

2/2016

alumni ABSOLVENTI  
VŠB-TUO



Magazine for  
graduates of vřb-tuo

## STUDIES AS A FAMILY TRADITION

### Intergenerational Meeting

The afternoon was enjoyed by both grandfathers and their granddaughters

### Hujers have shown their strength

Family tradition at the university

### TOP 5 and other reasons

Benefits of membership in the Alumni Network



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VIRTUALLY  
THROUGH  
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ALUMNI – care of graduates  
17 November 15/2172  
708 33 Ostrava-Poruba

Phone: +420 597 324 398  
Email: [alumni@vsb.cz](mailto:alumni@vsb.cz)  
Web: [alumni.vsb.cz](http://alumni.vsb.cz)

Editor in chief  
Lucie Rýcová<sup>109</sup>

Editorial staff  
Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>  
Karolína Ondrušková<sup>15</sup>  
Lucie Rýcová<sup>109</sup>

Language editing  
Lucie Návrátová

Graphic design and production:  
Ivana Kunová

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# Vice-Rector's editorial

Dear alumni, dear readers,

It would be a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to meet personally with you in greater numbers throughout the whole year, because I would be able to share much more with you. It is not that easy and therefore I am always feeling delighted to at least write you a few words in this way. This year it's already for the second time. More than ever I realize how time unmercifully cuts the metre. In May we launched the Alumni Card, which I wrote you about in the last issue. A few months passed and hundreds of you, including the new Governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region now carry the Alumni Card in their wallet.


Summer went by too quickly - most of you went on a well-deserved holiday, but our alumni team remained, despite the hot summer days, in full deployment. We were thinking, creating, elaborating on new ideas, summarizing them and working on the new campaign. First of all, we asked ourselves, why our alumni should want to enter and register for the Alumni Network? It's not just because of the Alumni Card, but also for numerous other reasons. And we need to let our yet-to-be-registered alumni know. And mostly, we need to move our alumni programme closer to you so that everyone can find their own niche in it.

We try to develop everything in several areas and it is important to objectively say that it is not an easy task. Some ideas need time to mature, others require a bit more time and some mean not failing in the effort. We must recharge

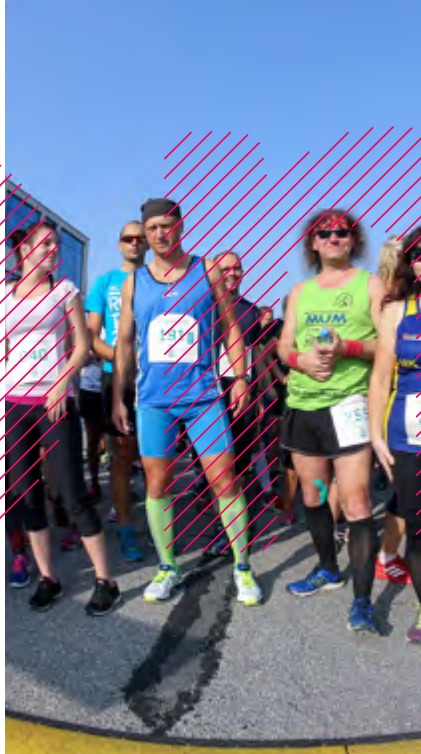
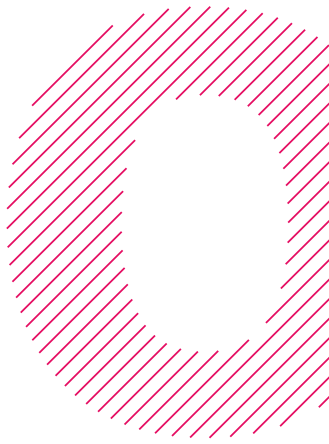
batteries, and surround ourselves with energy-filled creative people who are willing to overcome obstacles. I admire the entire team and their verve, with which they dive into new activities and these activities and events prove worthwhile. And that is yet another reason to register, isn't it?

The first Intergenerational Meeting held in June aimed to target another direction of support to graduates and future generations. The Career Week was intended to intensively support, test and develop your skills and opportunities to succeed in the labour market. We are preparing other social and professional gatherings, and currently are trying to provide you with the most accurate information to guide you so that as many of you as possible can get in touch with us and be in the picture about what we are. And you can help us with that. Write your former classmates, tell them about the Alumni Network in your graduate reunion, and pull your Alumni Card from your wallet to show them. You can also send them this link: <http://absolventivsb.cz/> which can help you share this information and become a guide together with us through the benefits arising from the fact that you are graduates of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava.

I wish you an enjoyable read, a lot of fun and a peaceful advent time.

  
Prof. Ing. Jaromír Gottvald, CSc.<sup>92</sup>  
Vice-Rector for International Relations  
and Social Affairs





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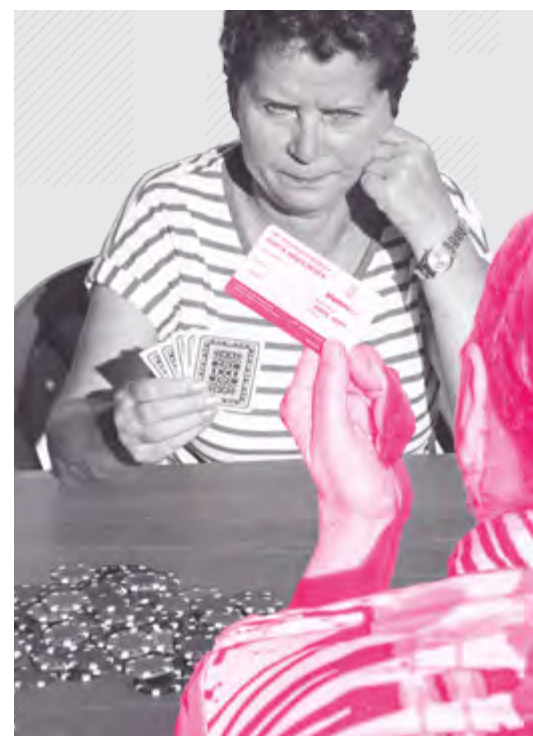
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# Study at VŠB-TUO as part of a family tradition

Going through endless lists of graduates, the names that you've read already start to repeat in different years.

The same family name repeats once, twice, five times ... Is it a coincidence? Is it just the extreme limitation of the „historical database“ of family names in the Czech Republic? Or are family relations to be blamed? You are connecting the dots. It's like a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces suddenly start to match and you find that there are strong links. Family clans, whose members can say that they are engineers from VŠB from several generations, do exist. And they are not just exceptional cases. At least one previous generation or other type of family tie is very common. We are a university where the father and his son or the grandfather and his granddaughter take turns at one desk; the classroom wall divides the sister from her brother and their cousin enrolls immediately after her high school graduation. Yes, we are a “family study” tradition type of university. That might come as a surprise. Then again, maybe it's your story. Perhaps you too can talk about the development and history of the uni-

versity from your family's generational perspective, whether you have the same memories of professors, places, tricky tests and examinations. Perhaps your family is part of the heartbeat of our alma mater.

Is study at VŠB part of your family tradition? Or do your children or grandchildren intend to establish this tradition? You can help them decide. Share with them the memories that your university has given to you and that you have given to your university. We pride ourselves on our graduates whose descendants carry on the family study tradition and the title of Engineer from the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. That is the best reference, maintaining our reputation, as well as a strong reflection of reality. We appreciate it and we will try to support, cherish and further develop the intergenerational study tradition.

TEXT: Lucie Rýcová<sup>09</sup>

PHOTO: Martin Grobař



# The „family study“ tradition was highlighted by our first intergenerational alumni meeting

This year, for the very first time, our current students and former graduates gathered at a meeting whose sole purpose was to introduce families whose study at the university has become a tradition passed down from generation to generation.

The weather in June was very kind to us and the participants reported leaving with the sense of having spent a very pleasant afternoon in the company of their families and alma mater. The atmosphere is always captured best by the visitors themselves, so let's look at the intergenerational meeting through the eyes of one of them, Mr. Petr Nedělník<sup>62</sup>.

„During the presentation we (me and my wife) received an intergenerational alumni meeting record book marked by the assigned insignia of a crocodile. In fact, it matched our age: after all, crocodiles have been around since the Great Species Extinction. We were given a chance to be tested from seven compulsory subjects, of which passing meant completion of a final state examination together with a bartending mixology examination in what I must admit were brilliantly authentic tests. My wife patiently assisted me and wisely stayed away from any big experiments.

At individual sites, thematically tailored to each faculty's focus, a certain number of credits could be earned by completing the assigned tasks, and duly recorded in the student's record book. The Faculty of Economics offered an economy quiz humorously exploring one's general



political and economic overview. I arrived at a sobering realization – I was only granted three credits. The Faculty of Safety Engineering had prepared a „reverse striptease“ – getting dressed in a complete fireman's suit, including boots, gloves and a helmet within a set time limit, which was two minutes. The sight of over-aged students jumping about in the sun in their socks was stunning. I was given 4 credits.

The Faculty of Electrical Engineer-

ing and Computer Science presented a course called „Cybernetics aka Digital World of the 21st Century,“ regardless of the fact that I was born in the first half of the twentieth century... and demonstrated the subject matter by assigning three tasks. I was asked to build an electrical circuit from parts that I saw for the first time in my life, as well as a crankshaft with a transmission reducing revs, all from a countless number of nice sprockets and shafts, and finally programming, where my task was





to make a figure on the computer screen perform some desired movements. Luckily, the examiners were incredibly nice and very helpful. Even to the point that I was only wisely approving of their actions. Then, they recorded some unreadable grade in my student's record book, which could easily mean zero as much as it might mean six.

The Faculty of Civil Engineering had prepared a box of identical wooden prisms (supposedly a special Jenga building set). They had to be laid on each other to achieve the greatest possible height before falling down. Gravity had no mercy on me, even on the fifth attempt, and I only managed to erect three prisms. I only started believing that more prisms could be stacked after seeing a woman who laid many on each other and they remained standing. What a great talent she had! I got 3 credits.

The Faculty of Mining and Geology, my alma mater, asked me to identify some minerals. It revived my long buried memories of a story that was told around the 1960s about a peculiar mineralogy test. Professor (I cannot recall his name anymore) supposedly offered a test credit for opening the window and shouting: "I'm an idiot – I want to be an engineer!" But later I was sometimes under the impression that this call should be heard with the frequency of the calls of muezzins. Without having had to call I was granted 5 credits.

