

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS

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The study analyses chronologically the history, current state and development of the Department of Physical Education and Sports on the Faculty of Arts at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica from the point of view of teaching physical education at the university. In the paper, the author focuses on analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and research activities of the department's teachers. She introduces historical facts about the department's separate periods of development since its creation and the origins of the academic study of physical education and thereafter she analyses individual milestones in development up to today. Additionally, the author points to the significant social activities of the department's members as well as its athlete's achievements – both as students and graduates. As part of the historical review, she references both members of the department and significant athletes.

INTRODUCTION

In the academic year of 2017/2018, we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Department of Physical Education and Sports in the Faculty of Arts at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (DPES FA MBU). Teaching physical education has a long history in Banská Bystrica. Its origin stretches back to the 1950s. The historical development of the Department of Physical Education and Sports consists of several historical periods and was closely influenced by the development of society, the development of the higher educational system in Slovakia and the higher educational preparation of teachers and coaches in Banská Bystrica in particular. The Department of Physical Education and Sports is one of the oldest departments of the former Higher School of Education, Institution of Education, Faculty of Education and also at present, it is one of the key departments in the Faculty of Arts at MBU in Banská Bystrica. In this analysis we remind ourselves of, and at the same time introduce to contemporary readers, the most significant historical milestones and achievements from the establishment of the department up to the present day. We mention people who helped with the successful development of this university institution, as well as the larger world, both European and Slovak, achievements of students, who are athletes and graduates of the department, which cannot be forgotten.

While working on the study, we proceeded from the historical materials which we put through a content analysis. We used mainly the analysis of the

personal documents of some employees of DPES FA MBU and the book titled *Pamätnica vysokého školstva v Banskej Bystrici* (Firc, 1975; Fremal a kol., 1974, 1979; Lietava, 1966; Martuliak a kol., 2012; Petráš, 2011, 2014; Starší a Čillík, 2002).

1. Period: Higher School of Education in Banská Bystrica (1954-1959) Establishment of the Department of Physical Education (1957)

The first state educational institution of higher education in Banská Bystrica was the **Higher School of Education (HSE)**, which started work on the 4th of December, 1954 and prepared teachers for 6th-8th grade classes of eight-year and eleven-year high schools in two-year and three-year full-time courses, later also in two-year part-time courses. Physical education was taught from the beginning of the HSE as well. The first teachers, apart from outside high-school teachers were the lecturers Jozef Klempa and Viera Vidová. The Department of Physical Education (DPE) on HSE was formed in **1957**, when Jaroslav Starší joined. Jozef Klempa was the first head of the department.

HSE was based in the building of the grammar school in Banská Bystrica on Tajovský street No.8, which is the present-day Faculty of Economy at MBU in Banská Bystrica. Consequently, with the establishment of DPE, rooms for teaching physical education were created mostly without outside help. The department had a gym at its disposal and gradually courts (for volleyball and basketball) and a running track were built in the school grounds.

The first period of the existence of DPE HSE in Banská Bystrica was very dynamic and it created the basis for its further rapid development. Teachers of PE, with the active support and help of colleagues from other departments, started to organize regular sports training courses with students. In this period, one of the pioneers of sports educational activities was Jaroslav Mazúrek, who participated energetically in the setting up of the department in the higher educational system.

The first sports training course was a waterman's course organized in the summer of 1955. The course took place on a weir on the river Hron, not far from the former cement factory in Banská Bystrica. Outdoor camping was undertaken in the Plavno nature reserve and Jaroslav Mazúrek, Mikuláš Krušpán and Ján Bartoš were involved in its organization. An outdoor swimming course with camping was organized in the summer of 1956 in Sklené Teplice. The head of the course was Jozef Klempa cooperating with Viera Vidová and Jaroslav Mazúrek. About 110 students took part in tourist outings in the Štiavnica Mountains (e.g. Sitno, Tajchy in Banská Štiavnica). HSE students participated in the summer sports course in Vyšné Ružbachy in July 1957. The first winter ski training courses took place near Banská Bystrica (Suchý vrch, Tajov). The proof of students' interest in physical education in their free time was the skiing by the amphitheatre not far from the school during the winter season (Alberty, 2009). Students mainly spent their free time in sports activities in the pleasant school sports grounds, as well as in nearby sports centres during winter.

