When the antique in 1573 founded Olomouc University was re-opened in 1946, the natural sciences were standing at the margin of interest. Partly because they had no historical roots at the old university, partly because there was not enough money for the foundation of new natural scientific workplaces after the 2nd World War. The university leaders of that time heeded to the traditional branches of sciences, which were developing at the Faculties of Theology, Philosophy and Medicine. Only after the Faculty of Pedagogy that took aim at the education of basic-school teachers, was founded, the chance for the development of natural sciences was opened. However, these were associated in a single, unusually wide set of branches. Their development as well as their pedagogical application was entrusted to the care of a newly established Institute of Natural Science, the basis of a future geographical workplace. The Institute worked also for the so-called “Biennium of Natural Sciences” established at the Faculty of Philosophy. The Biennium provided the first four semesters of studies for teachers of the schools of the so-called “3rd grade”, i.e. of the last four years of the general education at the Czech secondary schools. The last semesters of the Biennium studies had to be finished at the faculties of natural sciences at other universities. There were strong but unsuccessful ambitions to transform the Biennium into the Faculty of Natural Sciences the grounds of the geographical workplace in Olomouc were structured by an academician František Vitásek, the Professor of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the in Brno, for several years. Also other members of the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Brno acted as external teachers at the Olomouc geographical workplace (e.g. a cartographer Václav Novák, a demographer Božena Hřibová-Nováková, a geographer of settlements Zdeněk Láznička, a traveller Karel Gam and a writer Jarolím Schäfer).

Six years later, the Pedagogical High School was integrated into the Palacky University and finally an independent Faculty of Natural Sciences was created. The first Department of Geography in Olomouc became its part in May 1, 1959. Otakar Tichý, hitherto a vice-dean of the Higher Pedagogical School in Brno, was appointed the head of the department. At that time he was the first assistant professor of the theory of methodology of geography in Czechoslovakia. Additionally, he was specialised in mathematics geography and cartography. The department staff consisted of four teaching members – JUDr. Stanislava Šprincová (socio-economical geography), RNDr. Ladislav Zapletal (physical geography), RNDr. Jiří Machyček (climatology and methodology of geographical classes) and Jarolím Schäfer,
who from the older geographical workplace at the Pedagogical High School. Unfortunately, due to bad health, Schäfer left the department very soon. The arrival of Leopold Joura, an assistant professor of socio-economical and regional geography, was of great importance for the future development of the department. Shortly after the department engaged Jan Písek, a graduated geographer specialised in biogeography and cartography. This at the department got ready not only for a successful education of students in the five-year studies but also for its scientific research activities from the very beginning of its existence. One year after its foundation it obtained its present convenient offices and classrooms.

At the beginning of the academic year 1962–63 the assistant professor Leopold Joura left the department for the University of 17th November in Prague. His place was occupied by Ivan Lepka, a graduated geographer, specialised in regional geography and geography of inhabitants and settlements. The department employed some technicians and more pedagogues. František Novák, specialised in mathematics geography, cartography and hydrology, worked only shortly there and after two years left Olomouc for the Administration of Regional Geodesy in Prešov. Another assistant, Hana Hoduláková, a graduated geographer, gave lectures on hydrology there for a short time only. PhDr. Dušan Trávníček, a well-known author of important historical and regional geographical publications, joined the department staff for the academic year 1964–65.

The main task of the Department of Geography, concordantly with the general aim of the faculty, was the education of teachers of geography for secondary schools. The five-year studies were originally realised in a subject combination with biology, later with mathematics and physical training permanently. They were to be finished with a state examination and a defence of a written graduation work. Several of these works acquired honorary places at the faculty and state competitions of the best students’ scientific work.

The numbers of students were changing very much according to the changes of directive numbers prescribed by the Czech Ministry of Education. In some years there were about 50 graduates, in others only 5 of them (especially in the subject combination of mathematics-geography). For two academic years the Ministry did not even allow any newcomers at all. This fact caused irrepairable voids, as the graduated geographers of Olomouc made usually a very good start in praxis, mainly as teachers at secondary schools or researchers at scientific institutes (e.g. Geographical Institute of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno, institutes of regional planning) and in civil services.

Parallel to the successful pedagogical work the department staff became popular by its scientific research activities too. Owing to the specialisation of its head, in the first years of its existence these activities focussed on the methodology of geography primarily and the department turned to the leading Czechoslovak work-place at this field soon. It established a specialised classroom as a model teaching place for secondary schools, created methodological collections and prototypes of teaching aids. The author of most of them was the head of the department O. Tichý. A methodological advice bureau for teachers of geography at secondary schools began to work within the department, too. J Machýček was appointed its head. In 1966 the department founded a specialised section for the research on methodology of lessons of geography, where Božena Berthová, a graduat-ed geographer, guaranteed its work. The department was put in charge of a creation of a geographical museum that could be used for school-teaching purposes. At the first stage of this project the exposition “Mathematics Geography and Cartography in School Praxis” was opened in the Museum of Homeland Studies in Olomouc. The exposition evoked a remarkable public acceptance and its visit became a part of geographical lessons at secondary schools.