The site of the Faculty of Metallurgy and

Materials Engineering (FMME) offered a class entitled Energy Processes in the Automotive Industry. In this class you were given an opportunity to get on a rather heavily loaded bicycle to verify how hard it is to generate power in contrast with its waste by riding 200 metres within a set time limit, with the speed signalling your position on the track. Or you could heat water when you sweated out more than what you warmed up. It earned me 4 credits and a sweaty T-shirt.

The booth right next door had a series of smart gadgets available. There, in a stream of hot air, coffee beans were roasted right in front of you in order to be subsequently ground, filtered, and given out free of charge. Near the coffee station, there was a tiny pump on a bottle of slivovitz, the same that used to be found on rural wells, which you could use to pump the miniature dose of slivovitz into the miniature water well bucket.

What I mistook for my childhood toy – a miniature steam engine, was actually a little distillery producing about three drops of cognac per hour. Another cost-saving measure utilized here was the popcorn roasting, which was so economical that it was provided for free. More energy could be burnt on the Segway, a hoverboard (which I saw for the first time), jumping stilts, unicycles and other objects freely allowing for an easy fracture of any limb.

My Waterloo was a test of machinery and equipment. Mechanical engineers

are reputedly gadgeteers meaning that I was given a Merkur building set (this is the only one which was also available in my childhood) with the task to build the plane as shown in the picture within the 21-minute limit. After this time limit, I managed to get 0 credits for the plane, which was at that point only missing a tail, and would certainly have been able to fly without it.

I made the biggest mistake when I drove to this meeting, not knowing about the fancy bartending courses. There was a trainer on stage; the bartender who'd just returned from Hong Kong and was patiently giving away his world knowledge to random laymen. The fancy lesson was typified not only by the quality of the teacher, but also in the financial support of the course. Approximately 8 stations, equipped with all the necessary tools and ingredients, provided course participants access to a special world of drinks. And we stood there, and learned while we were not allowed to taste! I solved this with minimal doses of these exquisite alcoholic drinks and suffered. My granddaughter Lucinka, who was secretly mixing alcohol-free drinks next to me, did not seem to suffer – alcohol is her enemy. I learned how to prepare the Hemingway Daiquiri and was dubbed his uncle thanks to my resemblance to him.

The whole event was surprisingly intimate. Approximately 150 people registered. The organizers also took into consideration the beautiful weather. Blankets were made available so that you could have a picnic on the lawn or take a ride around the university campus in a buggy drawn by a patient horse. According to the vice-rector of the VŠB-Technical University, it was the first event of this kind after the introduction of golden graduations and we were very satisfied. On such a hot day, it was the good-natured, beautiful, helpful, young people, who were also patient and generous when administering the humorous tests, who made it so refreshing. Is such a thing even possible today? It appears that it is – thanks to the organizers!"

TEXT: Petr Nedělník<sup>62</sup>, Lucie Rýcová<sup>09</sup>  
PHOTO: Pavel Petr Vráblík



# “Hujers” have shown their strength

## The generations of one family at the university as a symbol of tradition

*In the world it quite often happens that family clans have studied for centuries at one prestigious university, and gradually interconnect their family with another. And VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava can pride itself with such an example. They are known as “Hujers” (Editor’s note: Hujer is a fictional student character from a famous Czech comedy Marečku, podejte mi pero! Hujer has become the synonym of a man whose qualities or actions are similar to the film character. His essential trait is exaggerated ambition, and servility. Despite he is a good student, his actions and effort to be constantly “the best” provokes both his classmates and teachers*

*who do not like him much.) but in fact it is the family of Mr. Jaroslav Strnad and his daughter, Kateřina Holbeinová. Jaroslav started the entire family tradition and his two children followed in his tracks. His daughter Kateřina met her husband Roman at the university. Together they have three children. The oldest son Jan also graduated from VŠB. Find out more about their memories of their studies and why they chose VŠB for their alma mater in a special interview with three generations of this family.*

Your family has a long tradition of studying at the VŠB - Technical University

of Ostrava. Could you describe how it started and what field each of you studied?

**Jaroslav Strnad**<sup>65</sup>: I graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. But it was not easy for me to get admitted to the university, because my employee record was bad. The preparatory year course, which I took before admission to the university, helped. In order for them to accept me into this preparatory course, I had to take a month long holiday job either in a metallurgical or a mining company. It was manual work as an unskilled labourer in the mine, or in the ironworks. Together with twenty



fellow students, I worked in four shifts at the various plants of Spojené oceľárny n. p. Kladno (SONP Kladno). We resided in the apprentice boarding school and studied mathematics, physics and chemistry every Wednesday. After our preparatory year, during our freshmen year, we formed a great team together with excellent professors. As well, a big chapter of my student years was athletics. I participated in several Interuniversity Games in cross-country skiing, and represented the school in canoeing. I loved winter sports courses organized by the Department of Physical Education. In 1965, I graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and ten years later, I completed re-training at the Faculty of Mining and Geology. My studies at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava inspired not only my children, but also my younger brother Josef Strnad<sup>82</sup>. Josef completed his distant learning studies at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, since he had to commute to Ostrava from the town of Žamberk, where he worked in the Elitex n. p. factory. His son Tomáš<sup>95</sup> and his daughter Dana<sup>94</sup> followed the family tradition too and graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Mining and Geology.

**Roman Holbein<sup>88</sup>:** Just like my father-in-law, I studied at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, specifically focusing on structural engineering. My studies were significantly influenced by my athletic activities - I competed in skiing. At VŠB, my friends and I founded a windsurfing club, where I later met my wife. I was even elected the best sportsman of the university several times. In the fourth year I got married and after graduation started working at Báňské Strojírny where, however, I only stayed for a brief period. I started shooting videos and founded an advertising company. Although it seems that I have completely left my field of expertise, I make use of technical thinking in graphic arts.

**Kateřina Holbeinová<sup>91</sup>:** I graduated from the Faculty of Economics. In the second year I got married and by the end of the year our son Honza was born. Thanks to my parents, I managed to complete my studies without needing to interrupt them. When the time came for my final state examinations, I was expecting our second child. After my maternity leave, I started working for one Austrian firm as an economist and a deputy executive director of the enter-

„During our studies, our family members used to help each other.“



prise (my father worked as an executive director). I have never left the economic field and nowadays I work at the Employment Office as a trainer in different incentive and re-training courses.

**Jan Holbein<sup>12'15</sup>:** I graduated from an economic study branch entitled the Commercial Engineering of Raw Materials at the Faculty of Mining and Geology. In the fourth year I started attending lectures focused more on geology. It intrigued me so much that in my fifth year I enrolled in the follow-up studies in the field of Geology while applying for an Erasmus programme stay. I completed the final state examinations in the economic field and left for Freiberg, Germany where I enrolled in the first year at the local technical university. The study was quite difficult, but during that year I was hired by one company engaged in the planning of geothermal installations. I applied with the university management for changing the form of study to the combined form so that I could both study and work. They were quite enthusiastic and supportive and went out of their way to meet me in everything. After the expiration of the contract with the German company, I returned with my wife to the Czech Republic. At that time, I passed eight exams during two months, and continued my second-year studies. I currently work as a sales representative in one of the companies owned by Tatra.

People say that university days are the best time in life. What are your memories of them and what was the greatest

experience of that time that stuck with you?

**Jaroslav Strnad:** The course Elasticity and Strength has stuck with me as one of the most difficult subjects. I did not pass the test until the dean's term. As students, we could choose to assist our professors with carrying out their scientific projects. The position was called "pomvěda" (auxiliary science). I do not know whether it still exists today, but at that time it was a great opportunity for students to create a relationship with the university and also earn some money. I did auxiliary science at the Department of Energy, and took several measurements in power stations, which was always a great experience. I became fond of the department and we were enthusiastic about the issue.

**Roman Holbein:** What has stuck with me is also the course Elasticity and Strength, and then Thermomechanics in one of the winter semesters, from which numerous students were failing. I also managed to pass the test only when granted the dean's term in the summer semester.

**Kateřina Holbeinová:** You passed it in October, I know exactly, because after this examination we conceived Honza (laughs). When I look into my husband's record book, I know when Jan was conceived (laughs).

**Roman Holbein:** Yes, it's actually true (laughs). But back to the test. At the time, about twelve of us took the test - two of us did not pass a written section because of cribbing and after the test evaluation, we were all below the passing score. Still, our professor examined us, resulting in only two passes. I came home very happy and tired ... Well, and that's why Honza is so smart. I also remember the professor nicknamed Rubík since he used the Rubik's cube to explain everything. His course was very boring, but unfortunately it was compulsory. In fact, he took attendance at his lectures and it was simply impossible to leave. But we were savvy guys. We noticed that when reading the names he did not notice when someone left. So we sat in the first row, waiting for our name to be read, and then quietly left. Another issue was that he sometimes called us up during a lecture and, of course, once he tried to call me up but I wasn't there. Three days later I registered myself for the early bird examination term, came to take the test and he, of course, failed me.

**Kateřina Holbeinová:** I didn't have any experiences like that. More or less, I passed my tests without any problems. Perhaps Statistics was the only subject, which wedged in my mind. At that time I was just before giving birth, and when the professor saw me, he granted me grade three and avoided testing me. The graduation was an important moment for me, where my son Honzík was already present, and he kept grabbing my diploma during the ceremony and was whistling.

**Jan Holbein:** I had plenty of experiences and fun during my studies. But regarding the tests, the only one I had to move into the next year, was my Physics course. This was my last chance, which I unfortunately failed. So I had to wait until next year - meanwhile the professor who failed me retired and I sailed through the examination with another professor. What I mean by that is that the university is not just about learning everything by heart, but also about being able to come up with different solutions and cope with life.

Why did you choose to study at VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava? Did family tradition play any role in it?

**Jaroslav Strnad:** Actually I am the first one in our family who graduated from the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. To study at a university was something back then. The admission meant a lot to me.

