

2006 SVU World Congress Update

University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice

25 June - 2 July 2006

Preparation for the forthcoming SVU Congress are in full swing. Our members will be pleased to know that the Congress will be held under the aegis of both Czech and Slovak Presidents, The Honorable Vaclav Klaus and The Honorable Ivan Gasparovic, respectively.

The logistics is more or less in place. It is expected that most participants would arrive on Sunday June 25. The University has arranged for bus transportation not only for Sunday, but also for Saturday June 24. 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 con-current sessions, will commence on Tuesday morning and will continue until Friday noon. The concluding plenary session, the 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 socio-cultural events include music performances by the South Bohemian Philharmonic, the University choir, an organ recital in the St. Nicolas Cathedral, and an outdoor orchestra on the banks of the Vltava River.

The entire Saturday and Sunday are reserved for special sightseeing excursions through the beautiful South Bohemian countryside, including visiting the picturesque medieval town of Cesky Krumlov, cloister Zlata Koruna, the palace Hluboka n. Vltavou and much more. Following the Congress we are also planning a special five-day bus tour to see other memorable sights throughout the Czech Republic which we highly re-commend to our participants from abroad who are not familiar with the spectacular sites, natural beauty of the Czech landscape, extraordinary architecture, historical monuments, arts and crafts and many other surprises.

SVU President will be visiting Ceske Budejovice in mid October to meet with the University organizers and representatives of the City and to view the facilities and accommodations.

The US Program Committee, comprised of Dagmar White, Zdenek David, Karel Raska and Mila Rechcigl has been working diligently on finding suitable panel organizers, as well as panel speakers. As in previous Congresses, the program will encompass just about every facet of human endeavor from arts & letters, and science & technology to business, law, civil society, medicine and environment.

SVU Website: www.svu2000.org

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CALL FOR PAPERS

We call on volunteers to assist us with this task. We seek, in particular, organizers and potential speakers for these panels: Education, Physical Education – Sokol, Youth Issues, US-CR/SR University Cooperation, CZ & SL Studies Abroad, News and Media, Creative Writing-fiction, Readings, Visual Arts, Architecture, Performing Arts, Philosophy and Theology, Contemporary History, J. A. Komensky Symposium, The Holocaust, Literature & Literary Criticism, Politics & Government, International Relations, The European Union, Economics, The Society – Sociology, Socio-Ethnic Relations, The American Presence in CR and SR, Law and Justice, Czech Diplomatic and Business Presence Abroad, Czech & Slovak Projects with America and Western Europe, Informa

tion Technology, Physical and Biological Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Emigration and Immigration, Settlements and Communities, Assimilation and Ethnicity, Family History and Genealogy, Contributions of Czechs and Slovaks Abroad, Preservation of Cultural Heritage Abroad, the Sister Cities Programs.

This will be a memorable event and most likely the pivotal event of the year for anyone interested in Czech and Slovak culture and affairs. Please register soon so that we will know how many of you will participate.

MILOSLAV REHCIGL, SVU President

Preliminary Congress Registration & Speaker's Form For Participants from America and Other Western Countries

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.: _____

I would like to participate in Saturday and/or Sunday sightseeing excursion: YES NO

I would like to participate in the 5-day bus tour: YES NO

Please send immediately to SVU President Mila Rehcigl preferably via e-mail: SVU1@comcast.net

Postal address: 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852

Upon receipt of your preregistration, our Congress Treasurer Blanka Kudej will send you the registration material, including information on available accommodations and various cultural and social events, as well as sightseeing tours for you to select and order.

From Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board meeting took place on September 10, 2005 in the home of SVU President Dr. Mila Rehcigl in Rockville, MD. With six members in attendance, the Board had quorum to pass resolutions. In the absence of Secretary-General, Zdenek David was appointed Secretary-General pro tempore who took Minutes.

Rehcigl welcomed and introduced Cecilia Rokusek to the Board meeting which was her first. She just accepted a new position of Dean of Education at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota. She played a key role in the logistics of the recent SVU conference in North Miami and was also instrumental in getting Miss Czech-Slovak USA candidates involved in SVU.

The Board was then briefed on a number of events, including the passing away of Frank A. Sim of Maryland, an engineer by profession and long-time treasurer of the Washington, DC Chapter and of Jarka Burian, professor of Theatre, New York State University in Albany, NY.

The University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) dispatched a truck to SVU President's residence in Rockville to collect some 100 boxes of SVU archival materials for deposit in their archives. The Center now houses most of the SVU archival materials that have been maintained centrally. The archives are not complete, however, since some of the past SVU Presidents and Secretary Generals have not submitted the SVU material kept in their possession. Similarly, only a few local chapters have sent in their pertinent material. EB needs to assist in this effort.

Rehcigl informed the Board of his planned trip to Czech Republic in the midst of October 2005, which will include a visit to Ceske Budejovice to discuss local arrangements for the 2006 World Congress with officials of the University of South Bohemia.

