

2006 SVU World Congress

University of South Bohemia
České Budějovice, Czech Republic
25 June - 2 July 2006

with central theme

“Czech and Slovak Culture in International & Global Contexts”

organized by

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)
and

the University of South Bohemia (USB)

co-sponsored by

the Statutory City of České Budějovice

SVU Website: www.svu2000.org

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CALL FOR PAPERS

We call on scholars, students and other interested persons for papers bearing on the central theme, as well as other papers relating to Czech and Slovak culture, society and internal affairs and the two countries' relations with the US, Canada and the Western world, generally. As has been our practice, the participants from America can submit topics on almost any subject of human endeavor, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, science and technology, medicine, agriculture, environment, business, civil society, library & information science, computers, etc., irrespective of central theme.

General Information

Overall Direction:

Prof. Vladimír Papoušek, Vice Rector UB and Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl, President SVU.

Overall Program:

June 24 — Arrival of participants (transportation from Prague by bus will be available), evening social get-together

June 25 — Ceremonial opening, banquet lunch, plenary session, evening cultural program

June 26 - June 30 AM — Academic programs

June 30 PM — SVU General Assembly, concluding plenary session

June 27 & 28 Bus excursions through beautiful České Budějovice landscape and environs

Academic Program: The English panels will be organized by the American side, whereas the Czech and Slovak program will be handled by the University of South Bohemia organizers.

Cultural Program: two music concerts, one theatrical production in České Budějovice, another in Český Krumlov. Additional programs will be announced later.

Social Program: Several banquets and social get together will be hosted by the University Rector, Lord Mayor of the City and the famous brewery Budvar.

Excursions:

I. *The whole-day-excursion to Zlatá Koruna cloister* (established in 1263 by the Bohemian King Přemysl Otakar II) and *beautiful historic city of Český Krumlov*, the second best-preserved historical town in Bohemia after Prague which has been designated as one of UNESCO's World Monument, featuring a famous historic square and a baroque theatre from the time of the Middle Ages — one of the most well-preserved Baroque theaters in Europe. Situated on the banks of the Vltava River, this medieval town, which was at one time the official seat of the powerful Bohemian Rožmberk family, was built around a 13th-century castle (one of the largest castle complexes in Europe), with spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architectural elements. The castle contains five courtyards and features an excellent collection of Renaissance and Baroque art. Český Krumlov is an outstanding example of a small central European medieval town whose architectural heritage has remained intact thanks to its peaceful evolution over more than five centuries.

II. *Half-day excursion to Hluboká nad Vltavou*. This town, with some 4,500 inhabitants, is famous for its stunning, night-lit Hluboká Chateau, built in the Windsor Neo-Gothic style, with its splendid interiors. The castle is surrounded by beautiful gardens and is situated in the middle of a large English park. Adjacent to the castle is the Aleš South Bohemian Gallery with a unique exposition of Bohemian medieval art (a well-known collection of Gothic Madonnas) and attractive twentieth-century art. The Gallery is also a venue of traditional classical-music concerts.

Accommodations: Participants will be able to stay either in one of the hotels, pensions or the university dormitories. Details will be provided later.

Air Travel: Arrangements are being made for cheaper flights. Information will be provided later.

Contact — Accommodations: Jana Zbiralova, Rektorat JU, Branisevska 31, 3700 05 Ceske Budejovice; tel. 420 38 9032034, 724347949; e-mail: jzbiral@jcu.cz

Contact — Information: Hana Bumbova, Rektorat JU, Branisevska 31, 370 05 Ceske Budejovice, tel.: 420 38 9032024; e-mail: bumbova@jcu.cz

Contact — Logistics: Miloslava Moravcova, PF JU, Jeronymova 10, 371 15, Ceske Budejovice, tel.: 420 38 7773206; e-mail: moravec@pf.jcu.cz

Cultural Events and Sponsors: Dr. Vera Pospisilova, PJ JU. Jeronymova 10, 371 15 Ceske Budejovice; tel.: 420 38 7773209; e-mail: pospasil@pf.jcu.cz

Czech/Slovak Panels: Doc. Michal Bauer, PF JU, Jeronymova 10, 371 15 Ceske Budejovice; tel.: 420 38 7773209; e-mail: bauer@pf.jcu.cz; English Panels: Mila Rechcigl, 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; tel.: (301) 881-7222; e-mail: SVU1@comcast.net

České Budějovice and the Environs

The city has a population of 100,000 and lies on the rivers Vltava and Malše, in the center of southern Bohemia and the South Bohemian Region. This is where the University of South Bohemia (founded in 1991) is located and it is made up of several schools — Pedagogical, Theological, Agricultural, the School of Public Health, as well as the Institute of History. The oldest part of the university came into existence soon after World War II. The university has some 8500 students and approximately 1500 teaching and non-teaching staff. The University of South Bohemia is thus the natural center of culture and education in the south of Bohemia, and also attracts the intelligentsia from other parts of the Republic, because the teaching faculty includes experts from other places (Prague, Brno, Pilsen). There are also foreign pedagogues teaching there — in particular lecturers from such countries as Germany, Austria, Great Britain, USA, France, Belgium, Spain, etc. The students also come from all over the Czech Republic, as well as from abroad. Out-standing research is done, above all, in the department of Czech studies, the Historical Institute, the School of Biology or the Institute of Physical Biology at Nové Hrady. These workplaces have been for several years rated among the best in the Czech Republic and they cooperate with scientific institutions abroad (Germany, Italy, France, Denmark, Austria, Great Britain, USA, etc.).

