At an institution with such a rich history as Charles University, it is undeniably very difficult to survey all events which took place during a given period of time. To enumerate them all is impossible due to the vast number of daily conferences, congresses, foreign visits and other meetings, which are so characteristic for the academic life of Charles University and which are held at its seventeen faculties and institutes.

Please consider the following pages as an opportunity to introduce the oldest university in Central Europe to those who are not in everyday immediate contact with it in the roles of e.g. teacher and student. From my perspective the importance of honorary degrees is great - behind every conferred degree is a long-term successful and useful cooperation with the faculties and departments of Charles University. It is not a matter of "just" handing over the diploma during a special ceremony in the Great Hall of the Karolinum, but rather of opening Charles University up to the academic and cultural world, definitely not only within the EU. Those who receive honorary degrees always facilitate contact with current research and enable necessary exchange of experience. Many of them were committed to enriching academic life at Charles University already before November 1989, when the possibilities of obtaining information about international research were severely limited. This publication is thus also an expression of gratitude to all those who helped the University to grow and acquire an even greater significance in the field of scholarship.

As for other events, we have chosen the ones whose diversity best exemplifies the colourful and rich life at the University; the mosaic of text and photographs brings you only a few because twenty-four pages would not suffice to cover them all. I nevertheless hope that you will get a sufficient idea of the variety and heterogeneity of life at Charles University. I believe you will find this issue of the University journal FORUM interesting and I am looking forward to our next meeting - preferably in the lecture rooms and laboratories at Charles University! I am also looking forward to our cooperation in spreading the good name of our Alma mater at home and abroad.

I wish you success at work and in your personal lives.

**Prof. Ivan Wilhelm**
Rector of Charles University in Prague
Announcing an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. Dr. LOUIS J. IGNARRO

Professor Ignarro is a leading scholar in natural sciences, namely in the field of physiology research. His discoveries in pharmacology improved the process of developing new drugs, and resulted in the application of new therapeutic methods and led to the creation of many efficient new medicines with importance for the improvement of human life.

Professor Louis J. Ignarro was born on May 31, 1941, in Brooklyn, New York, USA, the first son of Italian immigrants. He studied at Columbia University in New York City, USA, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1962. Four years later he earned a PhD degree in Pharmacology (Physiology minor) from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. In 1979, he was promoted to full professor at this institution. Then, in 1985 Professor Ignarro moved to Los Angeles, where he has taught and conducted research at the University of California at Los Angeles since that time.

Since completing his studies, Dr. Ignarro has held a variety of posts in research and academia, all in the USA. He spent one year as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, and from 1968-1972 worked as a research scientist at the CIBA-GEIGY pharmaceutical company branch in Ardsley, New York. In 1973, Doctor Ignarro was appointed an assistant professor and, in the same year, an associate professor of pharmacology in the medical school of Tulane University, in New Orleans, Louisiana.
Professor Ignarro’s research interests have concentrated on the role on the signaling pathways in the cell with special focus on the biogenesis, metabolism and role of the endogenous gas, nitric oxide, in the control of blood pressure, penile erection, ischemia reperfusion injury, and cytotoxicity. For long time he had a particular interest in the intracellular target of nitric oxide, an important bume-containing enzyme, soluble guanylate cyclase. Professor Ignarro’s discoveries have had profound effects upon our understanding of human physiology and some have led to discoveries of new treatments, e.g., Viagra.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

26 June 2000
The Carolinum Association and the Charles University Faculty of Law organised a memorial afternoon to mark the 50th anniversary of the execution of Milada Horáková. The audience which assembled in the Collegium maximum of the host faculty was addressed by officials from the University and the Faculty of Law and by representatives from the ranks of fighters for liberty. Milada Horáková was introduced as not only a victim of the staged Stalinist trial in the early 1950s but mainly as a courageous woman who fought against Nazi and Communist lawlessness. Michal Svatůš, chair of the Institute of Charles University History, pointed out that JUDr. M. Horáková was not the only one from the academic community to be victimised by dictatorship; sentenced to death like her were also Jan Bouchal, Oldřich Pecl and Záviš Kalandra; others received life sentences, e.g. Josef Nestával, Jiří Hejda, or sentences of more than twenty-year's imprisonment, as in the case of Zdeněk Peška and member of parliament Fráňa Zeminová. The Rector Ivan Wilhelm, expressed his firm conviction that the future of Charles University lay in such exemplary personalities.

July 2000
The successful return of the Hatun Mayu 2000 expedition “To the springs of the Amazon” was celebrated in the Emperor’s Hall of the Karolinum in Prague by University representatives, the academic public and journalists. Two Czech expeditions have measured for the first time ever the basic hydrographic characteristics of the four source streams of the Lloqueta river, which represents the principal source for the Apurímac and the Amazon. The first one in 1999 conducted detailed measurements of the Carhuasanta river basin. The next expedition took place from 24 June to 23 July 2000 and measured three more streams in the Apurímac river source area - the Apacheta, the Sillanque and the Ccaccansa. The elevation of all river springs was determined, the hydrological regime of all rivers and the chemical composition of their waters was measured and samples were taken for chemical and biological analyses. Special attention was paid to a glacier lake from which the Carhuasanta river flows and the suggestion put forward to name it Lago de Bohemia. Detailed geological and geomorphological research was conducted including the
On April 27, 2001, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. Dr. med. GERD PLEWIG, FRCP.

Professor Plewig is a distinguished representative of world medicine, his research interest is equally divided among the fields of dermatology, venereology and allergology. His activities are not strictly limited to research and science, they are devoted to the wider professional and social aims, especially in the fields of public health education and the pedagogical process.

Prof. Dr. med. Gerd Plewig was born on May 12, 1939, in Bad Langensalz in Thuringia in Germany. On his mother's side he was connected to the von Coudenhove and von Riese-Stalburg family, branches of which lived in Bohemia, owned large properties here and occupied many local and imperial political functions.

He continued specialist dermatological studies at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and accepted the post of Head of the Dermatological Clinic of Charles University.

He studied medicine at the universities of Hamburg, Graz (Austria) and Kiel, where he received his Dr. Med. Degree in 1965. A Ventnor Foundation Grant from the Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates allowed him to take the general part of his pre-attestation course in Philadelphia in the USA in 1966 to 1967. This was followed by a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Department of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, from 1967 to 1969.

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Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, becoming a docent in 1972 and professor in 1978. In 1980 he declined an appointment as Head of the Dermatovenerological Clinic of University of Düsseldorf, which he held from 1982-1991. In 1991 he returned to Munich as the Head of the Department of Dermatology at Ludwig-Maximilians University. In
1997 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP, London).

He is a founder member of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung (German Dermatological Research Society), and was a board member of this society from 1977 to 1980.