The department got soon the authorisation to award the academic degree of RNDr. (Rerum Naturalium Doctor) of methodology of geography and became a schooling centre for aspirants of that branch. The responsible tutor of the aspirants became O. Tichý, who obtained a chair as a university professor of this branch in 1965. At the same time he hold a number of official state functions (a President of the Commission for Geography at the Ministry of Education, a member of the Commission for awarding the degree “Candidate of sciences” in the methodology of geography and an editor of the geographical part of the methodological monthly paper “History and Geography at School”). In the competition procedures the department engaged several external aspirants of methodology of geography. Later, some internal aspirants began to work there (e.g. Ivana Prokešová, Mojmir Pytlíček).

Finally, the department staff represented all branches of geography. This fact determined the research work of individual members as well as their contacts with inland and foreign workplaces. In course of the first years of the department existence its staff concentrated also on the geographical research of small regions and elaborated and successfully defended the final work “Geographic Characteristics of a Problematic Territory of Osoblaha Promontory of the Czechoslovak Republic”. The following research works on regional structures and evaluation of landscape sphere resources accentuated more and more aspects of environment and its protection already at that time.

L. Zapletal (an Assistant Professor since 1989) dedicated himself namely to anthropogenic geomorphology and carried out its terminology. Later he concentrated on the study of maps of Moravia done by John Amos Comenius and became a reputable expert in these questions.

S. Šprincová, an Assistant Professor for the socio-economical geography, gave lessons in this branch but she bestowed her scientific research striving to geogra-
phy of tourism. As a first expert in Czechoslovakia she began to enforce this branch into the system of geographical sciences and also carried out the basis of its appertaining terminology. In connection with that she made numerous contacts abroad and presented results of her work at many scientific meetings and some world congresses of the International Geographical Union (IGU). In this organisation she initiated the foundation of the Working Group for the Geography of Tourism and organised one of its sessions also in Olomouc. By the decision of the IGU Congress of 1980 in Tokyo the Working Group was transformed into a standing Commission and S. Šprincová became its corresponding member.

The Department of Geography in Olomouc had wide contacts to many Czechoslovak pedagogical and research institutions as well as to workplaces of economic world (departments of geography at other Czech and Slovak universities, the Institute of Pedagogical Education in Prague, the Pedagogical Institute of J. A. Comenius of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague, the Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography in Prague and the Museum of Homeland Studies in Olomouc). A long-term contract on co-operation was signed with the Institute of Geography of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno and the members of the department worked on numerous state research projects.

Many intensive abroad contacts were linked up already in the sixties. The department members realised numerous stays abroad (e.g. L. Zapletal in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan, S. Šprincová in the Aix-Marseille University in France, I. Lepka in the Irkutsk University in the USSR). Apart from that intense mail contacts were maintained to numerous geographical centres in foreign countries (Bulgaria, Canada, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Japan, Poland, Romania and naturally the former USSR and the East and West Germany). The department organised attractive student excursions to some of these countries, too. In that sense the long-term co-operation was maintained especially with the geographical workplaces in Aix-en-Provence, Marseille, Budapest, Göttingen, Greifswald and Lublin. Unfortunately, the student excursions, mainly to the West, were outstandingly limited after the end of the “Prague Spring Movement” in 1969 and the student exchange projects were compensated by regular visits to the states of the former USSR, particularly to Azerbaijan.

In 1969 some personal changes took place in the stabilised collective of the department. D. Trávníček left the department for the university in Brno and RNDr. Vladimír Panoš, a senior scientific worker of the Institute of Geography of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno succeeded to his position. V. Panoš, an Assistant Professor for physical geography, was specialised in climatology and hydrology but excelled above all with his extensive karstological research and publications. For example, he was recurrently sent to Cuba as a prominent expert for recultivation of devastated karst regions on request of the Cuban Government and Cuban Academy of Sciences. As a co-founder and a vice-President of the International Union of Speleology he had worldwide contacts, too. In 1969, at the 5th International Speleological Congress (ISU) in Stuttgart he gained the right for the Czechoslovak Republic to become a host country of its coming world congress in 1973.

According to the Law on High Schools O. Tichý retired in 1971 and J. Machyček became his successor. In forsteps of O. Tichy J. Machyček oriented the department to methodology of geography. Therefore, the name of department was changed to “The Department of Geography and Methodology of Geography”. After J. Pisek had left the department for the Faculty of Pedagogy in Olomouc and his successor RNDr. Miroslav Pluskal (specialised in methodology of geography and on regional geography) had joined the staff, the number of the department members stabilised again for several years.

