price tag of two million CZK (over 70,000 EUR).

“Training with manikins is a modern trend in all major medical faculties the world over,” said Radovan Pilka, Head of the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Clinic. Part of the reason is that manikins do a good job at simulating reality. “They can imitate bleeding and breaking water. The manikin is connected to a computer and can simulate the pulse and

breathing of the birth mother, and can even imitate the sounds. These are important for obstetrics-gynaecologists: to respond only to those sound impressions which are necessary. But it is not an exact replica of the situation in the clinic,” Pilka explained.

Manikins are important for improving the quality of teaching. “Contemporary medicine requires practical training, but mothers giving birth require a certain intimacy in the delivery room,” Dean Milan Kolář clarified, upon the inauguration of the new teaching room in the Centre for Telemedicine, Simulators, and Practical Proficiency (Centesimo).

In addition to Mary, medical students have two mechanical hip torsos at their disposal. Future obstetrics-gynaecologists can learn more difficult operations on them, such as forceps delivery, which requires mostly erudition and proper timing. “Which is why it is great that medical students can train on manikins. To train during an actual birth is too late,” commented teacher Karel Huml.

The first simulator in Centesimo was named Simir. Urgent medicine has been taught with its use for a year now. And within a year simulators for teaching surgery will arrive at the centre. (caf)

Ground-Breaking International Project to Improve Nurses' English

Significant improvement in the professional English of nurses is expected by the Faculty of Health Sciences, thanks to its active participation in the international project Healthcare English Language Programme – HELP. For the next three years, a consor-

tium of seven countries will aim at creating modern teaching aids for language instruction and increasing communication abilities in English for non-medical healthcare professions. The innovative teaching programme includes a number of intercultural

aspects which will expand the communication abilities used in contact with patients.

“The primary target group will be students in healthcare professions and nurses who have an interest in gaining experience or think it will be useful for working in EU countries. Modern teaching aids will also be used by healthcare personnel during contact with patients who come here from abroad. The course will also be available for nurses in the form of self-study, for those who have already completed school,” Jan Galuszka, the Vice-Dean for Foreign Relations, explained.

Faculty leadership sees their taking part in the project as a ground-breaking experience. “The established cooperation will open doors to other foreign contacts,” Galuszka emphasised.

Olomouc's Faculty of Health Sciences will cooperate with academic workplaces and innovation centres in Ireland, Germany, Spain, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia. The English teachers will also take part in creating the special teaching aids. (mav)



photos: 123RF, Martina Šaradinová, Milada Hronová, Pavel Konečný

The Faculty of Physical Culture Creates a European Strategy for Supporting Movement Activity

Experts from the Faculty of Physical Culture have contributed to a great extent in forming a national strategy to support movement activity. The head of the Department of Recreation, Zdeněk Hamřík, was also chosen to represent the Czech Republic at a meeting on the forming of a European strategy for the coming decades.

“The European strategy serves as a framework for measures on national levels. We live in a time when the majority of countries are faced with an alarming increase in overweight and obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and other illnesses, whose primary causes are the lack of movement, an unhealthy diet, and excess energetic intake. The problem is so large that it is necessary to resolve it at the highest level,” Hamřík stated.

The meeting with representatives of European countries on a strategic document aimed at increasing the level of movement activity took place in Zurich, Switzerland. Also representing the Czech Republic in addition to Hamřík was Marie Nejedlá, head of the Centre for the Support of Public Health at the Czech National Health Institute.

The Action Plan for Support of Movement Activity in the Czech Republic, based on the European strategy, is one of the implementation documents of the National Strategy for the Safeguarding and Support of Health and Prevention of Disease – Health 2020, approved by the government last year.

The action plan is being prepared by a workgroup led by Hamřík, made up of ex-

perts from all over the country, including five other members of the Faculty of Physical Culture. (vim)



Zdeněk Hamřík and Marie Nejedlá at the meeting in Switzerland.

Law Students Try Their Arguments in Washington

A team of students from the Faculty of Law completed four simulated court cases in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The Olomouc students returned from Washington, D.C. – where they competed with students from India, China, Ukraine, and Finland – with freshly charged experiences.

The Olomouc students took part in the Jessup International Competition, which like the national final was based on current events in Crimea, together with 127 teams from 87 countries. In the four proceedings in the first round, students took the roles of prosecution and defence against competitors from the University of Helsinki, Peking University, Jindal Global Law

School in Haryana, India, and Kiev's Taras Shevchenko National University.

“Unfortunately, we didn't make it into the next round, for which only thirty-two teams qualified, but we did repeatedly receive good marks,” said Ondřej Svaček, a member of the Department of International and European Law, who chaperoned the students as their advisor.

“Taking part in the international Jessup Competition is one of the most enriching experiences that a Law student could ever have during their studies,” explained Vuk Đukić, a member of the Olomouc team. In addition to improving knowledge, speaking abilities, and the art of improvisation, students learn how to choose from a num-

ber of variants for forming arguments. “It is always necessary to choose the one which is most persuasive for the particular listener. Sometimes it might be a complicated legal-philosophical construction, at other times it might be an argument based on simple logic,” he added.

Argumentation abilities, experience, and practical law proficiency were put to the test by Đukić and the other members of the team: Magda Seidelmannová, Juliana Štátná and Filip Hloušek. “I improved myself especially in learning that success is not achieved in the minutes when one is standing in front of the court, but in the six months prior – in the law library and in meetings. Without unbelievably extensive preparations, one cannot make up a brilliant presentation on the spot,” as Hloušek summed up his experience in the international tournament.

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is one of the biggest international competitions in public international law. The teams measure their skills in a simulated case between fictitious countries before the World Court. Olomouc Faculty of Law students have reached the Jessup Competition three times. (mav)

Students taking part in the international competition with their teacher (from left to right): Juliana Štátná, Magda Seidelmannová, Filip Hloušek, Vuk Đukić, Ondřej Svaček.





popularisation

text: Martina Šaradínová, Pavel Konečný
photos: Kristýna Erbebnová, Eva Hobzová,
Robert Mročka, Viktor Čáp

The Fortress of Knowledge Begins Extending Science

A centre for the popularisation of science at Palacký University, called the Fortress of Knowledge, opened its doors in April to visitors. Its goal is to acquaint the greater public with science and inspire the youngest generation toward science and research. Its most stellar attractions are its planetarium, gyroscope, and models of the eye, brain, and river bed.

The centre is based on live interaction and animated programmes. “Thanks to our connection with the Faculty of Sciences, the guardians at the Fortress of Knowledge are real experts,” said Matěj Dostálek, Director of the science centre. In his opinion the interactive exhibits support the concept of informal education. “Our educational programmes supplement school curricula. We would like to contribute to the education of a whole generation of children

and develop future university students,” Dostálek stated.

Dean Ivo Frébort commented that the Faculty of Sciences is strongly research-oriented. “Sometimes we have the feeling that we are unable to communicate our findings to the general public. Now that we have the Fortress of Knowledge and its bastion of experts, we can,” Frébort summarised.

During the opening celebrations, Rector Jaroslav Miller announced his unmitigated delight. “The Faculty of Sciences has

EXPOSITIONS

- **Science in the Fortress** (History)
- **Logic in a Nutshell** (Logic and Mathematics)
- **Living Water** (Hydrobiology and Geography)
- **Light and Darkness** (Physics and Optics)

been able to save a beautiful, historic building. I think I can say that if the university had not been successful in this, it might not have lasted another decade," Miller said.

Architect Stašek Žerava from the Bonmot atelier confirmed that he wanted to maintain the building's authenticity to the maximum. "One can easily see what is original and what is new construction, new design. We deliberately chose materials that would be obvious. We approached the project with great humbleness," Žerava detailed.

In its first weekend the Fortress of Knowledge drew two thousand visitors.

Jan Hluší could not wait, coming on the first day with his four-year-old great-nephew Vašek from Prostějov. "I enjoyed the model eye and brain. In our day we had nothing like this. My great-nephew is a know-it-all, he'll like everything," he stated.

Rector Miller hopes that the Fortress of Knowledge will be visited by children, families, and schools, and that they will enjoy seeing science presented in a popular form. "In the future they might become the pillars of the university and outstanding scientists in this country," the rector wished.

The Fortress of Knowledge is open daily from 9 am – 5 pm, except Mondays.



Top Science in Olomouc

Even before the Fortress of Knowledge opened its doors, it was occupied by science of Olomouc origin, specifically from the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials (RCPTM). RCPTM Director Radek Zbořil went before the public with a lecture on popular science, where he introduced the audience to the attractive world of nanoparticles. He showed what these "little helpers with a big future" are already capable of today. They will not remain limited to today's key applications in cleaning water by

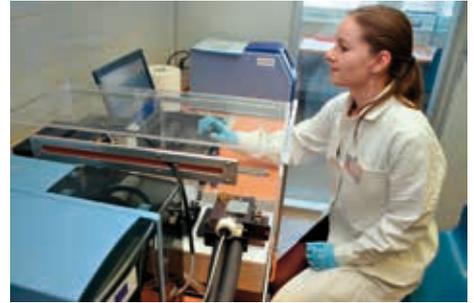
using nanofibers or ferrous nanoparticles. Nano iron is being produced today by RCPTM's patented technology and is already being used by a number of sanitation firms in the Czech Republic and across Europe for cleaning groundwater contaminated by chlorinated hydrocarbons, heavy metals, or arsenic. There is a big future in the use of nanostructures in biotechnologies and the food processing industry. Olomouc experts are already in the advanced phase of commercial application technology of the separation of lactoferrin, an important protein with significant antimicrobial and anti-tumour activity, from cows' milk.

RCPTM workers devote great attention to medical research. Together with experts from the Faculty of Medicine, they have revealed and described the high antibacterial and antimycotic activity of silver nanoparticles. "Their application in various layers can prevent the start of microbial coatings and infections. There has also been great interest on the part of domestic and foreign firms in several nanotechnologies used in medical diagnostics, for instance in a new method of extremely sensitive pinpointing of selected molecules in blood and urine, which should lead to early detection of a number of diseases," Zbořil stated. And where are nanoparticles headed now? "Into multifunctional materials with the possibility of being used in several fields – for example in simultaneous diagnostics and therapy," Zbořil enthused.



research

text:
Martina Šaradínová
Pavel Konečný
photos:
Vladislav Galgonek
Pavel Konečný



Olgen: New Possibilities in Biomedical Research

Advancements in biomedicine and procedures making possible the preparation of treatments made “to order” are the target of the Olgen project. Olgen is aimed at the role of the immune system and immunogenetics in diseases of the locomotor system, lung diseases, and haematological malignant tumours.