The cultural life in České Budějovice is provided in the first place by the Theatre of South Bohemia, which also owns the revolving stage theatre in the park of the Castle of Český Krumlov. Other small theatrical venues (such as the Little Theatre in České Budějovice) participate in the activities of the Theatre of South Bohemia or perform independently (Students' Artistic Theatre, The Theatre Under the Cap, etc.) Other theatrical performances take place in the Metropol House of Culture. Con-certs, especially those of classical music, take place in several halls (for example in the Concert Hall of Otokar Jeremiáš) and also in some of the churches of České Budějovice. There are exhibition halls and galleries where art works are displayed, often by students of the University of South Bohemia (sculptures, graphics, photographs, etc.). An important exhibition center is the Aleš Hall of the South Bohemia Gallery in Hlu-boká nad Vltavou. Various cultural events take place regularly in České Budějovice, such as the South Bohemian Music Festival, which takes place in the entire region of South Bohemia; there is also the Inter-national Music Festival, film festivals, etc.

A number of cultural events make up part of the international exhibition at the Exhibition Grounds in České Budějovice (the best known being the exhibit called "Mother Earth, the Bread Winner"). Other possible visits include the Museum of South Bohemia, the Gothic-Renaissance Black Tower (72 meters high) which dominates the city close to the Premysl Otakar II Square, one of the biggest squares in Bohemia (133 x 133 meters). There is also the Renaissance City Hall, several churches and convents (for example, the 13th century Cathedral of St. Nicholas and the Dominican monastery), and a number of other interesting places. The most important sport clubs in the city are those devoted to ice hockey, soccer and volleyball. The largest enterprises are the breweries Budvar and Samson, the companies E.ON, Bosch, and South Bohemian Dairies.

In the environs of the city there are a number of cultural monuments and places to visit: 20 kilometers southwest is Český Krumlov (the most frequently visited place in the Czech Republic after Prague) with its spreading castle complex which is comparable to the Prague Castle. The city of Český Krumlov has been declared a municipal reservation under the sponsorship of the international organization of UNESCO. In Zlatá Koruna and Vyšší Brod, not far from Český Krumlov, are two 13th century Cistercian monasteries. 20 kilometers east of České Budějovice is the spa of Třebon, with its castle and system of ponds which create the specific look of the countryside. About 50 kilometers north of České Budějovice, in the direction of Prague, lies the city of Tábor, a center of Hussites in the first half of the 15th century.

For the Overall Congress Organization Committee:

PROF. VLADIMIR PAPOUŠEK
Vice Rector USB

MILOSLAV REHCÍGL
President SVU

2006 SVU World Congress in České Budějovice

Preliminary Registration & Speaker's Form

for the Participants from America and Other Countries Abroad.

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation (if any): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Title of the proposed talk: _____

I'd like to organize a special panel or symposium: _____

Other suggestions, ideas, etc.: _____

Please send immediately to SVU President Mila Rechcigl preferably via e-mail: SVU1@comcast.net Postal address: 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852

From Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board had its regular meeting on July 9 at SVU President Rechcigl's residence in Rockville, MD. In the absence of Secretary General, Vice President Zdenek David was appointed Secretary-General pro tempore, who took the minutes.

Following the approval of the minutes from the last meeting, Rechcigl distributed generic agenda which henceforth will be followed in the future board meetings.

The following items of general interest were reported:

1. Vice President Cecilia Rokusek has just moved from Florida to Minnesota to assume a new position of Dean of Education at Winona State University, MN.
2. A new Blue Ribbon Leadership Search Committee has been appointed, comprised of Peter Demetz (Sterling Professor Emeritus, Yale University), Josef A. Mestenhauser (Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota), Vladimir Paces (President of the Academy of Sciences of CR), Dr. Jan P. Skalny (Past SVU Executive Vice President), Dr. Zdenek Slouka (Past SVU President), and Dr. Peter Zuman (Distinguished Emeritus Professor, Clarkson University). The purpose of the Committee is to search for new SVU leadership.
3. A new SVU Publication Advisory Committee has been established with the following makeup: Dr. Zdenek David (Chair), Dr. Slavo Michalek, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, Dr. Oldrich Tuma, Dr. Jan Vicar, and Mr. Miroslav Wlachovsky.
4. A new SVU Youth Advisory Committee was established, comprised of the following members: Robin Anderson, Amy Garrett, Hana Konecna, Vladimir Kysucky, Jiri Smeral, and Charles Svagera.
5. The Congress Working Committee has been formed, including the following members: Dr. Karel Raska, Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl, Dr. Zdenek Vich, Dr. Dagmar Hasalova White (Chair).
6. The untimely death of Paul Bartl of Carlsbad, CA on May 28.

Rechcigl also informed the Board that the University of Minnesota is sending its truck to pick up the remainder of the SVU archival material which has been kept in his house. The material will be deposited with the other SVU archives at the University's Immigration History Research Center. The arrival time has been set for July 20.