In the seventies especially the creation of a methodologically oriented geographical museum acquired a remarkable effort. In close collaboration with the Museum of Homeland Studies in Olomouc even a very nice building, a valuable historical monument near Olomouc, was gained for this museum. Unfortunately, due to the disfavour of the normalisation period of the seventies this broad-minded and widely important project could not be realised. It was reduced to an internal research project called “Geography in School Praxis” that was headed by J. Machyček and carried out by all members of the department in congruence with their individual specialisation. The project results were presented on boards and could have been used for purposes of teaching geography for many years.

The most prominent activity of the Olomouc Department of Geography in the seventies was the preparation and organisation of the 6th International Speleological Congress IGU that took place in 1973 (from August 31st to September 19th). The realisation of this scientific world meeting was approved by the Czechoslovak Federal Government and was sponsored by the Czech Ministry of Education, the Czech and Slovak Ministries of Culture, the Czechoslovak Commission for UNESCO and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The Palacký University in Olomouc scheduled the Congress as one of the events organised to celebrate the 400-year anniversary of its foundation (in 1573) and became its host and its responsible organiser. V. Panoš, as the appointed General Secretary, elaborated the Congress programme and ruled its realisation. With the help of the university management and all members of the Department of Geography he created a preparatory committee as well as a group of translators, assistants and hostesses, consisting of 80 university pedagogues and students. The Congress had the highest attendance in the history of ISU – more than 1100 participants from 41 countries of the entire World. There were 18 sections.
working at the Congress. One of them was the Section “Tourism in Karst Regions” in frame of which a Symposium of the IGU Working Group for Geography of Tourism was organised by S. Šprincová. Fourteen specialised excursions were realised to all the important Czechoslovak karst regions during the Congress. Numerous reports, as they were presented in the sections, were arranged and edited by V. Panoš in 8 volumes of the Congress Proceedings.

The remaining years of the seventies and the first half of the eighties meant a and work stability at the Department of Geography. The plan of qualification growth was progressively accomplished, which reflected in the rich publication activity of the staff members. Several volumes of „Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis – series “Geographica”, numerous instructional scripts for students (used also at other universities) and specialised monography written by the staff members, were published.

Due to the fact, that since 1986 geography has not been taught at the Pedagogical Faculty any more, some pedagogues from there came to the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Miroslav Vysoudil (specialised in climatology) was the first one. Almost simultaneously the department lost V. Panoš, who was called back to the Institute of Geography of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno to elaborate and manage complex research project “E.U. PHARE (EC-HEA-10)” on the utilisation of curative karst cave environment in speleotherapy there. His position in Olomouc was taken by Jaromír Demek, an ex-director of the Institute of Geography in Brno and a prominent Czechoslovak geomorphologist of great erudition and international acceptance. In 1988 J. Demek became a head of the department and changed its orientation soon. The orientation to the methodology of geography was weakened and the department members began to realise specialised investigations – particularly in physical geography – with growing intensity.

The year 1989 brought revolutionary changes not only in the country but at the university and the Department of Geography, too. S. Šprincová and L. Zapletal, two of its foundation members, retired before November 17th, followed by J. Machyček shortly after. These changes led to a staff crisis in the department that could not even be solved by the arrival of Mojmir Pytlíček, the former head of the Department of Geography of the Pedagogical Faculty of the Palacký University, as this person tragically died in the spring of 1990. He was substituted by Jaromír Duda, another member of the Department of Geography of the Pedagogical faculty of the Palacký University (specialised in biogeography and regional geography); this colleague, unfortunately, left the department in the same year.

Nevertheless, the process of stabilisation of the department staff went on and led to an successive employment of Jiří Malý (1989), Lubomír Dvořák (1989) and Radoslav Nop (1992). However, the better economical conditions in other branches of the Czech national economy were the reason for the decision of these colleagues to leave the department in 1993–94. Also Ladislav Plánka, a hydrogeographer from the Institute of Geography in Brno, worked in Olomouc only for one and half years, to return to Brno afterwards. Only Vít Voženílek, a young graduate of the university in Brno, who joined the department in 1989 as an internal aspirant with specialisation in cartography, works at the department up to now. Even the acceptance of three geographers more (Helena Kilianová, Kateřina Batelková, Lubomír Homola) could not solve the problem of stabilisation of the Department staff.

The political changes of 1989 opened chances of further extension of international contacts and some of the department members realised long-term study stays abroad (M. Vysoudil – Netherlands, L. Dvořák – Norway, J. Malý – Switzerland and Austria, V. Voženílek – Great Britain). So, the modern research methods and the software for the work with digital spatial data as well as data of remote sensing could reach the department. Unfortunately, the then management of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and of the Department of Geography did not support the introduction of these for the Czech geographers really revolutionary methods. Nevertheless, thanks to the acquired knowledge, experience and individual enthusiasm, the department – as one of the first geographical workplaces at the Czech universities – was able to introduce modern methods (geographical information systems and remote sensing) into the education of future geography teachers as well as into its own scientific research activities. However, in spite of the intense effort a joint workplace of the Department of Geography and the Department of Ecology, the so called “ECO-GIS”, a section focussing on a complex elaboration of spatial data, could not be founded before 1994.

