

SPECIAL
450

žurnál

Magazine of Palacký University Olomouc, 2023/1

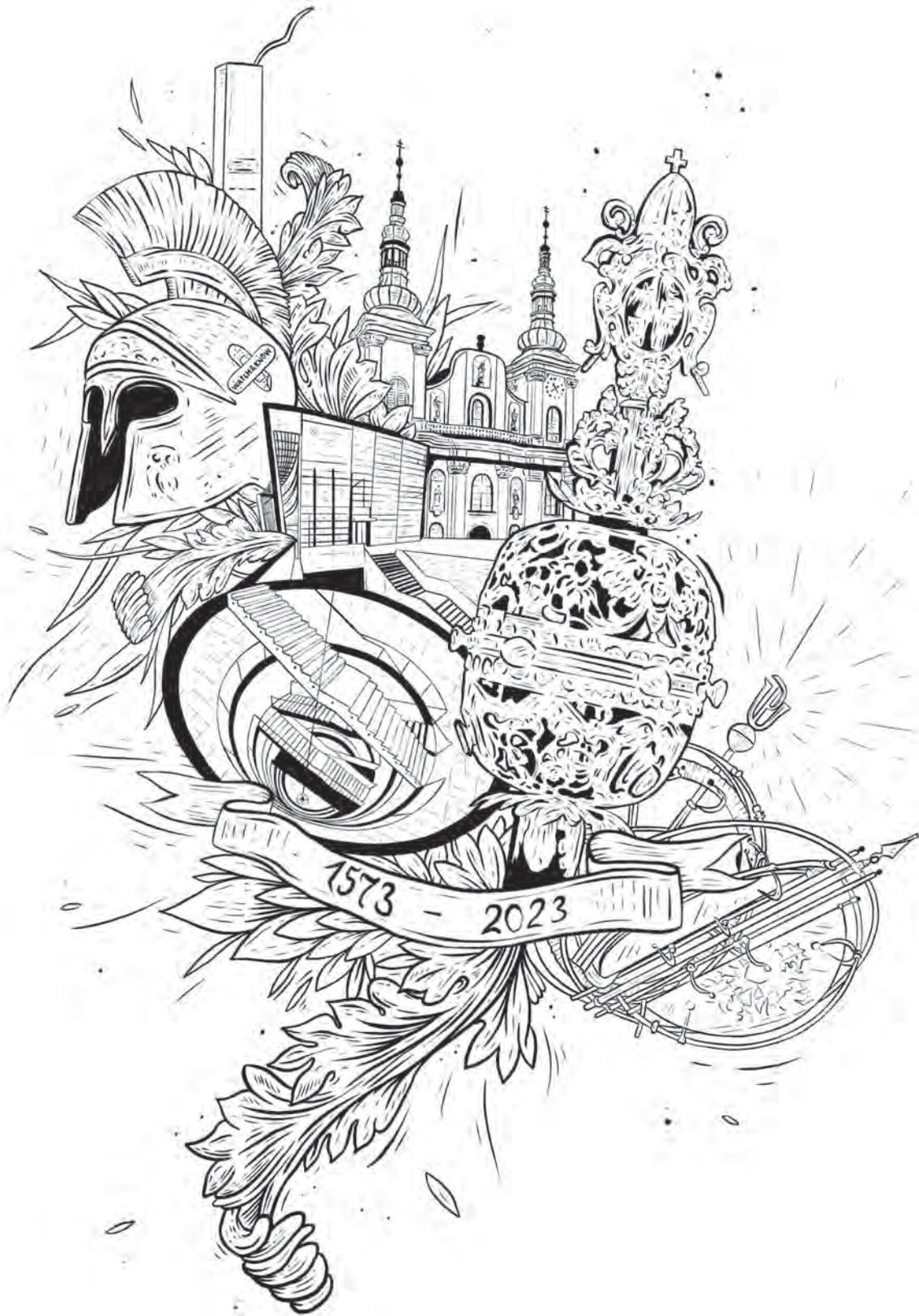
theme

**The University:
Past, present,
and future**

450



Palacký University
Olomouc



PLAYFUL ILLUSTRATIONS – 450 YEARS OF PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLOMOUC is a book of twelve original illustrations by the Olomouc art group Chaoscompany, published in cooperation with the UP Communications Department. This unconventional colouring book is conceived as a series of pictures mapping the key moments in the history of Olomouc's university. The dominant motifs are complemented by dozens of details that emerge to the surface only after several viewings - or after colouring. The artists are Věra Jopek Kopková and Jiří Dosoudil, graduates of Art Education at the UP Faculty of Education.

contents

- 2 — Past and present
- 5 — Interview: Martin Procházka: The university is a patient with complications
- 8 — The university through time
- 10 — Transformations of Palacký University
- 14 — Jaro Varga: Jesuit missionaries against the backdrop of today's university
- 16 — #we'reup: Students
- 18 — The university and František Palacký
- 20 — Palacký? Palacký!
- 21 — Join the UP alumni family
- 22 — Prominent alumni
- 26 — Honorary doctorates
- 27 — Václav Havel awarded honorary doctorate by UP
- 28 — May celebrations: King of May Miroslav Krobot: Students, be curious!
- 30 — #we'reup: Academics
- 32 — Kaleidoscope
- 33 — Academia Film Olomouc: Where science is not boring
- 34 — Aurora: The future of European universities
- 35 — Fort Science: Where science comes alive!
- 36 — Unit(r)ips: Get to know the university's monuments, gardens, and food scene
- 38 — UPoint: Information centre, shop, and community space, all in one
- 40 — The university in numbers

cover – Jaro Varga: Jesuit missionaries against the backdrop of today's university | photo: Zdeněk Sodoma / Olomouc Museum of Art

Žurnál | Published biannually in English | Czech Registration No.: MK ČR E 12524, ISSN 1804-6754 | Published by Palacký University Olomouc, Křížkovského 8, CZ-771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic | VAT No.: 61989592 | Editor-in-Chief: Ivana Pustějovská | Layout: Věra Marešová | Graphic Editor: Michaela Cyprová | Translation: Robert Hýsek, Matthew Sweney | Proofreading: Matthew Sweney | **Editorial Board** | Biskupské nám. 1, Olomouc | Telephone: +420 585 631 155 | E-mail: zurnal@upol.cz | [Print](#) | Profi-Tisk Group Olomouc | 1 000 copies



Dear Students, Colleagues, and Friends of Palacký University,

You are holding in your hands a special edition of our university magazine, another tile in the colourful mosaic of our alma mater's jubilee this year. The university has been a part of Olomouc now for 450 years. Our alma mater was here before us, she's here with us now, and she will still be here after we're gone. The university represents a fixed star, one we can guide ourselves by; it is also a solid anchor we can hold on to: a certainty, something we seldom encounter in life. We are lucky that we can be a part of it, and thus meet in time and space.

Celebrations of our jubilee are in full swing. We already have a number of events behind us to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Olomouc's university, and more await us. The two main lines to which we are referring during the celebrations are its Jesuit founders, and the personality of historian and National Revivalist František Palacký, after whom the modern university was renamed. We are taking advantage of this historic opportunity to highlight this important figure in Czech history, the Father of the Nation – a hard-working, talented, and knowledge-hungry young man – who could serve as an inspiration for the current generation of students.

That diligence and desire for education was there at the very start of Olomouc higher education, when the Jesuit efforts to spread education throughout the world led to founding the second oldest university in the Czech lands. Recently, when I came across the footsteps of those Jesuit missionaries who studied in Olomouc on the opposite side of the globe, it made me fully realise how each year, we send thousands of our graduates out into the world, who then successfully develop their knowledge and skills in the most diverse fields and in the most diverse places. They help to spread the good name of our university, from whence they came, and which has become part of their lives forever. Their anchor, and their fixed star. Certainty.

I believe UP will remain so, for at least another four hundred and fifty years; and even better, that Olomouc will always be a university town.

Martin Procházka, UP Rector



450

450 years of Palacký University
— genius up —



past and
present

Everyday life at the university takes place amongst beautiful historic scenery. Proof of this is the Rector's Office Conference Room, which serves for various work and ceremonial meetings of the academic community, and is also made accessible to the public – for example during Alumni Days and European Heritage Days.

“Olomouc, the former capital of Moravia, and since 1573 the seat of the second oldest university in the Czech lands, is awash in the spirit of the Baroque, present also in the room's interior, mostly thanks to the ceiling fresco by Karel František Tepper (also known as Carolus Töpfer), ‘The Family of Persian King Darius III before Alexander the

Great’ (1730), decorating the former refectory, or dining room, of the Olomouc provostry. This expansive artwork depicts a scene not from biblical or ecclesiastical history, with which church interiors were decorated in the Baroque, but rather a scene from the life of the greatest military leader of Antiquity,” explains Prof Jiří Fiala. (ipu)

CONFIRMATION OF MAXIMILIAN II 22 December 1573, Vienna

Emperor Maximilian II, upon the request of the Rector of the Jesuit College in Olomouc, P. Hurtado Pérez, and on the recommendation of Olomouc Bishop Jan Grodecký, confirmed as King of Bohemia and Moravian Margrave the founding of the Jesuit College by Bishop Prusinovský, as stated in the Bishop's Charter of 1570. All rights and privileges hitherto obtained by the Olomouc college were confirmed, and the right to graduate and confer university degrees granted: "All Professors and Students, even individually, who will attend lectures in the Jesuit College and shall be found Fit and Skilful, can and will be Graduated to any grade, free and in the manner of the Society [of Jesus], and shall then be considered equal in Honour and Worth to those who have been graduated from any University in Germany, Italy, Spain, or in France." In addition, the monarch freed the Olomouc college from the burden of taxes and real estate fees, for the Moravian Margraviate determined it to be an institution of benefit to the public welfare. Thus, it was recommended to the Olomouc town council and the town as a whole to support it wholeheartedly.



The original, on parchment, missing the seal (with remnants of a black and yellow silk cord), is located in the Moravian Regional Archives in Brno, collection E 28 Jesuits in Olomouc, parchment documents, sign. A10, inv. no. A1/5. Critical edition: Bohumil Navrátil, *Olomouc Jesuits during the Counter-Reformation. Acts and documents from 1558–1619. I. 1558–1590*, Brno: Regional Committee of the Moravian Margraviate 1916, no. 75, p. 150–155.

text: Tomáš Parma
reproduction:
Palacký University Press

interview

text: Ivana Pustějovská, Egon Havrlant
photos: Jakub Čermák

A full-page portrait of Martin Procházka, a middle-aged man with short grey hair, wearing a dark blue checkered suit jacket, a grey vest, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is standing in a well-lit room with a large, ornate stone vase on the left and a framed picture on the wall behind him. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

**Martin Procházka:
The university is a patient
with complications**



Martin Procházka (b. 1970)

A graduate of the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, and head of the university since 1 May 2021. From 2019 until he became UP Rector, he was Dean of the UP Faculty of Health Sciences. He has been working at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the UP FMD and University Hospital Olomouc since 1994, and has been the head of the UP FMD and UHO Department of Medical Genetics and the UP FHS Department of Midwifery. He focusses on perinatology, maternal-foetal medicine and medical genetics – especially on serious complications during pregnancy – and on the problem of genetic blood clotting disorders. As a doctor, he specialises in high-risk pregnancies, thrombophilia, outpatient gynaecology and prenatal care, infertility, and endometriosis.