He is the author, co-author or editor of major international books on Acnea and Rosacea, Dermatology, Environmental Dermatology, Stratum Corneum, Skin Models and the basic international postgraduate textbook Dermatology and Venerology (published in German, English, Spanish, Croatian and just translated into Czech and Slovak).

Professor Gerd Plewig is a leading and internationally recognised German teacher and physician in dermatology, venerology and allergy. His academic activities have made him an accredited specialist for the physiology, pathophysiology and disorders of the sebaceous glands, especially acne. He has devoted much of his life to efforts to promote better understanding between physicians throughout the world, and to this end founded the Kreissl - von Coudenhove Foundation at Charles University in Prague.

His research interests focus on the sebaceous glands, acne, rosacea, photo medicine and the structure and function of skin. He has been extensively funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Board). He is a founder member of the European Society for Dermatological Research, and served as its president from 1982 to 1983.

Fifteen international dermatological societies have elected him as corresponding member or honorary member, including the Societas Dermatovenerologica Bobemica. He acts as scientific advisor in the German Medical Chamber, he was Founder President of the German Dermatological Society, and since 1999 he has been Medical Director of the Ludwig- Maximilians-University.
On April 27, 2001, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. ROBERT B. TATTERSALL, MB

Professor Tattersall is a distinguished representative of world medicine thanks to his discovery of the genetics of diabetes based on his clinical observation. The discovery was described as a special type of diabetes mellitus and was later included as part of clinical genetics. He deserves merit for the description of unstable diabetes that affects the patient’s life not because of organic, but for some psychosocial causes.

Robert B. Tattersall made a fundamental discovery in the genetics of diabetes in the third decade of his life, shortly after graduating at the medical faculty, when on the basis of his clinical observations he described the special type of diabetes mellitus already mentioned and known as MODY (Maturity Onset Diabetes in Young People). Later on he described its clinical genetics. This opened up new perspectives in the diabetology concerned with genetics, and later the molecular genetics of diabetes. To date 7 sub-types of MODY diabetes have been described and characterised clinically and in terms of molecular genetics, and MODY types of diabetes serve as a special model for the study of the genetics of diabetes. Robert Tattersall’s clinically based discoveries at the beginning of the Seventies have proved fundamental for clinical medicine as a whole.
Professor Tattersall has a close relationship with the Czech Republic, and it was thanks to him that contacts between Czech and western diabetes specialists were maintained even during the communist period. Professor Tattersall has lectured at the Diabetes conference in Lubačovice and at the Prague Congress of the European Society for the Study of Diabetes. He was responsible for the initiation of co-operation between Nottingham University and the Charles University 3rd Medical Faculty, cooperation that was later extended to include the Charles University Medical Faculty in Plzeň as well. A series of university teachers and doctors from Prague and Plzeň have spent time at Nottingham University and the cooperation now includes representatives of metabolic and nutritional research. Professor McDonald and Professor Allison. Professor Tattersall has been supporting the library at the CU 3rd Medical Faculty by sending various journals over many years.

Professor Tattersall has won himself a place in the history of diabetology with his description of the new MODY type of diabetes, the full importance of which has only been appreciated in the last few years. He is a Renaissance man with a deep understanding of the traditions of medicine and its history, to which he has also devoted himself intensively in recent years. It showed that the most frequent cause of brittle diabetes was not organic, but was usually linked to some psycho-social factor affecting the life of the patient.

Professor Robert B. Tattersall has been a member of the examination committee for the European Society for the Study of Diabetes. He was also a member of the committee of the British Diabetological Society, and in 1987-1991 he was Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the same society. In 1979 Dr. Tattersall was elected a member of the Association of Physicians. From 1990 to 1998 he was a member of the examination committee for qualification in internal medicine (MRCP).

Apart from his study of MODY type diabetes, Dr. Tattersall also focused on brittle diabetes. He published on the importance of genetic factors in the disease. His work showed that the frequency of brittle diabetes in the family was higher than expected, suggesting a genetic predisposition.

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In the Czech Republic, Tattersall is known for his contributions to the development of diabetology. He was a pioneer in the study of MODY (Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young), a type of diabetes that is not usually linked to obesity. Tattersall's research showed that MODY was not a rare condition, and that it had a genetic basis.

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On May 3, 2001, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. Dr. DETLEF BRANDES.

Professor Brandes is an outstanding representative of European historiography who focuses on Central and Eastern European history. His wide research interest made him a pioneer in exploring the Eastern European ethnic minorities as well as an expert in Czech-German relations in the 20th century.

Professor Detlef Brandes was born on May 1, 1941 in Berlin. He began his academic career in the field of contemporary Czech and Eastern European history at the end of the Sixties in the Collegium Carolinum in Munich, and continued in the Seventies at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Brandes expanded his research interests to include modern Russian history as visiting professor at the European University in Florence, Columbia University in New York, Stanford University in California and the Slavic Research Centre in Sapporo in Japan, and became one of the pioneers of modern research on East-European ethnic minorities.

From the beginning of the Nineties Professor Brandes has been working at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, where he heads the Institute for the History and Culture of Germans in Eastern Europe. His interest in the problem of the migrations of minorities in the Balkans, the Black Sea area and Siberia led him to research on the everyday religious, social and cultural life of minority ethnic Western Christian communities in the Russian Orthodox environment.

Professor Brandes has devoted four monographs to Czech and East-European history in the period of the Second World War. His history of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, which was very warmly received by the Czech academic community, and his book of British wartime policy towards Central and East-European governments in exile and resistance movements, have been translated into Czech, and his latest work on the plans and preparations made by governments in exile and the Allied powers for the expulsion and transfer of the Germans from Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1938-1945 is currently being translated into Czech. His books on the settlement of the Russian Black Sea area from the 18th century to the First World War or most recently on the fate of the Siberian German colonies and colonists in the earlier 20th century have also met with great international acclaim.

In addition to his independent research work and his teaching, editing, bibliographic and organisational work, Brandes has made a major contribution to Czech historiography by his more than 10 years of activity on the Czech-German Committee of Historians. Here he has not only organised several committee conferences and published a series of studies in Czech, but has also published a parallel German series of committee reports.

Charles University also much appreciates Brandes’ role as co-ordinator in a long-term DAAD project which made possible the creation at the Faculty of Social Sciences of a Department of German and Austrian studies with an important library, regular visits from German academics and the opportunity to send Czech students and staff to Germany with financial support.

Detlef Brandes, an honorary member of the Research Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences has also proved a great source of support to Czech students and visiting staff at Heine University and has readily arranged further academic contacts. Thanks to his personal initiative, which goes far beyond his own field, a partnership agreement has been signed between Heine University and Charles University.

