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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Visit of Students from Kent State University



Students visited embassy's premises on Thursday, February 14.

On Thursday, February 14, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted a group of students and their mentor from Kent State University in Kent, OH, who are representing Slovenia at the 28th Annual Model NATO Conference, scheduled for February 14–17, 2013.

The Model is essentially a simulation of the proceedings of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, augmented by pre-conference study and briefings at embassies of NATO member states in Washington, DC. Through simulation, students gain a better and clearer understanding of the capabilities

and constraints that shape the policies of NATO countries in determining matters of collective security.

Petra Langerholc, Political Counselor at the Embassy of Slovenia, held a briefing for the students, presenting them Slovenia's political stance on several international issues.

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She also stressed the region's integration into the Euro-Atlantic organizations and reconfirmed the Slovenian support of them. She also discussed the role, structure and activities of NATO, as well as the military, political-security, and economic perspective. Ms. Langerholc

also answered the students' questions, most of which showed great knowledge and understanding of the situations they inquired about.

The Embassy of Slovenia wishes the students of Ohip State University the best of luck in their competition.



COMPETENCE CENTERS

The CC for Biotechnological Development and Innovation

The main objective of The Competence Center for Biotechnological Development and Innovation (CC BDI) is to link companies with excellent knowledge of market demands in the field of functional food and health with leading development companies and public research organizations that are skilled in the most demanding and up-to-date methods of development and analysis of new biotechnology processes.

CCBDI is organized as a consortium of companies and research organizations and the non-profit Institute of Biotechnological Innovation, which is responsible for the development and management of the competence center. Partners in CCBDI are Medis, Acies Bio, Clinres Farmacija, Institute Jožef Štefan, Lek



Veterina, Mlekarna Celeia, National Institute of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty (Institute of Dairy Science and Probiotics) and Vitiva.

The strategic partnership aims to provide effective transfer of knowledge and experience, raise the level of innovation and technological competitiveness of the industrial partners, strengthen the research power and applied knowledge of the academic partners, develop innovative technologies with high added value and great international market potential, and increase the mobility and employability of human resources.

CCBDI's vision is to become a reference competence center in the field of functional food and dietary supplements which sets benchmarks for technical excellence and product quality.

CCBDI also aims to improve the health of the population by developing dietary supplements and functional foods whose efficacy and safety will be tested through clinical trials, and by developing new technologies for the production of active ingredients which ensure safe food and health.

For more information about CCBDI, please visit <http://www.kc-brin.si/en/>.



Slovenia Skier Soars in the U.S.

The 19-year-old ski jumper Anže Semenič captured double victory in two out of the three Continental Cup competitions held at Iron Mountain, MI, on February 9 and 10.

Michigan welcomed the athletes with ice temperatures of -13°C (9°F) as the Continental Cup circuit moved to the United States. Semenič's Saturday win was accomplished with jumps of 133 and 136 meters (respectively 436 and 446 feet), giving him 281.7 points for the win. Norway's Fredrik Bjerkeengen took the title in the first competition with jumps of 137.5 and 135 meters (451 resp. 443 feet), claiming 290 points. It was Semenič's first jump on Sunday that catapulted him to a lead he wouldn't lose, jumping 138.5 meters (454 feet). Semenič's second jump measured 129.5 (425 feet), giving him 275.4 points.



Matic Benedik, left, and Andraž Pograjc, right, hoist teammate Anže Semenič on their shoulders after he took first place in Sunday's ski jumping tournament at giant Pine Mountain.

Slovenian ski jumper Matic Benedik came through as the weekend's most consistent performer. He was second in both rounds Saturday and added a fourth-place showing Sunday. Andraž Pograjc finished fourth in Saturday's second round

and second on Sunday to join Semenič and Benedik during the final two winner's presentations. The next Continental Cup will be held in German Brotterode on February 16 and 17, 2013. Source: ironmountaindailynews.com

Maze Wins Third Medal at World Championships

Slovenian skier Tina Maze won giant slalom silver at the World Championships on Thursday, February 14. This was already Maze's third medal at the championships in Schladming, Austria. Maze was second only to Tessa Worley of France, who finished the race in 2:08.06. Maze was 1.12 seconds behind, while bronze went to Anna Fenninger of Austria, who was 1.18 seconds slower than Worley.

Maze already won the first race of this World Championships, the super-G, and was second in the super-combined. On Saturday, she will compete in the final event of the World Championships, the slalom, where she is again considered a medal favorite. (Source: STA)

Tina Maze wins silver in giant slalom at the World Championships in Schladming.



Resistance of the Earth in NYC

On Tuesday, February 7, 2013, on the premises of the Czech Cultural Center in New York, a multimedia project titled *Resistance of the Earth*, featuring music and performance by Slovenian saxophone player and composer Igor Lumpert, was presented to an audience of more than 60 people.

At the project, which combines several artistic genres -- from video, 16 mm film and live musical performances to recital -- Lumpert was joined on stage by an international jazz ensemble, jazz ballet dancers and a chorus, his music was, moreover, accompanied by a video made with 16 mm camera film, created especially for this occasion by Croatian video artist Željka Blakšić. The evening at the Czech Cultural Center was supported by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington and the Consulate General of Croatia in New York.

The main theme of the event, composed from assorted art forms, dealt with natural disasters, which are becoming more and more frequent and can be interpreted as Earth's resistance to current



Czech Center New York at the Bohemian National Hall in New York.

civilization. Igor Lumpert has formed the project in such a manner that the language of art, pictures, music, spoken word, and movement is a comment on natural disasters.

In his music, Igor Lumpert combines various musical worlds, evolving them into an innovative form of confession and improvisation, which derive from poems by Allen Ginsberg, Czech author Sylva Fischerová and American Indians.

