

Notes:



The Czechoslovak  
**SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)  
New York Chapter



American Fund  
for Czech and Slovak  
Leadership Studies

**High School Special!**

The sixth

# 6-Minute Challenge



**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

Bohemian National Hall  
321 E 73 St, New York City

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The **Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) in New York** and the **American Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies (AFCSLS)** partnered for this special presentation. Ten Czech outstanding 15-18-year-old students following their summer academic studies program at Princeton University will present themselves, their experience at Princeton, and their academic aspirations. In English and in six minutes!

These students were selected in a tough competition of about 300 best Czech applicants to participate in **Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Summer Program** at one of twenty-four university campuses in the United States. CTY is a program of **Johns Hopkins University**. Once nominated, each student chooses a course and spends three weeks of intensive studies with about 15 other students from all over the world sharing the same interests and the love of learning.


*A light refreshment will follow the presentations and Q&A.  
Use the back page of this booklet for your notes.*

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**Moderated by Martin Herman, President AFCSLS**

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#### **PRESENTERS** *(in alphabetic order)*

 **Michael Buchar (17)**

*School: Gymnázium Nad Alejí, Praha 6*

Michael is interested in Math, Physics and Programming. His big dream is to work for NASA or some other space organization to find a new habitable planet or develop technology that would transport us there. He is working on the development of a website for his school newspaper. Michael also tutors middle school students, usually math and physics but occasionally English as well. He volunteers for AFS, an international youth exchange organization that offers high school exchange programs, and translates Khan Academy educational videos into Czech. He was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> best table tennis player in the Czech Republic and won many competitions such as the *Prague Masters*.



#### **Upcoming Events in Fall/ Winter 2017**

In September, we are preparing two events. The first will be a talk by a young Oxford professor **Barbara Havelková** about her new book *Gender Equality in Law: Uncovering the Legacies of Czech State Socialism*. Then, in cooperation with the Slovak Consulate, our talented member **Gabriel Levický** will present and interpret a selection of his *Gablevages*, collages with poetic and political undertones. In October, we will host a presentation by young Czech progressive architects from the studio **Architects A1** in Prague. It will draw a new audience from the world of architecture. We will cooperate with the Storefront for Arts organization and Cooper Union. In November, the seventh **6-Minute Challenge** will welcome more Czechs and Slovaks of New York to present their interesting work and projects. In December, we plan to partner with other BBLA organizations and organize a **sing-along** of traditional Christmas songs led by a professional singer and with texts and pronunciation instructions provided to the audience.

**BBLA** | BOHEMIAN BENEVOLENT  
& LITERARY ASSOCIATION

Our events are made possible by the support of  
the **Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA)**.

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*Notes:*



The CzechoSlovak  
**SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)  
New York Chapter

**SVU -NY** is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization promoting Czech and Slovak intellectual history and heritage through lectures, presentations, film screenings and readings at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City.

In keeping with the mission of the international organization of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, the New York chapter of SVU organizes and produces events to further three broad goals. First, our programs aim to foster awareness and appreciation of Czech and Slovak history and culture. Second, our programs seek to publicize and promote the work of Czech and Slovak artists, scientists, scholars and other professionals, including the work of our present and potential future members. Third, our programs aim to facilitate connections between and among citizens of the Czech and Slovak Republics, members of the Czech and Slovak emigre and heritage communities, and the intellectually and culturally curious in the greater New York area.

Contact: [newyork@svu2000.org](mailto:newyork@svu2000.org)

Website: [www.svu2000.org/newyork](http://www.svu2000.org/newyork)

FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/svu.newyork](http://www.facebook.com/svu.newyork)

**The SVU 6-MINUTE CHALLENGE** is a series conceived in 2014 by Suzanna Halsey for SVU-New York. Czech and Slovak students, scholars, scientists, artists and professionals are challenged to present the subject of their studies or project in six minutes or less and in language appropriate for a non-expert audience.

Produced by [czechmatters](http://czechmatters.com)



### Anna Hrubá (17)

School: Nový PORG Pod Krčským lesem, Praha 4

Anna pictures her future job as meaningful and changing other people's lives creating something, preferably technology-related, that brings value to today's world. For the last three years, Anna has been taking online CTY courses *Introduction to Web Design*, *AP Macroeconomics* and *Computer Programming*. She joined a robotics team, competed in a national *FIRST* competition and was the co-captain, this year. Anna thinks that critical thinking and creativity are the two most invaluable qualities in building a robot. She feels great satisfaction when she figures out how to build a manipulator to shoot balls. At her school, Anna was elected to represent her class in a student council and she recently served as the chairwoman of the council. In her free time, Anna enjoys cooking and baking. She also loves sports and has been fencing for the past few years.



