

A WORD FROM SVU PRESIDENT

This is the last opportunity I have to remind our members of the forthcoming SVU World Congress and urge everybody to attend. As you can readily confirm from the tentative program, published in this issue of Zpravy SVU, this will be a truly noteworthy event. This 23rd Congress of our Society, with its central theme “Czech and Slovak Culture in International and Global Context”, will take place in Ceske Budejovice in South Bohemia on 25 June - 2 July 2006. It is being organized jointly with University of South Bohemia (USB), Statutory City of Ceske Budejovice and both the Czech and the Slovak Academies of Sciences, under the aegis of President Vaclav Klaus and President Ivan Gasparovic. It is expected that both Presidents will attend, as will a number of Ambassadors, University Presidents and Rectors and many other distinguished guests from the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as from abroad. This will, most likely, be the pivotal event of this year for anyone interested in the Czech and Slovak culture and affairs. Detailed information about the Congress and its preparation can be accessed from the SVU Website: www.svu2000.org.

As has been our practice, the subjects covered on the program encompass just about every aspect of human endeavor, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, science and technology, medicine, agriculture, environment, civil society, law, business and trade, news and media, and much more. This time the Plenary session will be devoted to the “Diplomatic Relations between North America and the Czech & Slovak Republics,” with the participation of the respective Ambassadors. Another feature of the program will be a Presidential Symposium on the “University Leadership on Both Sides of the Atlantic,” in which selected University Presidents, Rectors, Provosts, Chancellors, Deans and other high ranking university officials from the US, Czech Republic and Slovakia will recount and compare their experiences in running their respective institutions of higher learning. There will also be a special session relating to the “University Partnerships and Cooperation between the US and the Czech and Slovak Republics.”

The logistics is all in place, thanks to our USB co-organizers, who have gone to great length to make the meetings most enjoyable. It is expected that most participants will arrive on Sunday June 25. The University has arranged for bus transportation from the Prague airport to Ceske Budejovice and the return on the following Sunday or Monday, July 2 & 3. The registration is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. In the early evening there will be a social get-together during which the University Rector will welcome our participants.

The official opening of the Congress will be on Monday morning. Following a festive buffet lunch there will be a Plenary session and a cultural program. The academic program, comprised of a number of concurrent sessions, will commence on Tuesday morning and will continue until Friday noon. Concluding plenary session, General Assembly meeting and press conference are scheduled for Friday afternoon. The Congress will officially end with a gala banquet and reception in the evening, hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City. The entire Saturday and Sunday are reserved for special bus excursions through the beautiful South Bohemian landscape and the environs, including visiting the picturesque medieval town of Cesky Krumlov, cloister Zlata Koruna, the palace Hluboka n. Vltavou and much more. The various socio-cultural events include music performances by the South Bohemian Philharmonic, piano soloist Radoslav Kvapil, an outdoor orchestras on the banks of Vltava River and much more.

To be sure, all important roads this year lead to Ceske Budejovice. You should not miss this memorable event.

Mila Rechcigl
SVU President