SVU member Anna Grignon was crowned the 2005 Miss Czech-Slovak USA. She is planning to attend the 2006 World Congress and will be helpful in attracting the interest of young people to SVU. She has also agreed to chair the SVU Youth Advisory Committee.

SVU member Prof. Jan Vilcek donated over \$100 million to New York University – one of the largest gifts ever. The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Gratias agit" award was presented to several SVU members, including Peter and Vera Bisek, Thomas Bata and Victor Fischl (Avigdor Dagan).

Assigned responsibilities and individual projects of the Board members were discussed briefly. Secretary-General Frank Safertal was assigned responsibility for the new SVU membership drive and to provide periodic reports on the new members at each Board meeting. He is also to report on the status of new subscribers to Kosmas. VP Zdenek David is intensively working on the program for the 2006 World Congress in the area of humanities, and is also devoting some effort to SVU new initiative to foster publishing of more English titles. VP Karel Raska is working hard on the program for the 2006 World Congress focusing on the area of medicine and science and technology. VP Cecilia Rokusek will actively stimulate student interest in SVU by recruiting student members and encourage their active participation in SVU. Furthermore, she will promote SVU in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Florida. VP Vlado Simko will continue his liaison with AFRC to get the students that the Fund supports interested in SVU, apart from his efforts of bringing life to some of the inactive chapters.

A new SVU Chapter has been established in Olomouc with Prof. Evzen Weigl of the Medical Faculty as president, Karel Konecny of the History Department as Secretary. Members of the board are: Rector Jana Macakova, Prof. Stanislav Komenda, Dean Ivo Bartecek. Dean Kolar, Prof. Prof. Milos Trapl, F. Hanzlik and Jiri Smeral.

Another Chapter has been established in Florida with Dr. Blanka Kudej as president. Dr. Thomas L. Gral was elected Secretary and Maria Torre Treasurer. Vice Presidents are: Amelia Faltin Canali, Yveta Grignon, George J. Horak, Svatopluk Kudej, Prof. Joseph Parouch and Dr. Robert Petrik.

Treasurer Frank Mucha presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved by the Board. He also presented the current budget which, for the first time, is in the red, primarily due to the extra expenditures relating to the establishment of the new Czech and Slovak Study Fund at University of Minnesota's IHRC. He pointed out that, until now, we have been regularly reporting to our membership at the annual General Assembly meetings that all our fiscal transactions have been based on balanced budget and that we have always followed the principle of not touching our savings. It will take a while to make up the deficit. For the sake of sound fiscal management policy we should henceforth restrict our future spending to only the essentials.

With reference to the forthcoming SVU World Congress in Ceske Budejovice next year, Rehcigl informed the Board that Blanka Kudej agreed to be the Treasurer for the Congress. As a former Secretary General and having held the function of the Congress Treasurer on several previous occasions, she is the best choice the Society could have. She will be henceforth responsible for registration of US and West European participants, and all fiscal matters relating to arrangement of accommodations, social and cultural events, etc. She has already started preparing a registration form, based on the information received from the University of South Bohemia.

The University of South Bohemia has been very cooperative in every respect. It is offering Congress participants excellent accommodations at relatively inexpensive prices. The University has also arranged for transportation for the Congress participants from the Prague airport to Ceske Budejovice and back. As for the air travel, it is apparently still too early to get any firm figures.

SVU President's planned visit to Ceske Budejovice in October should clarify some of the outstanding issues, besides being able to see the facilities and various accommodations.

The US-based Program Committee, composed of Zdenek. David, Karel Raska. Mila Rechcigl and Dagmar White has been busy, putting panels together and searching for suitable panel organizers. Rechcigl distributed a status report on the Committee's progress to date, pointing out that the weakest point is the area of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The other Board members were encouraged to give a hand to the Program Committee with their difficult job.

Next meeting of the Board will take place either in December 2005 or January 2006.

New Faces on Executive Board

VLADO SIMKO – *Executive Vice President*

Vlado Simko, M.D. Professor of Clinical Medicine at State University New York, Downstate Medical Center at Brooklyn was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in 1931. He graduated Cum Laude from the Comenius University Medical School in Bratislava in 1956. After medical and research training and after obtaining Boards in internal medicine and clinical chemistry he became research investigator and Head, Laboratory Department at the Research Institute for Human Nutrition in Bratislava. Here he earned a C.Sc. (Ph.D.) for research on metabolic effects of heated fat in food. Subsequently his work in this subject and on metabolic effect of physical exercise on lipid metabolism was published in major medical journals in Bratislava, Prague, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Germany, Hungary and the Soviet Union. These publication activities earned him an invitation to Cornell University in the United States where he became an assistant professor at the Graduate School of Nutrition in 1969. In addition to teaching the graduate students he participated in research on diets for man in space. In 1972-1974 he was a clinical fellow in gastroenterology at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY and then became an associate professor of medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Since 1982 Dr. Simko is the Chief, Section of Gastroenterology at the Veterans Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He actively joined several Czechoslovak exile organizations, publishing numerous socio-political essays in Slovak democratic exile periodical "Nase snahy" and in other journals.

