

# Half-century of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport 1960–2010

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, an anniversary day, a day of celebration for the professors and graduates of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of the “Babeş-Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca, the anniversary of 50 years of existence. Fifty years of responsible work in the department or the arenas, 50 years of excellence. And excellence in sport is given by the professors of the faculty, the professors who graduated from the same faculty, the student athletes present in national or international competitions, a titanic work in which thousands and thousands of training hours and research in sports halls, libraries or laboratories are found. A vertical development of the faculty includes the creation of new sections, the modernization of sports facilities, the publication of specialized journals and books, the international recognition in congresses, symposia, conferences, round table discussions.

All these are related to the name of Professor Gheorghe Comănar (1908-1980), the man and professor whose name is associated with the beginnings of the University of Physical Education and Sport in Cluj-Napoca. At this anniversary time, several words should be said about Prof. Comănar, who started from the county of Făgăraş. He graduated from the Higher Institute of Physical Education in Bucharest, where he studied in the period 1928-1931. He was a teacher of physical education in the schools of Dumbrăveni, Făgăraş, Sighet, Cluj, Aiud, Câmpina, and Cluj again, first at the High School for Boys no. 1, then at the Pedagogical Institute for Primary School Teachers (1954-1960, climbing the steps of the teaching career), the first Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport founded in 1960. His activity as a professor was paralleled by his research work including a great number of articles, all on the importance of physical education

in school and society. He was one of the close collaborators of Prof. Dr. Iuliu Haţieganu regarding “the health potential of physical education and he believed that this concept could be transmitted to the population not only by doctors, which was the conviction of Prof. Iuliu Haţieganu, but especially by school teachers and physical educators from all villages”.

When speaking of the beginnings, the names of professors such as Vasile Pop, Lorinczi Francisc, Iudit Finta, Toth Elisabeta, Teodor Gorea, Petru Gotea, Rethy Karol, Romeo Sotiriu, Augustin Poenaru, Lucia Căluşer, Dr. Ioan Ştirbu, Dr. Galina Marin, Ioan Uţiu, Zaharia Feşnic should be mentioned. New professors joined them soon: Sorin Paşcu, Kovacs Adalbert, Maria Finta Bâlc, Carmen Terteia, Tiberiu Rusu, Ileana Rusu, Corina Dumitrescu, Aurelia Gogonea, the first courses taking place in the “Clujana” Sports Complex and the sports hall of the Students’ Culture House.

In 1990, the Faculty resumed its activity as a full right faculty. It was the beginning of a “vertical” development: new sections, enviable sports facilities, top professors and graduates. Suffice it to mention a few names: Gabriela Szabo, Ionela Țirlea Manolache, Simion Schobel, Constantin Tudosie, Simona Richter, Oana Ban, Mihaela Ani Senocico, Rareş Chintoan, Ana Maria Pavăl, the late Maria Cioncan, Antoniu Buci, Florina Bârsan, Ioana Dinea, Constantin Răduţă, Porasky Tiberiu, Nicoleta Grasu, Vasile Bogdan (current Dean of the Faculty), Simona Muşat, Maria Oşorhean, Cosmin Şpan, Ioan Nelu Pop, Leon Gomboş, Ildiko Manasses, Septimiu Ormenişan, Dan Monea, Anca Nuţ, Boroş Balint Iuliana, Vizi Sandor, Cristian Şanta, Adrian Paşcan, Szabo Peter, Rareş Ciocoi Pop, Sorin Cobîrzan, Anca Vădan, Almos Andras, Adrian Maniu, Vlad Beraru, Horaţiu Pop, while regretting that not all of them can be mentioned.



Prof. Dr. Andrei Marga, Rector of the “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca.



Prof. Dr. Vasile Bogdan, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of UBB Cluj-Napoca.



Gabriela Szabo, a graduate of FEFS, multiple world and Olympic champion in athletics, in the 1500 m event.

Recorded by  
**Demostene Şofron**