### Emil Javůrek (16)

School: Gymnázium Jana Keplera, Praha 6

Emil loves math and physics and his dream is to work for NASA. He is excited about the idea that humans might live on other planets and wants to be one of the people who will make it possible. He attends a math seminar and also competes in various math competitions such as *MaSo* (team competition, 1st place), *Math Olympics* (competed 4 times, won twice), English math competition *Math Kangaroo* (3rd place), *Pythagoriad* (1st place) and Internet math Olympiad (team competition) and one physics team competition *Náboj* (3rd place), five times in *Logics Olympics* (three times he was the 65<sup>th</sup> best out of 20,000 students) and twice he placed in fourth place in a Tic-Tac-Toe team competition. He is also interested in politics and participated in *Keplerep*, a 3-day model European Parliament. He represented Austria on the committee that tried to resolve migration crisis. He is a long-distance runner and enjoys cycling holidays. Last summer he biked 1000km from Basel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2 weeks. He enjoys ballroom dancing; his favorite dance is cha-cha. He likes puzzles, mostly math riddles.



## Oliver Laryea (17)

*School: Gymnázium Budějovická, Praha 4*

Oliver would like to combine his interest in machines and technology with his passion for business and finance that he inherited from his parents. Perhaps, he will start a (biomedical) technology/engineering company. He works as intern at the Institute of Photonics and Electronics of the Czech Academy of Sciences with a team of chemists and physicists in research, development and identification of nanostructured semiconductors. He also undertakes online college-level courses outside school ranging from astrophysics to basics of entrepreneurship. He practices calisthenics on a regular basis and plays soccer. He is the U19s captain for his team as well as a regular starter for the A and B men's teams. Working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, he volunteers every week tutoring socially disadvantaged children in English and math. He also plays piano, both individually and with a jazz band, and is the class representative in the school's student government.



## Filip Novotný (15)

*School: Gymnázium Jihlava, Jihlava*

Filip is interested in physics and space exploration. He competed in all STEM subjects and was nominated as a science prodigy for Vysočina Region. He likes to go on puzzle hunts with friends, read physics books, solve physics problems and go to physics competition solver-meetings. Currently, he is working on a project about variable stars, photometry and CCD telescopes at the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. At *Odysseus*, an international competition organized by the European Space Agency, Filip represented the Czech republic with his project about a computer simulated terraforming of Mars. He also completed a project on collection and analysis of Martian soil samples for the Mars Expedition Competition, which ended up among the top 30 received from the Czech Republic.

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The most popular and the most demanding are **Advanced Placement Courses (AP)** created by the College Board, which offer college-level curricula and examinations to secondary school students. AP courses emphasize critical thinking and reasoning as well as learning through inquiry. Students gain detailed knowledge of key subjects, substantially improve their technical English and become well prepared for AP exams and university admission.

By taking AP exams, students prove their interest, ability and determination to succeed in university studies. With a score of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale, they have a higher probability to be accepted at a university of their dreams, receive scholarships and course credits at universities in the United States and more than 20 other countries including Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Netherlands and Denmark.

**CTM is a partner of the College Board for administering AP exams at Czech and Slovak schools.** CTM students rank consistently among the best in AP exams earning on average a 4.06 and much superior to the global AP average of 2.89. It helped many to universities of their dreams including Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Johns Hopkins, NYU, MIT and others.

**CTM offers more than just online education.** It runs **Discovery Saturdays**, an in-class program for talented children 5-15 years of age. It runs a CTM Summer Program. It organizes competition for CTY Summer Program for Czech and Slovak students, provides training for schoolteachers, and works with universities and research institutions to prepare young Czechs and Slovaks for university success.

**Contact: [www.ctm-academy.org](http://www.ctm-academy.org)**

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## American Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies (AFCSLS)



is a foundation of Czech and Slovak Americans dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education in their old homeland. It is a successor to the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees founded in 1948, which helped thousands of Czechs and Slovaks escape communism and settle in the United States.

To implement its education programs, AFCSLS formed the Center for Talented Minds (CTM) (see attachment), a non-profit academy based in Prague, Czech Republic. The program sponsors exceptional Czech and Slovak HS students and facilitates their online consultations with academic mentors in the field of their interest. AFCSLS invites scholars and professionals to become mentors to the students.

Contact: [mherman@afcsls.org](mailto:mherman@afcsls.org), [www.afcsls.org](http://www.afcsls.org), [www.ctm-academy.org](http://www.ctm-academy.org)

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## The Center for Talented Minds (CTM)



offers a unique opportunity for talented pre-university Czech and Slovak students to accelerate and enrich their learning with academic programs designed to boost their motivation, confidence and performance.