**Kateřina Holbeinová:** Dad influenced my brother, who also graduated from the Faculty of Economics. I was

„To study at a university was something back then.“



also keen to continue with my studies in the economic field after leaving grammar school. I thought about going to university in Prague because of my former boyfriend. However, my father told me to try first in Ostrava and that I could easily switch later on if I wanted to. Moreover, before I started at the university, we used to go with my dad and other people from the university to do some exercise at Hladnov once a week and thus I already started growing fond of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. During the first year I met my true love and remained at VŠB.

**Roman Holbein:** At first, my steps were not directed to VŠB, but to Bratislava and its Faculty of Physical Education because I was competing in skiing. However, already during my studies at the grammar school, I became familiar with the university for which I competed. Then it became clear that I would stay here.

**Jan Holbein:** My path was also not originally leading me to the Technical University of Ostrava. I wanted to study at the Film Academy under the Tomas Bata University in Zlín. I got through the first round and talent tests, but the interview did not go well. If I appealed I would then be accepted, but I was a bit offended - my vanity got provoked. VŠB was the only other sensible choice for me, where I also started having a lot of fun. My mom helped me a lot with the selection of the field of study and I also wanted to pursue geology because of my grandfather, therefore I chose to study economics at the Faculty of Mining and Geology.

Each of you studied at different times... When looking back, how do you evaluate it now? Do you think that modern times make studies easier for the younger generation?

**Jaroslav Strnad:** Once, in my opinion, there was greater solidarity among the students. Not like in today's society where everyone is an individual player. Moreover, we have always had team leaders who were better than others, attended lectures more frequently than others, and if we got into trouble, they explained the schoolwork to us. The teachers were helpful and relations between teachers and students were warm in general. But, at the same time, we respected our teachers. The seminar works did not exist; we took written papers during our seminars.

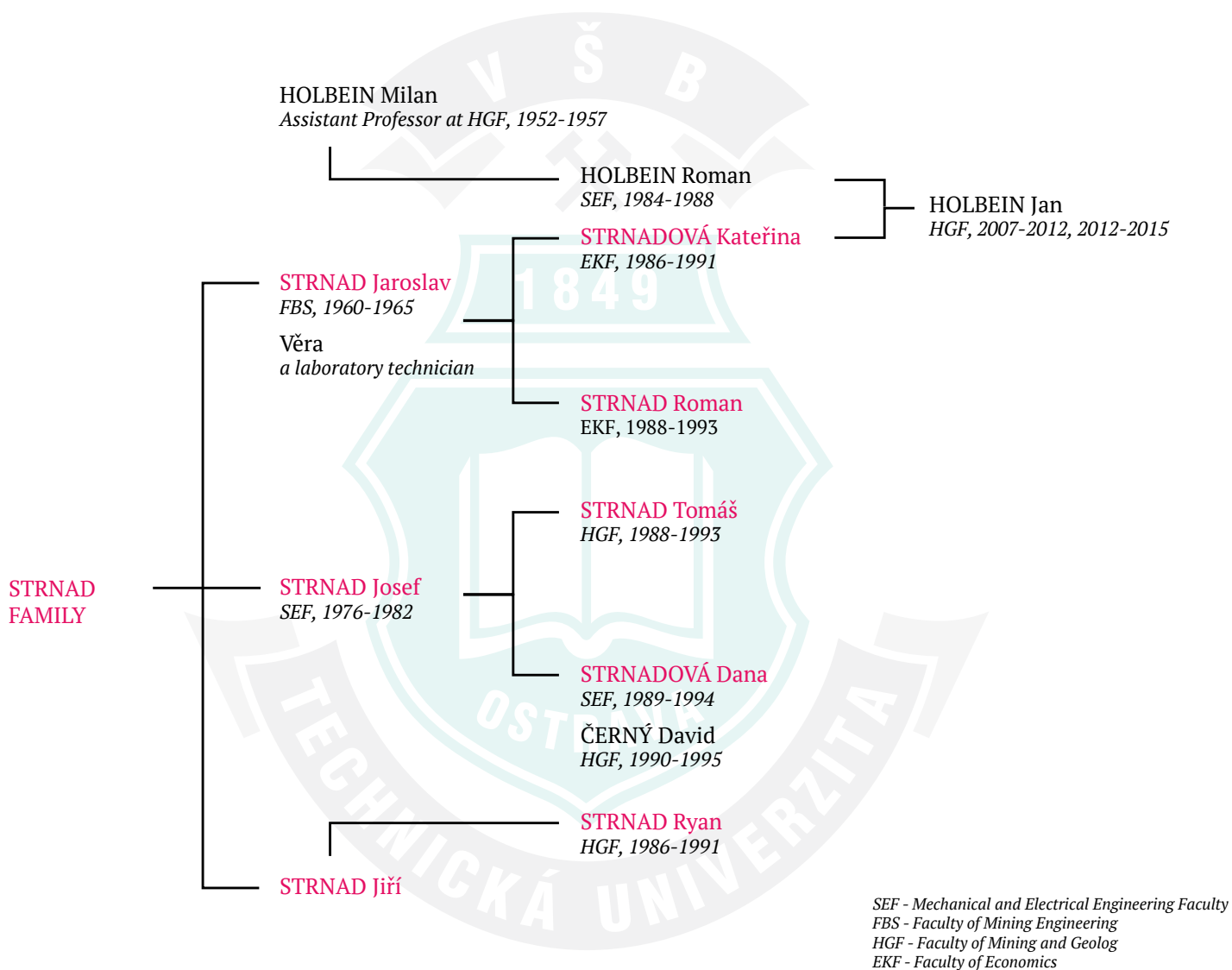
**Roman Holbein:** We communicated more intensely with each other. When we needed something, we went to the dormitories where we got to know everything we needed.

**Jan Holbein:** I think that even though advanced technology was already in use when I studied, my classmates were always willing to help. We formed a group before final state examinations and studied together. I had a more difficult time, since I was working in Germany, but I never came across the problem that my classmates would not provide me with materials.

**Kateřina Holbeinová:** When I listen now, I feel that it is actually still the same. The only difference is that people share information faster thanks to the new technologies. One finds friends when he/she wants to. But in my family, we were helping each other when studying.







**An author's window:** The interview with „Hujers“ was my first interview and I interviewed four people at once. I think that every editor must feel short-handed in such a situation. I lost this feeling after a few minutes though. All the stories were very amusing and all the interviewees were very nice. I wish Strnad and Holbein family all the best and firmly believe that even the younger generation is going to continue the tradition at our alma mater.

TEXT: Karolína Ondrušková<sup>15</sup>  
 PHOTO: Families archive, Lucie Nohlová<sup>15</sup>

# The Golden Graduation Ceremony

## The years of study were the best

*This autumn provided an opportunity for our graduates to meet again on the campus of VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. The Golden Graduation Ceremony for the 1966 graduates was held on September 23. On this day, Professor Petr Horyl's footprint on the Walk of Fame was also festively unveiled. Nearly ninety graduates of the Faculty of Mining Engineering, Faculty of Metallurgy and Faculty of Mining and Geology in their gowns were granted a commemorative diploma.*

*We asked our former students why they attended the graduation ceremony and what their memories of their student days were like.*

„We hold a reunion every five years, and although Ostrava is a little far for me because I am from Příbram, I am happy to see my fellow students again and talk about life - who got divorced and who re-married. I much look forward to being with my friends. Nearly twenty metallurgy experts from the same class shall reunite on this occasion.“

*Josef Dvořák*  
(Faculty of Metallurgy)

„I came here because I would like to see my friends and fellow students, since we slowly start going up there... (he points to the sky) Before we kick the bucket, I would be glad to see them. However, we regularly hold a reunion every two, three or five years.“

*Alexandr Valentin*  
(Faculty of Mining and Geology)

„Events like this have my full support. And I look forward to seeing friends; even after today's Golden Graduation Ceremony we plan for a reunion with my fellow students. There are approximately twenty-four of us, who are still

alive and who graduated in 1966. I well remember my student days, but today's ceremony - in a magnificent auditorium - is something completely different from what we once had when we were starting out - in the cinema and provisional classrooms. It was hectic, but it also had its charms.“

*Slavoj Tomeček*  
(Faculty of Mechanical Engineering)

„I received an invitation card and was very surprised that it's been fifty years. This time flew faster than my university studies. On this occasion I recalled how my schooling had started and that I walked to the first grade with a backpack left behind by the Germans. And, of course, I look forward very much to meeting my friends to share how life went.“

*Pavel Ranocha*  
(Faculty of Mining and Geology)

„I like the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava and even today I am in touch both with my classmates and the teach-

ers who taught me. Professor Petr Horyl, whose footprint shall be revealed today, is my classmate. I look forward to my friends, because today's Golden Graduation Ceremony is associated with a reunion after fifty years. I am very fond of memories about my study years, because it was the best time of my life.“

*Eduard Hájek*  
(Faculty of Mechanical Engineering)

„I came here today because this is the last gathering with my classmates. This year we had the last reunion where we agreed that we would meet only occasionally depending on our interest. Today is the last such opportunity where I can meet all of them together. I often recall my study years, and of course whenever I meet my classmates.“

*Jiří Nežerka*  
(Faculty of Metallurgy)

TEXT: Karolína Ondrušková<sup>15</sup>  
PHOTO: Archive of VŠB-TUO







## The third footprint belongs to Professor Horyl

The Friday's festivities following the Golden Graduation Ceremony continued by revealing a footprint on the Walk of Fame. This year's Laureate was Professor Petr Horyl, who became - after Karel Mazanec and Jan Světlík - the third graduate whose footprint has been uncovered in front of the university building.

In 1966, Professor Petr Horyl was awarded an engineering degree at the Faculty of Mining Engineering. During his studies, he specialized in metallurgical machinery. In 1986, he was appointed

an associate professor of technical mechanics and on November 1, 2002 was awarded the highest academic degree and became a full professor of applied mechanics. During his academic career, he served two terms as the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and still works as a senior lecturer at the Department of Applied Mechanics.

The ceremony started at 2 p.m. and was attended by honorary guests, colleagues and also the professor's classmates who, like Professor Horyl, were awarded their

engineering degree 50 years ago. Besides the Golden Graduation Ceremony the professor also received an award for his life's work in the form of bronze cast placed outside the main building of the university. In his honour, the Academic Choir sang a folk song Okolo Frýdku cestička (Path Around Frýdek) at the ceremony to point out the birthplace of our major graduate.