A new SVU membership drive has been launched and the Board appeals to SVU membership to give us an active hand in this important endeavor. The campaign will be coordinated by Secretary-General who will make available to interested people the SVU membership applications form, as well as the descriptive material about our Society. He can be reached by e-mail: ojsafertal@comcast.net. Or by telephone (301) 564-9081 or by mail at the following address: Frank Safertal, SVU Secretary-General, 5529 Whitley Park Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20814-2064. Secretary-General, henceforth, will regularly report to the Board at each meeting on the statistics relating to new SVU members.

Rechcigl also announced the formation of a new SVU Biographical Data which he will manage together with the SVU Webmaster Jiri Eichler. The individual members are requested to submit their biographical sketches for posting to the following address via e-mail: SVU1@comcast.net. They should be written in a flowing narrative (traditional CVs written in an outline form are not acceptable for this purpose).

The Board members who have not as yet provided draft statements, spelling out their responsibilities, including specific projects to be completed by the current administrative period, have been admonished to do so by the next meeting.

Vice President Vera Borkovec reported that the monograph on the Czech and Slovak Theater Abroad that she has been editing is close to completion. What remains is just formatting to get it ready for publication. With reference to the monograph on Czech Opera Abroad, Vice President Dagmar White, who is in charge of the project, reported that almost half of the chapters are completed and that the manuscript should be finished by the end of the 2005 calendar year.

According to the information received from Olomouc, the selected papers from the 2004 congress are planned for publication in October.

As far as the proceedings of the Florida Conference are concerned, Rechcigl expressed some concern, noting that a large number of speakers have not as yet submitted their papers. Unless we have a critical mass of the papers we may have to rethink the idea of publishing them at all. The respective speakers/authors are urged to send in their papers right away. They should be sent via e-mail to: SVU1@comcast.net

The editor-in-chief of *Kosmas*, Clinton Machann, issued a call for manuscripts suitable for publishing in the periodical. Apart from traditional historical, literary and social essay, he would welcome contributions in the area of art and music history, as well as in the history of science and technology. More subscriptions are needed especially from universities, libraries and other institutions. Secretary-General will henceforth regularly report to the board on the new *Kosmas* subscriptions.

The preparation for the next SVU World Congress to be held at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice is well under way. The details of the local arrangements and other logistics are being periodically reported in our newsletter *Zpravy SVU* and are also posted on the SVU Website. The call for papers has been issued and the interested people are urged to send in their preregistration forms.

The Board would welcome volunteers to help us organize specific English panels or symposia.

Award to SVU Members

The following SVU members contributions have been recognized by the “Gratias agit” Awards 2005 sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic:

Tomas Bata, Canada
Vera Bisek and Peter Bisek, USA
Viktor Fischl, Israel

The same award was presented to **Czech Komensky Club, Lincoln, NE** which closely collaborates with our SVU Nebraska Chapter.
Congratulations!

From the Washington’s Summer Barbecues

The Ambassador of the Slovak Republic and Mrs. Rastislav Káčer jointly with the Friends of Slovakia hosted on July 26, 2005 an informal barbecue at the Ambassador’s residence in McLean, Virginia, honoring the new US Ambassador to Slovakia, Rodolphe M. Vallee and the new US Representative to the OSVE, Ambassador Julie Finley. In spite of one of the hottest days of the year, the friendly gathering included several former Ambassadors to Slovakia and Czechoslovakia.

On the break from grilled goodies

In Memoriam

FERDINAND S. HOFFMEISTER (1914-2004)

Dr. Ferdinand Stanley Hoffmeister, a long-time SVU member and a former Vice President of our Society, died on September 6, 2004. He was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia on November 8, 1914 to Ferdinand and Kamila Hoffmeister, training in medicine at Charles University in Prague (MUDr., 1939) before immigrating to the United States. In 1950, he received a D.M.D. degree from Tufts University.

A pioneer in the field of plastic surgery, he trained at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., where he served as chief surgical resident, before joining the Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, NY, where he was Chief of Department of Head and Neck Cancer and Reconstructive Surgery for 11 years. Eventually, he moved to Albany, N.Y. to join the surgical group of Macomber, Hoffmeister and Wong, and became professor of clinical surgery at the Albany Medical College. At that time, he met his wife, Jana, with whom he began a family. In the course of his career he retained numerous academic titles, authored books and over a hundred original research articles. He was much beloved by those who knew him, his charm, gentle manner, and humor cherished by all and he will be dearly missed.

I knew him personally, first meeting him at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, where I was interviewing for and was offered a position after I had completed my Ph.D. We became good friends and I was actually instrumental in involving him in SVU and eventually becoming SVU Vice President. I was also indirectly involved in his marrying Jana because when Jana was looking for some assistance with her medical training, I recommended her to Hoffmeister and nature took its course.

He was a charming person, full of humor and a true gentleman. *MR*

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VACLAV MOSTECKY (1919-2004)

Vaclav Mostecky, 85, passed away at his home on September 11, 2004. The eldest of three sons, he was born to Vaclav and Emilia Mostecky on June 20, 1919 in Jindrichuv Hradec, Czechoslovakia. After earning his law degree (JUDr. 1946) and another degree in political science, he married Iva Eret. He was a Foreign Service Officer in the Czech Foreign Office. After the communist coup in 1948, when he was invited to a diplomatic conference in Switzerland, he took the opportunity to flee the country with his family.

After moving to the US, he received two additional academic degrees, M.A. in Public Law from Columbia University in 1953 and M.S. in Library Science from Catholic University in 1954. He had an impressive career as a professor of law and librarian at Columbia University, Catholic University, the University of Buffalo, Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley. His interests were in the area of international and constitutional law, philosophy of law and library science.