2. Period: Institute of Education in Banská Bystrica (1959-1964) Establishment of the field of physical education 1962

From 1st of September, 1959, Higher Schools of Education were cancelled in Czechoslovakia and were replaced by **Institutes of Education (IE)**. These institutes prepared teachers for 1st-9th classes of elementary nine-year schools.

The study in IE was factually and in terms of time divided into two phases. The first phase took two years (four semesters) and it consisted of common base subjects which every student had to pass. In the second phase, students could choose either a one-year follow-up course and by completing it, they would be qualified for teaching in primary school or choose a two-year course whereby they would be qualified as a secondary school teacher.

In the second case, students chose one combination of three subjects.

During the first years of the existence of the IE, the Department of Physical Education provided teaching for all students within the common subject base. A significant and qualitative shift in obligatory and spare-time physical education happened in **1962**, when a course in the study of physical education was established. At the same time, the higher education sports association Slávia was established on 1st of December, 1962. During this period, the department's teachers organized various social and sports events, discussions with prominent athletes and sports officials for students. The physical education teaching staff was expanded over a short period. Jaroslav Starší was the head of the department since 1960. In this period, the key employees of the department of physical education were: Adam Bella, Mária Bíloveská, Augustín Bubeník, Bohumil Bucko, Ján Darida, Ľubomír Dropčo, Ján Gabara, Dušan Hlasica, Ján Lehocký, Marián Janík, Viera Dropčová, Róbert Rozim (Sr.), Ľudmila Slimáková, Ján Škripko, Ervín Tichý, Ondrej Výboh, Vlasta Žabková a MUDr. Pavel Hykel, sports doctor. The founders Jozef Klempa and Viera Vidová remained working at the department until 1960.

3. Period: Faculty of Education in Banská Bystrica (1964-1992) Development of Department of Physical Education

The Faculty of Education (FE) in Banská Bystrica was established on 1st of September, 1964 by merging IE in Banská Bystrica with the closed IE in Martin. A complex higher educational institution was established from both of them.

By reorganizing the basic workplaces of educational process in the faculty building in Banská Bystrica two departments of physical education were created:

- the study of physical education, that provided preparation of PE teachers for elementary schools, and later, high schools (its head was Jaroslav Starší);
 - basic physical education, that provided physical education for students, who were not studying physical education in a combination (the head was Ján Lehocký, afterwards Dušan Hlasica).
- In a short time, technical and material conditions for teaching physical education improved (e.g. construction of a gym for teaching gymnastics).

On 11th of October, 1966, following the law about higher educational schools, FE in Banská Bystrica introduced four-year full-time courses in two study areas:

- a) teaching of 1st-5th classes of elementary schools,
- b) teaching of 6th-9th classes of elementary schools.

The departments could organize and ensure the educational process by themselves.

During 1960s, respected personalities all over the nation, who actively represented their school or town in sports clubs or as coaches emerged from the Department of Physical Education (e.g. Jaroslav Starší, Ján Lehocký, Ján Škripko etc.).

Construction of the first buildings of FE on Tajovský street No. 40 began in May 1966. By 1971, a workplace for physical education was built and equipped. It included indoor sports educational facilities (such as a sports hall, pool, gymnastics gym and a gym with mirrors).

Both Departments of Physical Education moved to these buildings during the academic year of 1970/1971. On 1st of September, 1970, the sports and recreational facility of the sports association Slávia FE in Donovaly was finished and opened. That laid the foundation for summer and winter training camps for students and athletes.

The beginning of the 1970s offered an exceptionally favourable situation for the development of physical education and sports at the faculty. The finishing of building the new grounds on FE on Tajovský Street No. 40 contributed to that situation significantly.