Four hundred and fifty years, this is exactly how long the history of higher learning in Olomouc has been written. There have been one hundred-forty persons who have led the school, which now bears the name of historian František Palacký, in its nearly half-millennium of existence. The latest to hold the position of Palacký University Rector is a doctor and professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, Martin Procházka. He has been heading the university since May 2021, and now, in the year of its jubilee, is half-way through his mandate.

Every rector who leads the university perceives it through the lens of his or her profession. A historian or theologian puts the school and its import into the historical or societal context; a natural scientist perceives the evolution of its disciplines and fields from their perspective. How does a doctor perceive the university?

I think, in these unsettling times which the entire world is going through and which are fundamentally affecting our society and the university, that medical experience is quite valuable. As a doctor, you must have empathy; you find the best ways to help the patient, not to harm them. At the same time, you must know how to communicate, how to explain your intentions. And the university, as I see it, is not an anonymous institution: it is made up of specific people, with all their cares and joys. It is a complex body of relationships. When I took office, I knew that it would be necessary to improve these interpersonal relationships. I did not, and do not, want to go the path of forceful solutions – it's not my nature, I search for compromises. I want people to listen to each other, to communicate together, and to try to work together on that which connects us. And that is the university. So perhaps I do not have quite the proper managerial outlook on its administration, but I do have my own medical, human, one. This is why I see the university through that perspective, and why I approach it as a hospital patient with many complications, for whom I want to do the best I can, using all the means at my disposal.

You're in charge of a school which is celebrating 450 years since its founding. It's had its ups and downs over the years. But one thing remains true: at the centre of it all are studies and fostering future generations. What are today's students like, and what must a teacher do in today's information-saturated world to engage them?

Every generation is different, sometimes we read and hear about different divisions. You hear talk about Generation X, then Y,

then Z. But in my view, they're all people, i.e. students, and still the same. Certainly society is in transformation, for the technology is progressing, and we are all reacting to the rapid development as to how to live with it and work with it. We are adapting to the changing societal conditions, but our core remains the same.

As a teacher today, you no longer can engage students by simply getting in front of a class and reciting long monologues. Their lives are faster, online, and you have to not only to get but keep their attention. You have to learn how to present things attractively, and to use electronic sources. It no longer makes sense to force young people to memorise tedious series of facts. It is more important to get them to think logically, to work independently. That is the only way to get them to enjoy learning. But we are having this discussion in mid-2023. In a few years, everything will change again, due to artificial intelligence. And that means teaching as well.

Universities help in learning about and understanding the world, by researching and exploring. How is Palacký University faring in this regard?

Despite certain unrest the university is going through, I still think that it is one of the best research institutions in the Czech Republic and that we should be proud of the academic and scientific results we are achieving in all our disciplines. We have stellar experts here, who compare favourably to the best in the world. Proof of this for me is how able we are to respond to diverse commercial requests and the growing interest from international universities and other institutions in collaborating with our workplaces and experts.

Critics sometimes say that there is a long road separating academia and practice in the sciences. What do you think?

Sometimes we hear very harsh criticism addressed to the academic community. However, I don't think it's entirely justified. There's a recent example of which we all still have vivid memories. It was the universities and the Czech Academy of Science who actually took command at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, substituting in the role of the state and its institutions. University workplaces immediately offered their capacities, expertise, and abilities for society's benefit.

How do you personally remember the moment when the world around us changed completely, and doctors, healthcare workers, and above all, our students, were on the front lines?

I will be eternally grateful to all our students for how they responded and how hard they worked. The hospitals could not have functioned without our medical and health sciences students. Their extreme commitment to a situation which was truly life-threatening was incredibly admirable. I must also mention all the students and employees from other faculties who helped out as volunteers, wherever they were needed. Perhaps even the people who up until that time thought Palacký University was some distant, anonymous institution can still recall the faces of our students who tutored their children, volunteered in social institutions, and so forth. During the time of the pandemic, we – as a university full of proactive people – showed that we are prepared to help at any time.

The pandemic also taught us how to operate more in the online world and it became a great opportunity to transform teaching. How do you feel about that?

There are two levels to that question. The online world certainly simplified communication between academics during the pandemic, as a number of international meetings and conferences could still take place virtually; and it made the exchange of information easier, saving time and money. That remains true – we learned a lot about how to use the technology and we are still making use of these forms of communication. On the other hand, the pandemic has shown how irreplaceable in-person teaching is. Communicating one's personal experiences and passion is essential, and you don't quite get that via the online environment. And students need contact with their classmates. This is why I argue that teaching can never be completely "converted" into the online space. Being online is not the same thing as being present.

But it is a chance to communicate with international partners on new study programmes, which could partly incorporate online teaching. I could have a lecturer, say, in America...

Yes, and we are developing such hybrid programmes, a form we quite prefer. In principle, this is how online courses work, students and teachers meet and learn there, and the programme is completed by a visit to the given institution. Meeting in person is thus the final icing on the cake.

The university has established a number of partnerships with schools around the world. What does that mean in practice for students and academics?

They can more easily get into student exchange programmes and research stays

at specific universities abroad – expanding one's knowledge, gaining contacts. But that's not all. Currently, for example, we are intensively developing our partnerships within the Aurora alliance, which brings together a number of European universities. Being active in this alliance means working for the future and development of the university as a whole, both in terms of teaching and also science and research. We have opportunities to take part in interesting projects, share experiences and knowledge, have a better chance at getting EU funding, etc. We are developing, for instance, very good cooperation with universities in Innsbruck, Paris, Duisburg, Essen.... We have been able to establish cooperation with Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv in a number of projects in the humanities as well as the natural sciences and medicine. And among our priorities, of course, are strategic partnerships with schools in the USA.

You have recently returned from a trip to Asia. Do you see opportunities for cooperation there?

Absolutely. Opening up contacts with East Asian universities is of great interest to us. The technology in countries such as South Korea and Taiwan is on a very high level, and cooperation with them could be of great benefit to us, especially in the natural sciences and medicine. Asian Studies students in the humanities will certainly find opportunities there. This is a matter of the future strategic goals of the university, but I personally see us opening up to the world as something very important. After all, this was one of the main points of my platform when I was a candidate for rector. What is more, internationalisation of the university is also important from the perspective of regional and local development, because without the presence of international students and teachers, we would not have this looking glass which shows us a true image of what and who we are and thus helps us to adjust quality.

Let's talk about the "third mission" of the university – as an institution which actively engages with the public world. There have been countless opportunities for our academics, employees, and students to show they are not indifferent to the world. One of the most important ones was the Russian invasion of Ukraine. You were already the head of UP when that happened. What was the first thing that came into your mind?

Many thoughts, actually. I suppose, like everyone, I thought about what that might mean for us, for our loved ones, what would

change, about inflation, whether basic goods would be available, what we should prepare for, etc. And then I immediately began to think about the university, above all how to take care of those people directly affected by the war. That is why we instantly called our Ukrainian students together, to ask what we could do for them. We discussed the possibilities of various kinds of support we could give, from special scholarships to psychological aid. I am truly proud of our university's Volunteering Centre and all the student volunteers who did an amazing job working in tandem with the regional authorities and other institutions, especially in the first few months. We helped in a multitude of ways: from material and financial collections, through courses in Czech, interpreting, helping schoolchildren to adapt to their new surroundings, to accepting more students and academics from Ukraine. And our support goes on; we are still providing aid.

Did you, or do you, worry about further repercussions in Europe? I'm also asking because as a doctor, you are used to assessing risks and taking them into account. Plus, the mood of Czech society is changing...

I'm not worried. The experience of the past months has shown that when it comes to really serious matters, our nation is able to unite. It can also be quite critical, but that comes with the territory. People are naturally afraid, they worry about what will happen, and sometimes they don't vent their frustrations appropriately. But even when we don't agree, we have to respect the right to have an opposing opinion. I believe that what is important is we recognise the difference between good and evil. And I think the majority of Czech society knows the difference.

And what is Palacký University, version 2023, through the eyes of Rector Martin Procházka?

Full of smart, hardworking, talented people. Many of them recognised authorities in their fields, active in various areas of social life. I'm proud that they attach the name of Palacký University to their own. When you look at how many awards our students, teachers, and scientists get in any given academic year, how many events we organise for the public, how many lectures we give, how much volunteer work we conduct, how much success our athletes have... Sure, we have our problems, which we sometimes manage better and sometimes not. I'm not afraid to admit that. But I also think that we sometimes underestimate ourselves, unnecessarily. We should be more confident. We have a right to be. We're Palacký University.

On 22 December 1573, the Olomouc College of the Society of Jesus is granted graduation rights by Emperor Maximilian II. Its first rector becomes Spaniard Hurtado Pérez, rector of the Jesuit College and Latin high school.

1573

Olomouc becomes a university town



1578

first graduation of students and expansion of the university's scope

1642

conquest of Olomouc by the Swedish army

Eight years of occupation and decline follow. In October 1643, the Jesuits close their schools and flee the city. The university's operations are shut down until the Swedish occupation forces leave in 1650.

The university moves back to Olomouc, but as a lyceum with limited graduation rights.

1661

Convictorium construction begins, start of the Baroque university building complex

Olomouc is gradually transformed into a fortified border town due to the long-term conflict between the Habsburg Empire and Prussia. The reorganised state university, clergy house, and dormitory for the nobility move to Brno.

1778

university is relocated to Brno



1782

university returns to Olomouc



By imperial decree, Francis University is dissolved as a whole, with only the Theological Faculty remaining, including graduation rights. The valuable university insignia are removed to the Moravian Vicegerency in Brno, and later to the University of Innsbruck.

1827

return of full rights to the university

Austrian Emperor Franz I promotes the lyceum to a fully-fledged university. The reinstated university has three faculties: Philosophy, Law, and Theology. In addition, medical-surgical studies continue.

1860

university abolished



1939

Faculty of Theology shut down by Nazi regime

The Czechoslovak parliament ratifies the law restoring the University of Olomouc under the name Palacký University. Its first rector is philosopher and sociologist Josef Ludvík Fischer.

1946

university reinstated

1947

ceremonial reopening of UP and teaching resumes

1950

abolition of Faculty of Theology

As a result of the educational reforms of the communist government, the Faculties of Arts and Education are transformed into an independent University of Education with Faculties of Social and Natural Science. Only one UP faculty de facto remains: the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

1953

College of Education inaugurated

A unique complex intended for medical students designed by Jiří Kroha is completed in 1960.

1955

construction begins on the Theoretical Institutes of the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry



The University of Education is merged into Palacký University with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the Faculty of Social & Natural Sciences, which in the following year are renamed the Faculties of Arts and Science.