Dr. Simko published over one hundred original full medical papers in various medical journals, one book chapter and over 250 medical abstracts, translations and letters to the editor. Over seventy socio-political articles were published in exile journals and over sixty popular reports in popular press on nutrition for the general readers. Dr Simko serves on the Board of the American Fund for Czechoslovak Relief and on a committee of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association for reconstruction of the Bohemian Hall in New York City. He is a former Vice President of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences and regularly organizes the biomedical symposia at the SVU World Congresses where he regularly reports on his research. Dr Simko was married to the late Mary T. Simko, M.D., an internist whom he met as a medical student. His late son Daniel S. Simko was a recognized American poet who also wrote exile poetry.

KAREL RASKA – *Vice President*

Karel Raska, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., F.C.A.P., was born in Prague in the family of physicians. He attended schools in Prague. In 1956 he started his studies at the Charles University Medical School and graduated with distinction in 1962. After compulsory military service in the Czechoslovak Air Force he entered graduate studies in Biochemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1965 he defended his dissertation "The Mechanism of Biological Activity of 5-azacytidine" and was awarded Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

After receiving a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship he came in 1965 to the Department of Pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine where he continued studies of anti-cancer nucleoside analogs. In late 1967 he returned to Prague. After August 21, 1968 he emigrated to the U.S.A. and joined the faculty of Rutgers Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J. (now Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). He rose in the ranks to a Professor in 1976. Between 1989 and 1992 he was the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, N.J. Since 1992 he is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Saint Peter's University Hospital and Director of the Institute of Molecular Diagnostics and Pathology. His research has focused on the molecular biology of DNA tumor viruses, clinical immunology and immunopathology. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with special competence in Immunopathology. Fourteen students got a Ph.D. degree in his laboratory and he trained dozens of postdoctoral fellows. He is a member of many scientific societies in the U.S.A. and also an honorary member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic. He has been repeatedly elected to "The Best Doctors in America". He published over 250 articles and reports. He is married to Jana Raskova, M.D., Professor and Division Chief at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

CECILIA ROKUSEK – Vice President

Dr. Cecilia Rokusek has had a 28-year career in higher education. During that time she has distinguished herself as an outstanding teacher, scholar, and administrator.

Born and raised in Tabor, South Dakota, she was able to maintain her Czech heritage. Throughout high school and college, Dr. Rokusek was active in the Czech Heritage Preservation Society in Tabor. She was also active in numerous Czech theatrical productions in the area.

After completing her Master's degree at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where she was a Regents Scholar, Dr. Rokusek started her academic career at her undergraduate alma mater, Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. During her six-year tenure there she served as an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Dietetics Program. In 1982 she joined the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine. In 1983 she received her doctorate from the University of South Dakota in Adult and Higher Education Administration.

In 1987 she was appointed to a key administrative position in the School of Medicine where she served as the Executive Director for the Center for Developmental Disabilities and Assistant Vice President of Health Affairs. In 1993 she accepted a deanship at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois. She served as Dean of Health Professions and full professor there until 1999 when she moved to America's newest state university in Fort Myers, Florida. Subsequently she became Special Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. In 2005, she accepted a new position as Dean of Education in Winona State University, Winona, MN. She continues to do nutrition-related research and is active on numerous federal grant initiatives in the area of gerontology and behavioral health. Dr. Rokusek was recently elected national chair of the Health Division for the American Association on Mental Retardation.

FROM NEW SVU ROLLS

H.E. RASTISLAV KACER is the Slovak Ambassador to the US, Washington, DC. He is a native of Nova Bana, Slovakia and has academic degrees from the Slovak Technical University (MSc. 1989) and Comenius University (Dipl. in International Relations and Law 1995) in Bratislava. He also received additional training from the Research Center T.N.O., Delft, the Netherlands (1987) and the Institute of International Relations at the University of Leeds, U.K. (1993).

Prior to assuming the post as the Slovak Republic's Ambassador in Washington in 2003, Rastislav Kacer served as the Slovak Republic's State Secretary (Deputy Minister) of Defense from 2001, preparing the country's successful bid for NATO accession. He also held a number of positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including director-general of the Division of International Organizations and Security Policy (1999-2001), director of the Department of Analysis and Planning (1998-99), liaison officer to the NATO Headquarters in Brussels (1994-98), and head of the Analytical Unit in the Department of Analysis and Planning (1994). Prior to that, he worked as a research fellow at the Research Center of Animal Production from 1989 to 1991.

JAN HORAL is the President and owner of several hotels. He is a native of Cop with academic education from CVUT in Prague (Ing. in Civil Engineering 1948). During the war he received pilot training (1940). He was recipient of a number of military decorations. His main interest is in hotel management.