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TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>  
PHOTO: Petr Sznapka

# Jindřich Lát celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and received an award

## I have respect for the university and appreciate its results

*As part of the Golden Graduation Ceremony, we annually honour the experts who have been a great contribution to our university. This year's honorary award went to Prof. Jindřich Lát<sup>52</sup>, DrSc., who is a recognized expert in the underground mining of coal deposits. Despite the fact that the professor is ninety years old, he continues to actively cooperate with the Faculty of Mining and Geology in research tasks, delivers occasional lectures and publishes articles in professional journals.*

What are your more specific memories of your student days?

In general, I maintain the best memories about this time. The study was friendly and of high quality. We had excellent teachers – everyone who taught us was either a manager or a chief engineer of the mine. During my studies I was, inter alia, the president of a student club called Prokop, which was the association of VŠB Slavonic undergraduates. We had Bulgarians, Yugoslavians, Albanians and Slovaks, whom we took care of. The services, which are today ensured by the administration, we provided ourselves for foreign students. We helped them arrange scholarships, textbooks and study materials, plus meals in the canteen. One friend of mine, a study affairs officer, went to Brno, where he collected scholarships in his suitcase and in the student association office disbursed them directly to students in cash. We also, for example, published textbooks and study materials. The common practice was that we asked one of the teachers to provide us with the lectured material written by hand, and we then multiplied it on mimeograph (Editor's note: It is a ma-



chine for copying using a typewritten paper sheet template).

You seem to have been quite engaged and active. What was it like for you from the perspective of actually studying?

I had serious prerequisites to stay in the university; I was reputed to be a „good student.“ I managed, for example, as a student to put together a group of enthusiasts to design and assemble a drilling rig for drifts, which we installed in the mine. At that time, even deputies in the Parliament applauded me for that. Another instance was, before I even had my degree, I was sent by Professor Říman to Václavka (Editor's note: the colloquial for Václav Mine). They were in need of launching a new mine fan, but were afraid of the risks. I got there and found out that they would not even be able to turn it on it because it was oversized and the mine was too narrow. I showed up

there as a young college kid and thanks to my schooling in theoretical knowledge I managed to solve the problem.

Though you decided not to stay on at the university. Why not?

Although I received a job offer, I declined it since I had a family, and the applied sector offered three times more money, so I chose to go down this path. However, in thirty years of practice I wrote 150 internationally acclaimed publications. They even approached me from West Germany (Editor's note: At that time there was the Iron Curtain). One professor wanted me to write an article for their prestigious journal Glück Auf. Of course, unfortunately I couldn't do it because this would have caused big problems. Finally, we solved it by referring the professor to my publications, from which he drew, and he mentioned my name in references as a source.



What do you consider the greatest achievement in your career?

I have a large share in the resolution of the issue of coal and gas outbursts, for which I was awarded a state badge of honour. In that period - that is in 1960s and 1970s - the coal and gas bursts in the mine pit were an unpredictable phenomenon. No one knew why and where those actually arose. All research institutes from Europe, through Canada, from Japan to America were dealing with this issue. Everyone assumed that the substance that triggers the outbursts, was adsorbed gas, which is gas absorbed by coal substance. But I figured out that it was not adsorbed gas. It was free water gas, which is located in the geological area. But I did not arrive at this conclusion very easily. As a young engineer, I started to work at the Jan Šverma Mine, when the outburst came during which three miners died. The secretary general called me to his office and threatened: „One more outburst and I'll have you arrested!“ What was I supposed to do? Nobody knew anything about it. So I walked every day after work to the library and studied various books and articles, but found nothing. Fortunately, there were perfect records of all accidents since 1894. When I went over it, studying different accidents and assessing them, it all of a sudden came to me. „Sorptive ability of coal is 40 cubic meters of gas per ton and we have during outburst approximately 100 tons of coal and 50 times as much gas...so where does the gas come from?“ And it was the free gas and not the absorbed one. By deflecting free gas we managed to remove the hazard and there have been no outbursts since.

This year you received an honorary award for your multiple-year work for the university...How do you feel about it?

I appreciate it immensely, because the school represents an authority I respect. I am especially pleased because last year the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava was, according to international criteria, the best performing university in the Czech Republic, meaning that this is twice as valuable for me. I got to go to a school I appreciate and respect its results.

TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>

PHOTO: Petr Sznepka

# Invitation to the 1967-2017 Golden Graduation Ceremony

We cordially invite the 1967 graduates to the Golden Graduation Ceremony to be held on September 22, 2017 in the New Auditorium of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava in the neighbourhood of Poruba.

Recall your student years and come to see how the university has changed in 50 years. On this special occasion, meet with your former classmates and celebrate with us a beautiful golden anniversary.

The day before the graduation ceremony, on September 21, 2017, you will have an opportunity to take a campus tour and learn about many remarkable things. The schedule and other details will be specified soon.

We hope we'll meet with you in large numbers! Let us know if you are a graduate or have acquaintances, friends or family members who have completed their studies at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava in 1967. Please help us get the current contacts. Many of them are still missing.

Contact us at [alumni@vsb.cz](mailto:alumni@vsb.cz).

# What is happening

## VŠB-TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Professor Petr Noskievič<sup>82</sup> is going to lead the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. An experienced manager and an expert from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering took over the lead after Prof. Vondrák<sup>83</sup> who assumed the position of the Governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region.

Professor Ivo Vondrák was elected the Governor on Thursday, November 10 at the inaugural council of the Moravian-Silesian Region. Starting from November 11 of this year, he was thus subsequently released from the position of rector. „I have always said that following my possible success in regional elections, I would surrender and hand over the Rector's position, so as to ensure its quality execution,“ explains Vondrák. „I am against the accumulation of functions and salaries.“ His successor, designated to represent the rector, was appointed Prof. Petr Noskievič.



Prof. Noskievič is currently the Vice-Rector for Study Affairs. He has held this position for more than ten years and, among other accomplishments, contributed to acquisition of the Diploma Supplement Label for the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. This Diploma Supplement, which graduates receive, helps future employers to familiarize themselves with the study content, level and status of completed study programmes, and also contributes to fair academic and professional recognition of the employee's qualification. Prof. Noskievič is an expert in machine and process management, modelling, simulation and fluid drives. He is a member of scientific boards of several universities and a member of the Moravian-Silesian Regional Committee for Human Resources Development.

## THE STUDENT FORMULA TEAM REPRESENTED THE VŠB-TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA ABROAD

The VŠB Student Formula Team travelled to two European countries during the summer months and really scored highly in international competition. In Italy, Formula amazingly finished in the overall eleventh position in the category of formulas with internal combustion

engines. In Hungary, it finished - in the same category - only three positions lower. The team dominated especially in dynamic driving events, in which it consistently appeared in the top ten.

Such success of the Formula named Vector02 was not expected by any of the students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Nobody could ask for a better end to a successful year. The students are already, together with the project manager Aleš Slíva<sup>97</sup>, preparing for next year and are working hard to build another Formula, this time called Vector03.





# behind the gates of our university?

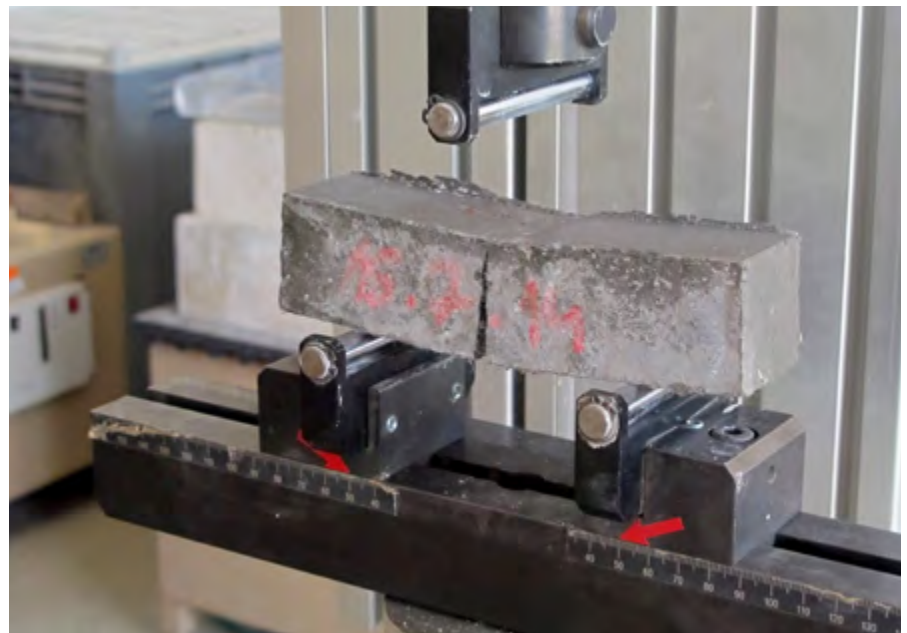
## CAN CONCRETE BE ELASTIC?

The experts from the Faculty of Civil Engineering would now answer: "Yes, it can." That's because in their laboratory, they literally „cook“ a modified basic building material, which is concrete. It often changes its shape and properties, which was used by the researchers led by Ing. Marek Jašek<sup>04</sup>, Ph.D., and with the help of a fiber-concrete composite they created flexible concrete.

The entire process is still at the testing stage, but already now the Faculty of Civil Engineering shows interesting findings. In the laboratory it looks a bit like in a kitchen, because the material is mixed with a stirring spoon in a large tub and other important ingredients such as crushed plastic bottles and/or other waste substances that have found a new use, are added to this.

## DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED TWO PATENTS

In spring, the team of optical engineers lecturing and conducting research under the Department of Telecommunications received their first patent. Specifically, it concerns the fiber optic interferometric sensor for monitoring traffic. Its principle is that it reacts to a light

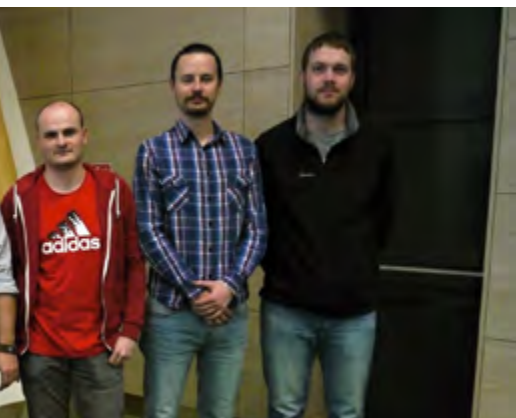


phase, which is influenced by various stimuli from the environment. The principle used is called an "interferometric" principle. Using various operations, it utilizes the information transmitted to measure the vibrations. The vibrations are used for the detection, classification and monitoring of traffic situations. The system is passive, which means that the measurement site does not require a power supply. Also, the sensor is not affected by the electromagnetic field.