UP becomes – like the other Czech universities – a closely watched and controlled body by the centre of power. After the Amendment to the Act on Universities, personnel purges begin.

The Sts Cyril and Methodius Seminary is reinstated as part of UP under the name of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. The UP Faculty of Physical Culture is inaugurated.



After a costly renovation, UP opens the former Theresian Armoury as its new Central Library and Information Centre.



the university
through time

1958
Olomouc colleges again unified
into the university



1968
"Prague Spring" in Olomouc

The 1968 King of May is writer Josef Škvorecký.

1969
start of "Normalisation"

1989
university becomes nexus of
the Velvet Revolution



The first democratically elected rector is Josef Jařab.

1990
reinstatement of the Faculty
of Theology, inauguration of
the Faculty of Physical Culture

1991
reinstatement of
the Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law is installed in the building of the former Communist Party district headquarters in Olomouc.

1999
Armoury opened as the UP
Library

2002
opening of the restored
Convictorium



The Convictorium building on University Street opens as the UP Arts Centre.

2008
inauguration of
the Faculty of Health Sciences

2009
Faculty of Science moves into
new headquarters



2015
opening of Fort Science

2021
Czech Advanced Technology
and Research Institute (CATRIN)
inaugurated

2023
450 years since the founding of
higher education in Olomouc

You can find the complete history of UP at 450.upol.cz



transformations

text: Ivana Pustějovská
photos: Vojtěch Duda, Adolf Jankovský, UP archive

Transformations of Palacký University

A picture is worth a thousand words. That is why the following pages present pictures offering an illustrative comparison of the modern history and present of Palacký University. This special issue deals with the oldest history as well as the years that perhaps we do not even want to call history yet: the time of our studies, the places that are still preserved in our memory. However, human memory is short, so let us recall what Palacký University looked like in the past and what it looks like now.



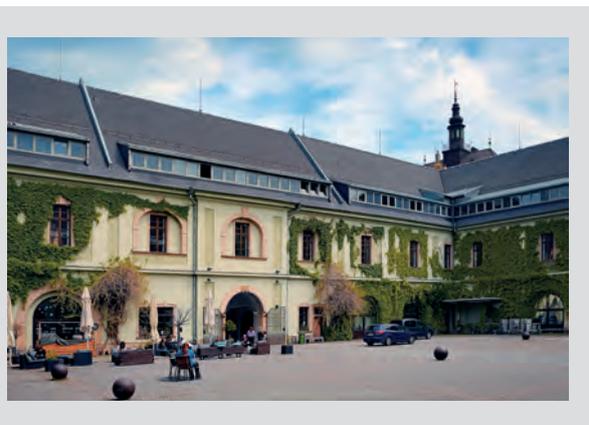
Today's seat of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology has an incredibly colourful history. The building was built between 1717 and 1720 and served as a Jesuit seminary for poor students. After the university was dissolved in 1860, only the library and the Theological Faculty, the Medical-Surgical studies, and the German gymnasium (grammar school) remained. After the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, it housed the Cyril and Methodius Theological Faculty Seminary in Olomouc, closed by the Nazis in 1939. During the Occupation, the premises were used by the Hitler Youth. After World War II, the building was returned to theologians. In 1950, however, the faculty was shut down by the communist regime and the building was used by the Faculty of Education. In 1990 the building became the seat of the restored UP CMFT.

Every year thousands of people visit the former Jesuit Convictorium, now the UP Arts Centre, or the international film festival Academia Film Olomouc; others meet up at the Armoury café or on the bench at Václav Havel's Place; law students rush to their classrooms at the Envelopa complex; while their colleagues from the Faculty of Education casually pass by the statue of first Czechoslovak President Masaryk; and Olomouc residents take pictures of their city from the terrace of the Faculty of Science. Rarely does someone realise that military vehicles used to be parked where art is discussed and films are screened today; that future lawyers replaced communist apparatchiks in their former headquarters; that future generations of teachers walk the same corridors where the boots of Soviet Army commanders used to stomp.

Palacký University sighed a free breath of relief after November 1989, and over the years has transformed itself into a school of international renown.

It has been a long journey; one of its milestones was the renovation of all the premises, both existing and acquired. Let's take a look back to the early 1990s through the eyes of a man who not only witnessed all this, but was instrumental in making the university's transformations. This is how Josef Jařab, the first post-communist UP rector, reminisced about those times: "We were well aware how dilapidated and run-down the university was. We lived in that environment. All the buildings occupied by either the Soviets or our troops were in decrepit shape," said Prof Jařab. One of his memories was related to the acquisition of the Armoury: "In the mid-1950s, my class-

mates and I regularly went there for military training. Major Tůma taught us how to disassemble and assemble an anti-aircraft gun, which we actually learned, but fortunately we never had to use in practice. Later on, the building was no longer used for student training; it was a strictly military compound, mysteriously closed to the public. Simply – an armoury. After November 1989 I couldn't take my eyes off the building – it was so close to the university complex! It was so irritating." Long negotiations eventually resulted in the army yielding the Armoury (and more) to the university. The former military fortress could thus be transformed into a true university town. Take a good look at the archival photographs by Adolf Jankovský and compare them with those made by Vojtěch Duda today.





Originally a Jesuit Convictorium (accommodation for noble self-payers and imperial, papal, and episcopal scholars), later a mint, military barracks, infirmary, and warehouses. This is the history of the former Jesuit Convictorium on University Street, today's UP Arts Centre, which provides facilities for the fine art, art history, and art education departments of the Faculties of Arts and Education. The Convictorium is also a popular venue for various cultural events, hosting festivals, lectures, talks, and concerts. The local restaurant is the place to go for a good coffee or lunch.



An illustration of how the university has been transformed is the Envelopa complex, which has always belonged to students thanks to the university dormitories, the canteen, and the sporting field. Today, however, the dominant edifice of the area is the Faculty of Science building, which was built between 2006 and 2008 in the space by 17th of November Street.



The surroundings of the Theoretical Institutes, which house the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, have been in constant change. Since its construction, the view of the institutes has been obscured by the building where the allergology and clinical immunology unit is located; however four years ago, the building of the Department of Internal Medicine II would have also obstructed the view. On the other hand, behind the "old" Theoretical Institutes one can see their modern extension, and on the left one can also notice the building of the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine. Both modern buildings were completed in 2012.



Previously the spot where the statue of communist president Klement Gottwald was erected, today dominated by the Monument to the Fighters for Freedom and Democracy. Hardly any place in Olomouc is a greater symbol of the change in the political system. A former headquarters of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in the Envelopa complex has been transformed into the Faculty of Law. Its modern history began in 1991, when it was established as the first post-revolutionary law faculty in the former Czechoslovakia. Its mission is to promote the values of freedom, democracy, and civil society. For its achievements in this field, UP FL was awarded the Hannah Arendt Prize in 1996.



Renovations to the building of the Faculty of Arts at 10 Křížkovského Street included, among other things, treatment of all surfaces, replacement of wiring and pipes, acquisition of air conditioning units, reconstruction of sanitary facilities, adjustment to the exterior, as well as changes to the internal layout. The building houses the Dean's Office and five major humanities departments. The compound also includes a renovated auditorium and a renovated courtyard with outdoor seating.



A hotel with a restaurant, a university dormitory, a temporary retreat for the Faculty of Arts – and now a research centre of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. This has been the history of the house on the corner of Kateřinská and Aksamitova Streets, which many people know as Kudeřičky – Marie Kudeříková Dormitory, since its completion in 1899. The building has been used to house UP students since 1951 and is named after a girl executed for her participation in the anti-Nazi resistance; her bust was later placed on its front. The building has been sensitively renovated for the needs of the CMFT, and the corner tower has been restored in a modern spirit, with an unusually designed chapel inside.

Jaro Varga: Jesuit missionaries against the backdrop of today's university

The past speaking to the present, this is how the project of Slovak visual artist Jaro Varga, entitled "Return to the New World", could be described. On the windows of the Armoury, where the UP Library is located, he has redrawn historical drawings and graphic works of Jesuits from their travels overseas, setting them in a completely new, authentic backdrop of the university and the town. A sample of his work is used on the cover of this special issue. The project was created as part of the SEFO 2021 Triennial called "Universum", prepared by the Olomouc Museum of Art – Central European Forum.

— How was the idea born?

At the beginning I was invited by curator Barbora Kundračková from the Olomouc Museum of Art to participate in the SEFO 2021 Triennial and to create a site-specific work for Olomouc. The final idea was preceded by a challenging yet exciting journey. Gradually, I penetrated the hollows of present and past Olomouc and worked out several lines of thought. The patience of the curator played a significant role in the whole process; despite the prolonged character of the project, she allowed me to explore the theme and did not push me into quick decisions under the pressure of tight deadlines.

— Why the connection between Jesuits, Olomouc, and the university?

Since absent (lost, disappeared, non-existent) libraries are often present in my works, it was no coincidence that I focused on the Armoury – the Palacký University Library. Here the lines intersected and merged into one homogeneous gesture – a series of small-format marker drawings on the library windows. The drawings consist of two plans. The first is an original scene from historical prints, mostly by Czech Baroque masters (e.g. Karel Škréta, Johann Georg Heinsch, and others) who visually interpreted the lives of Jesuits on overseas missions. In the second plan, I replaced the original backgrounds from the historical graphic works with backgrounds

that overlap with the views from the windows. Thus, I illusively actualise the historical scene, or in other words, set it into the contemporary environment of today's university Olomouc. In the spirit of the Jesuit motto *Unus non sufficit orbis* (One World Is Not Enough), two different times and spaces are heterotopically combined into one drawing.

— Where did you draw inspiration from?

In situ. I spent many hours in the library doing thorough artistic research on Jesuit history in the city. The Jesuits, with the ambition to colonise the world not by the sword but by the word, set out on missions in all directions. They excelled in the sciences and arts, such as cartography and astronomy. Valentin Stansel (1621–1705), a prominent Olomouc native, created the first drawn map in Bohemia of the moon. He developed the technique of measuring the height of the mountains on the Moon by the height of their shadows. During his mission in Brazil, he wrote an astronomical work in which he speculated about space travel.... I am trying to follow those footsteps of Czech Jesuits and rediscover their travels via their letters and engravings by means of visual art. The most authentic stories can be found in the letters they sent home. They elucidate their own understanding of the world, which from the contemporary postcolonial perspective we evaluate more critically than romantically.

— How satisfied are you with the way you have managed to connect the past and the present?

I perceive my time spent in the library reading and drawing as a performative artwork that seeks to fill the distance between the past and the present. That distance is stretched or shortened with each glance of the viewer out the window through my drawings. When the foreground overlaps with the background, or when the drawing overlaps with reality, there is a momentary poetic fusion of the two times and spaces.

—
"The perspective with which Jaro Varga examined the books in our university library and discovered the life stories of our ancestors long ago is truly thrilling. I am very pleased that the beautiful Baroque premises of the Armoury have thus opened up to art and the public again," says Helena Sedláčková, Director of the UP Library, praising the unique artwork.