The appointment of J. Demek as a university professor (physical geography) in 1993 and the following habilitations of M. Vysoudil (physical geography) in 1995 as well as of M. Pluskal (pedagogy) and V. Voženílek (physical geography) in 1996 confirmed the remarkable quality of qualification level of the department.

In 1995 J. Demek resigned the leading position and shortly after left the department. M. Vysoudil was appointed to his position and stays the head of department until now. One of the important problems that he had to solve after he had taken up the leading position, was the creation of a new stabilised team. However, even in the following years the department suffered several personal changes. After H. Kilianová, K. Batelková and L. Homola had left the department, their places were occupied by young pedagogues successively. Mgr. Irena Smolová (geomorphology and regional geography of the Czech Republic) and mgr. Zdeněk Szczyrba (socioeconomic geography) came in 1995, mgr. Aleš Létal (biogeography) and mgr. Pavel Ptáček (socioeconomic geography) joined the department in 1997.
The arrival of Z. Szczyrba and P. Ptáček, the graduates of specialised study of socioeconomic geography, outstandingly reinforced this branch of geography at the department. Two young graduates of the Olomouc geography – mgr. Renata Chmelová (geoecology, hydrology) and mgr. Pavel Sedišák (GIS, cartography) – became members of the department staff in 1999.

Magister courses of geography got settled in subject combinations with mathematics, biology and geology, biology and protection of environment and finally also with physical education. Next to the traditional excursions in the Czech Republic some excursions abroad (to Austria, Slovenia and Poland) became an integral part of the students’ education. For the first time in the 40-year history of the department a three-year special bachelor study of “Geography – Geoinformatics” was established in 1997–98.

After 1995 the rooms of the department passed through considerable changes, too. Its “territory” was extended successively and nowadays the department occupies the entire wing of the first floor of the faculty main building and disposes of four schoolrooms. In the year of 40th anniversary of the foundation of the department, thanks to the joint effort of the faculty and department management, some additional rooms were apportioned to the department in the reconstructed building of the former Centre of Computer Technology. These are used by the specialised GIS section, are equipped with modern computer technology and software and enable the Department of Geography giving high-quality lessons in geoinformatics for growing numbers of students. The workplace gained high reputation among experts soon and became very popular among students. All that is a merit particularly of V. Voženílek.

Some members of the Department got noted positions in the inland scientific societies. M. Vysoudil became a President of the Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing of the Czech Republic, V. Voženílek is a member of the Czech Geographical Society (CGS) central committee, a President of its Central Moravian Branch and a Secretary of the Czech Cartographical Society (CCS). This way the department became a seat of the Bureau of the Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing as well as of Central Moravian Branch of the CGS and of the Secretariate of the CCS. The members of the department are members of several editorial councils of Czech scientific journals, too. V. Voženílek is a member of the editorial council of the CGS Journal “Geography”, M. Vysoudil is active in the one of the “Moravian Geographical Reports”. M. Pluskal carries out official reviews of geographical textbooks for the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic. I. Lepka accomplished incumbencies of a vice-dean for educational and pedagogical affairs in 1995–1999.

Also in the nineties the Olomouc Department of Geography kept being an organisational centre of numerous conferences and seminars on various problems of geography. The conferences concerning geoinformatics turned here to a firm tradition (1995, 1997, 1999). In 1998 the department became a seat of the Branch of European Geographical Association (EGEA – society of young geographers). It is the only EGEA branch existing at the universities and high schools of the Czech Republic. During the EGEA regional conference in 1999 the Olomouc Department of Geography became a place of meeting of numerous young geographers from the Eastern and Central Europe.

Nowadays the scientific research activities focus on the following research complexes primarily:

- application of GIS methods including remote sensing in physical geography and creation of thematic maps;
- research of climate of the atmosphere near-surface zone and of topoclimate;
- methodological development of the geomorphological mapping of small regions;
- estimation of the system of classes in geography at basic and secondary schools, the professional preparation of teachers of geography and the estimation of new geographical textbooks;
- the socio-economical investigation for the needs of territorial and regional planning.

Very extensive are also the advisory, recensional and expert-estimative services for practical needs of society, particularly for authorities of public administration.

The department prepares publishing of the series “Geographica” of the journal “Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis” (the 36th edition will occur in 2000) that opens the staff members the possibility to publish the results of their scientific work promptly. The journal is very appreciated in the world and as a result of that the numbers of contributions of noted foreign authors has grown progressively in the last editions.

The teaching members of the staff (J. Demek, M. Pluskal, V. Voženílek, M. Vysoudil) contributed remarkably to the publishing of geographical instructional scripts and textbooks for the university students of the entire country). Exemplary was the collaboration with the cartographical publishing company Stiefel Ltd. aiming the creation of school wall maps. All pedagogues of the department participate systematically in further education of teachers of geography of the region.