JOSEPH FRANCIS PATROUCH is Associate Professor of History at Florida International University. He is a native of Cincinnati, OH and holds degrees from Boston University (B.A. 1982) and the University of California, Berkeley (M.A. 1985; PhD. 1991). His interest is early modern European history.

ROBIN BROOK ANDERSON is employed as administrative assistant on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC. She is a native of Dallas, Texas and has a degree from the University of North Texas at Denton (B.A. in Anthropology, 2000) She is also enrolled at George Mason University's Graduate School, where she is studying toward M.A. degree in political science. Her interests are in Czech literature and history, American-Czech foreign relations and Central European cultures.

JIRI LAMBERK is a physician in Miami, Florida. He is a native of Prague, Czechoslovakia with education from Charles University in Prague (MUDr. 1972). He later received specialized training in anesthesiology from the University of Miami (1977-1980). His interests are in medicine and literature.

MARIA TORRE resides in Surfside, Florida. She is a native of Bernolakovo, Slovakia with training in geology from Prumyslova skola in Breclav (Dipl. 1963). She is primarily interested in art and painting.

BARBARA S. WEITZ is Director of Czech Study Abroad Program and the Film Studies Program at Florida International University. She is a native of New York City and has academic training from Georgetown University (Ph.D. 1981). Her interests are in film and Czech studies.

JIRI KARNIK is a free-lance architect, residing in Prague. He is a native of Domazlice, Czechoslovakia and holds an academic degree from CVUT in Prague (Ing. Arch.). His interests are architecture, art and film.

BARBARA MARY GIBIAN is Assistant General Counsel in the Overseas Investment Corporation (OPIC) in Washington, DC. She is a native of the US and has academic degrees from Hamline University (B.A.), Syracuse University (M.A.) and Georgetown University (J.D.). She is a member of New York Bar and District of Columbia Bar and specializes in international law and finance. She is the daughter of long-time member Tom and Peg Gibian.

RENATA PUSTOVA is employed as Marketing Associate with Midwest Veterinary Supply, Inc., Burnsville, MN. She is a native of Susice, Czechoslovakia and attended School of Business Administration in Prague. Her interests are marketing and business administration.

SUSAN D. HAAS, formerly a journalist, is now a doctoral student. She is a native of Bethlehem, PA with education from Eastern Illinois University (B.A.) and Penn State University (M.A.). Her chief interest is in Cold War radio.

JIM HLAVAC is retired. He is a native of Brooklyn, NY and holds B.A. degree from New York University. He lives in Baton Rouge, LA and is doing research on Czechs and Slovaks in Louisiana, which is also the title of his forthcoming monograph.

ROSEMARY ADELA VAVRIN is "Sister" – a Byzantine Catholic eremitic nun, residing in Anchorage, Alaska. She is a native of Fort Worth, TX and holds degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington (B.A. in History 1971) and Texas Tech University (B.A. in Journalism 1974). Her areas of interest are Czech language, literature, and folklore.

BORIS ELIAS is Chairman and President of the Residential Systems, Inc. He is a native of Washington, DC and lives in Centreville, VA. He is a son of our Editor, Zpravy SVU.

CATHERINE BRIGIT STEPAN is an English teacher and is employed by the New York City Board of Education. She is a native of New York City and has academic degrees from Queens College (B.A. 1999, M.A. 2003) and the Biland School (TEFL 2004). Her specialty is creative writing, poetry and English.

JERRY ANTON MACHALEK is self employed and lives in Edina, MN. He is a native of Chicago, IL and has academic degree from Carle-ton College (B.A.). He is a publisher of Czech & Slovak Connections.

JIRI WEINBERGER is employed as CEO for Timina Praha. He is a native of Prague and has education from Charles University (PhD. 1979). His areas of interests are poetry, music, and mathematics.

MICHAEL OLEJAR is a practicing physician, residing in Tacoma, WA. He is a native of Czechoslovakia and has academic degrees from Youngstown University (B.A. 1958) and Ohio University (M.S. 1963; M.D. 1963). He specializes in internal medicine.

JANET D. OLEJAR is a Paralegal Program Director at Tacoma Community College. She is a native of Seattle, WA and has academic degrees from Seattle University (B.A., B.Ed. 1963) and University of Washington (J.D. 1972).

***President Klaus Congratulates Rechcigl
on his 75th Birthday***

President of the Czech Republic

In Prague, 30 June 2005

Dear Mr. Rechcigl:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of your 75th birthday and at the same time to thank you for your many-year activities for Czech organizations abroad and for Czech science and culture. I am well aware of your work in the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences which extends well over forty years and which I value very much.

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences is a generally known institution that has contributed not only toward the preservation of Czech cultural heritage in the United States but also importantly fosters the maintenance of contacts between scientists and artists, as well as cultural institutions here and abroad. I am glad that the SVU gained such an excellent reputation and I firmly believe it will maintain it in the years to come.

I wish you personally, as well as on behalf of the citizens of the Czech Republic, good health and satisfaction in the future.

