

SVU ZPRAVY NEWS (ISSN 0036-2050)  
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Periodical

## OBITUARY *(cont'd)*

Dr. Hruban was a member of the Czechoslovak Council on Higher Education since 1964 and was one of its past presidents. He was a member of the Masaryk Club at the University of Chicago. In the 1970's he co-founded the Archives of the Czechs and Slovaks Abroad at the University of Chicago Library and was its volunteer curator.

Honors include Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AOA) 1955, Sigma XI (Scientific Research Society) 1957, founding member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, recipient of the University of Chicago Alumni Achievement Award in 1990, the Medal of Merit first degree from the President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel in 1998, and the Komenský Medal from the town Přerov, Czech Republic in 2001.

Zdeněk Hruban is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Jarmila Hruban, his sister Milada Gregor, by three children Paul, Ralph and his wife Claire Hruban, and Diana and her husband Joseph Quinn, and by five granddaughters Zoe Hruban, Emily Hruban, Carolyn Hruban, Mila Quinn, and Katie Quinn.

Zdeněk Hruban's passing is a great loss to all of us who knew him personally, as well as to our Society, as a whole.

Mila Rechcigl

# Z P R Á V Y SVU

SPOLEČNOSTI PRO VĚDY A UMĚNÍ  
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF  
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*President:*

Karel F. Raška  
St. Peters Univ. Hospital  
254 Easton Ave.  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Tel: 732 745-8504  
Fax: 732 828-3858

*Secretary General:*

Zdeněk David  
517 13<sup>th</sup> St., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002  
Tel: 202 396-8108  
Fax: 202 691-4001

*Treasurer:*

Vlado Kysucky  
PO Box 20455  
New York, NY 10021  
Tel: 917 680-9959  
Fax: 212 543-5646

[kraska@saintpetersuh.com](mailto:kraska@saintpetersuh.com)

[zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org)

[svupokladnik@yahoo.com](mailto:svupokladnik@yahoo.com)

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

## 26<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF SVU *The SVU and its Role in the Era of Globalization*

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012



**Žilina,  
Slovak Republic**

Source: ([www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel))

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**Deadline for Abstract Submission** (by e-mail ONLY) will be April 30, 2012 to Zdeněk David: [zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org)



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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer was a busy time for us. Preparations for next year's congress in Žilina are progressing satisfactorily. This issue of ZPRAVY contains information on accommodations and a call for papers. The academic program will be coordinated by a committee of Drs. Zdeněk David, Eugene Martin, Cecilia Rokusek, Vlado Šimko and George Tesař.

The government of the Czech Republic and the Committee for Countrymen Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic has restated their new policies for expatriates at a conference in Prague earlier this month. I was supposed to deliver there a contribution on SVU and its role in the era of globalization. Personal matters prevented me from participating. Reading the reports from the meeting I see that the conference reflected on the same theme. Ever increasing numbers of young Czech scholars and artists are around the world looking for new opportunities. It is a challenge for SVU to attract them to our membership and to assist them in their future plans, including decisions as to whether to remain in their new homelands or to bring back to their old homeland newly acquired skills and experiences.

## OBITUARY

### Zdeněk Hruban (1921-2011)

With sadness I am reporting on sad passing away, on September 18, 2011, of a long time active member of SVU, Zdeněk Hruban, M.D., Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Pathology at the University of Chicago. I have known Zdenek since the time I first joined National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD in 1958. We saw each other regularly, at least once a year, at the Federation Meetings or other scientific gatherings. He being a pathologist, while I worked in biochemistry, we soon found a common ground of interests and very soon we began collaborating on a number of scientific projects and wrote a number of scientific papers together. We even found time to publish a book together, entitled *Microbodies and Related Particles* (Academic Press, New York 1969), which was translated, without our permission or knowledge, into Russian in 1972.

Apart from scientific research, Zdeněk and I were both interested in, and worked for SVU. Zdeněk's involvement was mostly through the Chicago SVU Chapter in which he was an officer for a number of years. He tried to establish the Czech Chair at the University of Chicago and on one occasion, he brought me to his President's office to discuss the matter and tell him about our Society's support for the project.