Thanks to the intensively developed methods of modern geographical research the department has become able to compete with similar centres in the Czech Republic successfully and to collaborate as an equivalent partner with geographical workplaces abroad. The Geological Institute of the University in Vienna, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the University of M. C. Sklodowska in Lublin, the University in Ljubljana, the University of J. A. Comenius and the Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, the City University in London and many others belong to the foreign institutions collaborating with the Olomouc Department of Geography most closely.
The present personal stability of the department staff supports the management’s idea to commence the realisation of the following main targets for the coming period – the creation of an independent Department of Geoinformatics as a part of the subject studies, the expansion of the present special bachelor studies “Geography – Geoinformatics” to magister courses and, finally, the accreditation of special magister courses called “International Development Studies”. The very favourable age structure of the staff is a stimulating promise that the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the Palacký University in Olomouc will become one of the most progressive geographical centres in the Czech Republic.

Staff Members of the Department of Geography in the Year of 40th Anniversary of its Foundation

**Assistant Professors:**
- doc. RNDr. Miroslav Vysoudil, CSc. (* 16. 3. 1953), the head of the department
- doc. RNDr. Miroslav Plíšek, CSc. (* 16. 4. 1942), the vice-head of the department
- doc. RNDr. Vít Voženílek, CSc. (* 8. 8. 1965)

**Specialized Assistant Lecturers:**
- RNDr. Ivan Lepka, CSc. (* 17. 11. 1934, retired by 1. 9. 2000)
- Mgr. Aleš Létal (* 11. 11. 1973)

**Assistant Lecturers:**
- Mgr. Renata Chmelová (* 13. 3. 1975)

**Administrative workers:**
- Věra Ublířová (* 21. 3. 1962), secretary
- Pavla Minxová (* 18. 3. 1971), librarian
- Marie Bušinová (* 15. 12. 1965), technician

*The contribution was completed on the base of memories of S. Šprincová, V. Panoš and M. Vysoudil who thanks this way to I. Lepka for the objective remarks.*

**SUMMARY**

The Department of Geography at Faculty of Science, Palacký University of Olomouc was officially founded in May 1. 1959 when the Pedagogical High School was integrated into the Palacký University and an independent Faculty of Natural Science was created. Otakar Tichý was appointed the head of the department. The department educated not only future geography teachers (combination with biology, mathematics and sport) but also was ready for scientific research activities.

Parallel to the pedagogical work the department staffs became popular by its scientific research activities (methodology of geography, anthropogenic geomorphology, geography of karst, geography of tourism etc.).

The Department of Geography had wide contacts to many Czechoslovak and abroad pedagogical and research institutions. The department members realised numerous stays abroad in the sixties.

When O. Tichý retired in 1971 Jiří Machyček became his successor and oriented the department mighty to methodology of geography. The most prominent activity of the department in the seventies was the organisation of the 6th International Speleological Congress IGU that took place in 1973. V. Panoš, as the appointed General Secretary, elaborated the Congress programme and ruled its realisation. The end of seventies and first half of eighties meant personal and work stability at the department. Since 1986 geography has not been taught at the Pedagogical Faculty any more and some pedagogues (M. Vysoudil, M. Pytlíček, J. Duda) from there came to the Department of Geography at Faculty of Science. Simultaneously the department lost V. Panoš and Jaromír Demek, an ex-director of the Institute of Geography in Brno, took his position in Olomouc. In 1989 J. Demek became a head of the department. The orientation of department was changed to physical geography intensive.

The year 1989 brought revolutionary changes at the university and the department. Two of its foundation members (S. Šprincová and L. Zapletal) retired before November 17th, followed by J. Machyček (primer vice-dean of faculty) shortly after. These changes led to a staff crisis for several next years.

On the other hand the political changes of 1989 opened chances of further extension of international contacts and some of the department members realised long-term study stays abroad. So, the modern methods and software for the work with digital spatial data (GIS) as well as data of remote sensing could reach the department. The department, as one of the first geographical workplaces at the Czech universities, was able to introduce above techniques into the education as well as onto its own scientific research activities.

In 1995 J. Demek resigned the leading position and shortly after left the department. M. Vysoudil was pointed to his position and stays the head of department until now. One of the important problems that he had to solve, was the creation of a new stabilised team. Young pedagogues occupied new places successively. Magister courses of geography got settled in subject combination with mathematics, biology and geology, biology and protection of environment and finally with physical education. For the first time in the 40-year of the department special bachelor course of “Geography – Geoinformatics” was established in 1997–98.
After 1995 the rooms of the department passed through considerable changes. Nowadays the department occupies the entire wing of the first floor of the faculty main building. In the year of 40th anniversary of the foundation of the department, thanks to the joint effort of the faculty and department management, some additional rooms were apported to the department. These are used by the specialised GIS section and enable give high quality lessons in geoinformatics.