"...I did not deal with Czech history exclusively, nevertheless the history of Czechoslovakia was always the focus of my research. Because of my job I had to move from Munich to Berlin, from Berlin to Oldenburg and later to Dusseldorf, but Prague remained my second home and fatherland. I have spent many months here during the last 36 years, I found my Czech wife here and many friends among my historian colleagues."
As a historian, Professor Brandes dealt with the issues related to Czechoslovak President Edvard Beneš’s policies. He presented six theses on Beneš’s policies in the years 1939-1945 during the ceremony to receive his honorary doctorate. When mentioning events like the Nazi occupation in March 1939, Beneš’s contacts with resistance groups in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, his negotiations on future of Trans-Carpathian Ukraine, the issues pertaining to the future of German minority in the post-war Czechoslovakia, and Beneš’s consideration of a Polish-Czechoslovak federation or confederation, which had to abandoned after the Soviet intervention, Professor Brandes proved to be a an outstanding expert in these fields.
On May 3, 2001, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. WINFRIED SCHULZ

Professor Schulz is one of the most important representatives of the social scientific approach to media studies in the international academic community. His starting-point is the consideration of the media as social institution and his methodology is derived from sociology and political science.

Prof. Winfried Schulz was born in Berlin in 1938. He started his academic teaching and research career at the University of Mainz. After a year’s fellowship at the University of California and his „habilitation“ he worked at the University of Münster. In 1983 he was appointed Professor of Communication Sciences and Politics at Nürnberg-Erlangen, where he was later Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1990-92. In addition to his teaching and research he has held many important positions in the field of communications science (President of DGPuK - the German Scientific Society for the Study of Communication, members of the Board of Trustees of the European Media Institute etc.)

His research interests are mainly in the analysis and interpretation of the mass media audiences and the effects of mass media, and the analysis of news-reporting and media behaviour.

Professor Schulz is the author or co-author of several books and many contributions to leading international academic journals. In the last 10 years alone he has published several dozen academic articles most of them based on original research.

His major contributions to his field have been in the critical reassessment of the concept of news values, the development of the concept of the mutual interaction of media and political communication, and in methods of studying the behaviour of the media and the public during pre-election campaigns.

He concentrated on television, which is according to him the most powerful medium.

People consider television the most trustworthy of all news media, because television conveys the illusion that people can see with their own eyes what is happening, and seeing is believing.

His research has included study of Czech materials on the relation between media and political communication in post-communist society. In 1996 he undertook research on the general election campaign at Charles University’s Faculty of Social Sciences, where as a leading work expert in the analysis of the relations between

"News factors are features that characterize an event and determine its news value. Negativism, for example, is a powerful news factor. The more negative an event, the higher its news value. Typical negative news events are wars and conflicts, terrorist acts, violent threats and all kind of protest. If the mechanisms of news selection are known, it is possible to predict the chances of an event to become news. It is also possible to enhance the news value of an event through event management. It is easy to stage negative events for making news and for instrumentalizing mass media."

Viewers in Germany, France and the United States were confronted with realistic clips from TV news showing more or less prominent politicians making a statement. These clips were presented without sound in order to observe the viewers’ reactions merely on visual images of the politicians. Viewer reactions were measured with a so-called Semantic Differential, in addition to several physiological measurements. One central result of the experiments was that television viewers were prone to assess a politician spontaneously, even if the politician was completely unknown to them. They did not hesitate to evaluate a politician, for example, as competent, sympathetic, intelligent, or as dishonest, fearful, boring. The viewers formed their opinion solely on the television image, without reflection or consideration, within fractions of a second.
media news reporting and the electoral process, he led a team of undergraduate and graduate students.

Professor Winfried Schulz has been a major influence on the development of European ideas on the media, and has played a key role in the creation and development of modern media and communication studies in the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, especially in the Czech Republic.

He is an internationally renowned scholar with close academic and teaching ties to the Czech Republic and Charles University.

“The power of images predetermines television as an instrument of power. Television therefore became the most important bulwark that has to be conquered for bringing about change in political power, whether in a peaceful and democratic way or through a violent revolution. Television is an effective means for deceiving a whole population, for creating political illusions, for stirring up hate, as the developments in Balkan states and in other countries have demonstrated.”

Participants are required to submit a scholarly work (in Spanish or Portuguese) dealing with issues of Latin America or the Iberian Peninsula in the following areas: history, geography, anthropology, sociology, economy, literature, philology or political studies.

21 December 2000
The French Embassy Laboratoires Fournier Prize for Medicine was awarded at the French embassy in Prague. The 2001 Prize for Medicine was awarded to Václav Liška, fourth-year student of general medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Plzeň for his work entitled “Introduction of Molecular Genetic Methods in the Diagnosis of Mycosis.”

The ceremony was attended by Philippe Coste, the Ambassador; Dominique Sotteau, attaché for culture and technology; Bohumil Fiser, Minister of Health; Eduard Zeman, Minister of Education; Rudolf Zahradník, the Chairman of the Academy of Sciences; etc. The Prize donated by the French embassy represents the amount of 50,000 crowns and a two-year scholarship at a French research laboratory. Its aim is to reward a Czech student for contribution to scholarship and to encourage his/her further academic development with French scientists in similar disciplines.

2001
Two English-language volumes of the History of Charles University by František Kavka, Josef Petráň and collective were awarded third prize in the Best Czech Book 2001 contest, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the National Culture Heritage Institute.

The Rector of Charles University rewarded three books published by the Karolinum press. The laureates were: Jiří Raboch (Psychiatry - Psychiatrie), Luboš Švec (Czechoslovakia and the Baltic States - Československo a pobaltské státy), Josef Petráň and Blanka Šachová (Promotio doctoralis A. I. Schamsky).

21 February 2001
The opening ceremony of the so-called Aula Cervantes, a modern classroom for teaching Spanish, took place in Celetná Street, Prague. Based on an agreement with Charles University the room was equipped with computers, VCR’s and books by the Cervantes Institute from Madrid, one of the main pillars of Spanish cultural activities abroad.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
On June 8, 2001, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ.

Professor Stiglitz combines the university researcher engaging in economic theory with the financier directed toward the practical functioning of the market, and is a representative of world-renowned financial institutions.

Professor Stiglitz is an Economics Professor at Stanford University, Guest Fellow at the Brookings Institute, and Professor at Columbia University in USA. His academic career started in 1969, when he was appointed Professor of Economics at Yale University in 1969 at the age of 26. In 70th he was the Drummond Professor of Political Economy at All Souls College, Oxford. From 1993 to 1997 he was a member and later the Chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers, serving as a key member of President Clinton’s economic team. From 1997 to 1999, he served as the World Bank’s Senior Vice President.

Professor Stiglitz is a leading scholar in the economics of the public sector. His book The Economics of the Public Sector has been translated also into Czech and is used as a basic textbook at Czech private and public colleges.