Mostecky was a prolific writer and received many honors during his career. He was an invited speaker at the 1961 dedication of Dag Hammarskjöld Library at the United Nations and in 1951, he received an Award for Meritorious Service from the US Department of State. He had a love for music, especially opera and was an avid stamp collector.

The elder SVU members may recall that Mostecky played a pivotal role in the establishment of SVU in 1956, when Mostecky, serving as a chairman of a newly established Study Section (Studijni odbor), together with Jaroslav Nemeč, sent out a questionnaire to leading Czechoslovak scholars and scientists in the US and Western Europe concerning the possibility of organizing an academy or society of Czechoslovak arts and sciences. The enthusiastic response eventually led to the establishment of SVU in 1958. The Society is forever indebted to him for his insight.

MR

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RUDOLF PERINA (1913-2003)

Rudolf Perina was born on October 15, 1913 in Plana nad Luznici, in Tabor district, Czechoslovakia, where his father owned a lumber business. He attended Charles University, earning a law degree (JUDr.) in preparation for managing the family business. After communist take-over in 1948, he escaped and joined countless other refugees.

He lived a full, second adult life in the US, where he settled in Cleveland in 1955. As a great patriot, he was involved in many volunteer activities in the Czech and Slovak communities in Cleveland. He was a frequent contributor to Czech-American newspaper *Nový svět* and served as treasurer of the Czech-American Committee of Cleveland and the Dramatic Society "Vcelka." He was also an active member of Sokol Greater Cleveland, District Alliance of Czech Catholics, as well as of the local chapter SVU Cleveland Chapter and the Czechoslovak Society of America.

In the last two decades he was employed by the City of Cleveland where he became Chief of the Collection Division of the Department of Taxation.

FRANTISEK SMETANA (1914-2004)

This is a belated note of the passing of the internationally acclaimed, principal cellist of the Richmond Symphony, Frantisek Smetana who died around November 30, 2004.

Frantisek Smetana was born on May 8, 1914 in Ohnistany. His music career began when he was ten years old on the occasion of the visit of the eminent cellist Pravoslav Sadlo to his village who recognized the talent of the young musician. He accepted him as a student and offered him free lodging and food. He became his mentor and a second father during the full sixteen years Frantisek lived in the Sadlo's household. Smetana studied composition with Otakar Sin at the Prague Conservatory of Music, spent two years in Paris at Ecole normale de musique with professors Alexanian and Fournier and returned to Prague for his graduate year, to work with Sadlo. In the 1930s, in addition to solo performances, Smetana performed with several chamber music ensembles, such as Czech Nonetto, Smetana Trio, Pesek's Quartet and Czechoslovak Quartet. Since 1938 his performing partner was the pianist Doly Urbankova (1910-80), his future spouse.

After the war, Frantisek Smetana taught at the conservatory and toured Holland, Norway, Sweden, England, Belgium and Yugoslavia. Then he spent a year-and-a-half in prison, allegedly for "anti-state" activities. Upon his release, all doors were locked to him by the com-munist regime in Czechoslovakia. So at the age of fifty he decided to leave. The Smetanas first moved to Jamaica where Frantisek taught at the School of Music in Kingston. Between 1966 and 1973 he was active at the Iowa State University in Ames, and then transferred, until his retirement in 1987, to the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond which became his second home.

In 1986 Frantisek Smetana was named as one of the best living cellists in the world, next to names like Casals, Eisenberg, Feuerman, Garbousova, Greenberg, Nelsova, Piatigorsky, Rose and Schneider.

After the Velvet Revolution, he was awarded the honorary membership of the "Umelecka beseda", with the other top Czech musicians living abroad, Rudolf Firkusny, Jarmila Novotna and Rafael Kubelik. President Havel invited him to the Prague Castle for a private audience. His death is a great loss to SVU and the Czech music world.

This information is based, in part, on the Leo Hromadka's tribute on the occasion of Smetana's 80th birthday.

MR

PAUL BARTL (1928-2005)

Paul Bartl, 77, died Saturday, May 28, 2005, at Sunrise of La Costa, after a long, gallant battle with Parkinson's disease.

He was born in Prague on April 8, 1928, and held academic degrees from Ceske vysoke uceni technicke (Ing. in physical chemistry in 1951) and Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (Csc. in physical chemistry in 1954). He specialized in electron microscopy, biophysics of nucleic acids and proteins, and physical chemistry. After coming to the US, he lived for 26 years in Carlsbad, California. He retired in 1994 from MeDica Inc.

Mr. Bartl is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jarka Bartl of Carlsbad; daughter and son-in-law Simona Bartl and Jonathan Geller of Salinas; sister and brother-in-law Jana Jarosova and Karel Setinek of Prague, Czech Republic; and grandchildren Bryce and Haley.

FRANTIŠEK TKÁČ

Ing. František Tkáč, primátor mesta Hanušovce nad Topou a ná-dejný člen SVU, nečekané zomrel vo veku 54 rokov, práve keď začínal prípravu na založenie novej miestnej skupiny SVU. Jeho smutiacej rodine vyslovujeme našu hlbokú sústrasť.

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Note to SVU Members: It took quite an effort to assemble the above obituaries. The SVU members are urged to send in information on and the obituaries of deceased members early on so that they can be published in a timely manner.

