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Rector of Charles University Václav Hampl awarded ten best graduates of Charles University with the annual Rector's Awards for outstanding achievements of degree students and student researchers. This year, six students received Rector's Award in four categories and four additional students received the Special Rector's Award. During the ceremony, Rector Hampl stated that "the Rector's Award is an acknowledgement of diligence, hard work and deep interest in the particular field. Today, I am happy to see graduates who have achieved so much in their research so early in their lives."



Recipients of the Rector's Awards



The Karel Weigner Award for the best graduates in the field of medicine was received by **Bc. Laura Kutřínová**, who graduated in Addiction science from the 1st Faculty of Medicine with the average grade of 1.29. She is simultaneously studying Psychology at the Philosophical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc. She has studied abroad extensively. Her Bc. thesis is titled "Stress Reducing Strategies In Clients Of Contact And Rehabilitation Centres".



The Karel Engliš Award for the best student of social sciences goes to **Mgr. Tomáš Havránek**, graduate of the Economic Theory Master's programme at the Institute of Economic Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Among Mr. Havránek's credentials is the honorable mention in the 2008's annual Young Economist competition for co-authoring the article "Meta-Analysis of Intra-Industry FDI Spillovers: Updated Evidence". He is currently a post-gradual student of the Institute.



The Jaroslav Heyrovský Award for the best students in science programmes was received by **Mgr. Petr Dohnal**, graduate of the Physics of Surface and Ionized Environments Master's programme at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. In his Master's thesis, he investigated the recombination processes in low-temperature plasma. His results were published in a co-authored paper in the prestigious Physical Review A 79 journal.



Another Jaroslav Heyrovský Award went to **Bc. Hana Solařová**, graduate of the Chemistry in Natural Sciences undergraduate programme at the Faculty of Science. She has had excellent grades throughout her studies and authored an outstanding thesis of Master's thesis parameters, focusing on preparation of amides of phosphineferrocenecarboxylic acids out of isocyanates. Results of her research are to be published.



The Josef Dobrovský Award for the best graduates in theology was received by **Mgr. Petr Kučera**, fresh out of the Catholic Theology programme at the Catholic Theological Faculty. Throughout his studies, he was an excellent and hard-working student with outstanding knowledge of his subject. His English-language thesis on the importance of finds from the excavations in Galilee on the interpretation of the New Testament is an extensive, profound and thorough investigation of the subject, which by far exceeds the requirements for a Master's thesis.



Another Josef Dobrovský Award went to **Bc. Věra Novoměstská, Ph.D.**, who finished her degree in Theology at the Catholic Theological Faculty with an excellent Bachelor's thesis about the history of the Girl's Catholic School in Chrudim in the years 1894-1940. She painstakingly gathered information from primary sources, including interviews with people involved. The thesis' scope is that of a Master's thesis.

Recipients of the Special Rector's Awards



MUDr. Jan Gojda graduated with honours from the General Medicine programme of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine. In the course of his degree studies, he joined the joint research team of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology and the University Hospital Královské Vinohrady in the Departments of Pathology and Anatomy that focused on the Weitbrecht retinaculum of the hip joint. He went on two research stays abroad. Besides his research, he took part in the life of the academic community, serving in the Academic Senate of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine. In 2005, he won the first prize at the Students' Academic Conference of the 1st Faculty of Medicine.



MUDr. Eva Jakešová is a graduate of the General Medicine programme of the 2nd Faculty of Medicine. She not only achieved excellent grades (averaging 1.1), but also showed profound interest in her future field of Gynecology and Obstetrics. She undertook internships at the children's gynecology unit under the supervision of prof. Jan Hořejší, and at the delivery room of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Last year, she was an intern at a university hospital department in Regensburg, Germany.



MUDr. Jiří Šedý, Ph.D. graduated from General Medicine at the 1st Faculty of Medicine, later specializing in Neuroscience as a postgraduate at the 2nd Faculty of Medicine, and from Dental Surgery at the 1st Faculty of Medicine. He has taken part in a number of Czech and international research projects, published 30 original papers, authored or co-authored 2 monographs, 7 review summaries and 52 other publications. His citation index according to SCI is 19. He has received 16 awards for his research.



MUDr. Jan Škrha graduated from the General Medicine Master's programme of the 1st Faculty of Medicine with the outstanding average grade of 1.05. Already as a graduate student he joined the research endeavours of the Department of Medical Biochemistry of the 1st Faculty of Medicine. He has presented his results at a number of conferences. The resulting paper "Effects of glucose and its metabolites on calcium-induced mitochondrial permeability transition", is under review for publication in FEBS Letters. In 2008, he won the first prize at the Students' Academic Conference. He continues his work as a postgraduate student of Biochemistry and Pathobiochemistry at the 1st Faculty of Medicine.

Rector's Award is granted to excellent Bachelor's or Master's degrees students in their final year who have achieved outstanding accomplishments during their studies in terms of research, sports or cultural activities. Candidates are nominated by respective faculties. Minimum financial reward is CZK 6,000 for Bachelors and 10,000 for Masters.

Special Rector's Award is granted to students for outstanding accomplishments during their studies, or for an act or activity which manifests their civic honour or dedication to the community, or for an extraordinary accomplishment in sports or culture, or excellent results in international sports events. Candidates are nominated by the deans of respective faculties.

Translation: Jaroslav Švelch