Professor Stiglitz has written extensively on the important but limited role the government should play in the economy. He is a leading advocate of the “market failures” approach that attempts to delineate those areas - such as the environment, public health, education and research - where the unfettered market may lead to inefficient outcomes and where cost effective government remedies may be developed.

Professor Stiglitz has also led a re-examination of the strategies for transition of the former Communist

As an academic, Professor Stiglitz helped create a new branch of economics - “The Economics of Information,” as well as develop such pivotal concepts as theories of adverse selection and moral hazard that have become the foundation of the modern interpretation of the functioning of markets.

Joseph Stiglitz has contributed remarkably also to other economic theories. Among his theoretical achievements are the economics of technological change, growth, discrimination, corporate finance, uncertainty, monopolistic competition and product diversity.
Finances were provided by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. The Aula Cervantes aims to support students, teachers and scholars from the Faculty of Arts in their study and research of the Spanish language and culture. It offers interactive courses of Spanish on the Internet, teacher-training courses and the chance to attend discussion forums. Modern technology enables easy and quick exchange of information among scholars.

March 2001
The Charles University Mobility Fund was created as an instrument to promote and motivate initiative in expanding international contacts in study, scholarship, research and other activities within the framework of approved projects and programmes. The primary aim of the Mobility Fund is the promotion of student exchange, student participation at international student and academic events, and the exchange of teachers and scholars. The main body of the Mobility Fund is the Council of the Charles University Mobility Fund, appointed by the Rector as his advisory body. It is chaired by the vice-chancellor for international relations and its members are representatives of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medical sciences and theological subjects. Submitted proposals are judged by the council according to a set of priorities. Decisions on the granting of the Mobility Fund’s financial resources (which come from the University budget) are taken by the Rector on the recommendation of the Council.

7 March 2001
Stjepan Mesić, President of Croatia, received the Charles University commemorative medal in the Karolinum and delivered a speech entitled “Croatia, one year later - there is no alternative to democracy and Europe”. This was his first official visit to the Czech Republic. To clarify why Croatia sees its future exclusively in terms of democratic development within a unified Europe he considered it necessary to mention not only the international and domestic conditions under which the independent state of Croatia came into existence, but he also presented the principal features of the journey that his country underwent since the declaration of independence and suggested the direction of further development. The havoc wreaked by the war is not, according to Mesić, the reason for the economies to a market-based system for which this country owes him a particular debt of gratitude. Since 1991 he has visited this country several times not only as a guest of certain high offices but also as an open-minded and good-humored member of the academic community, always spreading cheer on his visits to Charles University.

He is convinced that education and knowledge may serve as a remedy for many global problems. This thought stems from his personal experience as a member of the academic community and as a market and public service expert. He is known as a staunch supporter of the view that education and knowledge are chief factors behind economic growth.
On October 18, 2001, Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. PAUL MAXIME NURSE.

Professor Nurse, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, significantly contributed to researching the fight against cancer. His work has been acknowledged by his colleagues in both research and the academy.

Professor Paul Maxime Nurse, born in the United Kingdom, is Director-General of the UK’s Imperial Cancer Research Fund - the biggest cancer research charity outside the United States.

After postdoctoral work at the Universities of Bern, Edinburgh and Sussex (1973-1984), he was appointed a Royal Society Research Professor at the Oxford University (1987-1993). After that, he moved to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, where he became Director of Research (Laboratories) and Head of Cell Cycle Laboratory (1993-1996) and since 1996 Director-General and Head of Cell Cycle Laboratory of the same organization.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Professor Nurse has exploited through elegant and informative genetic and biochemical studies unique features of a single-celled yeast Schizosaccharomyces pombe to reveal the basic problem of cell biology - how cells make the decision to grow and divide.

He is best known for his work on the identification of the cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) cdc2p and its regulators and their key roles in the control of the cell cycle.

The recent interest of Professor Nurse focuses on the application of basic science to a number of problems of human diseases and on the second fundamental problem of cell biology - how morpho-genesis a polarity of cells are determined. This work should be illuminative for changes in cell shape and migration of cancerous cells.

He is a respected Member of EMBO (1987); Fellow of the Royal Society (1989); Member of Academia Europaea (1992); Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences (1989) and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (1999).

Scientific achievements of Professor Nurse have earned him numerous prestigious international and UK honors and medals, e.g.: Feldberg Prize for Medical Research, CIBA Medal - UK Biochemical Society (1991); Louis Jeanet Prize for Medicine in Europe, Gairdner Foundation International Award (1992); Royal Society Wellcome Medal, Jimenez Diaz Memorial Award and Medal, Rosenstiel Award and Medal for distinguished Work in Basic Medical Sciences (1993); Purkyne Medal (1994); Pezcoller Award for Oncology Research, Royal Society Royal Medal (1995); Dr. Josef Steiner
Professor Nurse is one of Britain's most distinguished scientists today. He was knighted in 2000 in recognition for his significant contribution to science.
On November 22, 2001, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to

Prof. Dr. FREDERICK JELINEK

Professor Jelinek is an outstanding researcher in Information Science and Computational Linguistics. He is considered one of the foremost international scientists in the area of Computational Linguistics, where he has contributed significantly to research in automatic processing of speech as well as in the broader field of application of stochastic methods to natural language processing.

“Professor Frederick Jelinek was born on November 18, 1932, in Kladno, Czechoslovakia. Since 1941 he lived in Prague, where he started secondary school. After 1948 he emigrated with his mother to the USA, where he finished high school and entered university. In 1955 he received his American citizenship. In 1950-1954 he studied at the City College in New York and then in 1954-1962 he continued his studies at the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., where he obtained the academic titles of Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, and in 1962 a Ph.D. degree in Information Theory on the basis of his dissertation Coding for Discrete Memoryless Two-Way Channels. In this domain he started his academic career at M.I.T. as an Instructor. Then, after a short lectureship at Harvard University, he became an Assistant Professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1962 and a Professor in 1972; he worked there till 1974. In the years 1972-93 Professor Jelinek held the position of Senior Manager at IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY. He was the head of the research group engaged in automatic speech recognition. In 1993 he was appointed Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, as well as the Director of the Center for Language and Speech Processing. In 1999 he received the Julian S. Smith Endowed Professorship in Electrical Engineering. Early in his scientific career, Prof. Jelinek received the Best Paper Award of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). At IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, he pioneered research in speech recognition based on statistical methods. His approach and results have constituted the foundation of all-important systems of speech recognition, not only for English, but also for a number of other languages. The success of the applications of statistical methods in speech recognition have inspired Prof. Jelinek and his groups to develop original approaches also to other areas of automatic natural language processing, as e.g. parsing, text understanding and machine translation.