SVU Local Chapters

Spillville-Iowa-Midwest SVU Chapter

The Spillville-Iowa-Midwest SVU Chapter, jointly with the St. Wenceslaus Heritage Society, both based in Spillville, Iowa, the “most historic Czech village in America,” have jointly reviewed their activities of the past year and summarize their good news for all here.

The preservation of the 1870 School, the **oldest Czech parochial school** in America and home to Antonin Dvorak’s American Quartet and American Quintet, proceeds nicely. Foundation stabilization, new roof, and complete exterior re-finishing have been completed in the past three years, respectively. Interior work is progressing to house exhibits relating to the history of the building, the parish, nuns, priests, education, teachers, boarders, area heritage, immigration, St. Clement Pioneer Church, music, historic documents and library, and more.

Eleven **concerts** were arranged and sponsored in the past year – all held in the acoustically fabulous 1860 St. Wenceslaus Church, the oldest Czech Catholic Church in America, and home to the 1876 Pfeiffer organ, the only old American organ to have been played by a major European composer, Antonin Dvorak. St. Wenceslaus is also the mother church of all other area Czech churches. Four of the concerts were provided free as diversity and cultural events to 500 local school children on each occasion. Two were organ concerts – on the historic 1876 Pfeiffer Organ – provided free to the general public. Five were fundraising events to benefit local historic properties. Among the fine performers were: The Children’s Choir from Vysoke Myto, CZ.

Classical Guitarist Vladislav Blaha from the Brno Conservatory, CZ; **Druha Trava**, 2000 Czech band of the year; and capping off the 100 year anniversary of the death of the Great Composer Antonin Dvorak, who was an 1893 Spillville resident, was **Radoslav Kvapil**, long-time premiere international Dvorak pianist and Chairman of the International Dvorak Society, from Prague, Czech Republic.

Two Spillville papers, one on the **1854 Bouska Log Cabin School** and the other on the **1860 St. Wenceslaus Church**, were presented at the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences International Congress in Olomouc, Moravia, CZ, in July 2004. And a tour group from Protivin, Iowa, visited the Congress. “The Spillville of Antonin Dvorak’s Sojourn and Inspirations for the American Quartet and Quintet” was presented at an event sponsored by the Komensky Club at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. That paper and others were also presented at other events and meetings.

Spillville area history and heritage and the composer Dvorak connections were the subjects of several Czech, German and other articles and videos, and a Canadian Broadcasting Company radio special. The St. Wenceslaus Church is one of only 36 in America featured in “American Country Churches” by William Morgan. USA Today, October 14, 2004, listed it as one of 10 great American rural churches.

A special four-day course, “**The Spillville Area Czech-American Heritage Experience**”, was presented on-site for the Luther College summer program. An afternoon session in Spillville was included in the fall Luther College church musicians’ retreat. A student research project is in place with the Luther College German Department to prepare a history of the 1856 St. Clement pioneer church, just south of Spillville, for the 150 year anniversary of the church in 2006.

Many breakfast, lunch and dinner related events were held to help the fundraising efforts for local historic properties. Michael Klimesh was one of the judges for the Minnesota Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant.

The St. Wenceslaus Heritage Society hosted the Christmas dinner and social for the joint meeting of the SWHS and The Winneshiek County Historic and Genealogy Societies. The 60 people attending enjoyed a traditional Czech Christmas dinner. Relevant Czech tales and traditions were presented.

A new **Czech language course** for distant and non-traditional learners was premiered and launched in Spillville the first weekend of February 2005. This course was built around a new “community of learners format” and it is rich in materials and resources for student self-study and it will include immersion Saturdays periodically. The entire series of lessons will be spread over two major segments of one year each. This is a joint project of the Spillville Societies and professional Czech language teachers.

Kraslice (Czech egg decorating) and Czech Stitchery demonstrations were presented on several occasions, including in the **1854 Martin Bouska log cabin school**, oldest Czech log cabin school in America. It is now restored and located on the grounds of the Bily Clocks Museum, which is located in the 1857 Jacob Schmitt house, which is also the house the great Czech composer Antonin Dvorak lived and worked in 1893. This is also where the Antonin Dvorak museum exhibits and memorabilia are housed and may be viewed.

Also at the museum is a new display and **exhibit of Cast Iron grave markers**, made and sold from Spillville from 1875 to 1925, by Charles Andera. They are found today extensively locally and in old cemeteries in fourteen states. Loren Horton, recently retired Chief Historian of the Iowa Historical Society describes the crosses as "cemetery art" and con-siders Charles to be a noteworthy example of pioneer commerce and entrepreneurship in America.

Charles Andera was also Spillville's early resident photographer. A project is active to accumulate and publish a collection of as much photography by and of him as can be located. Similar projects for the Spillville area early German, Swiss and other Czech pioneers are being discussed. Genealogy and historic document and picture acquisition and preservation focuses have been identified and are being pursued.

A **web site** has been started and is being loaded with relevant area-wide information. Meetings are held locally. Our mission/objectives include preservation of our area historic properties and ethnic heritages.