A team of optical engineers managed to obtain their second patent during the summer break. This is a fiber optic and a touch sensor for securing the selected areas. In principle, the device works similarly to the aforementioned, however, its focus is on security technology. In other words, the team invented a new way to efficiently secure buildings and premises and to easily detect potential intruders.

## NANOTECHNOLOGIES HAVE A NEW PATENT

The most recent patents of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava include one from the Nanotechnology Centre. It focuses on the method of preparation of fibrous and lamellar microstructures and nanostructures using a controlled vacuum lyophilization of liquid dispersion of nanoparticles, which is based on the process of frost lyophilization. The technology consists in the controlled evaporation of water molecules from a very quickly frozen mixture of water and a suitable concentration of solid nanoparticles. Special settings of the concentration, temperature and low pressure above the sublimation ice surface helps achieve interaction between the nanoparticles so that they merge into planar structures (lamellae) similar to frog eggs on a pond surface.





Nanoparticles in these structures do not excessively mutually overlap and materials prepared using this technology are characterized by a high surface area of hundreds of square metres per gram. The noted properties provide a significant application potential, particularly in the field of the environment and people's protection. Toxic substances and pollutants are bound by adsorption to the surface of the material, where they can decompose to harmless components with the help of photocatalysis. New nanotechnology has already been recognized in China, Japan, USA and Russia. In the European Union, it is currently undergoing the final patent procedure.

#### MATHEMATICS WILL NO LONGER BE A MENACE FOR STUDENTS

VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava has a new solution for all students who are facing problems with mathematics. The solution is called the Math Support Centre. On Tuesday, October 11 at 11:00 a.m., the classroom F311 opened its door, which is an imaginary gate to the entertaining world of mathematics. The Math Support Centre is designed to help all university students, especially freshmen (students in their first year), because for them math might be the biggest menace. In an informal environment they get a chance to catch up with ABCs, bridge the gap in knowledge from their secondary school and achieve the standards required by the university.

#### THE UNIVERSITY RAN FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The charity run marketed as Technol-

ogy RUN to support the endowment fund Křídlení took place at the end of September. The first year of the race across the university campus and the adjacent forest park in Ostrava-Poruba recorded a great number of participants, including members of staff, students and alumni. The sporty afternoon was pleasantly accompanied by a supporting programme with an array of musical and puppet performances. A total of 174 participants took part in the main 5 and 10 km race. The race was not only organized for adults. We also prepared a race for the youngest runners from the university kindergarten. All proceeds from registration fees and other contributions from participants, amounting to 22,415 CZK, were donated to the Křídlení endowment fund. The raised funds should help implement education in cyber-



netic clubs for children with Asperger's syndrome.

#### SUMMER IN THE SPIRIT OF FESTIVALS

The summer months in the Ostrava region were lived in the spirit of festivals. VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava did not remain idle during the summer break, so you had an opportunity to meet with representatives of our alma mater in many of such events. Already at the end of June, we started the summer season with the biggest dance music festival in Central Europe called The Beats for Love. From dance we moved on to chemistry and visitors of the Slezská Ostrava Castle Chemistry Festival could see presentations by our chemists, physicists, astronomers and robotics technicians.

Early July brought Festival v ulicích (Festival In The Streets) to the city centre, where not only individual faculties, but also student organizations such as Sokolská 33, ESN VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava, 4student, Esport as well as our alumni network entitled ALUMNI made an appearance. On the second day of the festival, the students who went on exchange studies to universities abroad, presented their trips. VŠB enjoyed the opening night at the Meltingpot Festival, where we introduced interesting research processes on the Experience Stage. The highlight of the Ostrava festival season was without a doubt the Colours of Ostrava. Traditionally, our University has also participated, offering a relaxation zone within a SilentBox to visitors. In August, of course, the university did not miss an





opportunity to be part of the Rio Olympic Village that grew up in the city centre, and under it presented a variety of technical tricks and gadgets to the Olympic Park visitors under the theme "A přece se točí" ("Yet, it moves.")

### THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED STUDENT ORGANIZATION ESPORT HAS ORGANIZED TWO TOURNAMENTS

This year, at the turn of spring and summer, a new student organization Esport was established under VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. The association focuses on the phenomenon of computer games and the grouping of people who play them. It also seeks to eliminate the quite negative stereotypes about computer games.

A tournament of the Counter Strike GO! Game was the first one to be organized by Esport in October. The pilot event was attended by more than 80 people, which came as a very pleasant surprise to the organizers. „It was quite „punk,“ mainly because we did it for the first time, and did not expect so many people. A big thanks goes to all the participants for their patience,“ said the club founder, Jakub Čubík<sup>11</sup>. 14 teams attended the second tournament in the Dota 2 Game, which consisted of approximately 75 participants. Final matches in Dota took place as part of the University's Open

Day on November 10. Game fights were attended by 100 to 150 spectators and approximately 40 people watched the race online via twitch.tv. The tournament rating was very positive. „You're one of the best projects which came into being!“ said one participant. Another tournament will take place in December. This time it will be the League of Legends Game.

### THE FIRST CZECH IOT ENVIRON HACKATHON TOOK PLACE IN OSTRAVA

In September, VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava together with Vodafone, a mobile operator company, organized a non-competitive IoT Environ Hackathon. For those ignorant of foreign language vocabulary, a hackathon is a type of competition in which programmers, graphic designers and web designers are working intensively on a given software project. The theme, which competitors focused on, was to use the IoT to improve the environment. Ten teams had 24 hours to create a viable project supporting the technology and environment, and consequently had to defend it before a jury composed of competition partners. Throughout the day, all teams had some experienced mentors handy. They already presented themselves the day before in a thematic conference in the multifunctional auditorium Gong. The most successful team was eventually the students of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with their project entitled Monitoring and Forecasting of Air Quality to Enable Agile Responses. Congratulations!

TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>,  
Karolína Ondrušková<sup>15</sup>

PHOTO: Archive of VŠB-TUO

SOURCE: Press releases of VŠB-TUO





# Faculties

We sparked the interest of future students during the university-wide Open Day!

And what happened at the individual faculties in the last half a year?



# The Faculty of Mining and Geology has shown what's in it



**The Faculty of Mining and Geology (here in after FMG), the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava responded to a blood call in an excellent manner - 116 students of the university, its teachers and other employees on Tuesday, October 25 showed what they have in them - courage, bravery, ability to overcome fear and to help where it is needed. FMG registered 102 new donors to the Blood Centre run under the auspices of the University Hospital in Ostrava.**

The Faculty of Mining and Geology received a baton in the form of an imaginary blood bag in May from the Faculty of Economics, which was the first to take up the call. After 7 a.m., students and staff from both the FMG and from across the university already met in the Blood Centre of the University Hospital in Ostrava. First, everyone had to fill out a questionnaire, then got registered in the records of blood donors and then finally qualified for test blood drawing. Some went for the first time. Some were already experienced donors. Among the

students were some donors of blood plasma and a few courageous ones were interested in (and registered) into the Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

From the morning, the Blood Centre was filled with nervous students who went in for their first blood donations. „I was quite nervous and worried that I would pass out. After all, it was the first time for me, and one does not know exactly what the whole process is about. Fortunately, I had psychological support from my friends who joined me in donating blood,“ the student Eva Strnadlová shares her emotions. „Anyway, I wanted to do something good and meaningful and it worked out,“ she smiles. For her, the worst part was the time spent waiting around, but it was understandable because more than a hundred people showed up. „The actual blood drawing was not unpleasant or painful at all. I was pleasantly surprised by their professional approach; everyone was nice and helpful,“ concludes Eva. Dagmar Vranková, one of the study affairs officers at the Faculty of Mining and Geology

also came to donate blood. „It is not the first time for me to donate blood, I try to do it every three months,“ she says. The feeling that you've done a good thing is - according to her - priceless and young people should, if they can, participate in blood donation.

The rector, Prof. Ing. Ivo Vondrák<sup>83</sup>, CSc, came in the morning to the Blood Centre to support donors, who took over patronage of the whole event in May. The aim of the blood call is to create long-term and systematic cooperation with the Blood Centre under the University Hospital in Ostrava and to form the platform for a regular donation of blood and blood components. The blood bag now travelled from the Faculty of Mining and Geology to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, which is going to make a call to university students and staff for blood donations in February next year.

TEXT: Barbora Urbanovská<sup>16</sup>  
PHOTO: Archive of FMG

# FMME won the award for their „metal foam“

**In October this year, the Faculty of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering (hereinafter FMME) won the award from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) in the category of Economic Benefit. The award was accepted by Associate Professor Petr Lichý<sup>01</sup>, who with his team, invented and put together a project entitled „metal foam.“**

The team came up with the idea of how to cast lightweight air bubbled metal. This material is able to absorb large amounts of energy and should be used, for example, in car design in the so-called crumple zone of the bodywork. The use of this material increases safety. When crashing the car made of metal foam the impact shall not be so strong because the metal „folds“ into itself.

Metal foam, i.e. a lightweight metal with air bubbles, is also convenient for its

lower weight and low demands in terms of raw material. „Basically, we looked at two ways of production. One is the infiltration of the metal into a cavity mould, in which the filling material is inserted. It is called the precursor, or else, pre-mould. The liquid metal fills the free space around the material and after its hardening, and removal of filling material residues, we obtain a porous structure,“ an associate professor of the Department of Metallurgy and Foundry Petr Lichý explains the production process. Foam metals are a new type of low-density material with interesting physical and mechanical properties. They meet the demanding requirements of environmental protection, especially in terms of weight reduction and raw material consumption.