#we'reup

The university is more than just a collection of impressive historic buildings and cutting-edge laboratories. The university is people. Those who work at it (and for it), those who research and study.

What does Palacký University mean to you personally?



Matěj A. Beran, CMFT
3rd year student of Ethics and Culture in Media Communication

I perceive Palacký University as an opportunity that will take me further in my life. It is not just a university but a living thing, a community of people who want to achieve something. As Martin Luther King used to say: “Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”



Eliška Surmová, FMD
4th year student of Dentistry

A symbol of staying fit while running between floors in the clinic in the morning, trying to stay alert during a lecture in the afternoon, and not tripping over the giant AFO globe on the square after exuberant consumption of delicious drinks in the evening. For me, UP is a fusion of several worlds that complement each other beautifully... if one knows how to survive in them.



David Broul, FA
Doctoral student in Political Science

For me, Palacký University is a place of realisation, discoveries, and meetings. The realisation is that even my seemingly unrealisable ideas can be made real in the form of various projects, discussions, and courses. The discoveries are that I get to know not only the world around me, but also myself: my possibilities and limits. And meetings are both quite ordinary ones with people I like, as well as extraordinary ones that allow me to realise those things and learn.



Tereza Vocílková, FS
Third year student of Geoinformatics and Cartography

When I got to Palacký University, it was a dream come true for me. It is my third year at the Faculty of Science and I have developed a strong connection to it. I have met a lot of great classmates and teachers here. Thanks to the summer schools organised by the faculty, I have travelled to Austria, Germany, and Malta. All this has been a great life experience.



Eliška Šlesingrová, FE
Doctoral student in Special Education

For me, Palacký University is a harmony of opposites that has impacted my life, and I am so grateful for the countless joys, opportunities, possibilities, and people who have shaped that harmony; I am proud to belong, I know I will never forget, and I would very much like for UP to continue on its path to an even better reputation.



Lenka Murínová, FPC
Doctoral student in Kinanthropology, UP AS senator

Palacký University means to me time spent with inspiring people and a place of professional and personal development.



Vojtěch Kalmár, FL
4th year Master's student in Law and Legal Science

Palacký University is not only a place where I get my education but also a place where I've met a lot of great people and experienced unforgettable moments. For me, it is a symbol of tradition, quality, and openness. It is a university with a rich history that is constantly developing and adapting to current challenges. It has offered me the opportunity to broaden my horizons and get involved in many activities and projects. It has helped me to find my own way in life and in my professional career.



Tereza Marková, FHS
2nd year Master's student of Applied Physiotherapy, 1st year Master's student of Organisation and Management in Healthcare, UP AS senator

Looking back now while finishing my Master's studies, I have to say that UP has been, above all, a big surprise for me. I did not expect much from studying at the university, only that with a bit of luck I would be educated in my dream field, get a Bachelor's degree, and if things went well, even a Master's degree. My plan was just to graduate somehow, thinking that it would not be so easy, to live those few years in anonymity, because I thought that academics would not care about students at all, that my classmates would be mere acquaintances, not friends... Instead, I was lucky to have had many professors who shaped my personality in addition to passing on their experience and skills. In fact, I made friends not only with students from my field and faculty, for which I am incredibly grateful. Besides quality education, I've gained a lot of experience at UP, which is an essential prerequisite for being a good physiotherapist one day. There were nice and positive experiences, but also some very negative and even painful ones. I consider UP a place that has shaped me, is still shaping me, and will continue to shape me for some time. How long that will be, I don't know exactly, but I am sure that I will never forget the impact this school had on my life.

theme

text: Martin Višňa
photos: Vojtěch Duda, Martin Višňa

The university and František Palacký

František Palacký (1798–1876), one of the most significant figures in the Czech National Revival, did not leave such a large footprint in Olomouc during his life; nevertheless, he is inseparably linked with the city. Palackého Street, named after him, runs into the centre of the city, and has been a vital route for trams and cars since the first Czechoslovak Republic was founded. Palacký, called the Father of the Nation, made an even bigger imprint in the city in 1946, when Olomouc's hallowed university was reinstated and renamed after him.

Naming the school after the native of Hodslavice near Nový Jičín was promoted by Zdeněk Nejedlý, then Minister of Education. The name of Josef Dobrovský, who served in Olomouc from 1787–1790 as university Vice-Rector, and who later supported Palacký in Prague, was also suggested. A double portrait of both of these National Revival figures is featured on the UP Commemorative Medal, awarded on ceremonial occasions. Palacký also appears on university insignia, and on the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth, the František Palacký Award was launched, given for outstanding achievements in the fields

of science and culture. The financial award associated with the prize is partly contributed by his birthplace of Hodslavice and also the town of Neratovice, his final resting place.

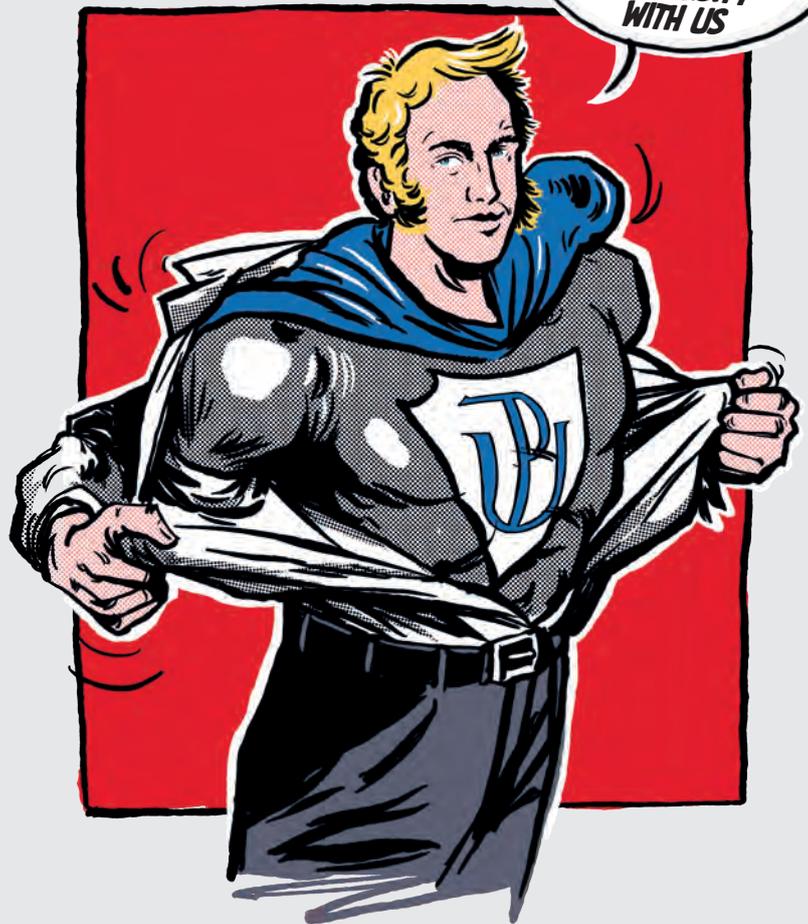
Palacký University is strengthening its cooperation with Hodslavice at present. It has borne fruit in a new T-shirt with a portrait of young František and a quotation from his book *Krásověda čili o kráse a umění* [Aesthetics: On Beauty and Art]. His birthplace and viewing places scattered throughout Hodslavice adorned with his quotes have become a destination for UP students and employees. Two groups from Olomouc went to Hodslavice this year on UP Sports Day – one with UP management who met with village representatives, and one which made a 16 km hike out of the event. Both groups visited the house where the Father of the Nation was born, with its statue of Palacký by the Olomouc sculptor and former teacher at the UP Faculty of Arts Department of Art Theory and Education, Vladimír Navrátil. A replica of the statue used to stand in the courtyard of the Faculty of Arts at 10 Křížkovského Street in Olomouc.



SUPER PALACKÝ

HUMOUR, EXAGGERATION, AND A VENERABLE UNIVERSITY. HOW DO THEY GO TOGETHER? QUITE WELL! PROOF OF THAT IS THE "VISUAL" OF FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ WHICH WE HAVE CHOSEN FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR. THE FATHER OF THE NATION IS DEPICTED AS A YOUNG MAN, OF STUDENT AGE, IN THE STYLE OF SUPERMAN. "WE DIDN'T WANT FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ TO LOOK LIKE A DUSTY OLD HISTORICAL FIGURE TO TODAY'S GENERATION OF STUDENTS. HE WAS A MAN OF MANY TALENTS AND INTERESTS, AMBITIOUS AND HARDWORKING, SOMEONE WHO LIVED LIFE TO THE FULLEST. WE WANTED A YOUNG PALACKÝ, AS WE SEE HIM, TO BE AN INSPIRING SUPERHERO FOR OUR STUDENTS, AND AN IDEAL COMMUNICATIONS LOGO," EXPLAINED EGO HAVRLANT, HEAD OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AND UP SPOKESMAN. THE ARTIST RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPER PALACKÝ IS TICHOF62. (IPU)

CELEBRATE
450 YEARS OF THE
UNIVERSITY
WITH US



Palacký? Palacký!

František Palacký. What's the first thing that comes to mind? Perhaps the encyclopaedia entry with a picture of the respectable greybeard. But before he became a name in the history books, František Palacký was young once, too. And he wasn't just any young man. He was a man of many talents, pastimes, and interests. Nowadays he might be a popular YouTuber or TikTok influencer. Who knows? In any case, in the year when the university is celebrating 450 years of the existence of higher education in Olomouc, we decided to dust off the portrait of the man whose name the modern university bears.

And that is how the happening The Face of Palacký took place, held in the

Attic Gallery of the UP Arts Centre by the UP student group Studium Artium. The challenge to reimagine Palacký was accepted by 8 artists. In addition to students of art education and art history, there were also the French painter and illustrator Vincent Chignier, who lives in nearby Sternberk, and Tetiana Kovalenko, who worked as a teacher of painting and drawing in an art school in Kharkiv, Ukraine until the Russian invasion, and now lives in Přerov. The artists stood ready at their easels with markers, ink, watercolours, or acrylics – except for one, Ludmila Dostálíková, who worked with clay. And what did they create? See for yourself. (red)



text: Ivana Pustějovská
photos: Žurnál UP archives

alumni club



Join the UP alumni family

You've got your degree, you've scarpored to the four corners of the globe, but are you still interested in how and what your alma mater is doing? Wouldn't you like to enjoy the various cultural and social events the university holds? Wouldn't you like to meet your classmates and see how the places you've studied in have been transformed? Wouldn't you like discounts on taxis, films, concerts, and accommodation in Olomouc?

