



Medals by an Olympian

The biathalonist Gabriela Soukalová, who won a silver medal at the Sochi Olympic Games, designed medals for the World University Orienteering Championship. One of the organisers of this summer's event was Palacký University.

Soukalová, who graduated from a medal-making school, designed them during the Olympic Games. The obverse depicts a map and arrow, the reverse depicts dominant features of the Olomouc region. "I did not want to use the typical motif of a runner; I like to do unconventional things and I tried to achieve a certain simplicity and purity," explained Soukalová.

More than three hundred competitors from 32 countries gathered for the Award Ceremony in the Zbrojnice quadrangle. After one week of sporting competitions, the most successful nation was Switzerland, with nine medals. The Czech team ended up fifth, with six medals, although none of them were gold. (caf)

Svalbard, an Ideal Place for Personal and Life Style Development

Radek Hanuš and Michal Kalman, two members of the Faculty of Physical Culture, decided to visit the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic Ocean at the end of September and beginning of October in order to explore the possibilities of professional co-operation in environmental tourism, active movement in the outdoors, and try sail training.

Along with thirty other people from the Netherlands, Germany, United States, and Belgium, they joined an exploring expedition on board the Dutch sailboat Antigua along the western coasts of the islands. During the sail, they visited a whole range of natural habitats and research stations and met with colleagues at the University Centre in Svalbard.

"We have an opportunity to learn from the active tourism programmes based on the 'friluftsliv' concept of nature stays, characterised by active movement in the countryside. Once we arrived, the specific environment and conditions on the boat became the centre of our learning process. Neither the Arctic nor sailboats are typical features of inland life in Central Europe. Our social models are of no use in a wilderness ruled by polar bears," explained Vice-Dean Hanuš.

Svalbard represents, according to Hanuš, an ideal opportunity to realise development and interventional programmes focused on personal development and an active life style.



One Year in Olomouc

Seven Ukrainian stipend students from partner universities in Odessa, Zaporizhia, and Kiev have been attending Palacký University since September as a part of their doctoral studies at the Faculties of Law, Medicine and Dentistry, and Arts.

"It is a gesture of solidarity towards Ukraine, because they cannot focus on their research in such turbulent times. That is why we decided to allow them to continue their research here," announced Rector Jaroslav Miller.

The doctoral students can rely on the university's financial and social support. "Even though I have been to Prague twice already, I like Olomouc more. People are friendly and willing to help," said oncologist Alona Chasovská, sharing her first impressions. She and her colleague Petr Škrobotko also appreciated the top quality of the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine. (caf)