Metal foam seems in particular attractive for the automotive and aerospace industries. It is also suitable for military

purposes, where it can replace existing methods of armour-plating. The problem is their expensive production. For this reason, TA CR supported a joint project of the VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava and Slévárny a modelárny Nové Ransko, s r.o. (the Foundry and Pattern Shops Nové Ransko), which aimed to develop an economically viable production method. „The aim of the project is to study the properties of foamed metals and the methods of obtaining them, using a simple and less expensive method. It is a very progressive scientific discipline and research, whose results several of the world-leading manufacturers are interested in,“ said Petr Očko, the Chairman of TA CR and added that similar research has not been carried out in the Czech Republic before.

TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>  
PHOTO: Archive of FMME







## The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering has a King of the Summer School

**In August, the second-year student of the follow-up study programme at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (hereinafter FME) Jiří Palička<sup>15</sup> became a king of the summer school in the Dukovany nuclear power plant. He succeeded in the contest against 30 other students of technical fields at universities in the Czech Republic.**

Participation in the internship required initial registration, which was one of the simpler steps of the actual success. A screening stage followed in the next round, where candidates had to undergo psychological tests at the nuclear power plant, which took 3-4 hours. „The candidates were tested in prepared tasks such as the drawing of a tree, arranging and completing various shapes, finding word pairs, and an attention assessment test on a PC. All this was intensified by a personal interview with a corporate psychologist,“ Jiří Palička completed the testing. In the big competition he was finally amongst 30 lucky ones who, after several months of waiting, received a positive decision.

In the first half of September, five female students and twenty-five male students started a two-week internship in the nuclear power plant Dukovany. During that period they got to know the power station from both a theoretical and practical aspect. This is confirmed by Palička too: „We visited a lot of places that were interesting from a professional standpoint. These included the training centre in Brno, engine room, cooling towers, diesel generating stations, block control room, including emergency control room, simulator control room, bomb shelter, storage of spent fuel, radioactive waste disposal site and many others. He considers the visit of the primary circuit of the reactor hall to be the most interesting thing: „We had to undergo precise security measures. Apart from our own underwear we were left with nothing. Then it was necessary to change into yellow jumpsuits, including helmets and socks. Everybody received their own dosimeter, which was registered using their own identification card and any changes to the dosimeter were recorded in the system.“

On the last day, the participants were given the opportunity to capitalize on the knowledge acquired within the two-week vocational programme that the organizers had put together for them. The final test consisted of 25 randomly selected questions and the number of errors was a main criterion to select the winner. In the case of the same number of errors, the weight was attributed to the speed in which the test was completed.” Only two students were able to complete the task to 100% and one of them was Jiří Palička. „Whether it was good luck or coincidence, I was a bit faster,“ the student of the field of Energy Machinery and Equipment under FME, who managed to succeed amongst schools from Brno, Prague, Bratislava and Liberec, comments on his victory.

TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>  
PHOTO: Jiří Palička's<sup>15</sup> archive

# Chinese students have graduated from the Faculty of Economics

Since the 2011/2012 academic year the Faculty of Economics (hereinafter FE) has been providing a Bachelor's degree programme in English in the field of Finance for Chinese students. Chinese students from the Hubei University of Technology in Wuhan (HUT in Wuhan) study this study branch at the Faculty of Economics under the so-called double-degree programme. This programme allows students to obtain a diploma and a degree in both the Wuhan University and the Faculty of Economics.

The first two years of the Bachelor's programme are carried out at the university in Wuhan, the last year at the Faculty of Economics. The Chinese students complete their studies with a state Bachelor's examination and a defence of their thesis. Most of the graduates continue in the Master's degree programme in the study branch, which is being implemented by the Faculty of Economics.

In June, the Faculty of Economics organized a graduation ceremony for the Chinese students, who in the 2015/2016

academic year successfully completed their Bachelor's and Follow-up Master's degree in Finance under this faculty. In the 2015/2016 academic year, a total of 23 students successfully completed the Bachelor's degree; 2 of them with passed honours. A total of 11 students successfully completed the Follow-up Master's degree. What is also positive is the fact that the Master's degree graduates are interested in continuing their doctoral studies. This year, two Chinese students were admitted for this type of degree. „This course of study has brought me many friends, great experiences and a social conscience. Our teachers' English was good and I had more fun studying at the Faculty of Economics than in my home university. I was given an opportunity to gain more practical experience. We prepared presentations and conducted research and there was a greater interaction within the group. The Czech Republic was not my only option, but in the end it was one of my best decisions. I really like Ostrava and enjoyed my studies here,“ evaluated the Chinese student Liu Jingyi regarding her experience in the Ostrava Faculty of Economics.

Since the 2011/2012 academic year, when the tuition in a double-degree programme prepared together with HUT in Wuhan was launched, a total of 89 Chinese students successfully completed their undergraduate studies. The Follow-up Master's programme, which was launched in the 2012/2013 academic year, was successfully completed by a total of 36 Chinese students. It has turned out that this project of the Faculty of Economics in the internationalization of study has been successful and is being further developed and deepened. It is also evidenced by the growing interest of Chinese students, since in the 2016/2017 academic year 23 students started their studies in the field of Finance at the Bachelor's level and another 20 Chinese students were admitted to the first year in the Follow-up Master's degree programme.

TEXT: prof. Dr. Ing. Dana Dluhošová<sup>82</sup>  
PHOTO: Archive of FE







# Silver anniversary of Telecommunications at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering

**In the coming year, the Department of Telecommunications can expect a very significant event – it will celebrate the 25-year anniversary of its foundation as part of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava.**

The actual beginning of Telecommunications is associated with January 1, when the then management of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering (1991-1993) decided to split the Department of Electronics and Electrical Drives into two separate departments, the Department of Power Electronics and Electrical Drives and the Department of Electronics.

And it was the Department of Electronics led by Prof. Ing. Jiří Litschmann that laid the foundation stone for telecom-

munication technology at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. The subsequent dynamic development of telecommunications, the emergence of new telecommunication companies in the region and the lack of qualified university-educated professionals, has resulted in 1996 with the establishment of the Department of Telecommunications led by Prof. Ing. Zdeněk Diviš, CSc. as a result of the transformation of the original Department of Electronics.

The past 25 years of telecommunications technology, not only in the Czech Republic but also across the world, could be characterized by highly progressive development, since virtually every one of us remembers robust „mobile phones“ and a dial-up connection to the Internet at “blazing” transfer speed.

We stand on the threshold of the 21st century, which is not and will not be more indulgent for the field of telecommunications. All modern 21st century technology such as Smart City, Internet of Things, Industry 4.0 and others put the emphasis on communication systems. For the Department of Telecommunications it will continue to be very important to follow all the trends in the industry so that we can - in the coming period - fall into the category of a highly specialized workplace both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

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TEXT: Assoc. Prof. Ing. Miroslav Vozňák, Ph.D.

PHOTO: Archive of the Department of Telecommunications

# 20 years of the Faculty of Civil Engineering

**Although the Faculty of Civil Engineering is one of the youngest faculties of the VŠB-Technical University, in 2017 it is going to celebrate its twentieth birthday. Construction disciplines have been taught at the university for decades, but it was not until 1997 that an independent faculty with the first dean, Prof. Ing. Jindřich Cigánek, CSc., was formed.**

A number of prominent leading figures who contributed to the establishment and formation of the Faculty of Civil Engineering are, unfortunately, no longer alive and therefore were missing at this anniversary. Many of them came from other universities, the Czech Academy of Sciences, as well as from different construction companies, all significantly contributing to the formation of the faculty's current form. The group is represented by the following names: Prof. Ing. Jiří Bradáč, CSc. (the field of reinforced concrete structures), Prof. Ing. Vladimír Tomica, CSc. and Assoc. Prof. Ing. Miloš Rieger, Ph.D. (the field of steel structures), Prof. Ing. Otakar Hasík, DrSc. (the field of water en-

gineering), Prof. Ing. Jan Jan Šoch, CSc. (the field of building equipment technology), Prof. Ing. Jiří Horký, CSc. (the field of geotechnical engineering). Assoc. Prof. Ing. Jaroslav Broul, CSc. who was involved in the development of the faculty both as a vice-dean and as an expert in the area of highway construction. Assoc. Prof. Ing. arch. Josef Šamánek, CSc. was another unforgettable figure in the faculty. Despite his advanced age, this architect was engaged not only in the education of students, but also in many other professional and social activities. He was a tireless promoter of cooperation of the faculty and the Czech Union of Civil Engineers.

The faculty nowadays is different in many aspects from the one its first students were familiar with. Several new buildings were constructed. In addition to quality lecture rooms, a laboratory hall and a number of smaller laboratories are now available to students. The educational offer was gradually extended to all fields of civil engineering. Teaching in the field of architecture also has a ten-year tradition now.

The faculty is going to celebrate its birthday with a ceremonial Scientific Board meeting held on January 18, 2017 at the VŠB Auditorium. The celebrations will also include an exhibition opening on the history and present life of the faculty and cultural events that will take place in the Lower Vítkovice Area. It certainly won't just be a commemorative meeting – the faculty has trained a number of successful professionals who work not only at universities, the Academy of Sciences, and in public administration, but also in industry in the Czech Republic and abroad (they design structures, for example, in the UK or build bridges in Indonesia). Their experience and suggestions will undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the further development of the faculty.

TEXT: Assoc. Prof. Ing. Jiří Brožovský, Ph.D.

PHOTO: Archive of Faculty of Civil Engineering



1996



2016





## September Days at the Faculty of Safety Engineering was in the spirit of practical activities and fun

**The Faculty of Safety Engineering (hereinafter FSE) offers to its students the opportunity to “touch” real practice, and among other things, this year it also opened its door to the general public during an event called Ostrava Researchers’ Night 2016.**

In the first half of September, specifically during September 12-14, in cooperation with FSE and the Rescue Department of the Czech Republic Fire Rescue Brigade, the practical training for the third-year students in the field of study Emergency Planning and Crisis Management was carried out in the Libava military area. The training was focused on emergency survival with themes such as the setting up of a tent for humanitarian aid, hygiene, topography, radio communication, work on water construction of a baffle (and its application in a water tank) and field-work (people search). Students tested their knowledge, mental and physical abilities under the guidance of profes-

sionals. The training sometimes also tested their personality profile; they had a chance to realize that they need to „play as a team.“ Exposure to the universal stress situation corresponds with their possible involvement in solving large-scale emergencies and crises. Due to the universally positive reactions, the practical training in the form of field training shall be organized regularly in the following years.