Respectfully yours,
Václav Klaus

Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr. President, Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences

SVU Member Donates \$105 Million to University

We have just learned that an internationally known SVU scientist Jan T. Vilcek, Professor of Microbiology at the New York University School of Medicine, has made a donation with an estimated value of \$105 million to his university where he has conducted productive research for four decades.

Dr. Vilcek is a native of Bratislava of a Jewish family who survived the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and the Holocaust. He became a physician and in 1964 he and his wife escaped from the Communist Czechoslovakia and eventually settled in New York City where they have lived ever since. Dr. Vilcek's wife, Marica, worked for over 30 years in a curatorial position at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Dr. Vilcek was one of the first researchers to work on the immune system protein interferon and since the 80s he worked with another immune protein, TNF-alpha. He succeeded in developing a monoclonal antibody that blocked TNF-alpha which was later enveloped into the drug Remicade. The latter drug became a major success and basis for Dr. Vilcek's fortune.

Dr. Vilcek's donation is one of the largest donations given to a University and certainly it is the largest donation by any scientist with roots in the former Czechoslovakia.

SVU applauds Dr. Vilcek's unprecedented action and wishes him well in the future years.

MILOSLAV RECHCIGL, SVU President

A Youthful SVU Member Directs \$16 Million New Research Center

Jack Rechcigl, Professor of Soil and Water Science at the University of Florida and Director of the University's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, formerly in Bradenton and Dover, FL, has built a brand new research facility, located in Wimauma, Hillsborough County, east of Tampa. The new facility was officially dedicated on April 1, 2005 in the presence of 600 guests, including high-level University officials and representatives of Florida legislature and government, and industry.

Areas of the Center, built on the 475-acre tract given to the University by Hillsborough County, have been designated for vegetable, strawberry, citrus, ornamental horticulture, landscaping, and pasture research, using the latest technological advances, such as biotechnology and genetic engineering. The 39,000 sq. ft. double-winged main building with an exterior appearance matching the "UF-campus look" and interior capabilities many would envy. It provides office and laboratory space for 20 faculty, 100-member support staff and graduate students as well as a 500-seat auditorium. A plant diagnostic laboratory will aid county extension faculty and local growers in determining disease and nutrition problems and solutions.

Thanks to Dr. Rechcigl's initiative, the new Center has established collaboration with the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, where he holds the position of Honorary Professor, and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. Additional collaborative agreements with other universities will be signed during the planned Rechcigl's visit to Czech Republic and Slovakia in the fall 2005.

Several rectors and other high-level university officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia who saw the new center, were duly impressed by the state-of-the-art facility, equipped with the latest technological tools and equipment, such as GPS and GIS link-up. Other features include specialty buildings with room-size coolers plus controlled environments, huge growth chambers, some 20 greenhouses, experimental fields that stretch for miles, modern mechanical shops, weather station, housing for graduate students and visiting scientists, etc.

Jack Rechcigl, who is the son of SVU President Mila Rechcigl, is an outstanding example of our successful younger generation of SVU members who have established brilliant careers, of whom the Society can be rightfully proud.

In Memoriam

JARKA M. BURIAN (1927-2005)

It is with shock and sorrow that we are reporting on the premature death of long-year SVU member Jarka Burian. He was born in Passaic, NJ on March 10, 1927 and attended Clifton, N. J. schools. He graduated from Rutgers University with B.A. degree in 1949, after he served in the US Army with the troops of occupation in Germany. He received his M.A. degree in comparative literature from Columbia University in 1950, concentrating on dramatic literature and theatre production. During 1949 to 1950 he was acting in an off-Broadway production where he met his future wife Grayce Susan De Leo, whom he married in June 1951. In October of that year he was recalled to a second tour of active duty as a Sergeant in the US Army during the Korean conflict.

In June of 1955, Burian completed his Ph.D. at Cornell University in the English Department, majoring in dramatic literature and production. While there he was a teaching fellow and an instructor for the last year. I was at Cornell at the time and remember meeting Jarka on several occasions. He was extremely busy then and did not have time for socializing with us fellow Czechoslovaks, even though later on in his career he focused his research on the Czech topics.

In the fall of 1955, he was appointed as assistant professor of English at what was then the State College for Teachers and later became SUNY - Albany, teaching mainly literature courses, theatre courses, criticism and theory, as well as directing play production. He was Producer-Director of the University Arena Summer Stage for eight seasons. In 1963 he became a full professor.

Over the years, he and his wife also acted and directed in community theatre and for six summers acted in the outdoor drama of the Cherokee in North Carolina "Unto These Hills."