Some members of the Department got noted position in the inland scientific societies (M. Vysoudil became President of the Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing of the Czech Republic, V. Voženílek is a member of the Czech Geographical Society central committee, a President of its Central Moravian Branch and a Secretary of the Czech Cartographical Society). The staffs of the department are the members of editorial councils of Czech scientific journals (M. Vysoudil – “Moravian Geographical Reports”, V. Voženílek – “Geography”), too. M. Pluskal carries out official reviews of geographical textbooks for the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic, I. Lepka accomplished incumbences of a vice-dean for educational and pedagogical affairs in 1995–2000.

In the nineties the department kept being an organisational centre of numerous conferences and seminars on various problems of geography. The conferences concerning geoinformatics turned here to a firm tradition. In 1998 the department became a seat of the Branch of European Geographical Association EGEA (society of young geographers) as only the one at the Czech Republic. During the EGEA regional conference in 1999 the Department of Geography became a place of meeting of numerous young geographers from the Eastern and Central Europe. The scientific research activities focus on the following research complexes primarily:

- application of GIS methods including remote sensing in physical geography and thematic mapping;
- research of climate of boundary atmosphere layer and of topoclimate;
- methodological development of the geomorphological mapping of small regions;
- estimation of the system of classes in geography at basic and secondary schools, the professional preparation of teachers of geography and the estimation of new geographical textbooks;
- the socio-economical investigation for the needs of territorial and regional planning.

The department prepares publications of the series of the series “Geographica” of the journal “Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis” (professional editor M. Vysoudil) and the 36th edition will occurred in 2000. The teaching members of the staff (J. Demek, M. Pluskal, V. Voženílek, M. Vysoudil) contributed remarkably to the publishing of geographical instructional scripts and textbooks for the university students of the entire country. Exemplary was the collaboration with the company Stiefer Ltd. aiming the creation of school wall maps.

Thanks to the intensively developed methods of modern geographical research the department has become able to compete with similar centres in the Czech Republic successfully and to collaborate as an equivalent partner with geographical workplaces abroad.

The present personal stability supports the management’s idea to commence the realisation of the following main targets for the coming period:

- the establish of an independent Department of Geoinformatics as a part of the subject studies
- the expansion of present bachelor course “Geography – Geoinformatics” to magister
- accreditation of special magister course called “International Development Studies”.

The very favourable age structure of the staff is a stimulating promise that the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Science at the Palacký University in Olomouc will become one of most progressive geographical centres in the Czech Republic.

**SOUHRN**

**ČTYŘICET LET KATEDRY GEOGRAFIE NA PŘÍRODOVĚDECKÉ FAKULTĚ UNIVERSITY PALACKÉHO V OLOMOUCI**


V r. 1953 vznikla v Olomouci Vysoká škola pedagogická, kam bylo z dosavadní univerzity převedeno větší učitelské studium. Teprve na ni byla založena samostatná fakulta přírodních věd, která vzdělávala ve čtyřletém studiu učitele pro tehdejší, školskou reformou ustavené, jednáctileté školy. Geografické pracoviště se stalo součástí Ústavu geologie a geografie, v jehož čele
katedra rozšířuje o technické síly a další pedagogy. Krátkodobě působil na katedře František Novák (obor matematikou geografie, kartografie a hydrologie), který po 2 letech odešel na Správu oblastní geodézii v Prešově. Na krátké dobu nastupuje asistentka Hana Hoduláková, promovaná geografa (hydrologie). Ve školním roce 1964–65 přichází z Historického ústavu ČSAV na katedru PhDr. Dušan Trávníček, už tehdy známý svými publikacemi z historické a regionální geografie.

Shodně s celkovým zaměřením fakulty bylo hlavním úkolem katedry geografie vzdělávání učitelů (středoškolských profesorů) zeměpisu. Pětileté studium probíhalo nejprve v kombinaci s biologii, později trvale s matematikou nebo s tělesnou výchovou. Studium bylo zakončeno státní zkouškou a obhajobou diplomové práce. Řada z těchto prací se umístila nejen ve fakultní, ale i v celostátní soutěži o nejlepší studentskou vědeckou práci.

Počty posluchačů se měnily podle směrů česel stanovených ministerstvem školství od 50 posluchačů v ročníku po roky, kdy končelo studium jen 5 posluchačů oboru matematika – zeměpis. Ve dvou studijních letech dokonce ministerstvo směrné číslo neposkytlo, což způsobilo nenahraditelné výpady v ročnících. Absolventi olomouckého studia geografie se totiž vesměs dobře uplatnili v praxi, hlavně jako středoškolskí profesorů, někteří i ve výzkumných ústavech (např. Geografický ústav ČSAV, ústavy regionálního plánování i ve veřejné správě).