Professor Jelinek is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). In 1997 he was President of the IEEE Group on Information Theory. He is also a member of the International Association of Computational Linguistics and of several other scientific associations. He is often invited to significant international conferences as an invited speaker. He also received several important awards, as e.g. the Information Theory Group Prize in 1971, in 1981 the recognition of the journal Technology as one of the Top 100 Innovators in the domain of new technologies. In addition, he received several IBM Awards, such as an Outstanding Innovation Award in the years 1976 and 1985, and in 1985 he received two Invention Achievement Awards for significant patents. In recent years, in recognition of his scientific contributions, he received the IEEE Prize for Leadership and Technical Contribution to the Field of Signal Processing and a Jubilee Prize for a significant contribution to the development of Information Theory from the Information Theory Society (in 1998), and in 1999 he was given the ESCA Medal for Outstanding Scientific Achievement from the European Speech Communication Association. In 2000 he was awarded the IEEE Third Millennium Medal in recognition and appreciation of valued services and outstanding contribution.

Professor Frederick Jelinek is the author of Probabilistic Information Theory (1968) and Statistical Methods for Speech Recognition (1988). Both of them

As soon as communism in Czechoslovakia collapsed, I tried to contact Czech linguists and speech engineers. I assisted with the arrangement according to which IBM made its computers available to Charles University and to the Czech Technical University computing centers... I invited several Czech scholars for an IBM residency.”
have become fundamental works of the given domains in the whole world. In the course of his academic career, he has educated many young researchers who nowadays find their roles at prestigious universities, often already in leading positions, in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Professor Jelinek has always, as a political emigree from the times of communism, maintained good research contacts with Czech researchers first by making scientific literature and advice available to them. He started these contacts with researchers at Charles University in 1984, appreciating the linguistic results of the Prague research group and its formal models of sentence structure. He has enriched substantially the Prague projects by his rich and valuable experience and his original findings in speech recognition and its applications. These contacts have become very intensive and continuous since 1989. Every year, Prof. Jelinek comes to Prague to lecture both at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University and at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He gives courses in stochastic methods of language modeling (often without any financial reward), and this year (2001) he has devoted his sabbatical to teaching in Prague. When still at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, he invited two Prague postgraduates to work for a couple of years at that internationally important Center; both of them are making use of their exceptional experience and schooling in Prague, one at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University, and the other in the Prague IBM research group. In the last three years, Prof. Jelinek organized and supported several long-term research positions at Johns Hopkins University for Charles University Ph.D. students. Thus, he has significantly contributed to the scientific education of a number of very good Czech specialists in this field, and it is no exaggeration to say that he has helped the Prague group to rank among the most progressive European Centers of the field.

The international recognition, research results and pedagogical activity of Professor Frederick Jelinek, together with his important contributions to the education of young scientists at Charles University, an intensive continuous interest in the research carried out at our University, as well as his cooperation with Prague research teams, more than justify the proposal to award Professor Frederick Jelinek with the honorary title of Doctor of Sciences of Charles University in recognition of his life-time scientific achievements in the domain of computer science and computational linguistics.

I got an opportunity in the United States, in a free country, in a country of labour, in a country of civilization… The U. S. is not a perfect country, but it deserves credit for the birth of Czechoslovakia as well as for its liberation from Nazism and later from communism. The U.S. means to me universities, libraries and generous and far-sighted support of science and culture. However, my attitudes to life, education and culture were formed in Czechoslovakia. I have always been interested in the destiny of the country, and I have tried to help it from far and near.”

According to the summer school’s director Jan Kuklik interest in the four-week course was again immense. The majority of participants were university students from Europe and the USA but also the number of students of Czech and Slavic Studies from Asia and Latin America came as a pleasant surprise. The organisers prepared a rich educational programme and many cultural and social events. For their everyday five hours of tuition students were divided according to their Czech linguistic ability. The Czech writer Božena Němcová represented the principal theme of the anniversary round. Students acquired information about her at lectures, the exhibition in the Hvězda summer-house and trips to places connected with her works. The 45th round was supplemented by an international symposium attended by foreign scholars of Czech and Slavic studies which considered the level of the teaching of Czech language and literature at foreign universities and evaluated the role of the Summer School in Slavic Studies.

12 September 2001
After a three-year interval Czech and foreign university students and teachers met at the 2nd International Symposium on the University and its students to discuss the influence of universities and their students on society. On the day of the opening ceremony the participants were greeted by the Ivan Wilhelm, Rector of Charles University, under whose auspices the event took place. According to the rector’s secretary, the meeting entitled “The contribution of universities to the unification of Europe in the new millenium” was attended by 120 students and nearly 20 teachers. In four sections they discussed the future of Europe, future teaching methods, the effects of modern information technology, and the availability and quality of education at present.

The first symposium was a part of the 650th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Charles University.

12 October 2001
Li Tchie-jing, president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, donated precious books to Charles University. The hand-written and bronze-bound Analects (or Conversations) by the philosopher Confucius and six other priceless books were received in person by Ivan Wilhelm, the rector. He informed the Czech Press Agency, which covered the event, that Tchie-jing graduated
On April 22, 2002, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to Prof. JOSEPH GRAFTON GALL, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Professor Gall is an expert in the field of the function of the cell and its nucleus, acquainted with many fields of science, e.g. zoology, biology, developmental genetics, whose findings led to progress in the research of tumors and neoplasm.

Professor Joseph Grafton Gall was born on April 14, 1928, in Washington DC, USA. He studied at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where he obtained his B.Sc. in 1949 and directly entered the graduate program there in the Zoology Department. Three years later he earned a Ph.D. degree in Zoology.

After completing his studies at Yale, Professor Gall took a teaching position in the Zoology Department at the University of Minnesota, where he remained until 1963. In the fall of 1963 he returned to Yale as a visiting Professor in the Biology Department. This visit turned into a permanent position as Professor of Biology with a joint appointment in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry.

He remained at Yale for 20 years from 1963-1983; during the last few years he held the prestigious Ross G. Harrison Chair in Biology. In 1983 he joined the Embryology Department of the Carnegie Institution in Baltimore as a staff member, where he remains today. In 1984, he was appointed American Cancer Society Professor of Developmental Genetics, a lifetime appointment.

Professor Gall’s long-term interests have been in the structure and function of the cell, particularly the nucleus. His earliest studies involved the giant “lampbrush” chromosomes found in oocytes of frogs and salamanders. After moving back to Yale, he began studies on ribosomal RNA (rRNA) and the genes that code for it (rDNA). Special attention was given to rDNA amplification and telomeric sequences. In recent years the focus of Professor Gall’s research has been on the organization of the RNA transcription and processing machinery of the nucleus. He has concentrated on several nuclear organelles that contain components of this machinery, such as the nucleoli, Cajal bodies, and organelles he has named snurposomes.