Since 1960s, Burian had been involved on active scholarly research, writing and publishing, including five book-length publications and many dozen articles in US, as well, as abroad. Most of them dealt with Czech literature and international stage design, and were the result of various research grants (Fulbright, IREX). From 1961 to 1962, he was a visiting professor at the university of California in Berkeley, and afterwards became Professor Emeritus at the University of Albany in 1992. He continued full-time adjunct teaching in other area colleges, as well as pursuing research in the Czech Republic. In 1994, he taught an intensive eight-week seminar at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

He was considered an authority on Czech theater and will sorely be missed. His *Modern Czech Theatre: Reflector and Conscience of a Nation*, published in 2000, was described as "the definitive historical and critical study of Czech theatre of the last century."

On behalf of SVU I wish to extend Mrs. Burian our sincere condolences.

MILOSLAV RECHCIGL, SVU President

FRANK A. SIM (1920-2005)

Frank A. Sim was a native of Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, where he was born on November 20, 1920. He was a chemical engineer by training, having received his Ing. degree from Technical University of Brno in 1948. For a number of years he taught at Technical University of Ostrava. From 1950-55 he was employed by *Urxovy zavody* in Ostrava and then by *Chemoprojekt Ostrava* (1955-1968).

In 1969 he emigrated to the US. From 1949 to 1984, he worked for the Consolidation Coal Co. in Pittsburgh which, after merging with Pittsburgh Coal Co., changed its name to Consol Energy. His specialty was synthetic fuel and technology of fuels, generally. Since 1985 he lived in Washington, D.C.

Those of us in Washington who knew him, enjoyed his company, his friendly personality and his willingness and readiness to help. For many years he held the position of Treasurer of SVU Washington DC Chapter, which he executed in exemplary fashion. He will be very missed by his many friends.

MR

SVU Local Chapters

New SVU Chapter in Olomouc

New SVU chapter was established on June 14, in Olomouc, Moravia. Prof. Evzen Weigl of the Medical Faculty was elected Pre-sident and Dr. Karel Konecny of the History Dept. Secretary. Other Board members include: Prof. Jana Macakova, Rector of the University, Prof. Ivo Bartecek, Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Prof. Stanislav Komenda of the Medical Faculty, Prof. Kolar, Dean of the Law Faculty, Prof. Milos Trapl of the History Dept., Frantisek Han-zlik and Jiri Smeral.

New SVU Chapter in Florida

New SVU Chapter in Florida was established on August 22, in Mia-mi. Blanka Kudej, the former SVU Secretary General was elected new Chapter President, Thomas Grall Secretary and Maria Torre Treasurer. The following Vicepresidents were elected: Amelia Faltin Canali, Yveta Grignon, George J. Horak, Svatopluk Kudej, Joseph Patrouch and Robert Petrik.

Podvečery SVU:

8. 1. — Rostislav Švácha, Ústav dějin umění AV ČR: Současné myšlení českých a světových architektů.

12. 2. — Setkání se spisovatelem M. Urbanem, vítězem ceny Mag-nesia Litera.

11. 3. — Přednáška R. Kvapila: A. Dvořák a Amerika (s ukázkami Dvořákovy tvorby).

8. 4. — J. Kasl: Vstup do EÚ.

Současné směry v architektuře.

13. 5. — PhDr. O. Hulec, Orien-tální ústav AV ČR: Minulost, sou-časnost a kultura Jižní Afriky.

23. 5. — Koncert mladých in-terpretů ve spolupráci se Slo-venským institutem — pocta A. Dvořákovi.

14. 10. — Pocta mladých pěvců A. Dvořákovi. Setkání s exilovým spisovatelem I. Binarem.

11. 11. PhDr. Jiří Beneš, Ústav pro klasická studia AV ČR: Křiky Eliášovy. Poslední nedokončené dílo J. A. Komenského.

9. 12. — PhDr. J. Hrnčíř: Rožmberská kapela (přednáška s ukáz-kami historických nástrojů).

Na těchto podvečerech byli posluchači seznámeni s novými proudy v českém a světovém umění a v české a světové vědě. Důraz byl kladen na tvorbu exilových autorů. Podvečery se konaly v budově Akademie věd, Národní třída 3, Praha 1.

Další akce:

23. 2. — Účast na konferenci Věda v exilu (odborné referáty členů výboru Doc. A. Morávkové a Prof. P. Hrubého).

10. 6. — Udílení cen SVU Praha (ve spolupráci se Senátem Parla-mentu ČR), Rytířský sál Valdštejnského paláce.

28. 6. - 4. 7. — Účast zástupců výboru SVU na 22. Světovém kon-gresu SVU, Olomouc. M. Papcun — zajištění propagace; členové výboru Doc. A. Morávková a Prof. P. Hrubý se zúčastnili jednání odbornými referáty.

Předsedkyně PS SVU přednesla zprávu o činnosti PS SVU na schůzi jednotlivých národních skupin SVU na kongresu. Příprava propagačních článků o kongresu pro časopis *Tvář*, Bulletin AV ČR, Český rozhlas (Doc. A. Morávková).

29. 12. — Vánoční koncert v chrámu sv. Vojtěcha, J. J. Ryba: Hej mistře. Sbor Gaudium a mladí sólisté při příležitosti konce roku A. Dvořáka.