Olgen is the product of a unique cooperation between two universities and a commercial partner. The UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry has joined forces with the Technical University of Ostrava Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the firm Institute of Applied Biotechnologies (IAB). Partners share in the use of facilities and equipment costing over EUR 3 million.

“While we have known for some time that the immune system plays a key role in both health and sickness, for the first time modern technology makes possible the investigation of differences in immunity between individuals; these differences are responsible for complications, different treatment solutions, and various prognoses. These individual differences – on the immunogenic and cellular levels – will be the main content of the Olgen project, which was initiated by the UP Institute of Immunology,” explained Eva Kriegová, its director.

The researchers’ goal will be to prepare analyses and standard operating procedures leading to a joining of diagnostic,

therapeutic, and prognosis approaches, including the creating of diagnostic procedures making possible personalised medicine.

Trailblazing cooperation

“I am firmly convinced that the synergy coming from interdisciplinary and inter-institutional cooperation has so many benefits that we should not hesitate to rise to the challenge,” declared UP Rector Jaroslav Miller.

Project preparations took nearly a year, with the full support of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry leadership. “Cooperation between the private sector and the academic sphere has had its bumps in the road. However, we believe that the project will be proof of successful mutual cooperation,” said Milan Kolář, FMD Dean.

For IAB, academic partnership has strategic significance. “This is a major step for us on the way to becoming an important centre of applied R&D in the area of molecular and cellular technology,” remarked Josef Fišer of IAB.

Dream and reality

Clinical use of applied personalised medicine requires parallel development of modern analytical and informational science approaches. The linking of the cooperation between UP immunologists and clinical doctors with the TUO information scientists was a logical step. “We are making use of their knowledge of information science and the national supercomputer centre facilities at IT4Innovations in Ostrava,” FMD Vice-Dean Tomáš Papajík explained.

At present, there are over thirty experts involved in the project – biologists, doctors, and information scientists. The patients of the Olomouc Teaching Hospital will also benefit from the project.

“We expect that modern immunogenetic analyses will aid in detecting patients with various levels of likelihood in the outset or progress of osteoarthritis, or respectively with diverse responses to specific treatments, including joint replacements,” declared Jiří Gallo, Chief Physician at the UP Orthopaedic Clinic. According to him, things medicine has only dreamt about are moving towards reality.

portrait

text: Mílada Hronová
photos: Kristýna Erbenová
Vladislav Galgonek
Pavel Konečný

Jan Vičar

composer, publicist,
and musicologist

*Jan Vičar is one of the most important personalities in the contemporary world of music. He recently completed a unique work, **Music in Olomouc 1945–2013**. The book, over six hundred pages long, attracted immediate attention, being awarded the Olomouc 2014 Accomplishment of the Year, and Prof Jan Vičar was given the City of Olomouc Award.*



Jan Vičar (b. 1949)

Musicologist, composer, and teacher at the Department of Musicology at the UP Faculty of Arts. Former editor-in-chief of the magazine *Hudební rozhledy* [Musical Panoramas]. He is the author of ten academic studies, six books, and the editor of many collections of essays.

In 1990 he became head of his academic section and in 1992 he became head of the Department of Musicology. At present he is a professor at the Department of Musicology and the Department of Musical History and Theory at the Music and Dance Faculty at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

In the late 1990s he lectured at eight American universities, and in 2005 as a guest professor he taught Composition and Music Theory at Birmingham–Southern College in Alabama.

He founded the international festival of contemporary music MusicOlomouc, and was its director from 2009–2014.



The extensive historiographic publication *Music in Olomouc 1945–2013* represents just one of Jan Vičar's professional returns. The project on the history of music in Olomouc post-1945 was one that Vičar began in 1985, but then he moved to Prague. He was able to finish the project after his return to Moravia thirty years later, with the gracious support of the project Moravia and the World: Art in Opening a Multicultural Space.

Unique musical history

“My return to Olomouc really came full circle when I was given the City of Olomouc Award. Three decades ago I was given the same award for my work on the international Festival of Songs featuring children's choirs.”

During his words of thanks Vičar added that thirty-two colleagues furnished help on the book. They dedicated the book to all Olomouc musicians: past, present, and future.

The academic publication *Music in Olomouc 1945–2013* contains thirteen analyses of selected compositions, and describes in detail the genres of folklore ensembles, brass bands, popular music, and jazz. Vičar and company were able to compile 4600 names and 570 photographs. Its 650 large-format pages also feature sheet music and other illustrative material. Olomouc is now exceptional in that no other city in Central Europe has had its musical history mapped and analysed to such an extent.

“The final form of our work reflects the limits of my free time and the professional experiences of the individual contributors. And because every work of this type dealing with sources and synthesis naturally includes errors, I called upon our Jan Blüml, who was just awarded a doctorate in our

department, to gather notes and suggestions for the second edition.”

Gifted child and musical traveller

Jan Vičar's childhood was connected to the accordion. He was barely ten years-old when he first took place in a tourney abroad, to the Soviet Union. The talented lad's playing soon attracted television producers. And at the conservatory where he later studied classic music, he had no problem absorbing period music and pop. The composition “I Plunged into Rock” was one of his first, and Vičar thinks back on it quite often to this day.

Jan Vičar studied Music Education and Czech at UP's Faculty of Arts, Composition at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno and the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. His wide creative scope has been remarkable from the very beginning. Just as he is able to effortlessly move between the fields of musicology, music publicity, and music education, his own compositional activities are also broad. Quite modest himself, he is however one of those composers whose works are performed.

As a musicologist, Vičar does not want to dwell too much on what and when something was created because as a composer he would not have written a single note: as he might say then, why infest a world which is already saturated with wonderful works?

“My attitude toward music is connected to communication. I am a musical traveller. I have never stopped moving between art and academia, but also between genres and styles. Even if it is difficult to prepare on the level of inspiration and concentration, it is better for the listener. Mixing styles and genres keeps their interest. I see composing as a special form of play. And interpreters are asking for my compositions. So far

they have met with success; I would not like to sell them short.”

It is musicians who play the role of “first violin” in Vičar’s compositions. There are those who consider their compositions their own, and those who communicate their composer’s ideas, who play a game with listeners, a game whose rules were created and arranged by the composer. And that type of composer is happy in the moment when the listener enters the game by means of the interpreter.

Ej Janku! or Forte for folklore

Without mention of Vičar’s rich choral experiences, sentences on the contemporary teacher, composer, and creator of chamber and symphonic music would not feel complete. In the musical and travelling life of Jan Vičar, choirs represent one of the main melody themes in world music. They are often connected to folklore, which attracts the Olomouc musicologist by its naturalness, longevity, and formal refinement. The pure gold of folk music according to Vičar is that in it there is nothing unnecessary, it is not polished by collective memory. Vičar noticed the genuine nature of folk songs in all their extent and essence in the

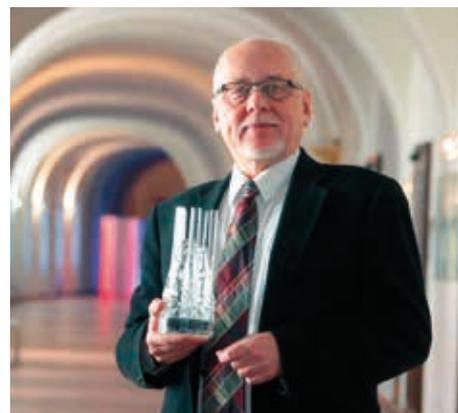
company of Robert Smetana, an outstanding teacher, who guided the young musicologist as an Olomouc university student. “Robert Smetana appreciated folk songs as on the same level with symphonies.”

Smetana’s heritage is being sensitively continued by Vičar today and his choral work together with interpreters has already gathered slews of accolades at various festivals in the Czech Republic and throughout the world. It is no wonder that in 2013, when Vičar put out a CD with the title *Ej, Janku!* [Hey, Jack! a Moravian folksong], all the reviewers agreed that it was Vičar himself who is able to raise folk music to the level of high art.

“Besides Antonín Dvořák, in Moravia (except for the brilliant Leoš Janáček), it is considered presumptuous to call oneself a folklorist. I am only trying to bring folk songs to the podium. And I confess that it is not simple, for something always is lost. And so I have to stylise folk songs, recreate them, but mainly: I have to maintain their authenticity.”

Why rest?

With respect to turning 65 and that his contract at the university will soon end,



the composer and musicologist is seriously considering the future. He continues to oscillate between Moravia and Prague, and sometimes even across the ocean. He handed over the leadership of MusicOlomouc, a successful international festival of contemporary music, which he founded and ran for six years, to his younger colleague at the Department of Musicology, Marek Kepřt. He now believes that everything he has put into the festival will successfully be projected into the next generations.

“To spend my retirement taking walks and going to lunch and soaking up the sunshine is not for me.”



Josef Jařab

Department of English
and American Studies,

former rector of Palacký University

We have better lives thanks to songs, both in times of sadness and joy. I remember the November days of 1989, when folk singers supported us in those dramatic moments when we filled town squares all over the country and sang, with faith, that “We Shall Overcome.” After our Velvet Revolution we wanted to acquaint ourselves with that happier world which opened up to us. We gratefully welcomed offers of cooperation and exchanges of students and study programmes. One big hitch was the lack of English. At that time it was proven that music helps in understanding when words fail. And thanks to that bridge we got into fruitful relationships with schools such as the American Associated Colleges of the Midwest. And one of the pillars of that programme has been Jan Vičar, who had a huge role in bringing music back into the life of the university.



Alena Burešová

Professor Emerita

of the Department of Musicology

I’ve known Jan Vičar since I was a student, which is almost fifty years now. That’s why I can remember his student years, in which he also excelled as an active musician in various musical formations. With nostalgia I also remember his years as a lecturer, when Vičar in addition to his teaching duties was a successful choirmaster and in time also a respected composer. Over such a time the book of life portrays a colourful mosaic of events and experiences. If I had to choose a “cantus firmus” from them it would be Vičar’s indefatigable doggedness, his consistency in work and life, his lack of guile, his talent for listening, and his ability to win colleagues and friends both at home and abroad.