At the end of September, FSE took part in the Ostrava Researchers’ Night 2016 with the motto „SAFETY“. The event was attended by 386 visitors of all ages from children to seniors, for whom a very diverse programme was prepared. Visitors could see a demonstration of XVR simulation software during emergencies such as floods, fires and air pollution. They tried to hunt down „asphalt pigeons“ at the laser shooting range. They learned how to prepare people for work in emergency committees. In the outdoor atrium, they could observe a practical demonstration of

what can be done with fire so that it becomes a good servant (and not a bad master).

Furthermore, unusual laboratory material testing especially geared to involve children was held in classrooms. In the labs, a commented demonstration entitled „Can flour or sugar explode? Yes, they can...for example when cooking!!!“ took place.

Using precise laboratory instruments, some of the candidates were given a chance to measure their body’s parameters, respectively to determine how many particles (even nanoparticles) we routinely inhale and what is contained in drinking water. The event was completed by truly spectacular fireworks, which were accompanied by music.

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TEXT: Zuzana Mihulová<sup>13</sup>,  
Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>  
PHOTO: Archive of FSE



## The budding generation at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava?

There is a gap of one generation between the Pavel and Radim Dittrich Brothers. Despite the fact that both decided to study at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava.

*They both graduated with a period of more than ten years between them at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, however, their memories of the study and other experiences are quite similar. The younger brother, Radim, has even decided to continue with doctoral studies at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava and has also created numerous marketing campaigns for the university. One of the latest campaigns is the one for Alumni Network. Who was an influence for whom in choosing the university and how does one switch from mechanical engineering to marketing? All this is explained in the following interview.*

Why did you choose the VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava for your study?

**Pavel<sup>99</sup>:** Since I studied at the Secondary School of Mechanical Engineering in Opava, to continue on in mechanical engineering was an obvious choice for me. Also, Ostrava won because of its proximity to Opava. Moreover, I had a lot of friends who have already been successfully admitted to the university and recommended it to me. Another reason was that the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava had a very strong and successful orienteering club, for which I later raced.

**Radim<sup>14</sup>:** Since I do not like traveling, I did not think of any other school. I knew that the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava was a good school because my brother, after his graduation from it, has been successful and obtained a good job. The only option, to to which I gave a little thought, was the Brno University of Technology. When comparing it with the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava, however, I did not find any major difference or reason to go to Brno.

How do you recall your student years?

**Pavel:** I only remember the good



stuff from my student years. They were definitely years spent in an interesting way and I could describe a lot of experiences, for better or worse, both the study ones and those related to sports. The first year at the VŠB was definitely harsh, not only because of exams (math, physics), but also because it constituted such a different type of study from secondary school. On the other hand, I made new friends. By doing orienteering for the university club, I have had a lot of experiences and fun related to trainings, sports camps and races and it is great that we continue to meet in races.

**Radim:** My memories are absolutely terrific; otherwise I would not follow up with doctoral studies. The first and the second year of study are really challenging and I kept pushing my subjects to other semesters like a ball and chain before I realized that I just had to learn them. But I was lucky to meet good professors and fellow students, who motivated me. I then became a member of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Now I cannot even imagine that I would go to work after my secondary school graduation. I recommend studying at the university to everyone.

Pavel, how did you, as Radim's older brother, motivate him to choose to study at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava?

**Pavel:** This question should be directed to my brother rather than to me, but he also studied at the Secondary School of Mechanical Engineering, meaning that it was probably the easiest choice, similar to mine.

**Radim:** I saw my brother as my role

model. And of course he provoked me a little to be better than him. Father is also a technician; therefore, mechanical engineering has become a family tradition in my family.

Radim, besides your activities at the university you also have your own marketing business. How did you progress from mechanical engineering to such a different industry?

**Radim:** I always liked filming different commercial spots. In 2007 my friend and I recorded a „vlog“ for the first time (Editor's note: video blog, which uses, instead of text and photos, a video format). As I say, we were one of the first YouTubers, who worked hard but never released our work (laughs). In the Academic Senate we were often trying to come up with ways to help the faculty attract more students. Additionally, my friend was enthusiastic about graphics and software. Something broke in me at that time. We started to shoot

a series of videos for the faculty entitled „Mechanical Engineering Is Not A Horror.“ The quality wasn't great, but people liked it and with this project I put one foot into creativity. But I do not regret at all what I'm studying, because although it does not seem so, these two areas are connected. Additionally, I am shooting videos not only for the faculty but also for different engineering companies; it's nice that I understand this issue due to the school.

In what other university campaigns were you involved, except the one for the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering?

**Radim:** We also designed a campaign for the Faculty of Mining and Geology entitled „There's Depth in the Future.“ We won the silver Nutcracker award for that, „I had a role model in my brother, who is actually the Český lev (Czech Lion) (Editor's note: the Czech film academy award) in creativity. At a meeting about the prizes we

„I saw  
my brother  
as my  
role model.“



„I only remember the good stuff from my student years.“



met with representatives of the largest creative companies where I learnt that they were mostly mechanical engineers, chemists or civil engineers, which just assured me that I am on the right path (laughs). This year, I created a campaign for Alumni and for several years now we've been shooting videos of Majáles (The May Parade).

Since we're talking about Alumni Magazine please describe to us what this campaign was like.

**Radim:** We shot three short videos, which presented three of the greatest benefits that registration in the Alumni Network brings with it. We've also created a new website, which describes the individual benefits. The aim was to raise awareness of the Alumni Network. We

focused on graduates aged 25-40 years and the best way to communicate with them through social media networks. In the end, we found that we managed to also address people outside our suggested target group, which really surprised me.

Can you give more insight into the listed benefits of membership in the Alumni Network?

**Radim:** The biggest benefit is that one can remain in touch with the university. I personally cannot imagine that after all I went through at the university, I would close the door to this chapter of my life. On the contrary, I want to know what is happening at the university and want to keep meeting with my friends. We often lose contact with some of our fellow students and provided that they have now registered into the Alumni Network, we can retrieve the contact. Finally, every alumnus has an opportunity to attempt a trial job interview, write a CV and many other services provided by the Career Centre. Furthermore, I must also add that before creating the campaign I had no idea how such an alumni network works. I conducted research of how the network operates in the U.S. universities and found out that the local graduates support the university both on a material and mental level. If the alumni, for instance, encounter some problem in their work, their first journey is to their alma mater, where students and teachers can help them solve the problem through their research. So, in my opinion, this is the way it should work in the Czech Republic too. However, the campaign is still ongoing and I consider it to be a success.



**Ing. Pavel Dittrich** graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in 1999. During his studies, he was a very active athlete (representing VŠB in orienteering), and for this reason had to split the last year into two years. He currently lives in Zlín and works in the field as a design engineer of tire moulds. His younger brother, **Ing. Radim Dittrich**, is enrolled in the doctoral degree programme Construction of Mining and Earthwork Machinery at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. In the past he was a member of the Academic Senate Faculty of Engineering and his video production company ActionPlease was involved in numerous promotional university campaigns. One of them is the campaign for the graduate network called Alumni.

TEXT: Karolína Ondrušková<sup>15</sup>  
PHOTO: Brothers' archive





# Alumni Campaign



**Don't miss it!**

...and register for our Alumni Network while there's still time

# While toying with hyperbole - We've launched a guide through the benefits of joining the Alumni Network

This September we launched our new campaign, which includes a set of three videos, but also a campaign website where our 5 TOP benefits are emphasized. Why does it pay to follow us, to be a member of the Alumni Network and to obtain benefits after your graduation?





Let's look at what the campaign entails and what we're doing for you with love.



YOU ARE ALWAYS IN THE PICTURE WITH US

Are you wondering what's new at your alma mater? There is nothing easier than to follow our feeds and this way you will be sure not to miss anything. Register for our Alumni Network and receive (4x a year) our newsletter that will be delivered straight to your inbox. Receive our Alumni Magazine twice a year and read about alumni who are changing the world, the region, or their particular field of study. You shall no longer miss out on the hottest news from the university, newly acquired patents, cultural events on the campus, or awards that our students and teachers managed to receive. And if you care about the faculty, even they have been given room in our magazine and appreciate the chance to show off what they've managed to accomplish in the last six months.


 Our promotional video, which was tied to this „Alumni“ benefit, made use of hyperbole. The authors from ActionPlease incorporated an attempt at bank robbery as a motif. Eventually, the robbery does not happen, because the lady behind the counter recognizes the robbers before they have the chance to commit it. They'd studied together at the university, but after the state examinations they'd lost contact.


 ◀ VIDEO  
„What are your former classmates up to? Find out about it under better circumstances.“



WE HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT ONE

Perhaps during your studies you found your true love. Now we will help you after the graduation... to find the right job! For this purpose, we offer the services of the Career Centre, which can prepare you even for the toughest interview. At the same time, we can help you with self-presentation, analyze your personality, and - by focusing on the results of the personality and career tests - reveal your strengths and weaknesses. We collaborate with experts from the application sector who will share their knowledge and experience. We are preparing different interesting workshops, lectures, and everything you ever wished for. However, we not only focus on you becoming good employees. We also offer many courses and consultations that are beneficial for those of you who want to go their own way.

 The creators of the video adapted it to look like an interrogation in a dark cellar. They were trying to obtain information from a university graduate. Thanks to good preparation, which was provided to the “detainee” by our Career Centre, he did not, however, break and reveal anything during their interrogation.

 ◀ VIDEO  
„Who's prepared, is not surprised. We will get you ready for even the toughest interview of your life.“





WE REVIVE OLD CONTACTS

Do you miss your university? Or some of your classmates? Did you lose contact with them after graduation? Plan your class reunion and we will make sure that as many classmates as possible find out about it. Find out how your old friends are doing, whether they managed to land a job in their field of study or else took a completely different career path. And if you want to invite some teacher to your event, please contact us as well.