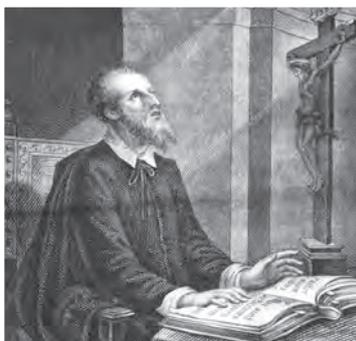
If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then you only have one more step to take. Register to be a member of our big family – the UP Alumni Club. It's for Czech and international alumni of Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral programmes. Registration is easy, just use the online form at absolventi.upol.cz. Welcome to our UP family! For an illustration of what the atmosphere is like at our alumni reunions, we've got a few snapshots from the last ones. And if you'd like to know what kind of UP family you're joining, meet a few of our interesting alumni on the following pages.



prominent alumni

selected by:
Tomáš Krejčířík

Palacký University Olomouc is an internationally respected Central European university, highly productive scientifically and academically. For 450 years it has contributed to the intellectual wealth of society and to its scientific, cultural, and social development. Over the past centuries, many prominent personalities have graduated from Olomouc's university. Let us present just a few of them. The list is merely illustrative, but it does indicate the wide range of professions and fields in which our graduates have excelled.



Saint Jan Sarkander
(1576–1620)

Roman Catholic priest

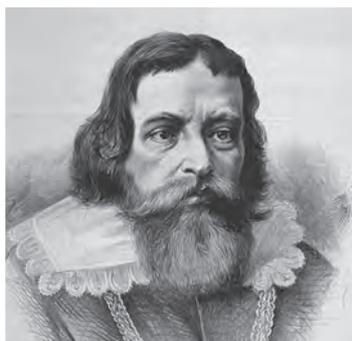
He studied philosophy in Olomouc between 1597–1600. His tireless efforts for the re-Catholicisation of the region were supported by Ladislav Popel of Lobkowitz. However, as he defended his faith during a period of strong anti-Catholic sentiment, he was arrested and tortured to death in Olomouc after refusing to reveal what Popel of Lobkowitz had told him in confession. Pope Pius IX beatified Sarkander in St Peter's Basilica in 1860, and Pope John Paul II canonised him as a saint during his visit to Olomouc in 1995.



Albrecht von Wallenstein
(1583–1634)

military leader, politician, duke

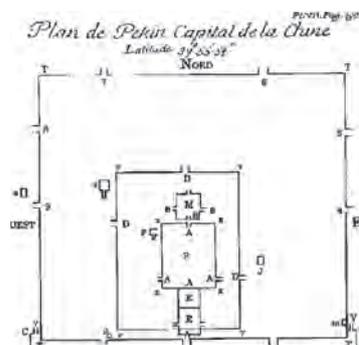
An important military leader, statesman, Duke of Mecklenburg and Friedlant, together with Johann Tserclaes, Count of Tilly, the supreme commander of the Hapsburg Catholic forces during the Thirty Years' War. Probably the richest Czech at that time. He was the first aristocrat to maintain a standing army. He fought on the emperor's side, later fell into his disfavour and was assassinated. He died as one of the most influential figures in Europe at the time.



Johannes Marcus Marci
(1595–1667)

physician, mathematician, physicist

He studied philosophy and theology at the college in Olomouc. He became famous for his physical discoveries about the impact of elastic bodies and the refraction of light, thanks to which he became elected a member of the Royal Society in London. Some of his experimental findings in spectroscopy and physical optics preceded Newton, Grimaldi, and Boyle. He was the first to form a theory on the origin of the rainbow, in 1648. He was made a nobleman by Emperor Ferdinand III and was awarded a rainbow coat of arms, reflecting his studies on the refraction of light. A lunar crater was named after him.



Karel Slaviček
(1678–1735)

first Czech sinologist, author of the first accurate map of Beijing

He studied philosophy and theology and later became a Professor of Mathematics in Olomouc. He decided to become a missionary and because of his knowledge of mathematics and music was sent to China. In Beijing he was introduced to Emperor Kangxi, who employed him as a court musician. The emperor utilised his expertise acquired while working on a map of Prague and in 1717 ordered him to produce the first accurate map of Beijing. Slaviček often corresponded with European scientists.



Gregor Johann Mendel
(1822–1884)

father of modern genetics

At the Philosophical Institute in Olomouc, he excelled in mathematics and physics. Then he entered a Brno monastery and was sent to study at the University of Vienna, where he focused on plant anatomy and physiology. When he returned to the monastery as a teacher, he carried out extensive experiments in hybridisation. It was in the monastery garden where he discovered the basic principles of heredity, formulating three rules that later became known as the laws of Mendelian inheritance. His observations became the basis of modern genetics and the study of heredity, and he is thus widely regarded as the "father of modern genetics".

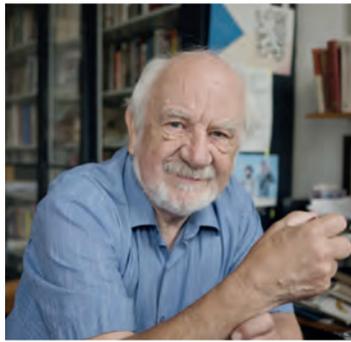


Alois Musil

(1868–1944)

theologian, Orientalist, author

Musil travelled extensively in the Arab world, where he collected a vast amount of scientific material. Among his most famous discoveries is the 8th-century desert castle of Qusayr 'Amra, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In between his travels, he continued to work on his publications and lectured at the Universities of Olomouc and Vienna. He was instrumental in founding the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. As an Orientalist, he knew 35 dialects of Arabic and was so close to the Bedouin tribe of Rwala that he was accepted into it as Shaikh Musa.



Josef Jařab

(1937–2023)

literary scholar, American studies expert, translator, UP Rector Emeritus

He graduated from UP in 1959 with a degree in English and Russian languages and in 1986 with a degree in higher education. He was especially interested in the history of Afro-American literature. He was the first UP rector after the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and was instrumental in the fundamental transformation of the school and its spirit. He also served as a rector of Central European University in Budapest and a visiting professor at many foreign universities, including Harvard.



Karel Indrák

(b. 1947)

hematologist, teacher

One of the most prominent personalities of Olomouc medicine, he contributed significantly to the establishment and development of the Department of Hemato-Oncology. He graduated in General Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. He became a professor in 1997. At University Hospital Olomouc he was the head of the Department of Clinical Hematology, later the Department of Hemato-Oncology. His scientific achievements include the discovery of the Olomouc, Haná, and Hradec Kralove hemoglobins and the identification of beta thalassaemic mutations. He is the founder of the ALERT registry for the treatment of acute leukemias and the CAMELIA registry for patients with chronic myeloid leukemia.

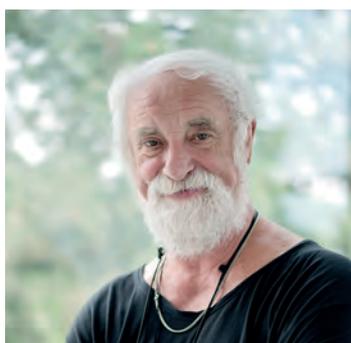


František Tomášek

(1899–1992)

Roman Catholic archbishop, theologian

He was a clergyman, theologian, apostolic administrator of the Prague Archdiocese, and the 34th Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia. He graduated from the Cyril and Methodius Theological Faculty in 1938 with a doctorate in theology, and after the war he became a Professor of Catechetics and Education. He spoke out against the persecution of the Catholic Church and criticised communist oppression. Pope Paul VI appointed him Cardinal and Archbishop of Prague. He advocated the canonisation of Agnes of Bohemia. In November 1989 he supported the Velvet Revolution.



Jindřich Štreit

(b. 1946)

photographer and teacher

A university teacher, Professor of Photography, and photographer famous for documenting rural life. In 1967 he graduated from the UP Faculty of Education with a degree in primary education and in 1975 in art education. He has had more than 1,200 solo shows and has published over 30 books of photography. He is represented in the most prestigious world collections, including MoMA in New York and the National Gallery in Washington. He has taken part in projects in France, England, Brazil, Moldavia, Austria, Germany, Japan, and Hungary.



Emil Viklický

(b. 1948)

jazz musician, pianist, composer

World-renowned jazz composer, pianist, and arranger. He played in the Karel Velebný Orchestra and with composer and multi-instrumentalist Jiří Stivín. He studied jazz at Berklee College, USA. In 2011 he received the Czech national Medal of Merit. He graduated from the UP Faculty of Science in 1971 with a degree in numerical mathematics.



Rostislav Švácha

(b. 1952)

historian, art and architecture theorist, teacher

Graduated in Czech language and fine arts education at the Faculty of Arts. He worked at the Odeon publishing house, taught at the Department of Art History at UP, lectured on the history of architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, and now works at the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences and at Charles University. In 2013, he was awarded the Ministry of Culture Award for Contribution to Architecture for his publications. He led the exhibition project Paneláci (communist era housing estates), the accompanying publications of which received the Czech National Magnesia Litera Book Award in 2018. He is active in historic preservation.



Jiří Bártek

(b. 1953)

molecular biologist

Graduate of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Director of the Genome Integrity Unit at the Danish Cancer Society Research Centre in Copenhagen, Bártek is on the cutting edge of basic biomedical research worldwide. He has focussed mainly on the research of regulatory mechanisms of tumour cell division and mechanisms leading to tumour development. Prof Bártek has been employed by several prestigious European research laboratories for many years. He is the most cited scientist of Czech origin in the biological and medical sciences. He is considered a leading contender for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.



Vojtěch Novotný

(b. 1964)

tropical biologist, entomologist, and environmentalist

Graduated in systematic biology and ecology at the Faculty of Science. He works at the Institute of Entomology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and teaches at the University of South Bohemia. He focuses on the ecology of herbivore insects in tropical ecosystems. He received a grant from the European Research Council for biodiversity research in Papua New Guinea where he has been running a field research station since 1997. He has also worked in the UK, USA, and in the forests of Panama, Guyana, and Vietnam. He is one of the world's most cited scientists.



Helena Suková

(b. 1965)

tennis player, psychologist

One of the most successful tennis players in Czechoslovak history, ranked number one in the world in women's doubles, winner of 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, and an ATP finals doubles winner. Winner of 10 WTA titles in singles and 69 in doubles. In women's doubles with Jana Novotná, she won silver medals in the Summer Olympic Games in 1988 and 1996. She is a co-founder of the Endowment Fund for Children and Junior Tennis in the Czech Republic. She graduated in Psychology and received her PhD. title at the Faculty of Arts.



Jiří Pavlica

(b. 1953)

violinist and composer

In 1980 he graduated in musicology and theory of culture at the Faculty of Arts. He also studied violin at the Brno Conservatory and composition at the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts. Since 1978 he has been the head of the Hradišťan ensemble, incorporating traditional Moravian music into contemporary styles. His accomplishments include a rich discography, authorship of many projects, and numerous film and theatre scores. He frequently performs abroad – in Mexico, South Africa, UK, USA, etc.



Bohdan Pomahač

(b. 1971)

plastic surgeon

A graduate of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, who carried out the first complete face transplant in the USA in 2011. Since 2021, he has been the Chief of Plastic Surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital in the USA. He is the recipient of the Neuron Prize. 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.



