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Palacký University  
Olomouc

EMINENT  
ALUMNI

*Palacký University Olomouc was founded in 1573; it is the oldest university in Moravia and the second-oldest university in the Czech Republic. Today it is a modern higher education facility – one of the very top Czech universities, included in rankings of the world's best.*

*Palacký University boasts a number of outstanding alumni. Here is a selection of 16 of them.*





## St. Jan Sarkander

(1576–1620)

*Roman Catholic priest*

Sarkander studied philosophy at Palacký University from 1597 until 1600. His tireless efforts to re-Catholicise the region were supported by Ladislav Popel z Lobkovic. However, because of his defence of the faith during a period of strong anti-Catholic sentiment, he was arrested and tortured in Olomouc. His refusal to divulge what Popel z Lobkovic revealed to him during confession resulted in his death. Pope Pius IX beatified Sarkander at Saint Peter's Basilica in 1860, and Pope John Paul II canonised him as a saint in 1995 on his visit to Olomouc.



## St. John Ogilvie

(1579–1615)

*Scottish Jesuit martyr*

Ogilvie was sent to be educated on the European continent at the age of thirteen and attended a number of educational establishments, including Olomouc. Finally, he returned to Scotland and began to preach in secret, celebrating mass in private homes. He was discovered and arrested in Glasgow; hanged and drawn at Glasgow Cross. As a martyr of the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation he was canonised in 1976, becoming the only post-Reformation Scottish saint.

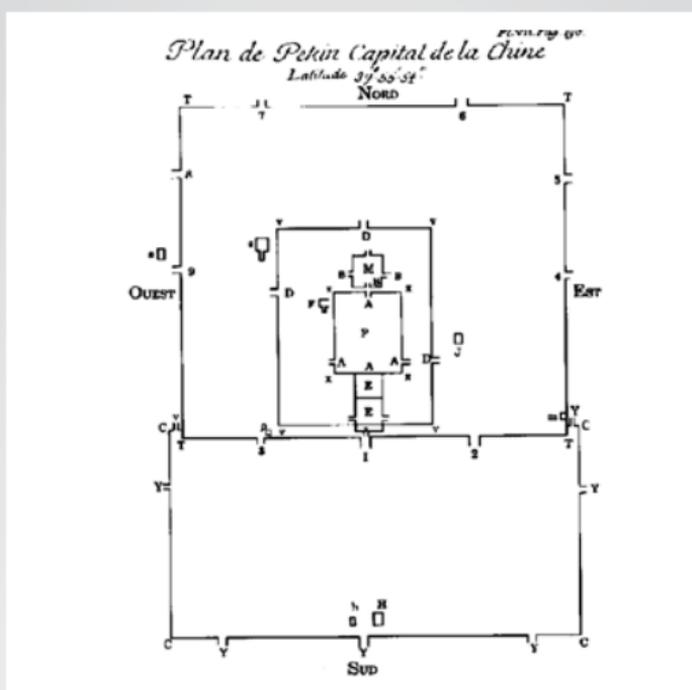


## Wenceslaus P. Kirwitzer

(1588–1626)

*Astronomer and Jesuit missionary*

Kirwitzer attracted the attention of his professors in Olomouc for his talent in natural sciences. Inspired by Galileo Galilei, he traveled to Rome to the Collegium Romanum. Kirwitzer never stopped pursuing his passion for astronomy, and after teaching mathematics in Austria and Portugal, he moved to China, where he later became president of the Astronomical Office in Beijing under name Qi Weicai.



## Karel Slavíček

(1678–1735)

*First Czech Sinologist, drafter of the first precise map of Beijing*

Slavíček obtained a degree in philosophy and theology at Palacký University, where he later became a professor of mathematics. He decided to become a missionary and was sent to China because of his knowledge of mathematics and music. After reaching Beijing, Slavíček was introduced to the Kangxi Emperor, who employed him as a court musician. The Emperor, putting to use Slavíček's expertise obtained previously while working on a map of Prague, ordered him to make the first precise map of Beijing in 1717. He was in frequent contact by letter with European scientists such as Guillaume de L'Isle. He is remembered today by the award of an annual medal in his name to distinguished scientists.

abgehalten  
**Versammlung**  
der  
**deutschen Land- und Forstwirthe.**



Herausgegeben

von

**Professor Johann Karl Nestler,**

Mitglied der Landwirtschafts-Vereine zu Breslau, Brünn, Karlsruh, Darmstadt, Götz, Mecklenburg, Moskau, München, Pottsdam, Prag, Stuttgart, Wien.