Optimal conditions for teaching physical education were created and a merger of the department of physical education and the department of basic physical education took place. There was a new common department, **the Department of Physical Education (DPE)**, and it became one of the biggest departments of FE. The goal was to prepare teachers of secondary and high schools. The department also took part in the preparation of teachers for primary schools and provided physical education for all other students of FE. In the department headed by Jaroslav Starší, three department sections were created:

- a) department section of physical education (the head was Ján Lehocký),
- b) department section of physical education for elementary schools (the head was Bohumil Bucko),
- c) department section of general physical education (the head was Dušan Hlasica).

The building of further outdoor sports educational facilities (athletic stadium) and an adjacent building with one floor on the grounds of FE was finished in 1982. This created a complete area and the supporting conditions for teaching physical education. Teachers and students of DPE FE and members of sports association Slávia FE participated in the building of these facilities.

Gradually, more fields and courts for sports were built (volleyball, basketball, handball and football). The District public sports educational display called the spartakiad took place at the stadium in 1985.

The members of DPE Jaroslav Starší (1982) and Mária Bíloveská (1983-1989) were vice-deans of FE. Secretaries Magda Hlôšková and Emília Oklepová did an excellent job at DPE.

The scientific and research work of the department's teachers evolved significantly, which gradually led to the award of academic-pedagogical degrees. The title of associate professor was given to: Jaroslav Starší, Mária Bíloveská and Róbert Rozim (Sr.).

Better workplace and physical conditions were noticeable in the sports activities of sports association Slávia FE. Greater achievements appeared in the performances of athletes representing the region, Slovakia or the former federation.

DPE FE played a not negligible part in the organization of sports championships of universities, mainly the top event – the Slovak Academic Championships and Czechoslovak University Games. FE became an organizer of the Czechoslovak Summer University Games in 1973. The effectiveness of the work of DPE was seen in 1978, when the Czechoslovak association for physical education and the editors of *Sport* magazine gave the department the title *"the most competent faculty"*.

FE organized the Slovak 7th Summer Academic Championship in 1984 and hosted the Slovak 11th Summer Academic Championship in 1992.

The achievements of the department's students at the Czechoslovak University Games and Slovak Academic Championships are also significant. At those events but also at the Olympics, World Championships and European Championships, a number of track and field athletes, female basketball players, karate fighters and artistic gymnasts won recognition.

A negative setback was the cancelling of obligatory general physical education at the beginning of the 1990s (1990-1992), which had been included in the study courses since 1970s. Non-professional intervention caused the degradation of obligatory

physical education for all students. The previously obligatory general physical education became an optional subject.

FE in Banská Bystrica and its predecessors were ranked as prominent social, pedagogical, research and scientific, cultural and sports higher educational workplaces in Slovakia and across former Czechoslovakia.

4. Period: Origins of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica Development of Department of Physical Education 1992-2008

The start of this period on **1st of July, 1992** is characterized by the origins of the **Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica** (MBU BB), that was created from two separate faculties in Banská Bystrica (Faculty of Education and Faculty of Economics). The Faculty of Education in Banská Bystrica was within MBU divided into two faculties: the Faculty of Humanitarian and Natural Sciences (FHNS MBU) and the Faculty of Education (FE MBU), whose first dean became Róbert Rozim (Sr.). FHNS MBU further divided into the Faculty of Humanitarian Sciences MBU (FHS MBU) and the Faculty of Natural Sciences MBU (FNS MBU) in 1995.

The university, even at the time of its emergence, followed the achievements and great traditions of its predecessors in the field of physical education and sports.

DPE FE divided in 1992 again and a new period in the development of university physical education began. Two separate departments of physical education were established: **The Department of Physical Education in the Faculty of Education MBU** (DPE FE MBU), which integrated teachers, who taught in the department section for teaching on elementary schools and **the Department of Physical Education and Sports in the Faculty of Humanitarian and Natural Sciences MBU** (DPES FHNS MBU). In FHNS MBU were teachers, who were previously in the section of physical education and general physical education. FHNS MBU was divided into the Faculty of Humanitarian Sciences and the Faculty of Natural Sciences in 1995. DPES became part of **FHS MBU**.

Department of Physical Education FE MBU in Banská Bystrica

For the first eight years after reorganization in 1992, DPE FE MBU was doing its educational,

research and scientific activities in difficult working conditions and not very suitable premises at Zvolenská cesta No.6 .

