
Inspirational series of alumni

In this inspiring series, our alumni share in their own words stories of overcoming challenges, setting up research projects, and bringing about positive change in the world.



Chaitra Srinivas, Ph.D.

Faculty:	Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové
Occupation:	Shresta's Dental Care and Orthodontic Centre
Nationality:	Indian

"Studying in a foreign country gave me a memorable experience and many unforgettable moments with Czech friends"

Dr. Srinivas received her PhD degree in dentistry from Charles University, the Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové, in 2009. She currently practises at Shresta's Dental Care and Orthodontic Centre in Bangalore and is an orthodontic consultant at the Dental Health Care Centre.

During her studies, she was selected as an outstanding student for a placement at the Mayo Clinic, USA. In addition to her clinical training in the Czech Republic, she also participated in a residency programme at the National University of Singapore and in practical training at Dr. Tobin Mark's Teethline clinic in England. She is a co-author of the Textbook of Orthodontics for Dentistry Students, published in 2007. In recognition of her achievements, she received the 2015 Outstanding Dentist of the Year award in Mumbai, India.

[Read more about the successful alumni in the interview](#)

Prof. Dr.phil. Hans Martin Rothkegel, Th.D., Ph.D.

Faculty:	Protestant Theological Faculty
Occupation:	Professor of Church History at Theologische Hochschule Elstal, Germany

Nationality:	German
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"I was fascinated by the beauty of the city of Prague and by the people I met there."

In the 1990s, I studied theology and classical philology in Hamburg, Thessaloniki, and Vienna. In autumn 1997, I enrolled for doctoral studies in Protestant Theology at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. What brought me to Prague was both opportunity and curiosity. The multi-denominational Theological Faculty, which was well equipped in terms of faculty and library, was amazingly involved in contemporary public debate.

Three aspects turned out to be most important: First, the Czech language opened the door to a rich cultural heritage. Second, international students are easily introduced to experts in their fields. Third, there is an amazing wealth of sources available in Czech libraries and archives. In my journey to becoming a professor of European religious history, I owe a lot to Charles University and my wonderful teachers there.

RNDr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Ph.D.

Faculty:	Faculty of Science
Occupation:	Minister for Agriculture and the Environment of Cape Verde
Nationality:	Cape Verde

"My basic approach is that the university teaches us to learn."

His studies at Charles University began in the late 1980s, when the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic still existed. At the very beginning, he stayed in Dobruška, East Bohemia, where he studied Czech language at the language school for preparing foreigners for study at Charles University. He studied general biology with later specialization in microbiology. He finished his studies after the revolution. His diploma, he adds, has the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic written on it.

"The basic scientific principles you learn can be applied anywhere."

He returned to the Czech Republic to study in 1999, when he started his PhD in Applied and Landscape Ecology at the Faculty of Science. He studied at the Faculty of Science for a total of 10 years.

Prof. Václav Větvíčka

Faculty:	Faculty of Science
Occupation:	Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine and Director of Research at university of Louisville
Nationality:	Czech

"Charles University teachers helped us to become scientists"

Professor Václav Větvíčka teaches at the School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, at the University of Louisville, Kentucky in the United States. In 1978, he graduated in Immunology at the Faculty of Science of Charles University, then worked at the Institute of Microbiology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague in Krč, where he worked as a researcher since 1983. He specializes in research into the immunomodulator beta-glucan.

The author and co-author of more than 360 peer-reviewed publications, ten books, and nine international patents, Professor Větvíčka has given more than 80 lectures at universities and research institutes worldwide. He is a member of the Czech Immunological Society and the American Association of Immunologists.