His discoveries have had a profound effect upon our understanding of cell and molecular biology. Two important findings, made at a time when chromosome structure and function were still unclear (late 1950s, early 1960s), were that chromosomes consist of a single extremely long DNA molecule and that RNA synthesis occurs on loops of DNA that extend out from the axis of the chromosome.

Among other important findings was establishing the existence of the nuclear pore complex and its eight-fold symmetry, clarification of centriole replication, discovery of the phenomenon of gene amplification (independently discovered by I. Dawid and D. Brown of the Carnegie Institution), elucidating the mechanism of

“Like all biologists, but especially because of my interest in genetics, I have felt a tie to your country through Gregor Mendel from the very first that I heard of him. The short paper he published in 1866 at the Proceedings of the Natural History Society in Brno is unquestionably among the most important papers ever published in any science. It is a model of clarity that needs to be appreciated.”
replication of extrachromosomal rDNA, development of the technique of in situ hybridization (with his student Mary Lou Pardue), demonstration of heterochromatic satellite DNA, and identification of telomeric DNA sequences (with Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn).

Professionally, Professor Gall has had a close association with the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB), of which he was President (1967-68) and a member of its Council and of several committees at various times. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences of USA and the holder of several prestigious awards, including the J. E. Purkyné Honorary Medal for Merit in the Biological Sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

“Purkyné is best known for two cell types he discovered and which bear his name, the large Purkyné neurons in the brain and the Purkyné fibers in the heart. What Purkyné did not know in 1825, and what would not be known for some years afterwards, was that the egg was a single giant cell and the germinal vesicle was an equally giant nucleus inside the cell. In fact, Purkyné made his observations more than five years before the cell nucleus was discovered in plant cells by an Englishman and given the name nucleus.”

“Scientific research is and always has been an international activity. This international scientific cooperation is sometimes hindered by the politics of the day, but in the end always helps to unite people from different countries and different cultures in common enterprise, the advancement of knowledge. I accept this honorary degree from Charles University today as a symbol of that common intellectual bond that unites us all.”

Prof. Wilhelm also stated that Chinese studies at Charles University are among the best in the world: “There is not only a department but also an Institute of Oriental Studies. We have one of the three centres of world-repute outside of China.”

In March 2001 the Chinese Ministry of Culture had already donated to Charles University books and tapes worth half a million crowns. According to Olga Lomová, the head of the Institute of Far East Studies at Charles University, the gift will allow students to improve their knowledge of the classical Chinese language and will also enable them to be in touch with modern Chinese. Ever since 1945 there have existed at Charles University various centres where students could deal with issues concerning China and other parts of Asia. Currently Chinese is studied at the Institute of Far East Studies by approximately seventy students.

October 2001
The Karolinum press, Charles University publishing house, released the book History of Meteorology in the Czech lands and Slovakia (Historie meteorologie v českých zemích a na Slovensku) with the participation of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.

October 2001
80 renowned scholars from 15 countries attended the symposium held to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Tycho Brahe. They included, among others, the American professor and author of the latest book on Tycho Brahe, John Robert Christianson from Iowa; the co-author of the Czech edition of Mechanica, Jole R. Shackelford; prof. Owen Gingerich from Harvard University; Dr. Alain Ph. Segonds from the French Academy of Sciences etc. Over 40 contributions dealing with the latest research in Tycho Brahe’s work were presented at the symposium. The Czech and English translations of the treatise Mechanica were produced by Petr Hadrava and his wife Alena Hadravová, from the Institute of Classical Studies and the Astronomical Institute at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The treatise describes and illustrates the astronomical tools which the late-sixteenth-century Danish astronomer used on the island of Hven and which he took with him to Prague. The book, in today’s terms comparable to a grant proposal, was dedicated to the Emperor Rudolph II when Tycho Brahe
On May 21, 2002, an Honorary Doctorate of Charles University was awarded to **Prof. GUSTAVE CHOQUET**

Professor Choquet is one of the most important figures in post-war mathematics. Concepts bearing his name, such as Choquet's theory, the Choquet capacity, the Choquet integral, the Brelot-Choquet convergence theorem, Choquet's lemma and the Choquet simplex, have become part of the permanent treasury of modern mathematics.

Gustave Choquet was born on March 1, 1915. In 1938 he graduated from the École Normale Supérieure, and then spent the following year in Princeton. In the period 1941-1946 he devoted himself to intensive scientific research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. In 1946-1947 he worked at the Institut Français in Poland. In 1947 he started his university career, first in Grenoble, later in Paris, the Université de Paris and the École Polytechnique. Gustave Choquet is the author of more than 150 articles, 7 monographs and a number of textbooks. The best known are Choquet's works on capacity theory and the integral representation of convex sets. Their importance is underlined by the fact that they have become standard elements in textbooks, monographs and university lectures throughout the world. Even if we leave aside Choquet's work on real and complex functions, calculus of variations, geometry and its didactics, graph theory, number theory, the theory of chaos or the theory of intellectual processes in creative activity, we are still left with a major part of his contributions: in potential theory, functional analysis, set theory, measure theory and topology.

Professor Choquet's scientific achievements were honoured with prizes of the Paris Academy of Sciences in 1945, 1951, 1956 and 1968, and in 1976 he was elected a full member of this august institution. In 1966 he was made Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. Professor Choquet is known as a lecturer par excellence. He has trained dozens of mathematicians, many of whom have become outstanding internationally acclaimed figures, and his work has influenced hundreds of mathematicians throughout the world. His name is linked to two famous Paris seminars, the Séminaire d'Initiation à l'Analyse and Séminaire de Théorie du potentiel.

Gustave Choquet has for many years devoted attention to questions of mathematics teaching. In 1950-1962 he was Chairman of the International Committee for Research and the Improvement of Mathematics Teaching.

Gustave Choquet first visited Prague in 1946. In the Seventies and Eighties he arranged for a series of mathematicians from Charles University.

"Our theory is a touchstone of proven instruments as well as a good opportunity to express new and unexpected relations to other theories. The densely branching tree of diverse mathematical disciplines is growing, but simultaneously is getting simpler and changes into a tree of unified mathematics. I tried to unveil for a layman's eye the patient quest of knights who are insomuch committed to this beautiful theory that they devote their whole lives to some of its metamorphoses."

"My interest in attending the conferences organized by your mathematical analysis group either in Prague or in the middle of forested hills in Paseky or Kouty, derived not only from an opportunity to meet my distinguished colleagues, but also from a desire to feel the warm Czech friendship again. I discovered Prague long ago in May 1946 when I interrupted a long trip on a slow, bumping train heading to Warsaw and Cracow, where I was to resume contacts broken by war. The city of Prague, then full of hope, was healing its wounds that time."
to work at his Equipe d’Analyse at the University of Paris VI. After 1989 Professor Chouquet’s contacts with Charles University and the Prague Potential Theory Group deepened; he gave lectures and had discussions with students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in 1990, and he was invited to speak at the international Summer Schools held in the Czech Republic in 1993 and 1997.