Inside the building, there was a gym with mirrors, in which there was health PE, resistance exercises, movement games and dances. For the preparation of students, sports educational spaces at DPES FHS were used in the Faculty of Law and in the 8-year sports grammar school in Banská Bystrica.

A significant improvement of conditions for the department's teachers happened at the beginning of 2001, when FE moved to better-suited premises at Ružová Street in Sásová. The quality of conditions for teaching physical education improved for delivering the courses and scientific and research activities of DPE teachers.

In the first year, DPE FE was preparing teachers for elementary schools and future after-school tutors. Gradually, the preparation of teachers of general educational subjects for secondary schools started (study in a combination with second subject - mathematics, music teaching, arts, physical education, Slovak language and literature, later also ethics).

DPE FE started with the preparation of teachers for elementary and secondary schools, high schools in a study course (SP) of physical education teaching, a one-subject course.

The first head of the department was Elvira Trunečková, who was also vice-dean for development from 1993 to 1999. The next head of the department was Nadežda Vladovičová (1994-1999). Further heads of the department were Jiří Michal (1999-2002 and 2007-2008) and Pavol Bartík (2002-2007). Other vice-deans of FE MBU were: Pavol Bartík (1999-2002, 2006-2008) a vice-dean for public relations and international relations and Nadežda Vladovičová (2002-2006) a vice-dean for pedagogical activities. From 2002 to 2003, the vice-rector of MBU was Jiří Michal.

An important part of every higher educational workplace apart from educational activity is also scientific and research activity. The qualifications of DPE teachers gradually started to improve. Professor Jozef Hrčka worked at DPE FE from 1999 to 2004. In the field of elementary school teaching, some teachers became associate professors: E. Trunečková, N. Vladovičová, P. Bartík, N. Novotná, in the field of sports education: J. Michal, Š. Adamčák. Teachers at DPE FE were also supervisors in postgraduate studies in the field of elementary school teaching. Among successful graduates were (in alphabetical order): Karin Baisová, Želmíra Jurašková, Martina Jurkechová, Rastislav Kollár, Soňa Kremnická (Kroupová),

Martin Kružliak, Peter Mandzák, Ľudvik Michalov, Lucia Plačková, Peter Reich, Miroslav Sližik, Michaela Slováková (Kohútová), Lucia Sujová, Barbora Šimonová, Eva Zelmanová (Ottmárová) etc. The most successful ones remained working at the department. The department's teachers took part in conferences, seminars; they published monographs and scientific articles concerning physical education within pre-school and elementary pedagogics. DPE FE has been publishing a periodical called *Acta Universitatis Matthiae Belii Physical Education and Sport* since 1999.

The achievements of the department's students are also significant. Some of them, as athletes and coaches, won medals at events such as the Olympics, World Championships, European Championships, and Slovak Championships.

Department of Physical Education and Sports FHS MBU in Banská Bystrica

After the division of departments in 1992, the main aim of DPES FHS MBU in Banská Bystrica was to further prepare teachers of secondary and high schools, who with their attitudes would encourage children and young people to regularly take part in sports.

In its pedagogical activities, the department in its full-time courses paid attention to the preparation of teachers in the field of physical education in combination with other subjects (also in different faculties). Since 1966, the department had been preparing students in the single field of physical education with a training specialization (track and field, basketball, karate, ice hockey, swimming and artistic gymnastics), and gradually more were added. At that time, DPES opened also a part-time bachelor course in the specialization of sports educational instructor.

Part of the university's work became scientific and research activity alongside educational activity.

The research activity of the department was based around grant funded and institutional projects concerned with monitoring the level of physical development and capacity of schoolchildren in the region of Banská Bystrica, finding out the effectiveness of training load on the capacity of female basketball players, the selection of talent for sport, sports training in particular sports and sports chronobiology. The research was aimed also at the area of the theory and didactics of school physical education and sports.