Spolupráce s nově vzniklou mezinárodní společností A. Dvořáka. SVU je jedním ze zakládajících členů.

Průběžná spolupráce se Senátem Parlamentu ČR s Čsl. ústavem zahraničním, Karlovou univerzitou, Akademií věd ČR, Ministerstvem zahraničí ČR, Ministerstvem kultury ČR a dalšími významnými institucemi.

Pražská skupina SVU se zúčastnila 22. světového kongresu SVU v Olomouci ve dnech 28. června až 3. července 2004. Svou činnost od posledního kongresu prezentovala jednak přednáškou předsedkyně A. Morávkové v sekci o činnosti lokálních skupin, jednak na presentačních panelech vyrobených pro tento kongres. V odborných sekcích přednesli své příspěvky A. Morávková, p. Hrubý a další, pozornost vzbudil i film o K. Kry-lovi režiséra M. Záborského.

2005

Podvečery SVU:

13. 1. — Prezentace publikací členů SVU. Prof. PhDr. Jiří Mar-van: Brána jazykem otvíraná, aneb o češtině světové. Doc. PhDr. Ale-na Morávková: Pod cizím nebem. J. Malanjud: Pocta mladých pěvců Antonínu Dvořákovi.

10. 2. — PhDr. Tomáš Her-mann: Emanuel Rádl — historik, biologie (přednáška).

10. 3. — Setkání se senátorkou Mgr. Jitkou Seitlovou, předsedkyní Stálé komise Senátu pro krajany žijící v zahraničí a Ing. Zde-Åkem Lyčkou, ředitelem odboru kultur-ních a krajanských vztahů Minis-terstva zahraničních věcí ČR na téma Pomoc krajanům.

14. 4. — R. Kvapil: L. Janáček (přednáška).

12. 5. — Prof. Petra Hrubého: Milan Kundera, doma i ve světě (přednáška).

Od října, každý druhý čtvrtek v měsíci, budou opět pořádány pravidelné podvečery věnované odborným přednáškám nebo setkání s pozoruhodnými osobnostmi našeho společenského života, kul-tury a vědy.

Další akce:

Ceny SVU Praha — Již čtvrté předání svých cen uspořádala Pražská skupina Společnosti pro vědu a umění ve spolupráci se Se-nátem Parlamentu ČR těsně před začátkem prázdnin. V Rytířském sále Valdštejnského paláce pře-vzalo ocenění z rukou předsedkyně pražské skupiny doc. Aleny Morávkové devět významných osobností vědy a umění: herečka Jaroslava Adamová, spisovatelka Bohumila Grögerová, bývalá předsedkyně AV ČR prof. Helena Illnerová za vědeckou práci, vydavatelka a širitelka náboženského samizdatu prof. Marcela Němečková,

klavírní virtuos prof. Ivan Moravec, výtvarnice Adriena Si-motová, režisér a dramatik Ladislav Smoček, vědec prof. František Samalík a filmový režisér a scénárista Jan Švankmajer.

Publikace — Skupina připravuje publikaci z tvorby exilových autorů pod názvem Poštovní schránka — domov. Publikace vyjde do konce roku.

New Book about Czechs and Slovaks in America

On the occasion of his 75th birthday, the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) has just published a volume of selected writings of Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., who is the Society's current President. It comprises general surveys, essays, reflections and personal insights of the author relating to the history and the contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants in America and their descendants.

The material covered is based on Rechcigl's extensive research, which he began soon after his arrival in the US in 1950. It encompasses a wealth of information about the Czech and Slovak immigrants in America, from the time of the first known Bohemian who put his foot on American soil toward the end of 16th century, some thirty-five years before the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, MA in 1620, to date. Dr. Rechcigl has always been very intrigued by the life and accomplishments of Augustine Herman, the first historically known Bohemian to permanently settle in America — the eminent Maryland and Virginia pioneer map maker, the Bohemian Jesuit missionary work in Latin America in the late 17th century, the Moravian Brethren's Diaspora and their cultural contributions to America, and the immigration and the achievements of the Jewish pioneer settlers from the territory of the former Czechoslovakia, which is reflected in the monograph. Covered are also numerous contributions of Czech and Slovaks to the growth and development of the United States, including science scholarship.

Apart from American ethnic history, Rechcigl has become an authority on the Czech American bibliography and genealogy which is the reason why the editors have also included his writings in this area. It complements the rest of the material remarkably well and enriches its contents and the utility of the volume as a documentary reference. The writings are based on the heretofore unpublished author's manuscripts, as well as on his selected periodical articles and book chapters that have been, for the most part, brought up to date. The volume is supplemented with Rechcigl's biographical sketch and his fascinating and provocative self-assessment "What makes him tick" from his yet unpublished Memoirs, and the listing of his writings relating to the subject of this monograph, as well as articles about him

The monograph is a tribute to Mila Rechcigl for all his work of almost fifty years which he has devoted to building SVU, an international society aimed at the advancement of the Czech and Slovak studies worldwide and the fostering of intellectual collaboration with the Czech and Slovak Republics, which extends to almost fifty years of his professional life and to his extraordinary scholarship relating to the history and contributions of Czechs and Slovaks abroad.