He gave the main lecture at the International Conference on Potential Theory (Kouty, 1994). During these visits he acquainted himself more closely with the life of Bernardo Bolzano whom he appreciated long ago. The Czech mathematics community has had the chance to appreciate the importance of Professor Choquet for world science and for questions of teaching in a series of articles published in the journal of the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists. His scientific output, enormous in its breadth, depth and fundamental influence on the development of modern mathematics, together with his long-term friendly relationship with Charles University and the Czech mathematical community, has led the Research Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics to propose that Professor Gustav Choquet be awarded an honorary doctorate in Physical and Mathematical Sciences for outstanding lifelong contribution to mathematics.

**“Bolzano’s life is the evidence that the heart of Prague pulsed with the same rhythm as the hearts of nations like France, Germany and England. The same can be said for the time period 200 years earlier when Prague gave asylum to the famous Danish astronomer Tycho Brabe, who found refuge in Prague in 1600 to continue in his work. These examples very well illustrate the fact that the Czech nation had its door to Europe wide open, for better or worse. Sometimes Europe enriched it, sometimes it was the other way round.”**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

sought support for his future observations. He worked at Rudolph’s court in the last years of his life. His activity in Prague may have been brief but it was significant nonetheless. It was to Prague that he invited the German astronomer and excellent theoretician Johann Kepler, who continued in Brahe’s work and concluded it by the discovery of the laws of planetary motion. These became an important source for Newton’s mechanics and are still a valid theoretical underpinning for contemporary astronautics. Together with Kepler, Tycho Brahe made Prague an astronomical centre of world-repute.

By taking as his starting-point (and as criterion for the validity of his theory) observation and not speculation or blind faith in traditional authorities, Tycho Brahe became one of the pioneers of modern science.

**29 November 2001**

Charles University gave away The Rector Awards. Committees of three to five specialists took the decision on six Rector Awards and one Special Rector Award. The latter was received by Michal Beneš from the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics for exceptional study results and success in representing Charles University at competitions in computer programming.

The Karel Weigner Award for best graduate in medicine went to Jarmila Vokúrková from the Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové; the Karel Englíš Award for the best graduate in social sciences went to Adam Geršl from the Faculty of Social Sciences in Prague; the Jaroslav Heyrovský Award for best graduate in the natural sciences went to Zbyněk Pawlas from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in Prague; the Josef Dobrovský Award for best graduate in theology went to Jitka Blázková from the Hussite Theological Faculty in Prague; the Václav Příhoda Award for best graduate of teacher training programmes went to Jan Daněk (in M.A. studies) and Hana Křesáková (in B.A. studies), both from the Pedagogical Faculty in Prague.

**6 December 2001**

1st place in the competition for the Ibero-American Prize for 2001 was received by Klára Schirová, student of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, for her work on the reasons for Protestant expansion in the 1880s and 90s. Also successful was Kateřina Zavadilová, again from the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.
CHARLES UNIVERSITY HONORARY DEGREES IN THE PAST

For nearly two hundred years Charles University has been awarding in addition to its standard doctoral degrees also honorary degrees in philosophy, medicine, law, the natural sciences and theology (doctor honoris causa, abbreviated as Dr. h. c.), by means of which it accepts as members of its community exceptional academic personalities from Europe and other parts of the world and also important representatives of cultural, political and social life. The tradition of honorary degrees at Charles University goes back to the early nineteenth century when their awarding depended on the consent of the Emperor. The 1819 imperial decree raised the status of honorary degrees by proclaiming their equal validity with standard titles of doctor that could be achieved only by regular university study. Honorary doctors were exempt from passing doctoral examinations and defending dissertations; instead they were required to present a public lecture during the awarding ceremony to justify the conferral of the university doctor’s degree. At first, honorary degrees were considered as full and equal substitutes of doctor’s degrees because they were awarded to important scholars who had already graduated from other universities or achieved significant positions in the world of scholarship without concluding their studies with an academic degree. In the last century, though, honorary degrees became rather a means of rewarding public, political or artistic activities, and thus they lost their original meaning of a substitute for a finished university education or the performance of a certain profession. Charles University honorary degrees have been conferred at public ceremonies in the seat of the university, in the great hall of the Karolinum, which are attended by numerous university representatives, faculty and guests. The climax of the ceremony is the awarding of a medal on a chain and a doctor's diploma in a discipline pursued at Prague University. Charles-Ferdinand University got its first opportunity to grant honorary degrees at the occasion of its 500th anniversary. The revolutionary events of 1848, however, were not favourable to the ceremonies and the honorary doctors, among whom was, for example, the prominent Czech politician and historian František Palacky, were given their diplomas with delay and not in a particularly dignified manner. In 1882 the newly established Czech university awarded honorary degrees to three brilliant scholars, one of whom was the university’s first rector and historian Václav V. Tomek. In the early years of the Czechoslovak Republic (in 1919) Charles University conferred honorary degrees of Doctors of Law upon the representatives of the victorious powers that gained recognition in the creation of the independent state of Czechoslovakia (Woodrow Wilson, Raymond Poincaré, Georges Clemenceau and David Lloyd George). Along with them an honorary degree of law was also bestowed on the first Czechoslovak president and professor of philosophy at our alma mater Tomáš G. Masaryk. The same award was given to his successor in the office of president, and like him a graduate of Prague.
and representatives of foreign universities did not turn up in Communist Czechoslovakia and the diplomas could only be presented after more than forty years to the representatives of their respective countries at a special ceremony in the Karlín. In the subsequent years, an honorary degree from Charles University lost much of its prestige as it came to be conferred upon many political functionaries as a necessary part of their visit to Prague. Nevertheless, even at that time we find among the Prague honorary doctors famous personalities, Nobel Prize winners, genuine scholars and literary personages, such as Frédéric Joliot-Curie, Jaroslav Heyrovský, Louis Aragon and Roman Jakobson. In the period after 1989, Charles University used the celebration of the 650th anniversary of its establishment as an opportunity to pay back its debt to many significant individuals who could be acknowledged only under new political conditions and granted them honorary degrees.

Michal Svatoš

Charles University also acknowledged in this manner the public activity of its graduates and teachers, e.g. the anthropologist Jindřich Matiegka (1932), the classical philologist Otmar Vaňorný (1935), the natural scientist František Němec (1938) etc. The first woman to be awarded an honorary degree at Charles University was the writer and pioneer of academic education for women, Eliška Krásnohorská (1922). As for foreign thinkers, we could name at least the Doctors h. c. of Philosophy Ernest Denis (1908) and Louis Leger (1919). The year 1948 was not favourable to any of the academic community of Charles University as honorary doctors, the most numerous among them being doctors of philosophy.