The department organized international conferences and scientific seminars to present the results of the research work and to deepen the cooperation with other workplaces in Slovakia and abroad. The Department's teachers took part in various congresses, conferences, seminars with the goal of presenting their results in the area of sports sciences (the name originated in 1996) in Slovakia and abroad. To a large extent, the establishment of the Regional Scientific Community for Physical Education and Sports in Banská Bystrica (1997) helped this direction. The leader of the community was Jaroslav Starší and later, the leaders of the newly named Scientific Community for Physical Education and Sports were Karol Rybárik, Karol Görner and today, the leader is Miroslav Nemec. Up until 2008, the community published a collection of papers called *Pohyb, šport, zdravie*.

The gradual specialization and development of DPES led to approving the qualification to receive scientific-pedagogical titles of associate professor and professor in the scientific field of sports education. From 1990 to 2008, seven DPES teachers habilitated: Dušan Hlasica, Karol Rybárik, Ľudmila Jančoková, Karol Görner, Ivan Čilik, Matej Bence, Ladislav Bence, Miroslav Nemec and one DPE FE MBU teacher (Štefan Adamčák). The first professor at the department was Jaroslav Starší (1993), then Ľudmila Jančoková (2001) and Karol Görner (2007).

In 1997, the department acquired the right to supervise post graduate study (CSc.) in the scientific field of sports education (74-03-9). The title PhD. in the study field 8.1.3 sports education could be obtained since 2004.

The first full-time postgraduate student was accepted in 1998. From 2001 to 2008, there were six full-time postgraduate students finishing their studies. Peter Krška (2001), Jaroslav Kompán (2003), Martina Mandzáková, Michal Hrubý, Martin Pupiš (all in 2006), Elena Bendíková (2008) and nine part-time postgraduate students: Andrej Výboh (2003), Marián Kučera, Ivan Štulajter, Marcela Juráková (2006), Peter Polakovič, Soňa Novotná, Pavel Kobela (2007), Peter Korčok, Vladislav Polgár (2008).

The department organizes Student Scientific Activity (SSA) within the faculty every year and organized it twice at the national level. The competition had a theoretical section and a live performance section.

Also in this period, the department took a large part in the organization of the Sports University Championships. After the dissolution of the Czech

and Slovak Federative Republic in 1993, the department held the last Czechoslovak Summer University Games. In connection with the structure of the Sports University Championships, the competitions are organized separately by particular sports. The department, with the help of the Sports Club MBU in Banská Bystrica held the Slovak Academic Championships in track and field, karate, triathlon and artistic gymnastics.

The Department's students regularly took part in the Sports University Championships. They also regularly took part in the most prestigious sports world events such as the Olympics, World Championships and European Championships. From the point of view of university sport, the most significant competitors and achievements can be considered its representation at the World University Summer and Winter Games.

The social activities of department's teachers were rich and interesting. As well as doing their work, they were engaged in various functions in the region, both in Slovakia and abroad.

In this period, vice-deans were represented by: Karol Görner (1995-1998) – vice-dean for development; Peter Zbiňovský (2001-2004) – vice-dean for promotional activities and public relations; (2004-2007) – vice-dean for informatization and development; Ivan Čillík (2004-2007) – vice-dean for pedagogical activities and students social care. The presidents of the academic senate of the faculty were: Ivan Čillík (1996-1997), Dušan Hlasica (1997-1998), Ľudmila Jančoková (1998-2001; 2001-2004).

Heads of the department were: Ivan Čillík (1991-1995), Dušan Hlasica (1995-1998), Karol Görner (1998-2001) Ivan Čillík (2001-2004), Karol Görner (2004-2008). The secretary Magda Veszeleiová did and still does a great job at DPES.

Department's teachers were members of scientific councils, scientific and technical communities, editorial boards. Ľudmila Jančoková was a member of the Accreditation Commission (AC) in Slovakia (2002-2010) and was responsible for the research area of pedagogical sciences and sports sciences. One teacher was also a member of a working group of the AC in the area of sports sciences and a member of AC for the specialized activities of physical education and sports (Ivan Čillík). Individual teachers were members of common professional committees for the habitation of dissertation works and inaugurations in science and sports; they were members of organization boards of international scientific conferences and significant sports events. At the department, there are also teachers who represented Slovakia,

prominent club coaches, international and Slovak referees and leading sports officials.