Jan Blüml

Department of Musicology

If I had to name one of my university teachers who significantly contributed to my current fortunate work in the sphere of researching popular music, that personality would be Prof Jan Vičar. I remember how I was vacillating on the theme of my Master’s thesis. It was inspired primarily by a lecture on a classical music theme; I decided to leave my earlier “pop” focus in favour of “higher art”. Professor Vičar was not too enthused by this monumental idea, not at all. His advice was: Keep at it! Perhaps it was the lack of faith in the foolhardy attempt of a rocker to poach in the preserve of the “music of the chosen people,” but his advice proved to be in many aspects constructive and for future professional development it was very important. And later I realised the worth of much good advice from Prof Vičar.

Milan Kolář Re-Elected Dean at the Faculty of Medicine



The microbiologist Milan Kolář was the only candidate for the dean of the Faculty of Medicine. The UP Academic Senate unanimously approved his second term in the office.

“Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I accept it with much respect. As Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, I will, together with you and the whole academic community, do everything to ensure the

prosperity of our faculty,” Kolář said, immediately after the election.

Kolář’s visions for the future and his candidate concepts include, apart from moving the Dean’s Office, the idea of launching a system of awards for teachers. Another novelty will be the preparation of the accreditation of the study programme “Public Health-care” in Czech and English. Kolář did not make any personnel changes in the faculty leadership for the next four years.

The rector appointed him Dean on May 25th. His second term in office will end on May 31st, 2019. (caf)

New Professors: Dagmar Pospíšilová and Tomáš Grim

Palacký University has two new professors since May 1st. They received the decrees in Prague’s Carolinum in June.

Prof. MUDr. Dagmar Pospíšilová, Ph.D. (b. 1956)



Deputy Head of the Children’s Clinic at the Faculty of Medicine and Teaching Hospital Olomouc
Discipline: Paediatrics
H-index: 14
Articles in impact journals: 42
Review articles: 40
Number of citations (SCI): 850

Prof. RNDr. Tomáš Grim, Ph.D. (b. 1973)



Department of Zoology and Laboratory of Ornithology
Discipline: Zoology
H-index: 20
Number of works (incl. non-impact): 70
Number of citations: 1014

Horký and Balůšková: University Champions

Two hundred students, mostly from the Faculty of Physical Education, competed at the end of April for the title Palacký University Champion, in the discus throw and high jump. Jiří Horký threw the discus 48.22 metres; Adéla Balůšková crossed the beam at 163 centimetres. Both will receive the Dean’s Prize. (caf)



Nine Best Authors Awarded in Literary Contest



The 2015 Palacký University Literary Prize has been one of the most notable in its 21-year-long history. The nine best student authors were awarded in 3 categories with financial prizes, while another four received honorary awards.

99 works were submitted in the UP literary contest. The winners were Anna Hrbáčková for Poetry, Alena Hesová for Prose, and Jiří Klbal for Essay. (map)

Charismatic Jahan Ramazani's First Lecture in the Czech Republic



Jahan Ramazani, professor at the University of Virginia, spoke on poetry in English-speaking countries and post-colonial history in relation to literature before a crowded auditorium at the Faculty of Arts in the spring. He also mentioned the impact of globalisation on the content and form of contemporary poetry.

“I was attracted to Olomouc by the history of the city, by the poetics of the place, and the good reputation of the university. Your Faculty of Arts is very productive in science and research. I am happy that I could lecture here,” said Ramazani. (map)

Student Groups Should Have an Umbrella Organisation

Student groups and organisations met at the beginning of the semester at Jazz Tibet Club. There are over two dozen of them; the greatest number in university history. In the future they should be represented by a combined union.

“We would like to map the extent of student activities. And they would like the same, because they generate similar activities and they should be supported, and work synergistically – otherwise they would be competing against each other,” said Vice-Rector Petr Bilík. University leadership would like to provide systematic help to student groups and organisations in the future.



“I must admit that I have never been in favour of centralisation of student organisations. However due to their activities and the sheer number of them, perhaps the time has come,” Bilík observed.

According to Jiří Pavlásek, the Sociology student who set up the union, the shared platform should search for common goals and viewpoints. (caf)

Pavel Tavel Received the Dean's Chain and Took Oath

In February 2015, Pavel Tavel was installed in the office of the Dean of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. He took the inauguration oath in the Ceremonial Hall of the Archbishop's Palace in Olomouc and received the Dean's insignia from Rector Jaroslav Miller.

The new dean expressed his high esteem, admiration, and respect for the academic and educational achievements made possible by the previous administration. The Faculty of Theology is, according to his words, a citadel defending the study of theology as its family silver, constantly challenged by the prevailing atheistic environment. He also pointed out the danger of being content with the achieved status quo, which may lead to gradual decline.

The inauguration confirmed Tavel's election in March 2014 by the faculty's Academic Senate. He assumed the Dean's office on September 14th, 2014 upon receiving the naming decree from Rector Jaroslav Miller, after gaining approval from the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Vatican giving their *nihil obstat* – no obstacles.

The new dean's term in office will expire in 2018. Pavel Tavel replaced Ivana Vlková in the office, who was the faculty's dean since 2006. (mav)



discovery

Zoologist Decodes Rhino Speech

Hoping to Save Endangered Species

text: Martina Šaradínová | photo: Ivana Cinková

Cinková spends several months annually in the African wilderness or in zoological gardens. She tracks the rhinos, records their voices, and monitors their responses to the playback. Her findings have been published in leading scientific journals.

“The communication of these animals has been a mystery until very recently. However, *Ceratotherium simum simum* and *Ceratotherium simum cottoni* have the most developed social system among the six existing rhinoceros species. Their vocal repertory is quite extensive, and they use olfactory communication to a great deal – the males mark their territorial boundaries with urine and excrement. My childhood dream came true when I began to study the rhinos’ social behaviour and communication,” Cinková said.

Her investigation has been based on the assumption that these two rhino species are the only ones to use their voices for contact. The animals most usually use them to greet each other when individuals from different groups meet, or to call each other when lost. “I analysed these contact voices with a colleague to find out what kind of information is being transferred. And we found out that the voice itself should most probably determine the identity of the communicating individual. The voices of adult males could contain information on their dominant or submissive status. The voices of young and old animals vary too. It can be determined on the basis of the voice whether the animal has become isolated, or is in its group,” the scientist revealed her findings, published in the journal *Animal Cognition* this year.

Rhinos on playback

The next step involved experimenting with rhino recordings on playback. The thirty-one-year-old Ph.D. student recorded them mainly in the zoo and then played them to the animals in the wild. “The territorial males responded most intensely. They ran to the loudspeaker and marked their territory, trying to locate the animal that emitted the sound. It is obvious that voices stimulate their social behaviour,” Cinková explained.

Similarly, the rhinos perceive stimuli by their sense of smell, which is highly developed, unlike their vision. “They defecate at collective dung heaps and then smell the dung. Scientists have never confirmed whether they gather information in this way or not. That’s why I made experiments with the dung: I placed an outsider’s dung at the dung heap and waited for their response. Once again, the males showed the greatest response. They kept running around, re-marking the dung,” Cinková added.

A recipe for reproduction in captivity?

The findings concerning their vocal and olfactory communication may have a significant role in the zoos where rhinos are raised. They reproduce poorly in captivity, for unknown reasons.

“Our hope is that they might be aided in reproduction by receiving stimuli through the recordings or signals in urine or stools. We could stimulate them similarly as we do with some domestic animals,” the scientist stated.

It is high time for her hypothesis to be confirmed. There are only five remaining northern white rhinos in the world. Four of them were relocated from the Dvůr Králové Zoo to Kenya in 2009, where only two females and one male are still alive. Two more females exist: one in Dvůr Králové, and one in the San Diego Safari Park. None of these animals, however, are capable of natural reproduction. The number of southern white rhinos is estimated at 20,000, but they are constantly jeopardized by poacher raids. In the course of the last three years, poachers have killed roughly 3,000 of these creatures.



To understand the vocal and olfactory communication of the southern white (also square-lipped) and the northern white rhinoceros (of which remain only the last five specimens) – this was the main objective of the zoologist Ivana Cinková from the Faculty of Science in Olomouc. She hopes to utilise her findings in saving these highly endangered species.



photostory



Majáles
The celebration of student life and spring lasted five days. The programme had more than one hundred events and activities.



Bohuslav Melichar first-time primary author in *The Lancet Oncology*



The Head of the Oncological Clinic at the Olomouc Teaching Hospital, Bohuslav Melichar, published with his colleagues conclusions of a clinical study of the cell inhibitor alisertib in *The Lancet Oncology*, with an impact factor of 24.725. The results give hope especially to patients with breast cancer.

Prof Melichar is listed as primary author in the professional journal article, the first time an Olomouc scientist has reached this prestigious position in the journal. Alisertib under study is an Aurora A kinase inhibitor. In layman's terms, it inhibits an enzyme which controls the division of cancer cells.

"An enzyme which plays a key role in the control of the cell cycle. A number of tumours have high expressions of this enzyme. Alisertib inhibits it, in this way causing cell death. It is a cytotoxic, but very precise drug, having only mild side effects," Melichar stated. At the same time he add-

ed that the development of alisertib into an approved treatment may take another few years and he estimates the expenses involved at nearly one billion American dollars. "At present they are starting to study the combinations of how to use it in treatment," he said.

The clinical study in Olomouc took three years. "We worked together with colleagues from the USA, France, and Poland. But we had the greatest recruitment of patients here. We offered the treatment to seventeen patients with various tumours, especially women with breast cancer. And a number of patients who no longer take alisertib are still alive. We even have a patient in our study for whom several lines of chemotherapy failed, and now she is going to work and functioning normally," Melichar described.

According to Melichar, alisertib also has promising results in the treatment of small cell lung cancer. "It is less effective in stom-

ach cancer or head and neck tumours. And it is unproven in non-small cell lung cancer," Melichar described.

Studies carried out throughout the world involved 249 patients. Under Melichar's name in the article can be found two other Czech scientists: Radka Obermannová from Brno and Petr Zatloukal from Prague, who however died during the study.

"The greatest joy coming from the research is that it will really help people. And in second place is that thanks to the article, our workplace is better recognised: our field is world-class and oncology is at the highest level in this country," Melichar noted.

Writing the article took 18 months. *The Lancet*, probably the most prestigious professional medical journal, was founded in England in 1823 and publication in it, or its sister publications such as *The Lancet Oncology*, is a real honour. (caf)

Bohdan Pomahač and Michal Otyepka Neuron 2014 Laureates

The world-renowned plastic surgeon and one of the most prominent UP alumni, Bohdan Pomahač, received the prestigious Neuron Fund Award for contribution to world science in the field of medicine. And Michal Otyepka, a physical chemist from

Olomouc, obtained funding of 1 million CZK (approx. 35,000 EUR).