Ve dvě třetiny pedagogické práce nezůstával kolektiv katedry pozadu ani v práci vědecko-výzkumné. Vlivem specializace vedoucího katedry byla vědecko-výzkumná činnost v prvních letech působení byla výrazně zaměřena na teorii a didaktiku vyučování zeměpisu a dostala se v tomto oboru už od počátku svého působení do čela geografických pracovišť v ČSR. Byla zařízena obdobná učebna zeměpisu, jako vzor pro školy II. cyklu, byly vytvářeny metodické sbírky a vytvářeny prototypy didaktických pomůcek. Jejich autorem byl většinou O. Tichý. Tuto disciplínu začala jako první v tehdejší ČSSR pro-sazovat do systému geografických věd a vypracovala základy její terminologie. V tomto oboru navázala četná výzkumná práci, která se soustředila na studium Komenského map Moravy a stal se v tomto směru uznávaným znalcem.

Stanislava Šprincová, docentka v oboru socioekonomické geografie tuto disciplínou vyučovala, ale úžiž a intenzivně se věnovala geografii cestovního ruchu. Tuto disciplínu začala jako právní v tehdejší ČSSR prosazovat do systému geografických věd a vypracovala základy její terminologie. V tomto oboru navázala četná výzkumná práci, která se soustředila na studium Komenského map Moravy a stal se v tomto směru uznávaným znalcem.

Vprvních letech existence katedry se její kolektiv ve své vědecko-výzkumné činnosti zaměřil také na geografický výzkum malých regionů a zpracoval i obhajobu geografickou charakteristikou problémového území Osového v YS. Později výzkumy regionálních struktur a hodnocení zdrojů krajinné sféry stále více již tehdy zdůrazňovaly aspekty ochrany životního prostředí.

Zažádali ho na konference v Tokiu 1980 přetvořila v řádnou komisi. Přes všechny obory geografie, což určovalo vědecko-výzkumná práce jednotlivých členů i jejich odborné kontakty s domácími i zahraničními pracovišti.

V učitelském kolektivu katedry byly zastoupeny všechny obory geografie, což určovalo vědecko-výzkumnou práci jednotlivých členů i jejich odborné kontakty s domácími i zahraničními pracovišti.

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L. Zapletal (docent od r. 1989) se ve své výzkumné práci věnoval zejména antropogenní geomorfologii a vypracoval ji její terminologii. Později se soustředil na studium Komenského map Moravy a stal se v tomto směru uznávaným znalcem.

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Jednou z nich byla sekce „Cestovní ruch v krasových oblastech“ (garant S. Šprincová) v rámci této sekc se též uskutečnilo již zmíněné sympozium Pracovní skupiny pro geografii cestovního ruchu Mezinárodní geografické unie. Vedle zmíněných tří členů katedry byli k přípravám a organizaci konzervu zapojeni více živárcí pracovnici. Kongres měl do té doby největší účast v dějinách Mezinárodní speleologické unie, zúčastnilo se jej přes 1000 osob ze 41 zemí. Byl sestaven a vydán 8 dílný Sborník referátů a jeho redaktorem byl V. Panoš.

Zvykající 70. léta a první polovina let 80. let znamenali pro katedru personální i pracovní stabilitu. Postupně se naplňuje plán kvalifikačního růstu, který je provázen i bohatou publikační činností členů katedry. Vychází další čísla sborníku AUPO, řady „Geographica“, řada učebních textů pro studenty geografie využívaných i na jiných vysokých školách, nechybí ani samostatné monografie pracovníků katedry.

V souvislosti se zrušením výuku zeměpisu na pedagogické fakultě UP v roce 1986 přešla postupně část pedagogů na katedru geografie přírodovědecké fakulty. Prvním z nich byl Miroslav Vysouzdil (klimatologie). Katedru opustil V. Panoš, povoláno do Geografického ústavu ČSAV v Brně k vypracování projektu a vedení komplexního vědeckovýzkumného úkolu PHARE (EC-HEA-10) léčebného využití krasových jeskyní ve speleoterapii. Na jeho místo nastoupil Jaromír Demek, odvolaný ředitel Geografického ústavu ČSAV v Brně a člen katedry geografie UJEP ve Brně, přední československý geomorfolog s velkou vědeckou erudicí a mezinárodním ohlasem. V roce 1988 se ujímá vedení katedry a rychle mění její orientace. Oslabuje se orientace na teorii vyučování zeměpisu a pracovníci katedry se stále intenzivněji zaměřují na odborné výzkumy, především v fyzické geografii. Fakulta získává právo habilitovat docenty z fyzické geografie.

Rok 1989 však přinesl revoluční změny nejen ve státě, ale i na univerzitě a tak i na katedře geografie. Ještě před 17. listopadem odešli do starobního důchodu odborníci z katedry geografie, kteří byli v první suverencii k nim přiděleni. Zrušením výuku zeměpisu a zeměpisu na pedagogické fakultě pronásledovány a odvoláni byli i další právníci katedry. Oslabuje se orientace katedry na teorii vyučování geografie a praxe geografie se stále intenzivněji zaměřuje na odborné výzkumy, především ve fyzické geografii.