5. Period: Development of the Department of Physical Education since 2008 until present

In 2008, there were other organization changes at MBU, that affected both DPE FE and DPES FHS. The Departments merged again and created the Department of Physical Education and Sports located in FHS MBU. This faculty changed its name to the Faculty of Arts MBU in Banská Bystrica on 1st of January, 2014.

After complete accreditation in 2013, students in the department can study a Bachelor's degree in the following courses (SP): physical education teaching in combination, physical education teaching, physical education teaching and coaching in the newly accredited course in recreology. As a Master's degree, students can study in the following courses (SP): physical education teaching in combination, physical education teaching, physical education teaching and coaching. Besides these key courses, DPES provides teaching of physical education in a course in pre-school and elementary pedagogy as a Bachelor's degree and elementary pedagogy as a Master's degree. The department also provides physical education as an optional subject for all university students.

DPES was certified and given rights to supervise postgraduate study in sports education (SE). In 2009, the department was given the right to offer a course in sports humanistics (SH) and sports kinanthropology (SK). In this period, 23 postgraduate students successfully finished their full-time postgraduate study in SP SE: Lucia Krajčovičová, Janka Mišíková (2010); Zuzana Borguľová, Silvia Končoková, Pavol Pivovarníček, Richard Zaprihač (2011); Zuzana Bírová, Zuzana Rázusová, Petra Kolodzejová, Martin Babiar (2012); Zuzana Tonhauserová, Simona Švachová (2013); Svetlana Lipárová, Michal Mojžiš (2014); Anna Murínová, Martina Tokárová, Julián Krull (2015); Nikola Kušnírová, Lukáš Opáth, Rastislav Paľov (2016); Ján Pavlík, Anton Petija, Lukáš Šmída (2017). 16 postgraduate students finished their part-time study: Juraj Kremnický, Karol Gálík, Ľubomír Král (2009); Andrea Izáková, Daniela Biela (2010); Petr Jeřábek (2011); Jaroslav Popelka, Miroslava Bartková, Marek Kysel (2012); Tomáš Trudič, Miroslav Palička (2013); Roman Hrnčár, Vojtech Kováč, Peter Lopata, Michal Malák (2014); Ľudmila Krasňanská (2017). 11 postgraduate students finished their full-time

postgraduate study in SP SH: Vladimíra Sýkorová, Ján Krafčík, Martina Ludvíková (2012); Stanislav Azor, Anna Kozančáková, Lucia Kršňáková (2013); Boris Beťák, Gustáv Petráš (2014); Michaela Vičková (2015); Boris Cipov (2016); Stanislava Stráňavská (2017). 9 postgraduate students finished their part-time study: Peter Mesierik (2013); Tatiana Nevolná, Daniel Baránek (2014); Beáta Dobay, Tomáš Kolofík, Ladislav Kručanica, Ján Pivovarník (2016); Martin Auxt, Ján Kubiš (2017).

DPES is given the right to habilitate and inaugurate in the SP of sports education and sports humanistics. In the SP of sports education, Elena Bendíková (2013) and Martin Pupiš (2014) were habilitated. Pavol Bartík and Ivan Čilík (2008) were promoted to professors.

The department now has excellent space and physical conditions to improve the educational process of preparing future teachers, coaches and scientific workers but also to improve the quality of scientific and research activities.

In 2012, sports hall, gymnastic gym and gym with mirrors, pool were reconstructed and modernized. DPES uses also sports educational facilities at the FE MBU to support its teaching. A diagnostic lab was added in 2016. A educational training centre for educating coaches of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree was established. In 2017, the entryway to the department was modernized. A *Hall of Fame* for the department's teachers, athletes, coaches and officials was opened on 23rd of November 2017 at the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of DPES FA MBU in Banská Bystrica.

In this period of the department's development, the heads of the department were Miroslav Nemec (2008-2012), Ivan Čilík (2012-2016), who was followed by Jiří Michal in 2016. Karol Görner (2013-2014) was a vice-rector for science and research on MBU. Since 2016, he has been the dean of FA MBU in Banská Bystrica.