Markéta Pilátová

(b. 1973)

writer, Hispanist, journalist

Graduated in Romance languages and history at the Faculty of Arts. She writes novels, short stories, and lyrics. Her books have been published in German, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish. She has twice been nominated for the Josef Škvorecký Award and the Magnesia Litera Award. She has published in the Czech media, writing essays, reviews, columns, news reports, and commentaries. She has lived in Argentina and Brazil, where she taught descendants of Czech emigrants. She translates from Spanish and English.



Václav Kobera

(b. 1981)

lawyer, manager

Graduated from the Faculty of Law. He worked in the departments of civil aviation, strategy, and safety systems at the Czech Ministry of Transport, and is now the director of the Department of Intelligent Transport Systems, Space Activities, R&D and Innovation. Since 2021, he chaired the Administrative Board of the European Union Space Programme Agency (EUSPA). He is the head of the Czech delegation to the European Space Agency (ESA).

prominent
alumni



450 years of Palacký University

genius up



Václav Jílek

(b. 1976)

football coach

Graduate of physical education and sport at the Faculty of Physical Education. Named Best Youth Coach of 2009, he worked as an assistant coach to Jaroslav Hřebík with the Czech national under-19 team, winning the silver medal at the European Under-19 Football Championship (2011). As an assistant coach to Vítězslav Lavička at AC Sparta Prague, he won the title in the 2013/14 season. Since the summer of 2021, he has been coaching SK Sigma Olomouc again.



Jiří Pasz

(b. 1981)

photographer, documentary filmmaker, humanitarian worker

He graduated in humanitarian and social work at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. He has worked in Uganda, Nepal, Burma, the Central African Republic, and the Middle East, where he focused on humanitarian and development issues. He has worked on the research team of the National Institute of Mental Health, where he prepared a series of interviews with the world's top psychiatrists and people living with mental illness. He is the author of the book *Normal Madness*, which was awarded the National Psychiatric Prize of Prof Vladimír Vondráček.



Tereza Diepoldová

(b. 1988)

Paralympian, teacher

She studied applied physical education at the Faculty of Physical Education. She is one of the most successful Czech disabled swimmers. She finished fourth at the World Aquatics Championships in 2005, and participated in the Summer Paralympic Games in Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008). After finishing her swimming career, she took up cycling. In 2012, she won the UCI Paracycling Road World Cup. The highlight of her career was the Summer Paralympic Games in London in the same year, where she won a silver medal in the individual time trial. Since 2011 she has been working as a leisure activities teacher at the National Institute for the Mentally Challenged in Prague-Krč.

They have been successes in their fields, contributing to making our world a better place to live. Women and men of science, medicine, politics, the arts... How can any university, anywhere in the world, value their work and importance? By awarding them the title of honorary doctor: *doctor honoris causa*. It is an honorary academic title, not connected to formal study or education. It highlights the importance of chosen people, who may be alumni of the given school, but not necessarily. The awarding of honorary doctorates is usually a ceremonial event, with dignitaries of the school and a number of guests in attendance.

A number of honorary doctorates have been awarded by Palacký University in its modern history, more than four dozen have been granted to date. The first honorary doctorate was awarded on 28 May 1990 to Václav Havel. Among the recipients are the American philanthropist Charles Merrill, "Nazi hunter" Simon Wiesenthal, Cardinal Tomáš Josef Špidlík, world-famous chemist Antonín Holý, sculptor and painter Ivan Theimer, lawyer and first Czech ombudsman Otakar Motejl, surgeon Dr Bohdan Pomahač, promoter of Czech culture in Australia Jana Reichová, and actor-singer-songwriter Jiří Suchý.

Honorary doctorates awarded by Palacký University since 1990

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▪ 28 May 1990 | Václav Havel | ▪ 31 March 2005 | Czesław Głombik |
| ▪ 2 September 1990 | Ewald Osers | ▪ 13 May 2005 | Antonín Schindler |
| ▪ 2 October 1991 | Pierre Potier | ▪ 14 May 2006 | Zdeněk Mácal |
| ▪ 22 October 1991 | Stanisław Urbanczyk | ▪ 17 January 2007 | Valerij Michajlovič Mokienko |
| ▪ 20 November 1991 | Charles Merrill | ▪ 17 January 2007 | Augustin Palát |
| ▪ 3 June 1992 | Emil Wolf | ▪ 8 June 2007 | Vladislav David |
| ▪ 9 November 1994 | Wolfgang Richard Mayr | ▪ 8 June 2007 | Willibald Posch |
| ▪ 9 November 1994 | Giovanni Astaldi | ▪ 21 October 2008 | Fabio Roversi Monaco |
| ▪ 17 May 1995 | Ellis Sandoz | ▪ 6 May 2009 | Juan Antonio Fleming |
| ▪ 30 May 1996 | Simon Wiesenthal | ▪ 21 October 2009 | Otakar Motejl |
| ▪ 25 November 1996 | Hans Galjaard | ▪ 9 November 2010 | Karim Andrew Sirkka |
| ▪ 25 November 1996 | Henry Louis Gates Jr. | ▪ 8 December 2010 | Karel Skalický |
| ▪ 10 December 1997 | Tomáš Špidlík | ▪ 4 May 2011 | Kypros Herodotou Nicolaidis |
| ▪ 22 November 1998 | Ivan Theimer | ▪ 4 May 2011 | Lumír Hanuš |
| ▪ 2 December 1998 | Antonín Holý | ▪ 23 June 2011 | Josef T. Prchal |
| ▪ 8 June 2000 | Robert. A. Kyle | ▪ 27 September 2011 | Helmut Glück |
| ▪ 24 October 2000 | Alfons Nossol | ▪ 19 October 2011 | Jiří Suchý |
| ▪ 24 October 2000 | Karel Vrána | ▪ 5 December 2012 | James F. Sallis |
| ▪ 28 March 2001 | Erwin Schadel | ▪ 14 May 2013 | Jiří F. Městecký |
| ▪ 4 October 2001 | Karel Maršál | ▪ 6 June 2013 | Bohdan Pomahač |
| ▪ 16 May 2002 | Volker Mertens | ▪ 2 October 2013 | Jana Reichová |
| ▪ 17 October 2002 | Kenneth Edwards | ▪ 2 October 2013 | Lubomír Doležel |
| ▪ 3 October 2003 | Jos Wilmots | ▪ 26 March 2014 | Göran Sandberg |
| ▪ 28 June 2004 | Jiří Louda | ▪ 12 November 2014 | Michael Beckerman |
| ▪ 22 October 2004 | Laurent M.J. Meijer | ▪ 6 October 2015 | Karel Pacák |
| ▪ 31 March 2005 | Jiří Bártek | ▪ 25 October 2017 | Heinrich Pompey |
| | | ▪ 11 September 2023 | Christoph Schönborn |



Václav Havel awarded honorary doctorate by UP

There are events and dates of which various institutions are very proud. Palacký University, in its rich history, has had many. One such date is 28 May 1990. On that day in Olomouc, Václav Havel was awarded an honorary doctorate. UP was the first university in what was then Czechoslovakia to give this award to the Czech dissident, playwright, and president. The man “responsible” for this was then Rector Josef Jařab. We have taken a few pages from his book *A Rector’s Reminiscences*, published by Palacký University Press.

As the spring of 1990 approached, our planning for a real university celebration – awarding an honorary doctorate to Czech President Václav Havel – came to a peak. In order for us and the city to properly celebrate it, we decided on the following plan: the reception would take place at the Rector’s Office, but the award would take place in the large meeting hall at Hotel Sigma.

Crowds of university students and employees waited outside the Rector’s Office building to welcome the president. It was no picnic for his security people to push his motorcade through the crowds into the Rec-

tor’s Office courtyard, where we waited to welcome our distinguished guest. After my welcoming him to the Rector’s Office, introducing him to the UP Scholarly Board, and presenting the president with the UP Commemorative Medal, we “showed off” our framed certificate of the 1973 [communist] Order of Labour [given on the 400th anniversary of UP], and asked him if he would confirm and extend its validity. We had been working on this joke for some time. On the back of the certificate were already messages from dissident friends of Havel’s, written on their visits to Olomouc: Ludvík Vaculík, Josef Škvorecký, Zdena Salivarová, Jan Lopatka, and Luboš Dobrovský – so our [communist] Order of Labour had been enriched by us many times over. The president enjoyed that very much and gave his consent to extending its validity. But it was now time for his (then) ubiquitous cigarette and a few jokes about the two wires that were sticking out of the wall when we took the Order down. Where did they actually go? Who and what were they for?

We then made a few quick visits to the Student Centre, which we had set up immediately after the revolution in the spac-

es of the former Marxist-Leninist Institute, to the student magazine’s editorial office, and to the Archbishop’s Palace, where a choir of theologians sang us several Old Slavonic songs.

Only then did we go to the ceremony, which went smoothly and in a dignified manner. To Dean Ludvík Václavek, we were happy to give our reasons for the choice of candidate for the honorary doctorate of our university, as per protocol.

In a thank-you speech which was classic Havel, we heard encouragement to study languages and the humanities, framed by a personal remembrance of Rector J.L. Fischer, a family friend of the Havels. The president closed his speech with a wish, expressing his belief that Palacký University “will educate and graduate ‘more educated doctors’ than today’s honorary one”.

Then from the Olomouc Town Hall balcony he greeted the crowd, which completely filled the Upper Square: not only as the president of the republic, but as an honorary member of the academic community of Olomouc’s university, one who remained interested in the goings-on at our academic institution in the years to come.





King of May Miroslav Krobot: Students, be curious!

The king of this year's Olomouc Majáles Student May Celebrations was Czech director and actor Miroslav Krobot. In the courtyard of the Armoury, he accepted the royal regalia from Rector Martin Procházka and his royal predecessors: photographer Jindřich Štreit, actress Ivana Plíhalová, and university library director Helena Sedláčková.

May in Olomouc belongs to students and their holiday. This year's 11th edition of Majáles offered theatrical performances, workshops, talks, concerts, and presentations by local student clubs and non-profit organisations. The main musical star of the two-day programme was the band Tata Bojs, who got the whole Armoury courtyard dancing. The programme was also related to this year's jubilee: a special thematic quiz was dedicated to the 450th anniversary of Olomouc's university. "This year's special-

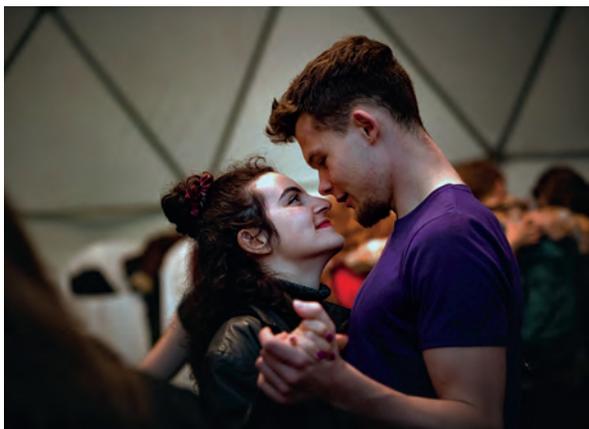
ty was the Majáles music-theatre tram, which circled the city centre and invited people to our programme. It was a way of letting everyone know that we are celebrating and that we gladly welcome Olomouc residents to the university premises. I am very happy that we managed to attract so many visitors and brought crowds to the courtyard of the Armoury. Once again, the reality was evident: Olomouc truly is a university town," said Barbora Plonka Schwarzbachová, head of the University Events Office, which organised the May celebrations.