Zdeněk Hruban was born in Přeřov, Czechoslovakia on June 21, 1921. An avid lover of nature from a young age, he bicycled across the Czechoslovakia as a teenager, explored interests ranging from butterflies to fossils, and lent his medical expertise to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. He escaped from communist Czechoslovakia in 1948, entered the USA in 1951 and received his US citizenship in 1957. He received both his M.D. degree (with honors in 1956) and his Ph.D. degree (in 1963) from the University of Chicago where he rose to the rank of full professor and remained the rest of his career (1963 to 1991). An early electron microscopist, he was one of the first to describe the cell organelle known as the microbody (peroxisome) (*Science* 1962) and he was also one of the first to describe the cellular process of focal cytoplasmic degradation (*American Journal of Pathology* 1963). The latter process is now known as autophagy and is recognized as a major contributor to a number of diseases including cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

He loved teaching in the medical school, and was particularly fond of, and noted for, injecting his mischievous sense of humor into his lectures.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT *(cont'd)*

We continue to enjoy extremely good relations with academic institutions in both republics, particularly with the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Learned Society in Prague. Our friendship with the leadership of major universities in both republics continues to grow. We need to propagate the success of these institutions of higher learning globally. And we also need to use our SVU pulpit to spread the story of Czech and Slovak art and music around the world.


I want to congratulate Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl, Past-president and SVU archivist on publication of his memoirs *Czechmate. From a Bohemian Paradise to American Haven*. It is fitting that these memoirs are published during the year when Mila is an octogenarian in excellent health and spirits and when it is 50 years since SVU started its publishing activity.

It is wonderful that a number of local chapters are “reviving” and present active and meritorious programs. Of them, the New York SVU requires particular mention.

I would also like to share a rather sad experience I witnessed at the end of August, namely the destruction by hurricane Irene of the town of Prattsville in the Catskill Mountains of New York. The flash flood swept the town into the Schoharie Creek and 69 homes were destroyed. A few hours later it was devastating to meet people we knew who had lost everything. Now, 6 weeks later, little has changed there, including highways some of which are still not passable. The “turn” which each year attracts people from around the world there, was somehow dull this year, and the colors were not as bright as we’ve grown to expect.

Have a nice rest of the autumn.

**Karel Raška, Jr.**  
SVU President

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# SVU Sponsors Mila Rechcigl's Personal Memoirs

On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Past SVU President Mila Rechcigl, the Society sponsored publication of his personal memoirs: *Czechmate. From A Bohemian Paradise to America Haven*. These reminiscences provide an intimate account of Mila Rechcigl's saga, his varied and successful professional career, and his visible public life, encompassing some fifty years, since his earliest childhood in a small hamlet in northeastern rural Bohemia to his government career in Washington, DC. It also covers his retirement years in active scholarship and voluntary work for non-profit organizations, such as SVU. He views his life as a chess game, in which he confronts various challenges head-on, usually ending with a "checkmate" in his favor'.

He describes his idyllic youth at his family mill, in an area known as 'Bohemian Paradise,' talks fondly of his parents and grandparents, the time he spent in a one-class rural school, followed by eight years in gymnasium in Mladá Boleslav, four during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia and four years in the post-War era under the Communist threat. He describes his adventurous attempts to escape from the Communist Czechoslovakia, during the first being caught and put in jail and the second, outsmarting the Communists by twice volunteering in their 'brigades', from which he succeeded in getting away across the border to the West. After spending some time in a refugee camp in Germany, he immigrates to America, spending his greenhorn years in New York City, working in a glass jewelry factory. He receives a scholarship, is accepted by a prestigious Ivy League school and with skimpy English manages to get his bachelor's degree in biochemistry in two and half years, followed by Master's and Ph.D. He is hired by the National Institutes of Health where he conducts research on enzyme turnover and later is offered training in science policy and administration, leading to his appointment as Special Assistant for Nutrition and Health, and later is in charge of research at the US State Department's Agency for International Development.