Everyone interested in the activities of the St. Wenceslaus Heritage Society or the Spillville-Iowa-Midwest Czechoslovak Society is invited to contact Steven Klimesh or Michael Klimesh, respectively, at stevenklimesh@earthlink.net or at michaelk@acegroup.cc. Also see www.CzechoSlovaksMidwest.org

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Bratislava SVU Chapter

2004

January 22 — Lecture „**Vývoj územného usporiadania Sloven-ska od najstarších čias do súčasnosti.**“ Speaker: Prof. Dr. L. Sokolovský, CSc. (Katedra archiv-níctva a pomocných historických vied, FF-UK, BA). 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

February 19 — Lecture „**Európa a jej hodnoty**“. Speaker: Ing. Ján Fige^o (poslanec NR, predseda zahr. výboru a kandidát na komisára EÚ). 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

March 18 — **Klavírny koncert prof. Radoslava Kvapila** (z diela českých autorov). 6 PM, Koncert-ná sieň, Pálffyho palác, Zámocká ul., BA

April 22 — **Premietanie doku-mentárnych filmov** „Dve doku-mentárne výpovede“, „Portrét“. Portrét Vida Horáka, réžia P. Hledký. „Stano Dusík – popredný slovenský maliar žijúci vo Flo-rencii“, režisér V. Horák. Speaker: V. Horák. 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

May 20 — „**Oganizačné otázky so zabezpečením účasti na Kongrese v Olomouci**“, „**New SVU Directory**“ – upresnenie členstva Bratislava Chapter. 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

June 17 — Lecture „**DNA — molekula života**“. Speaker: Prof. RNDr. Marta Kollárová, DrSc. (Katedra biochémie PRIF-UK). 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

June 28-July 2 — **XXII. Kongres Olomouc.**

October 28 — **Valné shromaždenie SVU.** 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

November 4 — **Beseda a vernisáž výstavy obrazov Anny Galkovej a Antona Galku.** 5 PM, Budova Slovenského rozhlasu, Mýtna 1, Bratislava

December 11 — **Benefičný koncert**, určený pre Resoty — útulok bezdomovcov pátra A. Srolca. Záštitu prevzal primátor hlavného mesta Bratislavy Ing. A. ěurkov-ský. 6 PM, Zrkadlová sieň Prima-ciálneho paláca

2005

January 27 — **Lecture.** Speaker: Prof. RNDr. J. Pastorek, Dr.Sc. ,riadite^o Virologického ústavu SAV, BA. 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

February 24 — **Meeting “Bush and Putin”.** Bratislava City

March 17 — **Lecture.** Speaker: Doc. RNDr. O. Erdelská, DrSc. (Botanický ústav SAV, BA). 4 PM, Laurinská street 14, BA

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Cleveland SVU Chapter

The Cleveland Chapter of SVU had a productive year in 2004. Our membership grew from five members to sixteen and they have established their own Website:

<http://www.geocities.com/clevelandsvu2004>

The Chapter, as well as individual members, made financial contributions for the restoration of statues in the Czech Cultural Garden. Among the statues is a bust of Antonin Dvorak (photo attached) where, last May, members organized a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of his death. SVU also promoted a concert at the Cleveland Museum of Art that celebrated this famous Czech composer and his music. SVU member and the Museum's Curator of Musical Arts, Czech-born organist Karel Paukert organized and performed at this memorable concert. In July, several of our members attended the SVU Congress in Olomouc.

Various cultural events promoted by our chapter were attended by our members: the annual Czech and Slovak Cotillion Ball in March, the concert in recognition of organist Dr. Karel Paukert at the Cleveland Art Museum in December (see photo), the Cleveland Women Orchestra concert at the Czech Cultural Center (Czech Bohemian National Hall) organized by Sokol Greater Cleveland, and the viewing of Czech film "Zelary" this January.

In December, the year 2004 was concluded with a Christmas Party, which was a very successful joint venture of the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, Inc. organization and of SVU Cleveland.

DR. STANISLAV BOHONEK, *President*
PAUL BURIK, *Secretary*

New SVU Membership Drive

In concurrence with the SVU Secretary General, the SVU Executive Board has decided to launch a new SVU membership drive and appeals to SVU membership to give us an active hand in this important endeavor.

The campaign will be coordinated by Secretary General who will make available to interested people the SVU membership application forms, as well as the descriptive material about our Society. He can be reached by e-mail: ojsafertal@comcast.net or by telephone: (301) 564-9081 or by mail at the following address: Frank Safertal, SVU Secretary-General, 5529 Whitley Park Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20814-2064.

In order to be successful, experience has taught us that such a drive has to be conducted on a personal basis, rather than based on mass mailings. We propose one of the following approaches:

1. A member invites a potential member directly, informing him about the SVU aims and activities and sends him an application form or referring him/her to the SVU Website: www.svu2000.org from which the form can be downloaded (see How To Join). The application form with a check, payable to SVU, should then be sent to the Secretary-General.
2. A member sends the name(s) of the potential member(s) to Secretary General who would then invite him/them on behalf of the member.
3. In case of SVU Local Chapters, the potential SVU members can be invited directly by the representative officer of the Chapter or their list can be provided to the Secretary-General who would send invitation letters on their behalf.

In searching for candidates for SVU membership, you should first look at your address book listing your friends and acquaintances, including Czech and Slovak natives, and other individuals with Czech or Slovak roots, as well as Americans and other nationalities with professional interest in Czech and Slovak culture or business.

College and university-based individuals should look through their school catalogue listings, which frequently include Czech/Slovak professors or students, as well as among the teachers of the Slavic languages and Literatures and the area studies.