"The Neuron Award is an awesome honour. There are quite a number of other doctors who deserve it," said Pomahač, who graduated in 1996 in Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Olomouc. Any support of science is of immense import, he added.

Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry and director of one of the research programmes at the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials, Michal Otyepka, considers the

Neuron Impulse support he received as the most prestigious prize he has ever obtained.

"It will be a real impulse for my career, and I respect it highly. I believe it will also be appreciated by everyone who helped me on the path that shaped my career. On the other hand, it also represents a chivalric obligation that has to be met without fail," underlined Otyepka.

The prizes for top Czech scientists were awarded by the Neuron Fund for Support of Science, privately financed by benefactors, for the fifth time. (mav)





Victory in New York: Olomouc Students Take Model UN Honours

Students Klára Fedorucová, Jan Šmíd, and Jan Pecháček from the Department of Political Science have given Palacký University a phenomenal victory. At the prestigious National Model United Nations conference in New York they defended last year's success. In difficult diplomatic negotiations they lobbied for Greece.



International Olympic Committee prize for Rostislav Švácha

Architecture historian Rostislav Švácha, Head of the Department of Art History, with seven other authors mapped the more than six-hundred-year history of Czech sports architecture. For the book *Naprej!* [Go All Out!] (Czech Sports Architecture 1567–2012) published three years ago, he recently received the Sport and Art prize from the International Olympic Committee. The publication looks at sporting halls and other places which have been used in the Czech Lands for physical education since the 16th century. It is the first publication of its type ever by a Czech historian of architecture. Among the roughly sixty types of construction described, readers can find out about riding schools, stadiums, golf courses, cycling routes, fitness centres, shooting galleries, and boat houses.



Quarry Life Award 2014 prize for team at the Faculty of Sciences

A team at the Faculty of Sciences achieved extraordinary success in this year's Quarry Life Award 2014 for support of biodiversity in mining areas. Olomouc research into the biodiversity of the Tovačov ponds won a prize from a field of almost one hundred projects from 22 countries. The team of doctoral students and graduates in Protection and Creation of Environments won in the category of Biodiversity Enhancement, asserting themselves through masses of biological data and the exhaustiveness of their systematic research. The jury also esteemed the feasibility of the suggested measures which ought to be implemented in the renewal of the Tovačov ponds.



Vladimír Havlík: Personality on the Art Scene 2015

Performer and painter Vladimír Havlík, a member of the Department of Art Education, won an award from the activity The Artist Matters. The award is given every year as a gesture by the younger generation of creative artists and theoreticians to the generation of older artists. The award always bears the name of the last laureate (in 2014 it was Martin Zet, whose wish was that in the next year the award will be called "... for Karel Malich"). Havlík thus officially received The Prize from Martin Zet for Karel Malich.



Student at the Centre of the Haná Region successful in Israeli contest

Another international success was had by cooperation between experts at the Faculty of Sciences and a gifted high school student. Seventeen-year-old Renata Štaffová from Moravská Třebová, who has been researching for about a year and a half under the leadership of Olomouc biophysicists in the programme Researcher, took home third prize from an international competition in Israel at the end of the school year. Her work was investigating the problem of ageing in plants and the influence of a specific cytokinin, a plant hormone, in the process. (mav, map, srd)

anniversary

text: Pavel Konečný
photos: Kristýna Erbenová, Jan Hromádko, Pavel Konečný
repro: archive UP



AFO – The University's Fifty-Carat Gem

Academia Film Olomouc is in very good shape for a fifty-year-old. Its veins are full of young blood and the estimate of its longevity is that of civilisation itself. This is how Matěj Dostálek, its new director, characterised the festival of science documentary films, now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. AFO is in its prime.

“It’s my dream come true, it’s exactly how I wanted AFO to be,” announced Vice-Rector Petr Bilík, who was behind the major changes to the festival in 2007.

AFO was born in 1966, on the initiative of Petr Kudela, at that time a programmer of the Prague Short Film Festival. The festival of science documentaries was a part of the celebrations of the twentieth anniversary of the restoration of the university. Students took part in the organisation of the festival from the very first year. The festival was divided into one day for medical

films, one day for films on natural sciences, and one day for films on sociology. The last day of the festival was for films on popular science. At nights there were public screenings.

Taken for granted

Rostislav Hladký, a former AFO director and currently the University Chancellor, says the academic community soon took it for granted. “Over time it seemed that the festival just exists, that somehow it works and will go on working happily, forever.



First AFO ticket



Academia Film Olomouc started in 1966 on the combined initiative of Petr Kudela and other people at the Prague Short Film Festival, the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and Palacký University Olomouc, as a national exhibition with international participation, aimed at university academic disciplines.

Rostislav Hladký
UP Chancellor

Representatives of the faculties and university supported it pro forma, but when it came to brass tacks like finding a space for it, and especially the financing and taking an active part in the festival, it all fell through,” he described. As a student, he took part in the festival in the 1970s.

All the festival directors who came in with “new blood” shared the same fate. “I worked at Academia Film since I was a freshman, carrying the film canisters from one cinema to the other. Finally, in 1998, I became its director for the next three years,” remembers Jan Schneider from the Department of Czech Studies, that also played a role in the festival’s beginning. Another member of the department, Eduard Petrů, was a long-time organiser of AFO.

Today Schneider says it is fitting that the festival has been taken over by the Department of Theatre and Film Studies. “The people who took it over are those who have a legitimate interest in the festival and they have wrested it from its autonomous status. There was no desire on the part of officials to support the festival. Its organisation was cumbersome, too institutionalised,

and with too many narrow rules,” remembers Schneider.

Film directors whose works had been banned in the dolorous totalitarian years had a special affection for AFO in those days. They were not allowed to shoot feature films, but documentaries were tolerated. And so a number of important Czech filmmakers such as Alan František Šulc and Olga Sommerová travelled to Olomouc. After the Velvet Revolution, icons of world filmmaking began to come here, too. Under Schneider’s direction, the first such was the British documentary filmmaker of Australian origin, Clive James.

A blind alley

AFO fell into a crisis in the 1980s and 1990s. First there was the arrival of video, when AFO became an exhibition of instructional films; a decade later, it was forced to search for its own identity.

“The festival did not react to the changes in technology, so I fell into my own trap when as Director of the Information Centre in 1996, I proposed that part of the festival be made up of multimedia projects,” Hladký illustrated. This catapulted him into the role of AFO Director. He added

that he was relieved to hand the festival over to Schneider a few years later.

“When I was a student, they showed films that were unwatchable. Some of them I even had to introduce, such as “Arterial Perfusion in Orofacial Areas” and “Lubricating Chainsaws with Vegetable-Based Oils” – which shows you we were racing down a blind alley,” remembers Vice-Rector Bilík. He stated that the festival often invited guests who never met with the public... because nobody bothered to show up.

Lack of audience was something that the organisers of the first AFO also complained about. Fifty years later, AFO broke its own audience record. Just like last year, and the year before, and the year before that.

Bigger or better?

The penultimate AFO director, Jakub Korda, maintains that record audiences are not everything. “Before, AFO was less oriented on younger audiences. We wanted to get students to fill the seats voluntarily, which is what happened. Today students go to AFO on their own, and one can read on the social networks how much they are looking forward to the six-day festival,” Korda said. →

This year's AFO had 5800 accredited viewers, and many more attended without accreditation. And all for free. "The quality of the festival is not about the audience numbers, it is about the quality of the programme, and the quality of the films in competition. Every year we have our pick and the greatest problem is that we have to refuse so many quality films. It's enough to make the programmers shed tears," Korda revealed. Last year he handed over the reins to Matěj Dostálék.

"AFO in the future could easily be more modest, and to no detriment. Its mission is to serve the university and its students. It does not have to get bigger and bigger. I don't want it to fill stadiums, that is not the path to satisfy its audience. I would like to see AFO as more intimate," Dostálék said.

The new director agrees with Korda that invited guests are essential. Not only that popularisers of science come to Olomouc, but that they will return. "Before they leave, they take a look at their calendars to see when AFO will take place next year," Korda remarked.

Dostálék has in mind special lectures by such experts. "So that they would be heard here and nowhere else. The idea is that important guests would meet once a year in Olomouc. So that everyone in the field world-wide knows that if they want to talk to somebody important, they'll be at AFO in April," Dostálék added.

Not a university festival, a European festival

A fundamental change occurred in 2007. "It never ceases to amaze me how I started trying to convince everybody that we ought to consider AFO as a festival of popular science documentaries. I remember their shock and blanket refusal. This was a genre which was of no interest to them at all," remembered Bilík.

Until that time, AFO was riding the wave of documentary films because it had lost its bearings on popular science in the previous period. "I wanted to support documentary films as a discussion on social problems. So that they were more a mirror on science than just a popularisation. The

AFO decade-by-decade

1960s | Within its first three years in the 1960s the concept and structure of the festival was fixed. Some films were screened for professionals, some for the public. Films were followed by discussion. There was a debate over the festival name: Academia Film Olomouc won out over Camera Scientica. In the relatively open 1960s, it boasted guests from the West – Italy, Switzerland, and Germany.

1970s | In the 1970s, AFO was at times a breath of fresh air, featuring films unusual and even banned. Filmmakers came to Olomouc who were not allowed in Prague studios. And films were shown which could not enter normal distribution.

1980s | The 1980s were awash in VHS cassettes. Videos and instructional films on things like cataract surgery were the norm. This was the time when A/V Centres were established at Olomouc and other universities.

1990s | In the 1990s came multimedia and CD-ROMs. The festival's significance declined slightly and computer firms saw it as a springboard for further outlets.

2000s | The start of the century was a transitional period, bridging a spiritual return back to AFO's beginnings in the 1960s. It proved that the combination of film and university is productive even in the new millennium. However dwindling finances made for existential problems. There was an emphasis on the accompanying programme and organising workshops.

2010s | AFO works closely with television, has significant new sponsors, and a new direction. World-class guests and filmmakers, and each year a bigger audience.

Sources: Memories of eyewitnesses and information from Bachelor's theses by Tereza Tylová and Michaela Guřňáková.



Left column:
AFO founder Petr Kudela (right)
Helena Třeštíková
Eduard Petrů (centre)

Top Stars at AFO50
An Origins Dialogue, talk show
Lawrence Krauss with guest
Richard Dawkins (left-to-right).



questions which surround science are ethical and moral – genetic engineering, smart weapons, and so on,” Schneider said, defending his concept.