Beyond the call of duty, he publishes numerous books and in his "spare time," devotes energies to organizing an international Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences and does research on immigration history.

*Czechmate* can be ordered from the SVU by enclosing a check made out to the SVU (\$32 US, \$40 all other countries (price includes postage)) and sending it to:

Book Orders  
SVU  
PO Box 1285  
Highland Park, NJ 08904-1825

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## HOTEL SLOVAKIA \*\*\*

<http://www.hotelslovakiazilina.com/hotel-in-zilina.php>



### Room pricelist:

Single room	30.00,- Euro
Double room	48.00,- Euro
Apartment 1/2	65.00,- Euro
Extra make up bed	10.00,- Euro

**For more details about other accommodation facilities in Žilina click here:**  
<http://www.booking.com/city/sk/zilina.en.html>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2011, the **General Assembly of the SVU Germany**, one of our most active chapters, elected their new committee:

Ing. Ladislav Pavlík - Chairman  
Eliška Cíkl -Vice Chairman  
Alena Mikešová– Treasurer  
Gudrun Heissig – Recording Secretary  
Father Bohuslav Švehla – Recruitment  
Karel Pokorný – Internet Advertisement  
Jitka Scholz – Press Advertisement  
Dr. Ivan Cíkl – Honorary Chairman  
Renate Sink and Blanka Fajkusová – Members of the Committee

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Society of Arts and Sciences, we congratulate the newly elected leadership of the SVU Munich chapter and wish them much success in all future activities.

From SVU Washington comes information that they have unanimously elected Eva Hausnerova to the Board and she has accepted.

The Washington SVU Board now consists of:

Vera Borkovec, President  
Helena Fabry, Vice President  
Judith Fiehler, Secretary  
Magda Clyne, Treasurer  
Eva Hausnerova, Board Member  
Jaroslava Vojtova, Board Member

## ČSM Czech Society for Mechanics

**Chairman: Prof. Ing. M. Okrouhlik, CSc.**  
Dolejšková 5, 182 00 Prague 8, Czech Republic  
tel./fax: +420 286 587 784, [csm@it.cas.cz](mailto:csm@it.cas.cz) , [www.csm.cz](http://www.csm.cz)

Prague, 25 July 2011

The Czech Society for Mechanics has decided to institute a prize named:  
**Z.P. Bažant Prize for Engineering Mechanics.**

The prize will be given annually. The prize will include a monetary award of 1200 USD.

The Czech and English texts to be published are attached – they contain the basic info, Statutes, deadline, etc. The Word format of the texts.

## Z.P. Bazant Prize for Engineering Mechanics

The Czech Society for Mechanics decided to institute a prize named the Z.P. Bazant Prize for Engineering Mechanics.

The Prize is to be given annually. The prize will include a monetary award of 1200 USD. The charter of the prize is attached.

Dr. Zdenek P. Bazant, McCormick Institute Professor at Northwestern University, Evanston, member of NAS, NAE and AAAS, and a famous alumnus of CTU in Prague.

Statutes of the Z.P. Bažant Prize for Engineering:

- 1. The Z.P. Bažant Prize for Engineering Mechanics is awarded annually by the Czech Society for Mechanics (CSM).**
- 2. Competition runs for one single prize accompanied by a financial reward 1200 USD. The prize is awarded for an article or a series of articles on an original topic, a book, a monograph, or a PhD thesis, written in Czech or English. To assess the impact, a work published several years before the submission is optimal.**
- 3. The submitted work is required to report original findings in mechanics, results of interdisciplinary research, or results that make or promise progress in engineering practice. Both theoretical and experimental studies are eligible, especially their combination. Excluded are formalistic generalizations, refinements or embellishments without evident contribution to mechanics per se.**
- 4. The candidate must either be a Czech living anywhere or a foreigner living in the Czech Republic at the time of work inception. There is no age restriction. The candidate must declare all the previous awards that he or she might have received for the submitted work. Based on their nature, the Selection Committee may or may not disqualify the candidate.**
- 5. The Selection Committee is proposed by the CSM Board and appointed by the CSM President.**