The scientific and research work of the department's teachers is aimed at physical and sports education for elementary schools, high schools, universities and at training processes on a professional, performance-related and recreational level. The department's teachers manage scientific activities through grants from the Scientific Grant Agency and the Cultural and Educational Grant Agency. The department's members present their work and the results of their research in collections, magazines, monographies, textbooks and at conferences in Slovakia and abroad. The results are also presented in published magazines. Since

2009, the department publishes two magazines in English: *Acta Universitatis Matthiae Belii Physical Education and Sport* (Index Copernicus 4,39). The scientific magazine *Exercitatio Corpolis-Motus-Salus* was published from 2009 to 2014 with the support of the Scientific Community for Physical Education and Sports. Another scientific magazine, the *Slovak Journal of Sports Science* published in English replaced the former publication in 2016.

DPES regularly organizes international scientific conferences (Swimming, 2012; Triathlon coach 2012; Track and fields 2009, 2014). Since 2011, the Slovak Association of Coaches in co-operation with the department organizes an international conference called: *Fitness training in the year...*. Department's members are taking part in a *Researchers' Night* every year. There, they present the possibilities of connecting science and sport.

Every year, the department holds a Students Scientific Activity session in the faculty of science and sport. In postgraduate study, this is held in English. Since 2013, the department has been awarding the prize of the professor Jaroslav Starší to the best student work. In 2009 and 2014, the department held the Students Scientific Activity at the national level.

DPES in co-operation with the Sports Club of MBU organized the Slovak Academic Championships in 2012 and championships in artistic gymnastics in 2014.

The extra-curricular activities of department's coaches, referees, officials and organizers are also rich and varied. The results of department's teachers and coaches in the clubs, with which the department cooperates, are also the achievements of our students-athletes at prestigious sports events such as the World University Games (Summer and Winter), Olympics, World Championships, European Championships etc. Successful athletes on World University Games are: Ivan Batory, Ivan Hudač, Alena Prochádzková (cross country skiing); Pavol Hurajt, Matej Kazár, Marek Matiaško, Miroslav Matiaško, Anna Murínová, Dušan Šimočko (biathlon), Jaroslav Babušiak (downhill skiing); Martina Hrašnová (track and field) and others. Five students and one coach (a teacher) took part at the World Winter University Games in 2017. Eight students and one teacher as a member of the team from the department took part at World Summer University Games in 2017. At the Slovak University Games, MBU took the first place at the Winter Games and the second place at the Summer Games against the competition of all universities and colleges in Slovakia.

Nine athletes, who study or finished their studies at MBU, represented Slovakia at the latest Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. It is nice to know, that five members of the organization crew were department's graduates. Peter Korčok was honoured as the leader of the Slovak Olympic team. The leader of the track and field team was Martin Pupiš, graduates Roman Benčík and Miroslav Bendík were in coaching positions.

The department can be proud of prominent graduates, who represented us at the Olympics and were added to the department's *Hall of Fame*. Elena Kaliská - two-time Summer Olympic winner, Denis Myšák - second at Summer Olympics, Pavol Hurajt - third at Winter Olympics. The graduates also became successful coaches, who are associated with other Olympic winners or world champions. The coaches of Olympic winners Juraj Benčík – Jozef Pribilinec, Matej Spišiak – Matej Tóth, Juraj Sanitra - Anastásia Kuzminová, Pavol Hurajt, Peter Mráz – Elena Kaliská, Ivan Hudač – Petra Majdič (third at Winter Olympics), Peter Zanický – world champion Peter Sagan.

Olympic biathlete Jana Daubnerová-Gereková, student of full-time postgraduate study at this time, was honoured in Monte Carlo on 20th of September in 2017, when she was elected into the European Olympic Committee (EOC).

Pedagogical staff members working at DPES FA MBU in Banská Bystrica from 1954 to 2017

Professors: Bartík Pavol, Čillík Ivan, Görner Karol, Hrčka Jozef, Jančoková Ľudmila, Starší Jaroslav.