I appeal to all our members to help us in this important endeavor. Why don't you make it a goal of finding one potential member every month.

MILA REHCIGL, SVU President

SVU Biographical Data Base

After discussing the matter with individual Board members, members of SVU Council and SVU Fellows, the SVU Executive Board has decided to establish a special SVU Biographical Data Base.

In the last decade there has been a recurrent demand for biographical material on individual SVU members which is not always readily available in the existing biographical sources and to try to obtain it from other people in the last minute, is always a problem. Such requests frequently come from the US, Czech or Slovak Governments and their Embassies, as well as from private corporations, seeking consultants with particular expertise. The SVU Directory, while an excellent resource for basic data, can only furnish scanty information that may not satisfy the inquirer.

There have also been inquiries from the media about biographical information on specific individuals when they were appointed to high level positions or when they received a prestigious award or some other honor. Last but not the least, whenever an accomplished SVU member dies, we feel obligated to honor his/her memory by publishing a suitable obituary that would provide a good overview of person's life and his/her accomplishments. That is the least we can do. The problem is that in a situation like this we always have a hard time in getting any information at all, even from the closest friends of the deceased.

It is apparent that a comprehensive biographical data base would be extremely useful to us for multiple purposes and uses. It could also serve as a foundation for preparing a genuine Who's Who which has been on SVU books for years.

Having this in mind, the SVU Executive Board is appealing to SVU members to help us establish such a data base. We are not interested in receiving multiple-page CVs which provide plethora of detailed information in telegraphic style, neither are we interested in receiving several page resumes used for applying for a job. What we need for our purposes, is a biographical sketch, written in a flowing narrative, about two pages long, which would provide a comprehensive picture of the individual's life and accomplishments. As an example, we invite you to look at the first biosketches that have been posted on SVU Website:

<http://www.svu2000.org/biosketches/database.htm>

Please send your sketches, c/o SVU President Mila Rechcigl, via e-mail to the following address: SVU1@comcast.net If you don't have access to computer, you can send it by mail to: Mila Rechcigl, 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852. After a review, the individual sketches will be posted by SVU Webmaster on SVU Website so that the information is readily accessible to SVU membership. This is an important undertaking and we are hopeful that our entire membership will take it seriously and will actively participate.

MILA REHCIGL, SVU President

ACCENT on YOUTH

Promising Young Czechs and Slovaks at the US Universities

NOTE: The American Fund for Czechoslovak Relief (AFCR) provided for Fiscal Year 2005 postgraduate supplementary grants to 21 recipients, some of whom are introduced in this report. Since the inception of this program in 1994, AFCR supported 138 post-graduate students, 76 Czechs and 62 Slovaks at the total of \$253,986. There is a strict prerequisite for the recipients to return to their home country, to use their experience for betterment of democracy, society and economy. The information has been supplied by Executive Vice President Vlado Simko.

NATASA KOSUTOVA

Home City: Bratislava, Slovakia

US Institution: University of Missouri — Columbia, School of Journalism

Anticipated Study Period in the US: August 2004 - June 2005

E-mail: natasa.kosutova@zoznam.sk or kosutovan@missouri.edu

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: I applied for the Fulbright grant at the University of Missouri's School of Journalism in Columbia with two goals to fulfill: As a publisher of the only English language weekly newspaper in Slovakia *The Slovak Spectator*; after working for the paper on several positions for 6 years, I felt the urge to communicate with professionals from the business of running small independent media. I had thought that it was a chance to obtain professional advice and consultations. My second goal was to collect data and material for my PhD thesis on crisis communication. I also hoped to use the resources and time available here in the United States to produce some innovative and useful material for future Slovak scholars and practitioners. The first semester is mostly dedicated to courses on communication and study, but I was also contacted by the managing editor of the magazine *IPI Global Journalist*, published in Columbia and distributed throughout the world, and agreed to join their team and work on the project of circulation and sales management for the magazine.

MARTIN ORAVEC

Home Town: Bratislava, Slovak Republic

US Institution: The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

Scholarship: AFCR Supplementary Study Grant

E-mail: moravec@oravec.org

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: Having received a Master's degree in Russian and East-European Studies from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, in 2003, Martin Oravec arrived in the USA to enhance his understanding of East-European politics by an economic perspective. The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, upstate New York, came as a logical choice, as it ranks number one in Public Administration program in the USA. Martin entered the two-year Master's program in Economics and International Relations, concentrating topically on Global Markets and regionally on Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union. Maxwell School allowed him to pursue his long-term academic interests in East-European economies, energy policy between the European Union and the United States, as well as financial investing in emerging markets. In May 2005 he will defend his MA thesis on "The Natural Gas Industry between the European Union and the USA: Regulation, Deregulation and Reregulation" and receive dual International Relations and Economics Master's degree. The study at Maxwell School serves thus as a good preparation for Martin's future successful career in private or public sector in his home country, Slovakia.