**Limburg.**

Buchdruckerei von Alois Starznigl.

## Johann Karl Nestler

(1783–1841)

*Agronomist and early genetics researcher*

Nestler remained faithful to his alma mater and after his studies, he became a Professor of natural history and agriculture at the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University. Later, he became Dean of this faculty and Rector of the university. This agronomist and early researcher of genetics became famous for his research dealing with scientific animal and plant breeding.



## Peter von Rittinger

(1811–1872)

*Mining and Metallurgy Engineer*

This alumnus of the Faculties of Philosophy and Law of Palacký University dedicated his life to the study of mining. He made a number of improvements in mineral processing, such as the invention of the top box or the continuous transverse shock outbreak, considered a major advance in processing technology. A common salt extraction method in Austria is also due to Rittinger. In 1856 he made use of the principle of the heat pump, which was used to dry salt in salt marshes. Rittinger left numerous scientific papers and his theory of energy and surface area in rock breakage is known as "Rittinger's law".



## Gregor Johann Mendel

(1822–1884)

*Father of Genetics*

At the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University, Mendel excelled in mathematics and physics. After two years, he decided to enter the Brno monastery and was sent to study at the University of Vienna, where he dedicated his time to the anatomy and physiology of plants. Mendel returned to the monastery as a teacher and carried out extensive experiments in hybridisation. It was in the garden of the monastery where he discovered the basic principles of heredity. Mendel's observations became the foundation of modern genetics and the study of heredity, and he is widely considered the father of genetics.

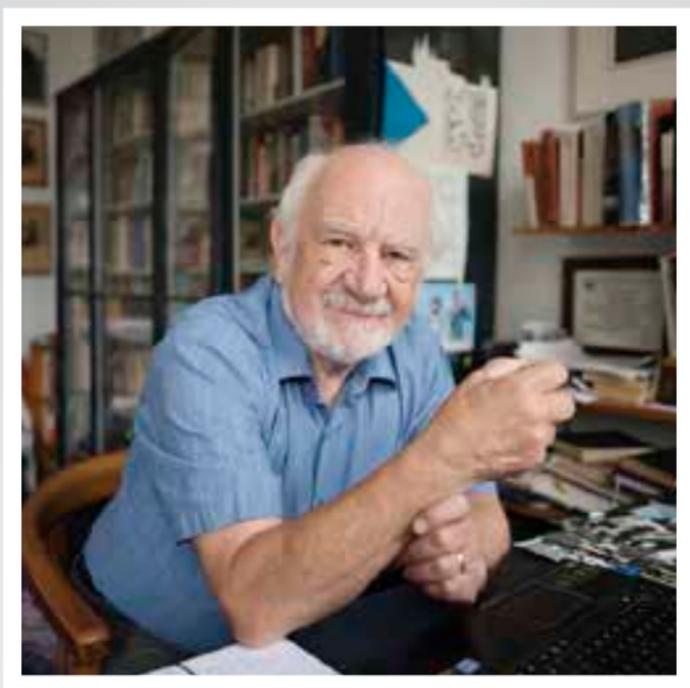


## Alois Musil

(1868–1944)

*Theologist, Orientalist, writer, explorer*

Musil traveled extensively throughout the Arab world, collecting a huge body of scientific material. Among his most famous discoveries was the 8<sup>th</sup> century desert castle of Qasr Amra, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Between travels, he kept working on his publications and lecturing at Palacký and Vienna universities. He helped to establish the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Prague. As an Orientalist, he mastered 35 dialects of Arabic and was so well acquainted with the Rwala-Beduins that he was accepted into the tribe as "Sheik Musa".