Associate professors: Adamčák Štefan, Bence Ladislav, Bence Matej, Bendíková Elena, Bíloveská Mária, Bosák Pavel, Hlasica Dušan, Michal Jifí, Nemec Miroslav, Novotná Nadežda, Pupiš Martin, Rozim Róbert, st., Rybárik Karol, Švoňavec, Ján, Trunečková Elvíra, Vladovičová Nadežda.

Lecturers: Babic Ján, Baisová Karin, Bella Adam, Beňačka Milan, Beťák Boris, Bubeník Augustín, Bucko Bohumil, Darida Ján, Dobák Štefan, Drexler Alojz, Dropčo Ľubomír, Dropčová Viera, Dušek Štefan, Frühwald Ivan, Gabara Ján, Golian Ján, Hála Ladislav, Hruška Štefan, Hrušovská Katarína, Hykel Pavel, Chladný Ján, Izáková Andrea, Jandura Milan, Janík Marián, Janková Agáta, Jankovská Želmíra, Jaso Ivan, Jokel Viliam, Klempa Jozef, Kollár Rastislav, Kompán Jaroslav, Králik Marián, Králiková Eva, Kremnický Juraj, Kremnická Soňa, Krempaská Anna, Krška Peter,

Kubaško Ladislav, Kucharíková Viera, Kučera Marian, Lehocký Ján, Mandzák Peter, Mandzákova Martina, Mišura Milan, Navrátil Dušan, Opáth Lukáš, Oráč Michal, Palovičová Júlia, Paugšchová Božena, Paulenová Ingrid, Pažáková Alžbeta, Pešl Vladimír, Petrikovič Ján, Pivovarniček Pavol, Podlucky Milan, Popelka Jaroslav, Pupišová Zuzana, Rošková Miroslava, Rozim Róbert ml., Sameková Zuzana, Sitár Patrik, Slimáková Ľudmila, Sližik Miroslav, Slovákova – Kaladžiev Eva, Slovákova Michaela, Smoleňáková Natália, Stráňavská Stanislava, Škripko Ján, Štubňa Daniel, Štulajter Ivan, Vajdičková Renáta, Vidová Viera, Výboh Ondrej, Výboh Andrej, Zbiňovský Peter, Žabková Vlasta.

Non-pedagogical staff members: Anička Jozef, Caban Ján, Cígler, Dikošová Adriana, Duchlanská Romana, Dobrovičová Erika, Hlášková Magda, Jančiar Miroslav, Joachim Ferdinand, Kánová Anna, Koštrnová Iveta, Kubíková Zdenka, Marešová Miroslava, Mereš František, Oklepek Milan, Oklepková Emília, Pavlenková Erika, Púchyová Elena, Rázga Ján, Rázga Valdemar, Rázgová Želmíra, Rendeková Hedka, Straková Martina, Veszeleiová Magda.

CONCLUSION

The Department of Physical Education and Sports FA MBU in Banská Bystrica went through several development periods since its establishment. Since its beginnings teaching physical education, DPE was established in 1957 as part of HSE (1954-1959). Significant and qualitative change in obligatory and optional PE happened, when the IE was established; the study of physical education was created in 1962. At the same time, the higher education sports association Slávia was established on 1st of December, 1962. The department started to significantly expand in FE (1964-1992). This period is characterized by building a physical and technical workplace for teaching PE and by the development of university sport. The following period brought the creation of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (1992). The department was divided and the preparation of future teachers of PE and coaches transferred to DPES FHS MBU. DPE FE MBU stayed in the original faculty. The last period is the most dynamic in the history of both departments. The year 2008 is a milestone, when both departments merged and

created the DPES FA MBU in Banská Bystrica. The department greatly improved in its qualification structure and ranked among the prominent departments in the FA MBU. At the department, one can study courses in single-subject physical education, physical education in combination, physical education with a coaching specialization

(Bachelor and Master degree) and in recreology (Bachelor degree). DPES is certified for postgraduate study (Postgraduate degree) of: sports educology, sports humanistics, sports kinanthropology and is certified for habilitating and inaugurating.



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