V r. 1971 byl podle vysokoškolského zákona nucen odejít do důchodu vedoucí O. Tichý, který jeho jmenovce se stal Jiří Machyček, jehož podobně jako O. Tichý výrazně obražil zaměřené katedry na metodiku vyučování zeměpisu. Název katedry byl rozšířen na Katedra geografie a didaktiky vyučování geografie. Po odejtech Jana Piška na Pedagogickou fakultu v Olomouci a nástupu Miroslava Pluskala (teorie vyučování zeměpisu a regionální geografie) se počet členů katedry na řadu let ustává.

V r. 1969 došlo ke změně ve složení pedagogického sboru katedry. Na univerzitě v Brně odešel D. Trávníček. Na jeho místo nastoupil Vladimír Panoš, do té doby zastávající funkci vedoucího O. Tichého a v přísedě ČSAV. Hostitelem a pořadatelem byla Uni-
nejší nadlouho problém stabilizace pedagogického sboru.


Jmenování J. Demka profesorem v r. 1993 (fyzická geografie), následné habilitace M. Vysoudila v r. 1995 (fyzická geografie), M. Pluskala (pedagogika) a V. Voženílka (fyzická geografie) v r. 1996 znamenaly výrazné zvýšení kvalitativního složení pracovišť.


Rozsáhlá byla posudková a expertizní činnost pro rozvoj metod geomorfologického mapování malých oblastí, hodnocení systému výuky zeměpisu na základních a středních školách, profesní příprava učitelů geografie a hodnocení nových učebnic zeměpisu, socioekonomický výzkum pro potřeby územního a regionálního plánování.

Rozsáhlá byla posudková a expertizní činnost pro potřeby celoevropské praxe, zejména pro organy veřejné správy.

Učitelé katedry významně přispěli ke tvorbě vysokoškolských skript a celostátních učebnic zeměpisu (J. Demek, M. Pluskl, V. Voženílek, M. Vysoudil). Široká byla účast na tvorbě školních nástěnných map ve spolupráci s kartografickým vydavatelstvím Stiefel, s. r. o. Učitele katedry se soustavně podílejí na dalším vzdělávání učitelů zeměpisu v regionu.

Díky stále intenzivně rozvíjeným metodám moderního geografického výzkumu se stalo pracoviště konkurenceschopné v rámci ČR a současně může rovnoprávně spolupracovat se zahradníčními geografickými pracovišti.

Mezi nejvýznamnější zahradní partnerské katedry patří zejména Geografický Institut Univerzity Vídeň, Hebrejská univerzita Jeruzalém, Univerzita M. C. Sklodovské v Lublinu, Lublaňská Univerzita v Lublani, Univerzita J. A. Komenského v Bratislavě, Geografický ústav SAV v Bratislavě, City University of London aj.

Poté, co bylo dosaženo personální stability, je hlavním cílem současného vedení katedry pro nejbližší období vytvoření samostatné katedry geoinformatiky v rámci oboru, rozšíření odborného bakalářského studia „Geografie – Geoinformatika“ na magisterské a akreditačního odborného magisterského studia „Mezinárodní rozvojová studia“. Velmi přínosivá věková struktura pracovníků je zárukou, že během několika málo let se může stát Katedra geografie Přírodovědecké fakulty Univerzity Palackého v Olomouci jedním z nejvýznamnějších v České republice.

Pracovníci katedry geografie v roce 40. výročí jejího založení:

Docenti
doc. RNDr. Miroslav Vysoudil, CSc. (* 16. 3. 1953)
– vedoucí katedry

doc. RNDr. Miroslav Pluskal, CSc. (* 16. 4. 1942)
– zástupce vedoucího katedry

doc. RNDr. Vít Voženílek, CSc. (* 8. 8. 1965)

Odborní asistenti
RNDr. Ivan Lepka, CSc. (* 17. 11. 1934)**
Mgr. Aleš Létal (* 11. 11. 1973)
Mgr. Pavel Ptáček (* 2. 8. 1972)
Mgr. Irena Smolová, Ph.D. (* 27. 6. 1970)

Asistenti
Mgr. Renata Chmelová (* 13. 3. 1975)

Administrativní pracovníci
Věra Uhlířová – sekretářka (* 21. 3. 1962)
Pavla Minxová – knihovnice (* 18. 3. 1971)
Marie Bušinová (* 15. 12. 1965)
– technická pracovnice
** K 1. 9. 2000 odešel do důchodu.

Článek byl zpracován na základě pamětí a vzpomínek S. Šprincové, V. Panoše a M. Vysoudila, který touto cestou děkuje také I. Lepkovi za věcné připomínky.

Translated: doc. RNDr. Vladimír Panoš, CSc.

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