## Josef Jařab

(b. 1937)

*UP Rector Emeritus, American Studies Scholar*

A distinguished literary scholar, Professor of English and American Literature, and translator. He mainly focuses on the history of American literature. He was the first Palacký University Rector after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, and also served as Rector of Central European University in Budapest. A UP alumnus, he received degrees in English and Russian in 1959, and University Pedagogy in 1986.



## Jindřich Štreit

(b. 1946)

*Photographer*

He graduated from the UP Faculty of Education in art education. He has had more than 1,200 solo shows and published more than thirty books of photographs. He is represented in the most prestigious world collections, such as MoMA in New York and the National Gallery in Washington. He teaches at the Institute of Creative Photography at Silesian University in Opava. He has presented his work in France, the UK, Brazil, Moldova, Austria, Germany, Japan, China, Hungary and Russia.



## Emil Viklický

(b. 1948)

*Jazz musician, pianist and composer*

World-renowned jazz composer, pianist and arranger. He was a member of the Karel Velebný Orchestra together with flute player and composer Jiří Stivín. He studied jazz at Berklee College in Boston, USA. In 2011, he received the Czech Medal of Merit. Viklický graduated from Palacký University in 1971 with a degree in numerical mathematics at the Faculty of Science.



## Jiří Bártek

(b. 1953)

*Molecular biologist*

A graduate from the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Director of the Genome Integrity Unit at the Danish Cancer Society Research Centre in Copenhagen, Jiří Bártek is on the cutting edge of biomedical research worldwide. He has focussed mainly on the research of regulatory mechanisms of tumour cell division and also mechanisms leading to tumour development. Professor Bártek has been employed by several prestigious European research laboratories for many years, and also leads one of the teams at the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine in Olomouc. He is the most cited scientist of Czech origin in the field of biological and medical sciences.



## Jiří Pavlica

(b. 1953)

*Violinist and composer*

He studied music and cultural theory at the UP Faculty of Arts, violin at the Brno Conservatory, and composition at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts. He has been the leader of the Hradišťan Dulcimer Band since 1978. He already has a significant body of work behind him: a huge discography including special projects, he composes scores for films and theatre, and he is recognised in the area of contemporary cross-over music. He has performed in Mexico, South Africa, the UK and the USA.



## Helena Suková

(b. 1965)

*Athlete, psychologist*

One of the most successful tennis players in Czechoslovak history, ranked number 4 in singles in the WTA, a four-time Grand Slam singles runner-up and a Champions Cup singles runner-up, number one in women's doubles, a winner of 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, a member of the four-time winning team in the Federation Cup (today Fed Cup), and many more. She is a co-founder of the Endowment Fund for Children's and Junior Tennis in the Czech Republic. She graduated in psychology at the UP Faculty of Arts and works as a psychologist.



## Bohdan Pomahač

(b. 1971)

*Plastic surgeon*

Czech plastic surgeon, a graduate of the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, who carried out the first complete face transplantation in the USA in 2011. Since 1996 he has been employed at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He has been the Chief Surgeon since 2009 at the Trauma, Burn, and Surgical Critical Care ward. He is the recipient of the Neuron Prize for contributions to world science in the field of medicine. In 2015 the Czech president awarded him the country's Medal for Service. For his significant contributions to the development of plastic surgery methods he was awarded an honorary doctorate by his alma mater – his first.



## Radek Zbořil

(b. 1973)

*Chemist*

Professor of Physical Chemistry and the Regional Centre of Advanced Technologies and Materials General Director. Co-author of more than 440 publications, with almost 16,000 citations. Recipient of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Award. A member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic, the Board of the ALFA Programme at the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, National Innovation Platforms, and the Scientific Council at the NEURON Fund for Support of Science, among others. He is the author of a number of patents and technologies that have been successfully commercialised.



photos:  
*Palacký University Olomouc archive*  
*historical archives*



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Palacký University  
Olomouc

*Genius loci...*

1 university city

8 faculties

444 years of experience

800 specialisations

22,000 students

[www.upol.cz](http://www.upol.cz)