The pivotal point of each year's Majáles is the coronation of the King or Queen of May. This year's reign over the May Day revelry was given to theatre and film director and actor Miroslav Krobot. "I am very happy that once again, after a year, I can use my powers as Palacký University Rector and crown the king of the student fes-

ivities. It is my utmost pleasure to pass the crown to Miroslav Krobot, who has a close relationship to our city and region," said Rector Martin Procházka.

"Dear students, I wish you all the best for your holiday. Let me express three recommendations or wishes for you. First, be curious. Be curious about your field, about your loved ones, about your city, about the whole world, about the whole universe. Secondly, have fun, because good fun sharpens the mind. And thirdly, love one other," King Krobot addressed the students.

After the coronation, Rector Procházka remembered Rector Emeritus Josef Jařab, who passed away on the day of Majáles. It was almost symbolic, for it was Prof Jařab himself who was made King of May ten years ago. The Armoury honoured the memory of the first post-communist UP rector with a minute of silence.



#we'reup

The university is more than just a collection of impressive historic buildings and cutting-edge laboratories. The university is people. Those who work at it (and for it), those who research and study.

What does Palacký University mean to you personally?



Petra Potměšilová

Head of the Department of Christian Education, CMFT

It's a ship that is a joy to sail because it's a:

Unique Place where different generations and interesting people can meet and enrich each other; an Unparalleled Prop for both personal and professional development; an Unrivalled Platform to conduct creative and research activities. UP is undoubtedly an institution that has a great reputation, not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad. I am proud to hear that our graduates are welcome assets in practice.



Dušan Klos

Head of the First Department of Surgery, FMD and UHO

For me, UP is primarily the place where I obtained my education in medicine. It is a place where I can pass on my knowledge and experience to our students as well as a unique space for mutual exchange of information and experience between students, teachers, and scientists with the possibility of further development – not only personal, but most of all, related to the entire community of our university.



Eva Skříčková

Asst Prof, Department of Romance Languages, FA

I appreciate the opportunity to teach Italian language and culture at the university. It means I can advance in my field, collaborate with great colleagues, make new contacts, but above all realise myself as a teacher. Passing on knowledge is a great joy for me, and when my efforts bear fruit, I just feel great.



Lukáš Kučera

Asst Prof, Department of Analytical Chemistry, FS

For me, Palacký University is a place where it is possible to apply my potential in various research areas. A great advantage is the possibility of collaboration between experts from different faculties and developing an interdisciplinary approach.



Jan Michalík

Vice-Dean for Legislation, Organisation and Development, FE

I perceive it as a centuries-old institution that multiplies and exceeds the time allotted to the individual in so many ways. As a house of learning that fulfils the dreams of young people. As an organisation providing thousands of opportunities for its employees. For me, Palacký University is an alma mater which, in accordance with the traditional oath, I “keep gratefully in mind”.



Pavel Otřisal

Professor, Department of Applied Physical Activities, FPC

For me, Palacký University means a long history of education, knowledge, top-notch science, and improving facilities for students, teachers, and researchers. The university enables me to pass on to young people the latest knowledge and information in the field of modern technologies linking the natural sciences with public safety and security. I take the university as a place to meet with personalities of science and research across all disciplines in which education and scientific activities are carried out, and a space for self-education.



Kamila Bubelová

Head of the Department of Law Theory and Legal History, FL

I love UP, I am mad at UP, I rejoice in its successes, I condemn its shenanigans. Just like home. This is going to sound weird and hyperbolic, but UP is the same as family to me. I have been connected with Olomouc’s university since I was seventeen; I have spent two thirds of my life here. The comparison of UP to family hits home for me. Family is also something you have for life.



Anita Můčková

Vice-Dean for Education and Lifelong Learning, FHS

UP is a value that cannot be quantified but has historically been written into my life. For me, it has always meant meeting personalities who motivated me and ignited my thirst for knowledge. Time has shown that the content and emphasis of some knowledge changes, but the basic values that every Palacký University graduate should acquire ought to remain the same in the future: honesty, democratic communication, mutual respect, etiquette of dress, and behaviour towards each other. This is Palacký University Olomouc for me.



Jakub Navařík

Researcher, CATRIN

For 17 years, the university has given me the opportunity to constantly discover and learn new things and give vent to my creative imagination. I have met many extraordinary people during that period, and my work team is a kind of second family. Despite the difficulties of the last few years, I never lose my enthusiasm for the work here and look forward to the next adventure.

Alumnus revived chapel in the former Jesuit college



The former chapel of the Sodality of the Virgin Mary, Queen of Angels in the commonly inaccessible building of the Czech Army's Administrative Archive, originally part of the Jesuit University in Olomouc, was presented to the public during the Night of Churches by Petr Hofman, a graduate of the UP Faculty of Education and the author of a 3D model of the Olomouc bastion fortifications. For this

occasion, he prepared – more or less with his own hands and with the help of his family – an altar memento, i.e. a reminder of the original altar, as well as a wooden model of the church that stood in this place, and visualisations of its incorporation into Republic Square as it is today. “The Jesuits initially wanted to rebuild and expand the church for their needs, but eventually decided to build the present-day Church of St Mary of the Snows and erect a magnificent college building on the site of the old church. And since the original chapel of the student sodality was lost during the construction, space was reserved for a new chapel in the new building,” he said, explaining the history of the site. (vim)

UP tourist plaque

A round, wooden, burnt plaque with the serial number 2786 and a depiction of the historic rector's sceptre. This is what the special limited edition of the tourist plaque created for the 450th anniversary of Olomouc's university looks like; only 500 pieces were produced. Collectors can get it in the university shop UPoint, in the tourist information centre in the arcade of the Olomouc Town Hall on the Upper Square, in the popularisation centre Fort Science, and in the village of Hodslavice, the birthplace of František Palacký, after whom the university has been named since 1946. The souvenir was produced by the company Turistické známky [Tourist Plaques], whose owner is UP graduate David Holub. (krej)



In the footsteps of the Jesuits in the Pacific



UP Rector Martin Procházka visited an island university in the area where an Olomouc graduate and missionary worked in the 17th century. “Following the footsteps of the Olomouc Jesuits, we visited Guam, which is part of the Pacific archipelago of the Mariana Islands and a US territory. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding between our institutions with the rector of the University of Guam, retired Air Force officer Thomas W. Krise. At the same time, I presented him with a special gift, a graphic work depicting a graduate of our university, Augustine Strobach, surrounded by natives wielding the club used to kill him during an uprising. How symbolic that in the year celebrating 450 years of our university, founded by the Jesuits, we visited the most remote places where the Jesuit missionaries headed after their studies in Olomouc,” said UP Rector Procházka. You can read about the Jesuit missions in an article in this issue and in the interview with J. Varga. (eg)

Diamond Alumni of 1963



For the fifth time, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry prepared a Diamond Reunion for its “60-year-old” alumni. Twenty physicians who completed their medical studies in 1963, some of whom are still active in the health sector today, retook the graduation oath and received their commemorative certificates. (vim)

Holy Mass with Archbishop Graubner

UP Academic Week, which commenced the year of celebrations of UP's 450th jubilee, was given a spiritual dimension by a holy mass celebrated in the Church of St Mary of the Snows by Jan Graubner, former Archbishop of Olomouc and Grand Chancellor of the UP CMTF, now Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia. The Archbishop spoke in the former university church about the present day UP, but also about the deep roots of European universities, which in most cases developed from medieval cathedral schools. In addition to the Archbishop, the UP Vice-Rector for Strategy and Regional Affairs, Michal Malacka, also delivered a few words to those present. (vim)



text: Martina Vysloužilová, Ivana Pustějovská
photos: AFO, Martin Višňa

festival



Academia Film Olomouc: Where science is not boring

Over 300 events, 159 film screenings, and seven winners of its prestigious glass kaleidoscope. And almost 6,500 accredited visitors. These numbers sum up this year's Academia Film Olomouc (AFO), the 58th International Festival of Science Documentary Films, organised by Palacký University.

The prestigious international film festival turns Olomouc into the world metropolis of science popularisation for several days every spring. This year was no different. Thousands of spectators from all over the country, as well as dozens of filmmakers, publicists, journalists, and scientists from all over the world came to Olomouc. They had a great time together, watching

films, evaluating them, debating. This year, one of the topics was also the history of our university, with which AFO is intrinsically linked. And since AFO means competition too, prizes were distributed. The winner of the International Competition, which allows the audience to see the best popular science documentaries from around the world, was the British film Constant.

Every year, one personality who has made a significant contribution to the popularisation of science is honoured by the organisers. This time the prestigious award went to Chris Impey, a cosmologist and Professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona, an author of popular science

books on astronomy, including studies of distant galaxies and searching for exoplanets and extraterrestrial intelligence.

"I really think this year's festival was very successful. Not just in terms of numbers of visitors and the great programme, but also that the festival was able to attract VIP guests from all over the world. They loved the festival atmosphere and professionalism of the whole team – which for us is the greatest reward. I'm very grateful to all our partners, without whom the festival could not operate on such a high level, and I'm really proud of the entire organisational team. Thanks to them, I truly believe there's no better festival in the world," said Eva Navrátilová, festival director.



Aurora: The future of European universities

The university in Olomouc commemorates 450 years of its existence this year. It is an opportunity to not only to look deep into the past, but also into the future. Our university has never been an island, entire of itself. Its students and teachers have always been connected to the world, taking an interest in it, and trying to contribute to its exploration and improvement. This is how the past connects with the present and the future. Being broad-minded, open to new possibilities and partnerships, sharing our experiences with each other, this is the epitome of both the present and future direction of Palacký University. And that is why the school became a member of the Aurora alliance of European universities, a few years ago.

“Being part of this alliance is a challenge and an opportunity for us, it means working for the future and development of the entire university, both in the field of education and science & research. We have thus the opportunity to participate in interesting projects, to share experience and knowledge, to have a better chance of getting EU funding, and so forth. Thanks to our membership, we have been developing very good collaboration with the universities of Innsbruck, Paris, and Duisburg-Essen. Aurora offers great opportunities for students, academics, and scientists alike,” said UP Rector Martin Procházka.

The Aurora alliance currently brings together nine top research-intensive universities under the umbrella of the European Commission’s flagship initiative “European Universities”. In terms of numbers, this means: 260,000 students, 674,000 graduates, 112 faculties, 30,000 employees, and 812 research groups.

This large European university family is interdependent and in close collaboration. It gives students from all its universities the opportunity to participate in projects, courses, internships, and

events. “It also offers inspiring opportunities for academics, who gain access to innovative teaching approaches and methods that contribute to the modernisation of teaching at the European level,” adds Rector Procházka, a member of the Alliance’s General Council and of the global Aurora Consortium that initiated the European alliance.