### To students 11-18 years of age CTM offers:

- Online courses in English guided by experienced instructors;
- Preparation for Advanced Placement (AP) exams, a key for admission to prestigious universities; and
- Variety of in-class and summer talent fostering programs.

**CTM Online Program** connects talented students with their peers around the world. Students choose from over 100 courses in physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, informatics, statistics, English, economics, psychology and personality development. CTM instructors motivate, advise, mentor, monitor progress, and provide detailed feedback to each student individually. Some schools have integrated CTM online courses into their school curricula as

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## Ondřej Pelánek (16)

School: Klasické a španělské gymnázium, Brno

Ondřej's main interest is Biology. Four times he won the first place in the South Moravian Biology Olympiad, in the category D and C. In 2016, he was nominated for the EUSO 2017 (European Science Olympiad) preliminary course. He was twice the winner of the science competition *Přírodovědný klokan* at his school. He also was successful in mathematical and geographical competitions *Pythagoriáda*, *Zeměpisná olympiáda*, *Náboj* and *Žirafa*. Ondřej participates in the creation of a new Breeding Birds in Czech Republic atlas by mapping the distribution of birds species in the 6661a square. Currently, he works on analyzing the results of bird censuses from various forest types in the environs of Brno and Velké Meziříčí. He has counted the bird abundance and average density and then compared results in two different localities, habitats and biotopes. Ondřej is an avid wildlife photographer and birdwatcher. He won international photo contest *The Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015* organized by the Natural History Museum in London. Ondřej's other hobbies are table tennis and playing the keyboard.

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## Martin Pícek (17)

School: Gymnázium J.V.Jirsíka, České Budějovice

Martin is interested in computer science and electrical engineering. He works with the EPS8266 module, which is a small inexpensive microcontroller that can communicate over Wi-Fi. It costs about \$1.50. In his part-time work, he makes devices using this MCU (a water depth and temperature measuring device in a well, sending measured values to the server and printing them on a website). He has many hobbies such as running, cycling, soccer, singing in a chorus, playing the accordion (also in quartet), ballroom dancing and sometimes composing music.

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## **Kristýna Pokorná (16)**



*School:* Nový PORG Pod Krčským lesem, Praha 4

Kristýna would like to work within the STEM fields, specifically jobs related to genetics, evolutionary biology, pharmacology, biochemistry, possibly zoology or addictology. Ideally, her career would focus on practical work in a laboratory investigating genetic materials, experimenting with organic material and testing drugs in hope to find some new discoveries that would help to extend our knowledge of science. She is a regular participant in several annual scientific competitions, where she usually claims the top places. Kristýna will start an internship in the laboratory of the Czech Academy of Sciences. In the future, she would like to establish and lead a science club for younger students focused on individual practical work in the laboratory, conducting experiments and, of course, a show that science can be fun. She works on a science-promotional project based on a comics series, which will be published in a popular children's magazine next year. In her free time, she likes horseback riding, dancing or badminton. She enjoys reading, watching movies, writing stories, poems and novels and drawing. She is also interested in civil aviation and likes to travel.

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## **Ondřej Tůma (17)**



*School:* Gymnázium Zlín - Lesní čtvrť, Zlín

Ondřej loves programming, electronics and problem solving. As a programmer, he loves the feeling when a solution is working and appreciated by others. He would like to start his own company. He started with programming mainly because he likes the most efficient solutions. Usually, the best way is to write software that would do the boring work. Gradually, Ondřej started to program for other people and solve their problems. For example, he creates websites, e-stores, and other regular computer applications. For the last couple of months, he has been working on digital radio transition with 8bit processors which involved a lot of electronics, soldering and programming. The purpose was to ignite sets of individually controlled fireworks over 1km. It worked! During the summer, he was programming 3d printers at his neighbor's company. Recently, he also helped organize a dance for students in his town. He enjoys cycling and roller-skating.

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## **Vojtěch Turland (16)**



*School:* Gymnázium Kpt. Jaroše, Brno

Vojtěch would like to study math or another scientific field such as geography or physics. After graduating he would like to work in a math related job constructing mathematical models and applying them, for example, in civil engineering. Although he attended many lectures and seminars over the last year and a half at the South Moravian Centre for International Mobility, the most in-depth "academic project" he has ever worked on is the math course *Algebra I Honors* organized by CTM. Vojtěch enjoys the lessons and projects because they are all about how algebra can be applied to real world situations. He participates in competitions on the regional and national level involving logic, math, geography, English and physics. He loves music and has attended music school for ten years. He plays the violin and the recorder. This year, he joined a folk music group *Valášek* which was always his dream. Since then, he has been learning to play the viola. He also sings in the *Primavera* choir.