After Schneider, Hladký took over the festival again. “I wanted the festival to be in the interests of the city, the Olomouc region, and Czech Television,” Hladký remembered. In that time he also transformed AFO by finding multiple sources of funding. And together with David Hrbek, he radically extended the accompanying programme, which had its apex in the visit of the American singer Suzanne Vega to Olomouc in 2006. Hladký was awarded the Olomouc Region Award for AFO at that time.

But the Department of Theatre and Film Studies wanted something else. “A narrow profile, but at the same time, one that is unique. I said that anyone can have a feature film or documentary film festival, but we have before us a real challenge, to make the festival attractive goods. Popular science films already had a different form than before,” Bilík said, clarifying his position.

New timing (Spring), new visuals, and theme songs. And also expansion abroad. “I took our catalogue to Paris, to the biggest festival of popular science films in Eu-

rope – Pariscience. When I asked for their catalogue, they gave me a bulletin which featured fifteen films. I had no idea what it meant. But that was their entire festival. So I pulled out our catalogue, four inches thick, and put it in front of their international guests. Complete silence. I explained how in Olomouc we have a festival which has one hundred programming blocks, and their jaws literally dropped. Everybody important in the field in Europe was there. And nobody knew how to react. I invited them to Olomouc, and from that time, they have been travelling here. Including the Pariscience director, who used to be our jury foreman. Soon we realised that we are the biggest festival of its type in Europe, and one of the biggest in the world. And that came as a surprise to us, because we had never mapped the competition,” Bilík recalled.

The right choice

“The idea to bring AFO back to pure popular science films was the right choice. The basic concept of bringing filmmakers and scientists together was done to perfection this year. Richard Dawkins and Lawrence M. Krauss in Olomouc? Just a few years

ago, nobody would have believed it,” Korda stated.

“And that I would introduce this evening, was beyond my imagination. I couldn’t believe that I would have the honour to introduce Krauss to you once again – and Dawkins as well,” as AFO Director Jakub Ráliš told the audience, as AFO 50 reached its climax.

“If we projected what AFO would look like in ten years based on the past seven, AFO would be the biggest event and the biggest festival in the Czech Republic. Now the task is keeping up the standard, and I want to keep it high,” said Dostálek, the current AFO director.

AFO has become the university’s family jewels. “Certainly we will develop along different lines in the future. It is a dynamic experience, starting with the organisation by students, whose generations keep changing, so AFO changes with them. I think it will be here as long as Palacký University will be here, and that will be until the end of civilisation as we know it,” stated Dostálek.

Work started last year on AFO’s fifty-first; this year the staff is already working on its fifty-second.



Jan Schneider



Rostislav Hladký



Petr Bilík



Jakub Korda



Matěj Dostálek

interview

text: Jaroslav Franc, Vělena Mazochová
photos: Jaroslav Franc, Vělena Mazochová, Michal Zapletal

“If we want to study the religions of others, we must first know who we are”

Interview with Michael Weninger, member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, responsible for the Roman Catholic dialogue with Islam in over 70 countries.



Mons. Michael Heinrich Weninger (b. 1951) is an Austrian priest in the Roman Catholic archdiocese in Vienna. At the same time he is a diplomat and is the first Austrian ambassador in history who is also a Roman Catholic priest. He has long dedicated himself to the study of various religions, churches and ethnicities, which brought him to Rome, where he works as one of the members of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. His specific task is to lead the dialogue with Islam and the Islamic traditions in Europe, the Caucasians, the Middle East, and all the countries of Central and South America.

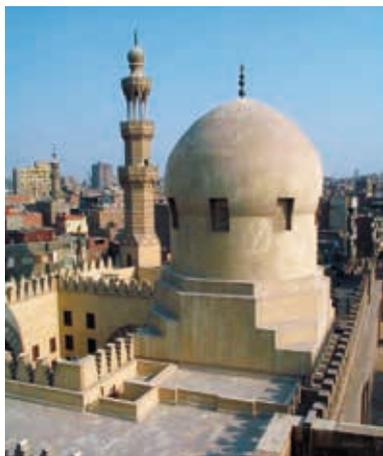
The question of peaceful co-existence between Islam and European culture opened the debate between leading foreign and Czech experts who met in Olomouc in March at an international conference, Europe and Islam. One of the principle guests at this extraordinary encounter was Michael Weninger, member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The key question raised by his lecture was How to remain a Muslim and also become a European?

— How should one understand the title? “To Remain a Muslim”: is it something like the aim of the present relations between Christianity and Islam? To help the Muslims to remain Muslims and also integrate into European society?

Freedom of belief is a fundamental human right. Whoever is a Buddhist, a Hindu, or a Muslim has the right to remain what he or she believes. Being a Muslim in Europe means practicing his or her faith in a specific political and societal context. The vast majority of the European population is of Christian belief, with all the fruits and consequences of being, since two thousand years, partner and subject and object of Christianity in Europe. Therefore, Europe has to safeguard human rights, freedom of belief, and quite obviously, the Muslim – practicing his or her belief: in Europe, of course a practice within a certain specific political and societal context. With regards to Islam, there are all Islamic traditions existing in Europe which you can imagine.

In Europe however there is no umbrella organisation which combines all forms of the Muslim community under one roof.

— In Europe however there is no umbrella organisation which combines all forms of the Muslim community under one roof.



That’s correct. First, because *the* Islam does not exist – there is no unifying platform or universal rules for all the world’s Muslim communities. There are so many different societal and cultural identities which are brought inside Europe by Muslims coming from so many different countries throughout the world. So you can see that there is a high necessity to maintain a dialogue with all of these groups.

— Is the growing presence of Islam in Europe the consequence of the secularization process in Europe? In other words, is contemporary Europe still a Christian continent?

Those are two different questions. First of all, Europe is a deeply Christian-rooted continent. If you look out of the window, you see the church towers, basilicas and cathedrals, abbeys and monasteries. All the sciences are influenced by Christianity, just as Christianity has inspired art. Europe is a deeply-rooted Christian continent, so obviously, in two thousand years of cultural history and societal history, you have to add other different concepts to Christianity. And quite obviously, Christianity itself is a process, a dynamic process.

But nevertheless, Islam in Europe is not a consequence of secularization. The Muslims of Europe are a comparatively young phenomenon. Of course there have been Muslims living in Europe for centuries. But from the sixties of the last century on, many countries of Europe invited “gastarbeiters”. And these guest-workers came from – to a large extent – Muslim countries. Many of them did remain in Europe, and started families. But this is not related to secularism. You also have this phenomenon of secularism among the Muslim communities. →

“The Pontifical Council is a comparatively small institution, but a very effective one, because we have a very slim administration and therefore we are able to work effectively and dynamically with all the delegations coming to Rome. And then of course we are going abroad because you cannot maintain a dialogue just sitting at a desk!”



"To give witness of your own faith is in harmony with what the Lord commanded us, to go into the world to preach and proclaim the Gospel and to baptize. Interreligious dialogue does not exclude also a missionary dimension. But obviously, at a deliberate pace. You have to offer, you may give an offer, and an offer may be accepted or refused. But if you do not give an offer, then there's nothing which may be accepted or refused. Interreligious dialogue also includes a missionary dimension and does not exclude the proclamation of the Gospel and your own faith."



The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue – Pontificium Consilium pro Dialogo Inter Religiones (PCID) coordinates the activity of the Papal Court in a dialogue with other religions. The highest official in the Pontifical Council is the President; that post is currently held by French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran.

— What are the priorities of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue with Islam?

Our main task is the theological dialogue with the main religions, and we work very closely together with the Secretariat of State of the Holy See because the Secretariat of State of the Holy See is then responsible for the political dialogue. But when it comes to Islam, you cannot divide it into theology and policy. So we are in very close cooperation with the Secretariat of State and vice versa, we have contacts with all Islamic traditions, the Shia, the Sunni, Wahhabi tradition, and so on. There are two different streams of dialogue. There is the institutionalized dialogue, where we have long defined partners. Great Imams, great Ayatollahs, scholars, university professors of world standard. So we meet on a regular basis, once a year, the delegation comes to Rome; next year we are coming to meet them where they are from, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and so on. And then we have the case-by-case dialogue whenever there's a necessity or whenever we are approached by Islamic communities and Islamic institutions. So we have a wide range of different contexts, meetings, activities; whatever happens in everyday life may become the subject of religious dialogue.

— What role do universities play in interreligious dialogue?

Academics and the scientific world play a crucial role in this theological interreligious dialogue. But interreligious dialogue is an everyday endeavour. And wherever people meet, of different religions, they

actually do have interreligious dialogue. If in your town or on your street, there are a number of Muslims, or Buddhists, living there, these inhabitants meet and talk to each other or have to share the same destiny. So wherever people – human beings of different faiths meet, then an interreligious dialogue happens.

— Who are the partners in the dialogue today? The world of Islam is huge. Especially for the Pontifical Council for the Interreligious Dialogue? The most famous is maybe the university in Cairo, Al-Azhar, but there must also be others...

The Pontifical Council has contacts with all the major representatives of the different Islamic traditions in the world, all the main offshoots of Islam, and they are in contact with us, including universities as you mentioned: Al-Azhar University in Cairo, the Khomeini Institute in Qom, Iran, and partners in Damascus.

— Today, the most important question, or the media image of Islam is closely connected to terrorism. What is the contribution of the interreligious dialogue in order to resolve the tension in the contemporary world?

This is a very complex issue because all these terrible crises which are reported in the mass media every day are creating a picture of Islam which is not a positive one. If the mass media report every day about killings of Christians and killings of other innocent Muslims, when the mass media report about the burning

down of churches, suicide bombers and so on, the picture of Islam and of the different Islamic traditions is a very negative one. But obviously, this is only one part of Islam. The majority of Muslims stick to peace and want to have prosperity of life. The Pontifical Council tries to influence in a positive way the positive impact of religion. And therefore we try to assist all those who are willing to create a peaceful and stable and prosperous society, when it comes to religious questions, when it comes to the living together of inhabitants of different faiths and religions.

— For those who do follow mass media, is it possible to recognize the border between the Muslim terrorism and between the real Islam? How to distinguish between those two worlds? What is true Islam? What is true Christianity? True Islam does not exist. What we do have in our hands is the Quran, the hadith and the Sunan, but obviously we have to interpret all these holy texts and then we have to teach in a proper way the religious ideas and the religious essence. Again, it is about how someone is practicing the belief and the faith. So like in Christiani-

ty, there are so many different confessions and churches and facilities existing. Then you have the human beings who are faithful and obey more intensively and others who consider themselves being Christians and don't see a church from the inside. The same phenomenon happens in the Islamic traditions. You have Muslims who do regularly visit the mosque and you have Muslims who pray five times a day. And then you have Muslims who do not. This is part of life and the fact in societies.