We highly recommend this timely and unique publication to anyone who is interested in the history and contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants in America. The book is an important source of information much of which has not been generally known.

The book which normally sells for \$40, can be purchased by SVU members for \$20 plus \$5 for postage and handling. You can order the book directly from Mila Rechcigl at 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD, making the check to the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.

ACCENT on YOUTH

Promising Young Czechs and Slovaks at the US Universities

(Continuation from the last issue of Zpravy SVU)

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, AFRC supported 138 postgraduate 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.

PETER STEC

Home city: Trenčín, Slovakia

Primary education in Oran, Algeria (1982-86) and Bratislava, Slovakia (1986-90). Bilingual Lycee, Bratislava, 1990-1995. University education, architecture: Slovak Technical University, Bratislava (1995-1997). *US Institution*: A Fulbright Fellow at the School of Architecture, Princeton University.
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Die Angewandte, Vienna (1998-2003). Princeton University (2004-2006). Rodolphe Luscher Architectes Lausanne, Switzerland. Asymptote Architecture, New York, USA. Coop Himmelblau Vienna, Austria.

LEA UHRINOVA

Home town: Komarno, Slovakia

US Institution: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Study period: August 2004-June 2005 (10 months)

E-mail: uhrinova@msu.edu; lea.uhrinova@integra.sk

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE: A fellow of Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Michigan State University, Michigan, where she pursues her studies in economic development, particularly in small business consulting and financial management. Previously she served as Senior Loan Officer for a women's microenterprise development project in the Integra Foundation in Slovakia. She was also involved in business consulting and the development of the client monitoring and information system. She received her master's degree in mathematics-management at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.

IVONA BALÁZOVA

US Institution: University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE: I am fifth year graduate student at the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, obtaining Master's degree next year. At the Faculty of Arts I study Educational Science and English Language and Philology with the focus on American cultural studies. During my years spent at the University I have developed interest in human rights, that of women in particular. I have come to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to do research in this area, writing a thesis on the position of U.S. women in the workforce. I am also interested in the field of human resources, taking very good courses at UTC that use a hands-on approach and that have helped me focus on the area of my specialization. Thanks to a series of projects, interviews and presentations, which have been part of the classes, the area that I would further like to pay more attention to is Human Resources Training and Development. Next semester, I would like to obtain an internship that would provide me with a valuable experience as well as to become a member of the Society for Advancement of Management, an organization that holds various conferences, seminars and workshops at the University. After I finish my studies at UTC, I would like to continue doing research in this area, taking up PhD studies.

FRANK A. SIM (1920-2005)

Frank A. Sim was a native of Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, where he was born on November 20, 1920. He was a chemical engineer by training, having received his Ing. degree from Technical University of Brno in 1948. For a number of years he taught at Technical University of Ostrava. From 1950-55 he was employed by Urzovny zavody in Ostrava and then by Chemoprojekt Ostrava (1955-1968).

In 1969 he emigrated to the US. From 1949 to 1984, he worked for the Consolidation Coal Co. in Pittsburgh which, after merging with Pittsburgh Coal Co., changed its name to Consol Energy. His specialty was synthetic fuel and technology of fuels, generally. Since 1985 he lived in Washington, D.C.

Those of us in Washington who knew him, enjoyed his company, his friendly personality and his willingness and readiness to help. For many years he held the position of Treasurer of SVU Washington DC Chapter, which he executed in exemplary fashion. He will be very missed by his many friends.

MR

SVU Youth Advisory Committee

SVU Executive Board has established a new SVU Youth Advisory Committee. It has the following members: Anna L. Grignon (Chair), Elise Anderson, Robin B. Anderson, Amy Garrett, Hana Konecna, Vladimir Kysucky, Jiri Smeral (Czech Republic). Additional members may be added, as appropriate. Anne L. Grignon can be reached on the following e-mail: qwerty3003@hotmail.com

The purpose of the committee is to essentially work on the issues of young people and get them involved in SVU. They will also take charge of the web-page "Focus on Youth" which will be the main means of communicating with young people worldwide.

SVU President

SVU Member Crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2005

Anne-Laurie Grignon, a student at the New College of Florida, who recently joined SVU, has been crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2005. on August 8, 2005 at the Miss Czech-Slovak US completion, held in Wilber, Nebraska. Some of members who attended our joint ACSCC Heritage Festival & SVU Conference in North Miami, Florida in March, will recall that on that occasion she was selected Miss Czech-Slovak Florida 2005. Her picture can be accessed on the following address: <http://www.acscc.org/2005WILBERqueenpage.html>

On behalf of SVU we wish to extend to her our heartiest congratulations.

SVU President