*The third video spot takes us to the country where plenty of gossip fills the air. The authors humorously portray the daily discussions of two female neighbours about the achievements of their children, and classmates from the campus ... They simply rely on the good old grapevine. But this method collects its dues in the video, when one neighbour misses the news about when the reunion is going to occur.*



← VIDEO

*„Do not rely on gossip! Get first-hand information.“*

WE HOLD ALL THE ACES ON A SINGLE CARD

Our Alumni Card opens your door to various discounts and benefits. Thanks to us, you can be online in all places with an Eduroam wi-fi network, borrow technical books from our university library, take advantage of a wide range of sports courses, get a discount to the planetarium, or stay at the Hotel Garni for a discounted price.

If you would like to further educate yourself, there are discounts on short-term trainings and retraining courses in IT, graphics or video production. With the Alumni Card the study at the University of the Third Age or the HR Academy courses taught by experienced managers of regional and global companies are more convenient. The card can also be redeemed for the sporting and relaxation activities, Janáček Philharmonic concerts, theatre visits and many other services.

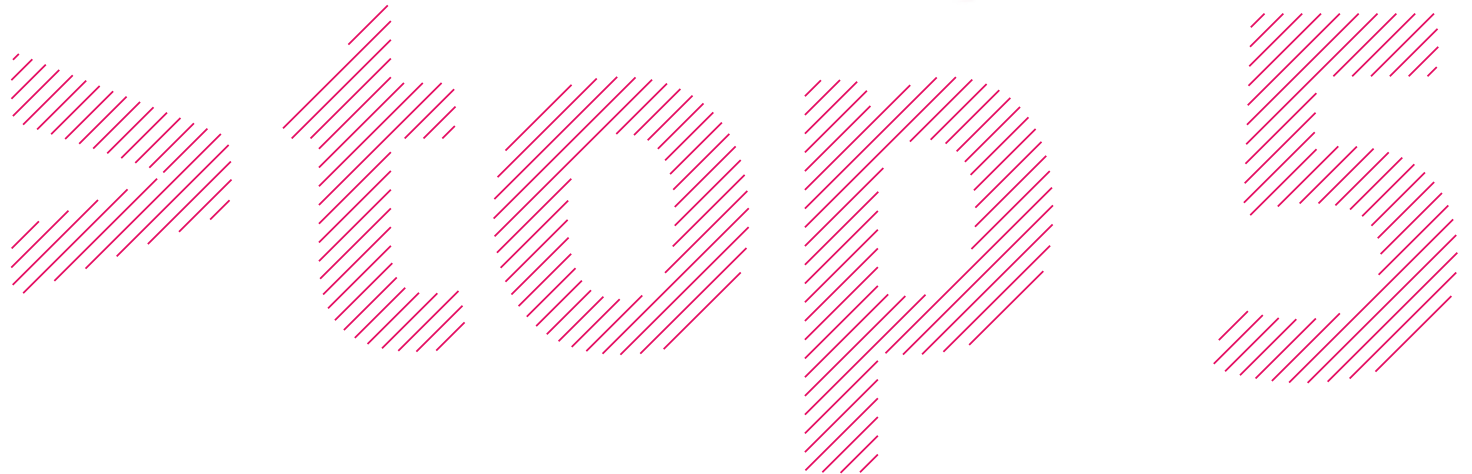
Among other things, you can take advantage of more than seven hundred discounts under the ALIVE programme license. Ask for a discount, from certain carriers, for cultural events and relaxation treatments. Do not hesitate to gain access to alumni benefits that we continue to expand!





## WE ARE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH

Join the Alumni programme and strengthen your bond with the university. And not just with it. Return to your alma mater and together with your former classmates recall old times at the regular university alumni reunions. After all those years, come and check out the places where you used to spend your days. Do not miss even one of the meetings that are prepared for you, enjoy a cultural experience, and meet with those with whom you have spent your student years in the university. You will not regret it!



Campaigns are used as a tool to broaden a user base and such is the case with the Alumni campaign of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. It seeks to increase the number of graduates registered in the network. „The aim of the campaign was to promote awareness of the alumni network and especially to highlight the essential benefits of membership. In particular, we wanted to draw the Alumni network closer to the younger generation of graduates who are more active on social media sites. In addition, fresh graduates do not yet feel such a strong need for contact with the university and tend to postpone registration for up to a period of several years after graduation. We wanted to change this,“ states Lucie Rýcová<sup>09</sup>, the Head of the Department of Care for Graduates, when providing reasons for the campaign.

In addition to the aforementioned TOP 5 we are working intensely every day to build a good relationship with you, the graduates. We are preparing various competitions and events for you; a couple of the latest examples include the Intergenerational Meeting or the Golden Graduation Ceremony. And it can be said that we are reaping the fruit for it now. „The Alumni Network base has been undergoing dynamic development and currently we have been succeeding in its expansion - also thanks to this campaign - at a relatively fast pace. This year alone, more than 1,000 graduates joined us, and this is an excellent result. I hope that we will be able to continue at this pace and will be able to further expand cooperation and mutual benefits,“ says Lucie Rýcová, praising the functionality of the Alumni Network.

TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>

PHOTO: ActionPlease Archive

# From your **gatherings...**



*HUF Alumni Reunion after 50 years, May 2016*



*VŠB-Technical University Alumni from the Vietnam Reunion, September 2016*



*1986 Distance Learning Study Alumni Reunion from the Faculty of Economics, October 2016*



*Meeting of the study field of National Economy, the Faculty of Economics, 2001, September 2016*



*Meeting of the golden VŠB graduates of the year 1966, September 2016*



*Visit of the Chairman of the VŠB-Technical University Alumni Association from Vietnam, 2016*



# Around the World of the Internet

## What has been written about our alumni this year?



### PETR KOVAŘÍK BECAME THE HEAD OF THE VÍTKOVICE HOSPITAL

This year, Petr Kovařík, a graduate of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Economics, took charge of the Vítkovice Hospital. He wants to follow up on the successful development of the hospital in recent years. Kovařík was elected to this important position due to his long-term experience in a hospital environment in the city of Karviná-Ráj, and of the hospital (with an outpatient clinic) in Havířov.

SOURCE: [www.moravskoslezskenovinky.cz](http://www.moravskoslezskenovinky.cz)

### THREE GRADUATES OF THE VŠB-TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA EXPAND WITH THEIR APPLICATION TO THE THIRD WORLD

In 2015, three graduates of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava founded MonkeyDat and came up with an application that analyzes data for e-shops. In one year, they acquired two thousand customers. Since January, they are expanding overseas, specifically to the United States and Asia.

SOURCE: [www.idnes.cz](http://www.idnes.cz)



### LUKÁŠ RICHTER BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF THE OPERATIONS CENTRE OF M.B.A. FINANCE

In August 2016, the graduate Lukáš Richter, who studied Information and System Management at the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava, was appointed to a management position in M.B.A. Finance. He has worked for the company since 2009, and thanks to his diligence has gradually worked his way up to a management position in the Operations Centre.

SOURCE: [kariera.ihned.cz](http://kariera.ihned.cz)



TEXT: Petra Polesová<sup>16</sup>

PHOTO: Internet

# Career week was a week of challenge and opportunities

**The first year of Career Week is successfully behind us. The measure of success for us was primarily the satisfaction of participants who particularly appreciated the high quality level of the programme.**

Students and especially recent graduates were able to experience a trial job interview both in Czech and English. They could also choose from a classic job interview or else a now commonly used group job interview – an assessment centre. In both cases, the participants brought back with them not only practical experience, but also feedback regarding the real requirements of specific employers. In line with tradition, students expressed the greatest interest in having their CVs checked, making an appropriate photo profile and testing out their level of English proficiency. To supplement the regular steady offers of the Career Centre, a profile check on the social network LinkedIn was newly added.

Career Week served not only those who seek a regular day-to-day job, but also provided a consultation to those who presented their prospective business plans, where they were helped by our colleagues from the Centre of Business Support.

As the name suggests, Career Week was not just a one-day event. The second day continued in the spirit of interactive workshops and lectures. For example, Petr Kratochvíl presented the social networking site LinkedIn as a great tool for building a personal brand. Pavla Čapková approached students with the topic of how to build their personal brand on the labour market.

The Career Centre's turn came on the third day when it demonstrated some of its services. Pavel Kovalský, from an HR agency, talked about the selection system of CVs and focused on the intricacies of a job interview.

Vlastík Holčák outlined a coaching method and Pavla Šňupárková, a psychologist, taught participants how to handle stress, not only during a job interview. Career Week was a week of challenge and opportunities. After the experts' lectures there were queues to receive their individual consultations.

The rest of Career Week was marked with excursions to participating companies, which prepared not only guided tours of the companies for students, but also case studies, competitions and

informal discussions with their employees and management. Participants in Career Week equally appreciated the opportunity to experience what they could expect in the upcoming days and months. The team of the Career Centre would like to wish them all good luck! For others who are interested, we are preparing the second year of the event in the autumn of 2017.

TEXT: Karin Krumlová  
PHOTO: Petr Sznapka



## WHAT WE ARE PREPARING FOR YOU...



### DO YOU ENJOY SPEAKING? DO YOU SPEAK WELL?

In addition to our classic offer of workshops, consultations, coaching and personal-professional diagnostics, the Career Centre has prepared for you a summer semester featuring a comprehensive programme of presentation and communication skills entitled The Speaking Academy with the amazing lecturer Pavel Vopálecký.

Not everyone is born with the gift of being a good speaker, but the Career Centre can help our students and graduates learn. The Speaking Academy will help you become a great communicator!

### AND WHAT IS IT GOING TO BE ABOUT?

In the first lesson, participants will learn how our communication with people works, what affects it on the side of the speaker and of the recipient. They will be given some tips to improve their speaking skills. The second

lesson will focus on the understanding of participants in a conversation, keeping their attention and involvement on the topic of discussion. The third lesson will talk about communication tools and a correct and engaging formulation for fluent communication. In the fourth lesson the participants will discover a way to beat stage fright and in the fifth lesson they will be able to communicate in a beautiful, clear and effective manner. The sixth lesson involves body language and the seventh one will work with questions. In the eighth lesson they will summarize everything and create a strategic plan of precisely how to apply knowledge in practice and further develop it.

Become a master of speech and follow the Career Centre website!

[www.vsb.cz/kariernicentrum](http://www.vsb.cz/kariernicentrum)



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# alumni

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