— Not everyone is acquainted with the teachings of true Islam. How can one recognise its followers?

In any case, in every case, I would advocate that one should study as much as possible as one can of his or her own faith and the faith of others. This is one part of interreligious dialogue – to get to know the religion of others. And to get to know the religion of the other also means that you have to know what you are. If you are a believer, you're a Christian or Hindu or Buddhist. And this is not a one-way endeavor. It goes both ways. And therefore to study his or her own faith and to study the other faiths, this is interreligious dialogue.



March's international conference Europe and Islam was run by the Institute for Intercultural, Interreligious and Ecumenical Research and Dialogue at UP's Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, under the auspices of the project Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness. The two-day international meeting, held for the first time at a Czech university, brought together nearly one hundred academics and students from Czech and foreign universities and from workplaces in many fields.

"The relationship between the Muslim minority and the majority community in Europe is one of the main political and societal problems at present. All participants from so many countries, including myself, received a gorgeous impression about the quality of your faculty and your university," said Michael Weninger.



A candidate location for the future CTA observatory on La Palma Island is near the observatory Roque de los Muchachos, the Canary Islands.

Cameras and telescope mirrors for next generation observatories

Their construction has not even begun, yet they already employ hundreds of experts from all around the world, including Olomouc. These are the observatories that will be built on both hemispheres by the international consortium CTA (Cherenkov Telescope Array). One of its members is the Joint Laboratory of Optics (JLO), run by Palacký University and the Physical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Olomouc opticians develop unique all-sky cameras and special mirrors for telescopes. Thanks to the top-notch equipment in the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials (RCPTM), Olomouc experts have participated not only in the selection of the location for the observatories, but also have been testing rival technologies.

The next-generation surface science facility is a follow-up on existing projects in Namibia, the USA, and the Canary Islands; its purpose is to observe cosmic gamma rays. It should enable the astrophysicists to investigate the high-energy universe more profoundly. Unlike existing observatories, it will cover the much larger energy spectrum of gamma photons, and thanks to better angular resolution, it will be able to measure the potential source of radiation more accurately. It is expected to contribute to better understanding of the mechanisms of acceleration of these high-energy particles.

Scientists as arbiters

The Olomouc team joined the project in 2012, also due to their previous experience in the project of the Pierre Auger observatory in Argentina. The all-sky cameras developed in collaboration with the Phys-

ical Institute of the Academy of Sciences and RCPTM monitored cloud cover in the night sky.

“Clear sky is crucial for observatories, so we have to find a place with the highest number of cloudless nights. Our measurements, subsequent analysis and data assessment were among the factors taken into consideration during the selection of the ideal location. We have developed new software that automatically assesses our measurements,” said Miroslav Hrabovský, the director of the research programme at JLO and RCPTM. According to him, the best conditions for an observatory in the northern hemisphere are in Namibia and then Chile. The northern hemisphere candidates include locations in Mexico, the Canary Islands, and the USA. The final decision as to where the telescopes will be located has not yet been made.



Installing a camera. One of the southern hemisphere candidate locations is close to Casleo Observatory in San Juan province in the Argentinean Andes.

A segment of the mirror in a SST – small size telescope – made for the CTA project. The new coating apparatus in the background is capable of applying layers up to 1 m in diameter.



Scientists use astrometry during cloud monitoring. Consulting star catalogues, they look for concrete stars on the images, and if they cannot see them, they are either shrouded by clouds or blocked by ice or snow in front of the camera.

Next generation cameras

The cameras made in Olomouc will be used in the new observatory for the whole time of its existence.

“We have been developing a new camera now, one that should monitor the cloud cover as well as the direction of cloud movement. The data will be used to decide what sources will be used for observation. Our goal is to develop fully automatic systems, unprecedented in any observatory in the world,” said the scientist Dušan Mandát. The new generation of cameras is more sophisticated, with better optics, detector, and chip cooling.

“The analysis will become more complex, so we’re preparing new software that must be incorporated into the operating system of the observatory. Everything must be in mutual communication,” Mandát added. The systems must also be able to work at various temperatures, between plus 30 degrees to minus 25 degrees Celsius.

Mirrors like a football

Another contribution of Olomouc opticians to the international project involves the preparation and testing of telescope mirrors. Again, they can make good use of their abundant previous experience, having developed mirrors for fluorescence telescopes in the observatory in Argentina. In the planned CTA observatory, telescopes of several sizes will peer into the universe.

The mirrors made in Haná will be used for the smallest ones. “However, the segments used in these telescopes are larger than those we have been producing,” said Mandát, demonstrating the relativity of the attribute “small”. The telescope can be simply described as a spherical cap comprised of hexagons – similar to a football. The smallest telescopes will be four metres in diameter, containing twenty hexagonal segments.

Thanks to new devices at RCPTM, local scientists are able to develop their own ultra-light mirrors as well as test all types that hope to qualify for the observatory. “We monitor a large number of parameters, such as optical properties, but also working life, abrasion, and resistance to rain, bird excrement, and changes in temperature. The telescopes will stand in the open and must resist adverse weather conditions. It would be extremely costly to roof them. “All kinds of samples arrive, and we test them. The data will show which mirrors should be used. Our ambition is, of course, to succeed with our own production,” Hrabovský confirmed.

Cameras and mirrors are developed exclusively for each project and according to specific requirements. “On the other hand, each of our special products has more general impact and can be used elsewhere,” Hrabovský stated.

Olomouc scientists should not worry about being not busy enough in the years to come. After solving the riddle of where the new CTA observatories will be located, their construction should not be delayed. Also, the observatories will commence their mission gradually, and this sort of facility will function for decades.



Miroslav Pech calibrates and adjusts an all-sky camera near the National Astronomical Observatory at San Pedro Martir, Mexico.

Olomouc to Become One of the Good Cities

Two hundred urban developers, architects, and experts on transport and lifestyle met at UP in April to discuss urban mobility which significantly consists of cycling infrastructure. Olomouc wants to become a city which caters to cyclists.

Two exhibits from Denmark served as both example, and trigger for the discussion. One of them, *The Good City*, gave the conference its name. And they certainly were not just passive overviews. “What does a good city, a smart city, which these two exhibits ought to inspire us to, mean? For each one of us imagines something different when he or she thinks of a good city,” commented Jaroslav Martínek, the Czech national cycle coordinator, on the exhibits’ four dozen panels.

Community is the key

A change in public transportation is not guaranteed by a mere change in the infrastructure. “A good city has many definitions, but for me personally, it is about the quality of life. The mentality and attitude of the entire community of people in the city, our philosophy, is what matters,” said UP Rector Jaroslav Miller at the outset. He recommended the book *Community and Society* by Ferdinand Tönnies. “When we speak of a change in our concept of transportation, it always involves

questions of money. Münster, Germany is an example of how to succeed with modest funding, and it was achieved thanks to a citizens’ initiative,” Miller observed.

Bicycles instead of cars

Jaroslav Vymazal launched such changes years ago. As the former Mayor of Jihlava, he wanted to curb suburbanisation – the flight of people from the town centre, as well as the resultant plague of cars in the city. On his impetus, 22 city cycle-coordinators were installed. “Our society has come to the point where a bicycle cannot be ridden freely in the city. The centre of our attention should be on the person, not the automobile,” stated Martínek.

Today, Olomouc has 35 km of cycle paths. According to Deputy Mayor Aleš Jakubec, this represents half the desired quota. Seven percent of Olomouc citizens use their bikes for transportation, versus almost one-third of the populace who use cars. The Town Hall would like to change this disproportion in the future.



Olomouc Mayor Antonín Staněk supports urban cycling. He proved it with his fun ride on a tandem bike.



text: Velena Mazochová
photos: Tomoszek family archive

experience



Research Stay in America: Inspiration the Size of a Boeing

Veronika and Maxim Tomoszek were able to effectively combine a Fulbright scholarship and a POST UP II project postdoctoral study stay. The two spent six months together at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. They returned full of inspiration for their own research, teaching, and how academic life should function. And they are already planning a trip back.

The Tomoszeks chose the place of their research stay on the basis of contacts at the WLU School of Law where they served two years ago as visiting professors. Their expectations were fulfilled many times over, proof that the main benefit of a research stay abroad is uninterrupted study: research without teaching requirements, with the opportunity to concentrate on publication.

Comparative research the American way

“I perceived the Fulbright stay primarily as the possibility to go deep into my own research. The things I had time to consider and study have sent my research activity into another direction,” Veronika Tomoszková said. Her research is involved with evaluating effects on the environment. It is a procedure which precedes for example construction per-

missions, evaluating them on the basis of their potential effects on the environment. “The first such legislation in the USA came in 1969; in Europe in 1985, based on the American precedent,” explained Tomoszková, who compared solutions to selected problems in the Czech Republic and the USA.

Her husband spent his postdoctoral stay in researching the essential requirements for a democratic legal state. “They form a certain boundary, beyond which the legislative process may not cross, not even with a constitutional change. This is actually its essential core,” clarified Tomoszek. One of the many inspirations according to him comes from the way of American thinking. “It inspires consideration of the results we wish to achieve and how to make them possible through the creation of a legal system,” stated Tomoszek. →

The Czech-American government stipend programme administered by the James William Fulbright Commission offers scholarships for those interested in research, teaching, or study stays in the USA. It makes possible research at facilities with state-of-the-art equipment, study programmes, lectures, and cooperation with world-renowned scientists and academics. The Fulbright Commission Ambassador for Palacký University is its rector, Jaroslav Miller.



The Tomoszeks with Professor of Constitutional Law and an expert on Comparative Law, Russell A. Miller, and German doctoral candidate Nicole Schreier.

Apogee: Meeting with authors whose books he owns

Tomoszek considers a constitutional comparison seminar in Montpelier, Virginia as his greatest academic experience. The seminar took place in the former mansion of James Madison, fourth president of the USA, and chief architect of the US Constitution.

“The seminar hosted the most renowned experts in the field of comparative constitutional law and authors whose publications I have on my own bookshelves. I was able to learn about what they are working on at present, and to discuss the issues with them. It was such a great experience that I have already found funding in order to return next year,” he said.

The inspirational background proved itself in work results, which both stipend recipients were able to achieve in Virginia – published articles, articles prepared for publication, a monograph in progress, and finishing a considerable part of the documentation for the POST UP II project.