Proposals are to be sent to:

Czech Society for Mechanics,  
Dolejskova 5, 182 00 Prague 8, the Czech Republic  
phone: +420 266 053 045,  
e-mail: [esm@it.cas.cz](mailto:esm@it.cas.cz), web: [www.csm.cz](http://www.csm.cz)

## HOTEL ECONO \*\*\*

<http://www.econohotel.sk/?lang=en>



### Room pricelist:

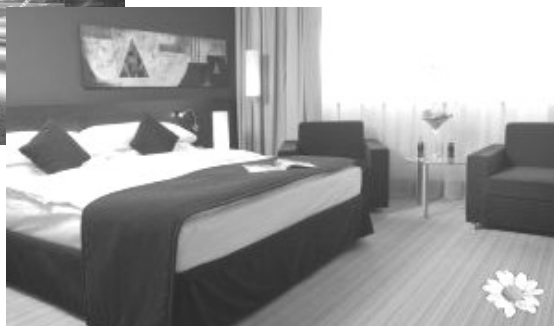
Room type :	1 person/day	2 people/day
Regular	35€	50€
Standard	45€	60€
Superior	60€	75€
Apartments	70€	85€



**Hotel Holiday Inn Žilina \*\*\*\***  
<http://www.holidayinn-zilina.sk/en/>

**Room pricelist:**

Standard room	99 EUR
Executive room	130 EUR
Studio	150 EUR



**PENSION KAMÉLIA \*\*\***

<http://www.penzionkamelia.sk/en/>



**Room pricelist:**

Single room	39.00,- Euro
Double room	59.00,- Euro
Suite	69.00,- Euro
Whirlpool suite	75.00,- Euro
Extra make up bed	20.00,- Euro

## Žilina – Host of Our Next SVU World Congress

Located in northwest Slovakia surrounded by beautiful mountains, Žilina is a city with nearly 90,000 inhabitants. Located in the valley of the river Váh near the confluence of three rivers the Vah, the Kysuca and the Rajčianka, the city has historically had great strategic importance. The first writing about the area date from 1208!

Historically, the area has been an important center for craftsmen, commerce and education. The construction of railroads at the end of the XIX century had great significance in the development of the city.

**ŽILINA** has undergone dynamic growth since the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993. Of particular note is the investment of KIA Motors Slovakia. It is important to note that the town is not only an automobile production centre, but together with the Horné Považie region, it is also an interesting place for tourists. It is the seat of the **University of Žilina**, and since 2008 of the **Žilina Bishopric**. The popularity of the town as a centre of workshop and conference tourism has been growing too.



Žilina - nám. A. Hlinku square and the Parish church

Photographer: Dominik Bugár  
 Source: ([www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel))

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## ***CALL FOR PAPERS***

**Deadline for Abstract Submission** (by e-mail ONLY) will be April 30, 2012 to Zdeněk David: [zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org).

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

**US:** Drs. Zdeněk David, Eugene Martin, Cecilia Rokusek, Vlado Simko, and George Tesar

**Europe:** Dalibor Mikulàs, Francis D. Raška

## **LOGISTICS COMMITTEE**

US: Eugene Martin

EUROPE: Dalibor Mikulàs

A registration package will be published in the November-December 2011, Zpravy which will include:

A Mail-In Registration Form

A link to the SVU Conference Registration Website that will also allow Booking of dormitory accommodations

A Map of the Area

A Calendar of Events

Please remember, hotel accommodations need to be booked directly with the facility!

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## **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

### **University of Zilina DORMITORIES, VEĽKÝ DIEL**

#### **Apartments in building G,H**

Single apartment 27 EUR/night

Double apartment 47 EUR/night



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## **HOTELS**

Hotel Rooms **MUST** be booked directly!

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