The contribution of the alliance members to the building of the European university network in 2020–2023 was also recognised by the European Commission, which awarded the Aurora 2030 consortium, led by the University of Iceland, funding for the next four-year period. “I am delighted that the European Commission has awarded the Aurora 2030 consortium a four-year follow-up grant. This confirms its confidence in the mission of the Aurora alliance, which aims to equip students with the skills and mindset needed to drive societal challenges. This new grant will allow us to continue working closely with our partners in Europe and beyond,” said Aurora alliance President Jon Atli Benediktsson.

Radka Wildová, Director General for the Higher Education, Science and Research Section at the Czech Ministry of Education, also acknowledged the success. “The fact that the European Commission has confirmed its continued support to the alliance is a testament to the high quality and successful implementation of the project in its first phase. I wish you a successful continuation of mutual cooperation within the Aurora consortium, and I believe that the joint activities will lead to the strengthening of the internationalisation of your university and the improvement of all its activities beyond the framework of the activities of the alliance and the consortium,” she said in her congratulatory message sent to UP Rector Procházka.


 The logo for the Aurora alliance, featuring the word "AURORA" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a triangle shape inside it, and the letters are colored in a gradient from purple to blue.

WHO MAKES UP AURORA?

The global consortium Aurora consists of the University of Iceland (Ulce), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA), the University of Innsbruck (UIBK), the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE), Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Palacký University Olomouc (UP), Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Université Paris Est Creteil (UPEC), and the University of Napoli Federico II (UNINA), as well as seven affiliated academic and non-academic partners, including the University of East Anglia (UEA), South-West University “Neofit Rilski” (SWUNR), Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPJSK), the University of Tetova (UT), Kharkiv National University, the European Forum Alpbach, and the Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA), covering 13 countries altogether.

text: Martina Vysloužilová
photos: Fort Science

popularising science



Fort Science: Where science comes alive!

At first glance, a historic building in the Crown Fortress complex in the centre of Olomouc, a former munitions storehouse from 1857. But as soon as visitors walk in the door, they are in for some big surprises. It would be hard to find a place in the Czech Republic where history and the present are intertwined so much as inside this extraordinary building. This science popularisation centre is also a haven for research and a year-round venue for events which educate nursery, elementary and secondary schoolchildren, families, and even seniors.

Since Fort Science was opened in 2015, hundreds of UP students have taken part in its operations. They not only gain experience, but also opportunities for self-realisation. Via the motivational project Fort Science Academy, they develop original content for the centre. They not only entertain and educate visitors at the interactive exhibits, but also run informal educational programmes for school groups, science clubs, the Children's University, summer camps, workshops, and science shows. They come up with new exhibits and write articles and scientific papers on future edu-

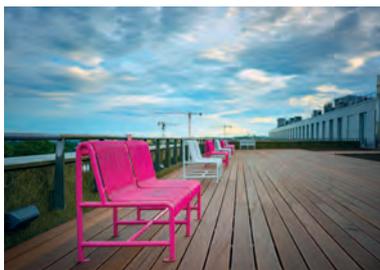
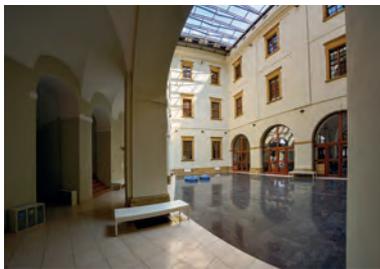
cational methods inspired by their work in the UP Faculty of Science's popularisation centre.

Activities are not aimed solely at schools and the youngest science fans. The successful Close Encounters of the Third Age project is an ideal opportunity for all those who in their most mature years do not want to give up on taking an active part in social life. Under the guidance of experienced teachers, they learn to train their memories, exercise, juggle, eat healthy, and generally think positive. Truly, "Age is no factor": this is the everyday motto of Fort Science.

There are four sections in the building, devoted to history, nature, mathematics, and physics. Young museum guides play the central role here, taking those interested through the colourful history of Olomouc, revealing the miracles of modern 3D printing, spinning brave visitors on a human gyroscope, taking them through a gigantic model of the human brain, and explaining the workings of our solar system. And Fort Science's popular digital planetarium is your launchpad for a trip through our boundless universe.



Palacký University: much more than studies



Get to know the university's monuments, gardens, and food scene

For 450 years, the university has been the heart of Olomouc, and thousands of students have been the lifeblood and pulse of the streets of the city, proud to be called a university town. The university has long been an attraction, and not just for students. Academia Film Olomouc, Olomouc Majáles May Student Celebrations, Long Night of the Sciences: these are the most famous events by which UP annually attracts visitors, a reminder to all that it is an institution open to the public.

But UP is able to captivate, delight, and educate visitors on any day of the week. The extensive Baroque complex of the former Jesuit Convictorium, now the UP Arts Centre, is sure to impress, both for its long, arched corridors inside, and the adjacent Town Bailey outside. Here you will also find one of the most High Baroque spaces in town, the Corpus Christi Chapel, which together with the Convictorium building is a national cultural monument.

The former Town Armoury is now filled with the artillery of knowledge, serving as

the university's Main Library and is open to the public, just a few steps away from the Archbishop's Palace. Accessing the Town Bailey via Křížkovského Street will reveal a garden oasis with park benches.

If you like scenic vistas, a panorama of historic Olomouc awaits you from the terrace of the Faculty of Science building in the Envelopa complex. Here, too, you will find a Foucault pendulum, proof that the Earth spins on its axis; in the outdoor geopark you will find interesting geologic samples; and you can gaze on street art murals which adorn the nearby dormitories.

Other sources of inspiration can be found inside the UPoint university shop and information centre, just a few steps away from the Olomouc Town Hall; or online at uni-trips.cz, which serves as a university signpost (not only) for tourist attractions.

And if you want to spend more time in Olomouc, take advantage of summer accommodation at unbeatable prices in the hotel portion of the university dormitories (skm.upol.cz/leto).

UNIT(R)IPS:

- » Corpus Christi Chapel
- » UP Arts Centre
- » Fort Science
- » Museum of Anatomy
- » UPoint
- » Foucault pendulum
- » Zoo Exhibition Corner
- » Town Bailey gardens
- » Botanical Garden
- » Geopark
- » Terrace with city panorama
- » Holice Park
- » Havel's Place
- » Street art at the dorms
- » FreshUP
- » Coffee Library
- » Konvikt Bistro&bar
- » Doga pub
- » Bistro B6
- » UP canteens
- » Accommodation at UP dormitories



university life



text: Tomáš Krejčířík
photos: Vojtěch Duda



UPoint: Information centre, shop, and community space, all in one

Right in the centre of Olomouc, on the Upper Square, there is a unique place where you can get a glimpse into the life of Palacký University. UPoint, located in the historic House of the Black Dog, is an architecturally modern space where useful materials about the university and the city are at hand, along with a wide range of university-themed items from diaries to water bottles, fashion collections, books, snacks, and drinks. “Even after eight years, this is a unique venue in the Czech academic environment,” adds Ondřej Martínek, head of the UP Marketing Office.

A meeting place

However, UPoint is not only a shop and information centre; it also serves as a community space for exhibitions, lectures, and workshops, and as a lively meeting place for students, alumni, Olomouc residents, and visitors to the city. They can buy stylish souvenirs of local origin – from brewers and honey producers to young designers and other creative types. Original collectibles are also available for sale.

“This is a unique branding tool as well as an effective means of reinforcing the internal communication and unified visual style of the university. After all, internal sales and the production of promotional items tailored to individual faculties and departments make up a significant part of the

shop’s turnover,” says Martínek, highlighting the role of UPoint.

Father of the Nation: forgotten words and a superhero

To mark the 450th anniversary of Olomouc’s university, UPoint is now offering a special collection of T-shirts, buttons, and canvas bags with forgotten words that UP’s modern patron, František Palacký, used in the 19th century to enrich the Czech language: turns of phrase like “spirit-igniter”, “mollycoddler”, “handsome-city”, and “winsome ideality” from his book *Aesthetics*. The collection was created in cooperation with his native village Hodslavice.

However, this is not the only novelty prepared for the jubilee. UPoint has also brought out special comic merch with superhero František Palacký, created by the artist Ticho762. The canvas bags and buttons will also be available at university and city events throughout the year.

In its eight years of existence, UPoint has sold hundreds of thousands of products, which have found their way to all parts of the world. It now offers over 150 items that students, staff, and alumni can purchase at a 10% discount. In addition, UPoint employs dozens of students every year, either as salespersons or as models promoting the new assortment.

UPoint was the first university shop of its kind in the country to offer unique university brand collections to students, alumni, staff, and other UP fans. This not only helps to boost awareness of the university, but local producers and alumni are also supported through the products they provide. Thus, UPoint is one of the first proofs of environmentally friendly and sustainable behaviour at Czech schools. The UPoint concept has inspired others in the academic environment.



8

faculties
of Palacký University
Olomouc

22,716

students in
accredited study
programmes

1

university institute
of Palacký University
Olomouc

31,000

Euros distributed by
the UP Endowment
Fund to support young
scientists

411

academic and scientific
employees with foreign
citizenship

4,099

Palacký University
employees

1,046

accredited
study
programmes

15,495

participants
in lifelong education
programmes

2,243

students
at the University
of Third Age

9

new full professors
named on the
recommendation of the
UP Scholarly Board

3,283

international
students from
99 countries

4,006

graduating
students

561,600

volumes in the
UP Library

4,797

beds in
UP dormitories

778,281

meals served in
UP canteens

1

university
in 2022



Palacký University
Olomouc

We are happy to **WELCOME** you in our **OFFICE**

International support and services

- Our Welcome Office is designed to provide all the support and information you need in one place.
- We're here to answer any questions you have – and provide guidance on a diverse range of services to support your well-being and help you succeed.
- If we can't resolve your enquiry immediately, we'll get you directly to the team or colleague who can.
- We can help you book appointments across different student support services.
- We are a team of young people ready to help you, so feel free to reach out to us anytime!



**Welcome
Office**

Palacký University Olomouc | Vodární 6 | 779 00 Olomouc | Czech Republic
+420 585 631 245 | welcome@upol.cz | www.upol.cz/welcome-office

© [up_welcome_office](#) Welcome Office Palacký University [up_welcome_office](#)





Palacký University
Olomouc

Genius loci...

Study in the Heart of Europe

Get the best out of what Palacký University has to offer

- Unique combination of prestigious education with long-standing traditions in a true university city
- Eight faculties with more than 800 accredited study programmes (Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral) in Czech and foreign languages
- Three Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programmes: Euroculture, Global Development Policy, and Copernicus Digital Earth
- Various study stays, traineeships and internships abroad with financial support to almost anywhere in the world
- Rich variety of short-term programmes (summer schools, tailor-made programmes) for visiting students
- Member of the Aurora European Universities Alliance

PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLOMOUC
admissions@upol.cz
international.upol.cz/en



Find more detailed information by choosing your programme here:
studijniprogramy.upol.cz/en