One-of-a-kind teaching system and career counselling

The Tomoszeks’ high marks go not only to the extent of available information sources and quality of library services, but also to the support available, including student assistants “at one’s beck and call”, who helped the authors in finding sources, references, and writing synopses from research materials.

Husband and wife could both also take part in teaching classes at the School

of Law, which are oriented on intensive preparation for students’ practical law capabilities. They found inspiration also in the everyday academic regime spent mostly on campus, in the effective evaluations of students and academics, in the career counselling, and work with graduates.

“The entire team of career counsellors gathers contacts, job openings and offers for students, and actively and systematically works as a go-between for students already during the course of their studies. They also organise visits of firm representatives as well as semester-long internships in selected firms,” Tomoszková explained. There are countless differences in the way American and Czech universities function, according to her. “If I were to make a comparison, I’d say that in America they construct Boeings, while we fold paper aeroplanes,” she summarised.

Dividend for the university and for those to follow

The experiences gained can be a dividend for Olomouc on the entire university level. “We were able to initiate negotiations on institutional cooperation, which in the future could open Washington and Lee University study stays for our students and academics. I fulfilled one of my goals in the role of a Fulbrighter – to make contacts and work with them in an inspiring setting,” added Tomoszková. “We are already planning that I will apply for a Fulbright scholarship next time, so that we can return,” promised Maxim Tomoszek.



Family photo from Virginia Safari.



The World According to Drábek: One's Own Work and Experience are the Bases for Employment

David Drábek, one of the most important dramatists of the generation debuting after 1989 and the artistic director of the Klicpera Theatre in Hradec Králové, states that the employment of a graduate depends above all on practical experience. And this is what he advised today's students of the arts during a recent lecture at UP.

"It's a good idea to create something of your own during one's studies, it's a good idea to devote yourself to something besides only studying. There are many graduates... but few theatres, and few new plays," Drábek told students of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

gos Rebel

"Olomouc is an excellent place for students, in Olomouc I met people who have made an impression on me to this day,"

Drábek said. One name he mentioned in relation to his studies in Olomouc with gratitude was Taťána Lazorčáková.

"I was not a great student, I had far from perfect attendance, and I did not devote enough time to final exams as I should have. I was the black sheep among fellow students. I already had the feeling that practical theatre was more rewarding for me, and I myself could give more to it. I knew that I would not write a thesis on drama. →



David Drábek (b. 1970)

Czech playwright and director. He graduated from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, UP Faculty of Arts, in 1995. While still a student, he co-founded (with Darek Král) the theatre group Studio Hořící žirafy (Burning Giraffe Studio), for which he wrote plays and directed. From 1996–2001 he worked as a dramatist at the Moravian Theatre in Olomouc, and from 2001–2003 he ran the new alternative space Hořící dům (Burning House) in Olomouc. He has established himself in the theatre world not only as a playwright, but also as a director (Šumperk, Cheb, Ostrava, Prague). Since 2008 he has been the artistic director of the Klicpera Theatre in Hradec Králové.

When I and fellow students founded the Studio Hořící žirafy (Burning Giraffe Studio), it was Taťána Lazorčáková from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies who inconspicuously, sweetly, but in a thorough manner, determined its subsequent era. All of her reviews were meticulous, exactly the opposite of what one gets today,” Drábek stated.

As a child he dreamt he would be a veterinarian, later that he would be a wildlife refuge ranger at Lake Victoria in Africa. When he found out that working with animals would not lead to many encounters with girls, he decided to be a writer. At the age of fourteen he wrote a hundred-page novel. He also wrote short stories and poems. And though he comes from a theatrical family, he did not write his first play until he was at the university.

Giraffes burning for ten years

The Burning Giraffe Studio, which Drábek founded with a few other drama students in 1995, did not meet with much understanding from academic circles. They did not limit their company to university students, they got middle school students and local actors involved. And they persisted. They remained true to the theatre, hauling props, constantly inviting audiences to their performances. Perhaps it was actually their stubborn ambition to do practical theatre in which both students and professional actors took part that finally convinced a number of academics.

The Burning Giraffes were on fire for an entire decade and during their time in the former Music Theatre in Olomouc–Hodolany, they were the only local alterna-

tive to traditional theatre. Under Drábek, who was not only a playwright, but the director of all the performances there, the Burning Giraffes received accolade after accolade. Today Drábek has some thirty theatre plays, including radio plays, to his credit. He is the recipient of a number of awards and has received the Alfréd Radok Prize for Best Play several times.

Theatre is not experience tourism

“I got the basics of my profession from UP; the basis of my practical education I got from the Burning Giraffes. To this day I maintain the importance of not getting into a rut and to do everything as if it were for the first time. For theatre, this kind of childlike innocence is essential,” Drábek affirms. He has never been interested in a sure thing, he has always stood out from the herd. He also states that theatre should do its job when society veers away from the norm. His texts have always been critical of the Czech mentality; his plays contain elements of surrealism, his characters are for the most part victims of a mass-mediated and spoiled society. Drábek’s plays are characteristic above all for putting their finger on the contemporary pulse.

“I cannot get enough of the feeling that someone will my play my text and a packed hall will react to it. It is unbelievably exciting, as if you were in a state of weightlessness. In that particular time I resemble a bird of prey. The rest of the time, a scavenger. I feel like an enormous tampon, which absorbs everything. I collect sayings, materials, observations and feelings, which later mature into new plays,” he described.



UPoint: Centrepoint of the University

Since mid-April the university has a new point: UPoint – a place combining a university information centre with sales of school goods... plus good coffee.

“UPoint has a friendly, very informal atmosphere, because UPoint ought to fulfil the requirement of a relaxation centre for both students and academics. They can borrow or buy books here, and have a cup of coffee,” UP Rector Jaroslav Miller declared at its opening.

“The idea behind UPoint is to reduce the distance... to the university and within the university.”

Petr Bilík, UP Vice-Chancellor

But UPoint is not only a shop and a relaxation centre, it is primarily an information centre. For prospective students, for graduates, for friends and well-wishers of the university. It is the extract of the university, a new flavour to add spice to Olomouc's Upper Square. A similar idea had been kicking around the university for years, but it took UP's new management to breathe life into it.

First customers

The first customer to cross the UPoint threshold on opening day was a student of molecular and cellular biology, Kateřina Kubáňová, from the Faculty of Science.

“I really liked what I saw: the interior is really well done, and the prices are down to earth,” Kateřina said. Next year she plans to study in the USA, thanks to the Charles Merrill Program, wearing her UP apparel. “I've already visited several universities abroad and their shops are always a component of the university. In the USA, where I spent my holidays, students wear university gear exclusively. It's part of the image,” she observed.

It took Jindřich Švihel, a student of biophysics, only ten minutes to make his first purchase. A T-shirt with the university logo was something he had already viewed on Facebook. “I've been looking forward to that,” he admitted. In addition to T-shirts and the fashion collection, which Švihel judged as excellent, he also admired the leather wallets.

Books and fashion

UPoint is the architectural work of the Blažek husband-and-wife team's Ječmen studio. The terraced space is brought together by a mono-cast floor. “It combines a shop with a reading room and place for sitting. The large, well-lit space and the smaller, darker space are in constant alternation,” as architect Lukáš Blažek described.

Combining books, fashion, and promotional items is the sort of harmony one

finds most often at universities abroad. “Perhaps the most important impulse came from my residency at University of St Andrews in Scotland, where I visited the school shop. Everything there was elegant, down to the slightest detail, and everything carried the university logo. On one hand, they are goods; on the other hand, they identify the wearer with the university and spread its good name all over the globe,” said UP Vice-Chancellor Petr Bilík.

UPoint customers can get their hands on the fashion collection in UP colours, souvenirs, Palacký University Press books, and coffee, in an interestingly compartmentalised area with over 200 m² of floor space in the Renaissance House of the Black Dog on Olomouc's Upper Square. The shop is open daily from noon to 8 pm.



The fashion collection was designed by graduate Alexandra Monhartová.

The Life of the Last Rector of Kaiser Franz University in Olomouc

Prof. ThDr. Josef Mikula (1816–1881)

The role of the last rector of the former Olomouc university, no. 148 in line, fell onto the mantle of Josef Mikula, professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology

Mikula became rector in 1855 and remained in office (until that time the positions of rectors and deans had been rotated yearly) until 17 May 1860, when the university was dissolved.

At the independent Kaiser Franz Theological Faculty, Mikula took up the role of dean, becoming the second and fifth dean of the faculty in the years 1861/1862 and 1864/1865. Later he resigned from the Theological Faculty in Olomouc, and on 1 May 1866 he was appointed to teach in Mohelnice.

From a Haná hamlet

The life story of Josef Mikula can serve as an example of how the descendents of villagers infiltrated the Moravian intellectual elite during the 19th century, those who survived the high child mortality rate thanks to the higher birth rate. He was born 25 September 1816 in the village of Prusy (now Beňov-Prusy) near Přerov, the son of a farmer, Antonín and his wife Petronila. He was the second-born son, and had five brothers and four sisters.

In addition to his native tongue of Czech, Josef was urged to learn German, so that he could study at the German gymnasium, graduate from the Philosophical Faculty of the Kaiser Franz Lycée in Olomouc and later begin theological studies, finishing in Frintaneu (an institute of higher learning for the priesthood in Hofburg, Vienna).

Mikula was consecrated as a priest on 8 October 1839; in 1843 he was graduated as a Doctor of Theology. He first served as a cooperator (priest's aide) in the parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Opava, then later in Opava as a catechist and professor at the higher gymnasium.

Rector in a time of changes

On 22 July 1849 school reform came into effect in Austria, dictating that the six-year gymnasium was extended by two years, such that the first two years of Philosophy – Logic and Physics – were attached to the gymnasium. Since Kaiser Franz University in Olomouc only had two years of Philosophy, it would have been necessary to establish a new Philosophical Faculty. This was evidently the main reason, in addition to the exodus of students (in the Autumn semester, the number of registered students fell to 312), why the government decision of 18 September 1851 closed the Olomouc Philosophical Faculty.

Into this situation, in 1853 Mikula was named professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at the Theological Faculty of Kaiser Franz University in Olomouc.

Shortly after Mikula became rector in 1855, on 10 August the Law-Politics Faculty was dissolved, and five years later, on 17 May 1860, an emperor's decree liquidated Kaiser Franz University completely. In Olomouc that left only the independent Kaiser Franz Theological Faculty and the Medicine-Surgery Institute, which trained barber-surgeons and midwives. Mikula taught at the Kaiser Franz Theological Faculty and held academic posts there until 1866.