What do Doctors h.c. receive?

It is not generally known that significant personalities of Czech and international scientific, cultural and public life receive honorary degrees at Charles University in a tailor-made gown. The organization unit at the Charles University rector’s office sends potential honorary doctors a letter with a form asking for their measurements. The letter says that „in order to prepare your gown for the awarding ceremony, we ask you to provide us with the following measurements - head size, width of shoulders, chest measurements, sleeve length and body height. After the organization unit receives back the filled in form, it places an order for the gown with a company that provides this specialised service for Charles University. Thus all new Doctors honoris causa can take pleasure not only in the honour itself, in the diploma, a golden university medal (with which they are decorated at the ceremony), and an album of photographs recording the event, but also a gown of a perfect fit, which they are entitled to wear on the academic ground of any university around the world and that forever becomes their property.

Michal Svatoš

19 December 2001
The awarding ceremony of the Bolzano Prize, sponsored by the Czech Savings Bank, took place. For B.A. and M.A. theses the prizes were awarded to: Petr Alexa and Renata Černá (Catholic Theological Faculty), Jiří Tobišek (Hussite Theological Faculty). Jan Bureš, Andrej Novik and Martin Stluka (Faculty of Arts), Lucie Hučinová and Kateřina Bullínová (Pedagogical Faculty). For doctoral dissertations the prize went to: Jiří Vogel (Hussite Theological Faculty), Zdeněk Kühn and Mgr. Pavel Maršálek, (Faculty of Law), Jakub Čížek, and Markéta Straňáková, (Faculty of Mathematics and Physics). This year 13 out of 29 students’ works received awards. The prizes were given away by Ivan Wilhelm, Rector of Charles University, and Karel Jeniček, deputy director of Česká spořitelna (Czech Savings Bank). Competition for the prize, which is sponsored by the Czech Savings Bank, is open to scholarly and scientific works written by Charles University students in subjects related to law, economy, mathematics and the social sciences. These must be original and creative and they are assessed for originality of thought, contribution to knowledge in the field, quality of content and form, and methodological maturity. The Bolzano Prize continues in the rich tradition of competitions in student scientific and scholarly activities.

18 March 2002
The Charles University Public Relations Department and the Press Office of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic introduced The Centre for Experimental Research of Cardiovascular Diseases, at a press conference at the seat of Charles University in Prague. The center is a joint venture of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Charles University - their Institute of Physiology, the Second Faculty of Medicine and the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine. Academy of Science Chairwoman Helena Illnerová, praised the importance of the centre, whose activity covers a wide range of topics, “from research of a particular
molecule up to patient care.” Charles University Rector Ivan Wilhelm drew attention to recent changes in legislation that enabled the birth of research centers as the place where universities and science institutes cooperate. Charles University participates in 15 of 33 newly established research centers in the Czech Republic. Ivan Wilhelm called for the better promotion of such research places, which might have an important impact on the everyday life of every citizen. Among the other guests was Bohuslav Ošťádal, head of the Institute of Physiology.

21 March 2002
The presentation delivered in the Karolinum by George Robertson, General Secretary of NATO, opened the European Debate Forum. Under the auspices of its Rector, Ivan Wilhelm and in partnership with the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Charles University is launching the European Debate Forum as an independent platform for the exchange of opinions on European issues.

19-24 March 2002
A Charles University team participated in the respected 26th ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii. Zdeněk Dvořák, Pavel Nejděl a Josef Zlomek, three students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in Prague, finished in 11th place among the 64 teams that advanced to the Hawaii finale from 3,082 teams representing more than 1,300 universities in 67 countries. The three-member team from Shanghai JiaoTong University was the winner of the contest, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology placed second, followed by University of Waterloo.

25 March 2002
The public debate “The European Union and Our School: What we can offer?” took place at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (MFF UK) in Troja, Prague. The debate was hosted by Matějžák, the association of students, graduates and friends of MFF, and attended by European Union Ambassador to the Czech Republic Ramiro Cibrian. Since Mr. Cibrian speaks Czech and has a profound knowledge of Czech-EU problems, the discussion was very lively. A hot topic of discussion was university education. Cibrian had to answer many questions concerning possibilities to study abroad or the financial compensation of university-educated people in the EU. Cibrian said the Czech Republic has to increase its investment into university education if it wants to maintain a competitive level. Czech students, graduates and professors will have a better chance to realize their projects after the Czech Republic joins the European Union, and possibilities to finance science and research will expand as well. The EU Ambassador to the Czech Republic said the successful entry of the Czech Republic into the EU depends not only on politicians, but also on the activities of non-political entities, among them Czech universities.

3 April 2002
The cooperation agreement between Charles University and Université Paris 3 Sorbonne-Nouvelle was signed. The Paris 3 Sorbonne-Nouvelle university will participate in the French studies program at Charles University, together withINALCO (Institut national des Langues et Civilisations orientales) and Université Libre de Bruxelles. The project is coordinated by the Department of West Europe Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, chaired by Lenka Rovná. The project was launched in 2000 and was open to students from the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Humanistic Studies. These students may use the opportunity to attend classes in social sciences given by French professors in French. The agreement with the Paris 3 Sorbonne-Nouvelle university will enable the exchange of students and postgraduates in the fields of French language and literature, comparative and general literature, languages and literature of EU countries, translation, political sciences and European studies, applied linguistic, journalism and theatre art.

April 2002
The Karolinum press and the publishing house Galén published Clinical Oncology (Klinická onkologie) by Professor Pavel Kleiner. The book is the largest monograph on oncology ever published in Czech medical literature.

16 April 2002
Theologian Jan Milič Lochman, a Czech émigré living in Switzerland, received a Charles University Medal of Commemoration. Lochman, an internationally recognized scholar who recently turned 80, is Professor of Systematic Theology and former Rector Magnificus at the University of Basel. For his merits in supporting free theological science and promoting Czech reform theology in the world, Lochman was awarded with an honorary doctorate at Charles University in 1992. Lochman was a member of the Comenius Theology Faculty in Prague until 1968, when he left Czechoslovakia. Lochman has been a tireless ecumenist. He was a member of the Central and Executive Committees of the World Church Council, and has been invited to churches and universities on four continents. Lochman is the author of many books, among them Living Roots of the Reformation, Decalogue, Credo, The Lord’s Prayer, Comenius, Encountering Marx. He wrote a Czech memoir, What Mattered in My Life, that is being translated into German now.

May 2002
The Karolinum press, with significant contribution from the Bohuslav Martinů Institute, published Jaroslav Mihule’s work Bohuslav Martinů - the Fate of a Composer, a monumental biography of one of the most important Czech composers.