PETRA VALENTOVA

Home City: Prague, Czech Republic

US Institution: Hunter College, CUNY, New York, NY

MFA degree, major in sculpture

Scholarship: Fulbright Scholarship (2003/04), AFCR grant

Anticipated Study Period in the US: Fall 2003-Winter 2005 (Spring 2006)

E-mail: ppv@atlas.cz

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: Unreachable Distance I & II, 2004

Gallery Titanik, Turku, Finland (collaboration with Pavel Kraus, USA)

Installation: mylar, paster on paper, tape, light

Installation: wood and ladders

MICHAL PETR

Home City: Rymarov, Czech Republic

US Institution: University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Scholarship: ISEP (International Student Exchange Program)

Anticipated Study Period in the US: 1 academic year

E-mail: misapetr@seznam.cz

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: I am attending 3 courses which are similar to my studies in the Czech Republic. It is Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Cartography and Applied Remote Sensing. In each of these courses I am working on particular projects and especially in Applied Remote Sensing (RS). In RS I am focused on a project which is connected with estimation of suspended sediment concentration in river stream in Nebraska. This project is in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey, Nebraska - Lincoln. During spring semester I will improve my knowledge of cartography and remote sensing in specialized courses, such as Advanced GIS etc.

NINA BOSNICOVA

Home City: Skalica, Slovakia (currently studying in Prague)

US Institution: New York University

Anticipated Study Period in the US: January-May 2005

E-mail: bosnicova@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: I am a Ph.D. student of English and American literature at Charles University in Prague. Currently I am working on my Ph.D. dissertation on African-American autobiography. The aim of the dissertation is to trace the thematic continuities in several important black American autobiographical texts of the nine-teenth and the twentieth century. I would like to show how, with the passing of time and the change of the social climate in the U.S., an African-American's perception of himself/herself, his/her own community and the dominant white society has transformed. The dissertation is using modern theoretical approaches, including black feminism and gender studies. My fields of academic interest include African-American literature and culture and women's writing. I have published articles and attended conferences closely linked with the given problematic. I will use my stay at NYU to do research necessary for my dissertation, to attend relevant courses and meet professors who work in the same field as I.

TEREZA NOVOTNA

Home City: Prague, Czech Republic

US Institution: Boston University

Scholarship: AFRC supplementary study grant, Boston University full scholarship

Anticipated Study Period in the US: 2004-2008

E-mail: tnovotna@bu.edu

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: Currently I am enrolled in the PhD. University Professors program at Boston University. After finishing required two-years course work, I will focus on my dissertation. University Professors is a multi-disciplinary program, I am studying International Relations-Modern History-Political Science. In my thesis, I would like to concentrate on political aspects of transatlantic relations.

IDA KODRLOVA

Home City: Brno, Czech Republic

US Institution: California State University at San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA

Anticipated Study Period in the US: Sept. 1, 2004- Feb. 28, 2005

E-mail: ida@psu.cas.cz — *Website:* <http://www.psu.cas.cz>

ABSTRACT OF PRESENT WORK: Ida Kodrlova is a Czech Ful-bright Scholar working and studying at the Department of Psychology at the California State University at San Bernardino on the research project "Psychology of Literature — Qualitative Analysis of Writer's Personality Through Literary Works (Sylvia Plath and Virginia Woolf)" under the tutelage of Dr. James C. Kaufman, an Assistant Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Learning Research Institute.

She received her Master's degree in clinical psychology from Masaryk University Brno in 2002 and is now enrolled there in her third year of a PhD. program in social psychology. She is currently employed as a researcher at the Institute of Psychology at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Her research interests are the psychology of art and artists, Sylvia Plath, Virginia Woolf, psychoanalytic psychotherapy, qualitative methodology and case study research and film studies. She is also enrolled in the 2nd year of a Bachelor's degree program at the Department of Film and Audiovisual Culture, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic, and is also in the psychoanalytic psychotherapy training at Brno Institute of Psychotherapy, Czech Republic. She has concurrently been working as a teacher for the past two years and as a counselor for EmSeS (Emigrant's Senior Service).

SPOLEČNOST PRO VĚDY A UMĚNÍ STUDENSKÉ CENY PRO ROK 2005 CENA DR. JOSEFA HAŠKA

Společnost pro vědy a umění oznamuje svou studentskou soutěž pro rok 2005. Jména výherců budou oznámeny ve *Zprávách SVU* a čestné diplomy budou předány.

Hlavním účelem soutěže je podnítit a podpořit vědecký zájem zahraničních univerzitních studentů o české a slovenské záležitosti. Odměněny budou nejlepší seminární práce (jedna undergraduate a jedna graduate), týkající se nějakého aspektu českých a (nebo) slovenských dějin, politiky či kultury. Výherci obdrží cenu dr. Josefa Haška ve výši \$250, čestný diplom, jednorocní studentské členství v SVU a jednorocní předplatné na SVU zpravodaj.

Podmínky soutěže jsou následující:

- 1) Seminární práce musí být podána univerzitním profesorem, pro jehož kurs či seminář byla napsána a má být prováděna jeho dobro-zdáním.
- §2) Práce musí být napsána v akademickém roce 2004-20085. Diplomové práce, kapitoly thezí nebo dizertací nejsou přípustné.
- 3) Soutěžní práce musí komise obdržet nejpozději do 1. června 2005.
- 4) Práce musí být zaslána v triplicátu na adresu předsedkyně ko-mise: Prof. Věra Bořkovec, 12013 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Musí být napsána na stoji, obřádku a může být psána česky, slovensky, anglicky, francouzsky nebo německy.
- 5) Členy komise, která hodnotí kvalitu obdržených prací, jsou: Prof. Věra Bořkovec (American University), Prof. Ivo Feierabend (San Diego State University) a Prof. Milan Hauner (University of Wisconsin).
- 6) Rukopisy se nevracejí.