Pastor and Archpriest

Josef Mikula arrived at the Mohelnice parish as its newly appointed priest on 10 July 1866. His main efforts were concentrated on the reconstruction of the parish church, which had been devastated by a fire in 1841. Mikula also became the first ever canon of the Olomouc Chapter who



Prof. ThDr. Josef Mikula with the Olomouc Chapter's order decoration. Oil on canvas, 58 × 44.5 cm, signed T. Tauler 1883. Mohelnice parish. (This marks its first publication.)

was not from an aristocratic family, and an honorary canon of the collegiate chapter house in Kroměříž. Despite his charity and hospitality, Mikula was the victim of a mugging, when an unknown assailant attacked and robbed him.

Prof. ThDr. Josef Mikula, last rector of Kaiser Franz University, died in Mohelnice on 9 March 1881, apparently from complications of a strangulated abdominal hernia. Because he departed from this world with no cash in hand, the funeral arrangements were paid by the deceased's friend, ThDr. Josef Hanel, since 1853 professor of Moral Theology at the Kaiser Franz Theological Faculty in Olomouc, and several times its dean. Neither has Mikula's tombstone in the Mohelnice cemetery nor has his memorial plaque on the church façade survived.



reflection

Daniel Esparza (b. 1975)

Born in Malaga, Spain. He studied History and Philology and received his doctorate in Political Science. He has been associated with Palacký University since 2002. Five years later, he became an assistant professor at the Department of Romance Languages, where he teaches courses in history, culture and Spanish. He has published on nationalism and national identity, the history of Spain, and sports history. He also contributes to Spanish mass media, including *El País* and Radio Euskadi. In 2012 he received the City of Malaga Journalism Prize.

Los guardianes de la luz

Hace algún tiempo, cuando todavía la República Checa no era parte de la UE, llegué a Olomouc para realizar una estancia de estudios, en principio para solo tres meses. Por entonces mi interés académico estaba en la historia centroeuropea y la identidad nacional, y me decidí a acudir a todas las ceremonias nacionales que pudiera, para vivir la cultura. Una de éstas fue la del 28 de octubre en Olomouc, que conmemora la creación del estado checoslovaco en 1918.

Ese acto se inicia al atardecer en la plaza Alta y se dirige en procesión, acompañado por la orquesta, hacia la plaza de Žižkov, donde se halla la estatua de Masaryk, padre del estado checo. Allí, durante media hora, se recrea el espíritu de aquel tiempo de liberación: invocando recuerdos, música de la Primera República, así como personas vestidas en trajes militares de diferentes épocas. Todo ello mientras cae la noche y la multitud rodea la plaza, con Masaryk imponente en el centro, como si realmente estuviera allí, mirándonos a todos desde lo alto.

Aquel día me sorprendió la gran cantidad de niños, la mayoría acompañados por sus abuelos y abuelas. Los miraba y veía cómo en sus ojos se reflejaba la ilusión de la llama que portaban en sus farolillos encendidos. “Mientras haya ojos como estos la nación checa estará bien guardada”, me decía a mí mismo. Lo que nunca pude imaginar por entonces, es que muchos años después volvería a esa ceremonia, y allí, en esa misma atmósfera de encuentro con los ancestros, de repente, volví a ver aquellos ojos encendidos, esta vez los de mi propia hija, nacida en este cruce de caminos llamado Olomouc, ahora nuestro hogar.

The Guardians of the Light

Once upon a time, when the Czech Republic was not yet a member of the EU, I travelled to Olomouc for my studies abroad. It was meant to last only three months. At that time I was interested in Central European history and national identity, and I decided to attend as many national celebrations as I could, in order to experience the culture. One of them was the October 28th Celebration in Olomouc, commemorating the foundation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

The celebration began in the early evening on Olomouc’s Upper Square with a procession including live orchestral accompaniment to Žižka Square, where the statue of T.G. Masaryk, the founding father of Czechoslovakia, is located. There, for half an hour they recreated the spirit of the era of Liberation: with memories, music from the First Republic, and figures dressed in military uniforms from various periods. While all of this was happening, dusk fell, and the square gradually was surrounded by a crowd with the imposing figure of Masaryk in the centre, as if he were actually alive, glaring down at everyone from above.

At that time I was surprised by how many children were there, most of them accompanied by their grandmothers and grandfathers. I gazed at them and saw the candle lanterns reflected in their eyes like the flame of hope. I said to myself: “With eyes like these, the Czech nation will be safeguarded.” What I never imagined at that time was that many years later, I would return to that celebration, with the same atmosphere of meeting one’s ancestors, and that I would suddenly again see that flame in those eyes: but this time, they were the eyes of my own daughter, born in that crossroads called Olomouc, now our home.



Pavel Konečný
Editor-in-Chief, UP Media

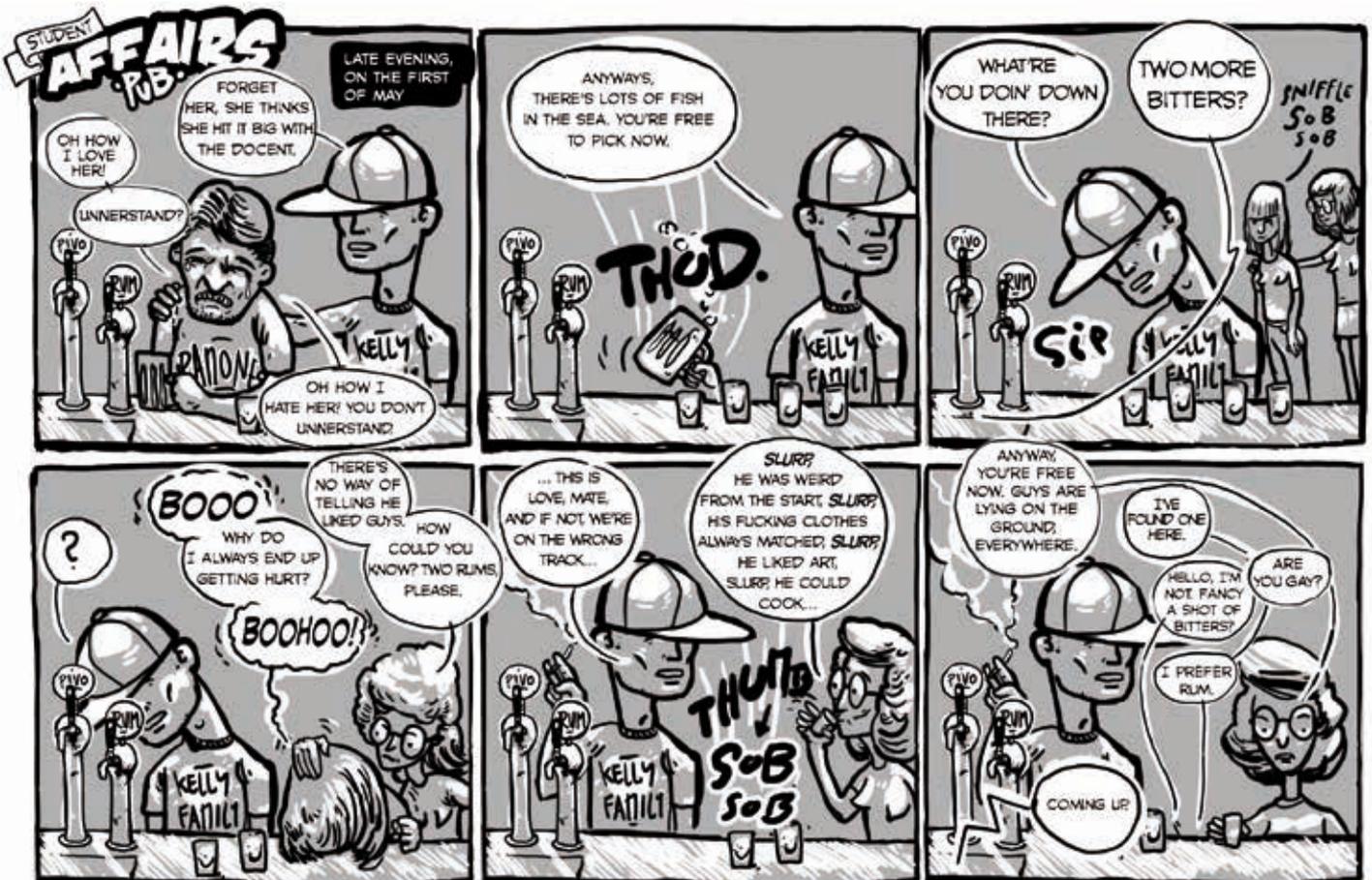
The Last Word

The Olomouc Fortress, in the wider, Empress Maria Theresa-sense, comprised the entire town. The entire city of Olomouc served as fortifications for the Viennese Imperial Court. Olomouc, besides its surrounding plains, is often considered as a unified whole. After years of decline, Olomouc has crystallised unequivocally into a university town. The phrase “university campus” has never been used much in Olomouc – for the entire town is actually the campus.

The fort which was used as a military warehouse and latterly a construction warehouse has been reanimated by science. The university has breathed new life into it, as well as given it a new, better purpose. The fortress lives.

When the Fifth Student Majáles procession arrived over the wooden bridge into the Crown Fort with its Fortress of Knowledge, we could say *pons asinorum*, that Five Is Alive! (The Latin phrase refers to Proposition Five of Book One of Euclid’s *Elements*, so this “donkey bridge” is connected with science.)

Majáles lasted five days and five nights. The military fortress unprecedentedly made merry with student frolic; and in the same mood and in the same place, scientific knowledge is being spread. As entertainment. Just like in the entire fortified City of Olomouc. Old-fashioned, but with the spirit of youth. Uni-versity. Olomouc itself is actually a Fortress of Knowledge.



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Front cover: The Fortress of Knowledge – Planetarium.
Cover page no. 1 & 3 – photo: Kristýna Erbenová

Back cover: Kristýna Boháčová – Landscape (segment)
Acrylic and acrylic spray on canvas (2013–2014), 120 x 120 cm
Landscape is the prime form of expression investigated by Kristýna Boháčová for many years. She considers it as made up from many times and layers of thought, interlinked with the theme of landscape and concentrated into a visual shortcut. Boháčová accents colour as her favourite means of communication with the image as well as the spectator. By using spray, she contrasts the slow, concentrated process of creation with an impulsive approach. In the effort to interconnect them, she searches for the natural balance between nature and man, between chaos and order in the landscape.