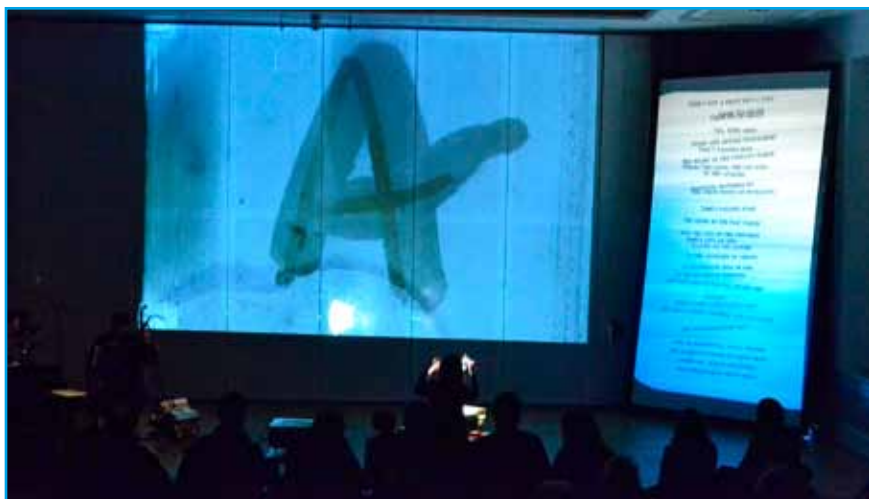
Additionally, the project included video testimonies by people/artists who experienced firsthand and survived recent natural disasters, Kanako Sasaki and Davy

Mooney.

Resistance of the Earth was premiered on December 17, 2012, in Novo mesto, Slovenia, as the closing event of the European Capital of Culture partner-town project. It was held in the Janez Trdina Cultural Center.

A progressive tenor saxophonist and composer, Igor Lunder has performed with jazz legends including Reggie Workman, John Abercrombie, Chico Hamilton, Sonny Simmons, Boris Kozlov, and Andy McKee. Born in Novo mesto, Slovenia, Lunder has lived for the past 12 years in New York. His band, *Innertextures*, represents Igor's passion for the music that expresses a unique fusion of jazz, funk, Eastern European rhythms, and modern neo-bop sketches. Igor has released three CDs as a leader: *"Innertextures"* (2001), *"Mineral Mind"* (2004), *"Innertextures LIVE"* (2012).

In addition to his work as a performer, he has an active career as an educator, having taught master classes and improvisation lessons throughout Europe and the United States.



The event was attended by more than 60 people.

Šturmovci Regional Park and Markovci



Markovci dam on Drava river.

On the right bank of the Drava river in the northeastern part of Slovenia near Ptuj is located the 300-acre wide Šturmovci Regional Park, which stretches among Haloze, Ptujsko jezero, and Ptujsko and Dravsko polje. The name Šturmovci or Šturmovec, as the locals call it, originates from a German name Sturmau (der Sturm – a storm, die Aue - a meadow) and so alludes to lively changes of the river stream through time.

The area has been protected as a regional park since 1979, because of its great biological variety with at least 494 different plant species and 254 bird species as this segment of the river Drava is the most important area for water birds in Slovenia. It reaches objective numerical criteria for being placed on the list of wetlands

of international importance, defined by the Ramsar Convention.

Thus Šturmovci is one of the best ornithological areas in Slovenia, where you can find seagulls, terns, gulls, geese, ducks, herons, auks, waders, cormorants, skimmers, divers, coots and river seagulls. You can

also find kingfishers, sandpipers, swallows, woodpeckers, hoopoes and butcher-birds. Of many pondweed varieties, some even considered a rare and endangered species, the horned pondweed is perhaps the most interesting as it looks like the hairlike pondweed and blooms under water.

The deepest part of the Drava meadow is overgrown with white willow trees, which are flooded almost all year. A natural education trail with many observation points is laid through the Regional Park Šturmovci. Additionally, several different marked walking trails are available besides a 13 miles long cycling track around the entire area.

The Municipality of Markovci spreads out in a lowland area of Ptujsko polje, mainly on the left bank of the river Drava. Although Markovci was first mentioned not earlier than 1215, remains of the Roman aqueduct, tools and sites of Roman military graves give evidence of ancient



Šturmovci regional park.



“Koranti”

cultures being present on this fertile land. The church chronicle mentions that in the place where the present church stands, there used to be the Pabstein castle. In 1477, a stone column with a statue of the local patron, Saint Mark, was erected in front of the church.

In 1493, while ravaging the country, the Turks demolished the Pabstein castle, after which the original church in honor of Saint Mark was built in 1519 as proposed by a Hungarian

commander, Jakob Sekelj. In 1871, a new church was built in the same place, with some additions in later years. The area of today’s municipality became a separate entity already in 1937 and named »Sveti Marko nižje Ptuj« (Saint Mark below Ptuj); it makes part of the so called »lückova dežela« (onion country) due to onion being the main agricultural produce of the local farmers.

Many age-old customs have been preserved in this

region, especially those in which magic beings chase away the winter and welcome back the spring.

The name of Markovci became known in the world especially for numerous and different pre-Shrovetide and Shrovetide customs and authentic Shrovetide figures: »orači« (ploughmen), who, by their symbolic ploughing of a farm’s courtyard, wish the farm’s owner a good harvest, »piceki« (chickens), »kokoti« (roosters) and »vile« (fairies), which are followed by a »baba« (old woman) carrying her »ded« (old man), a furry sackcloth bear, and horse masks called »ruse«, which wish good health to horses and other animals, »kopjaš« and »kopajnarice« and the indispensable »korant«, which originated in Markovci.

Korant’s appearance used to be somewhat different, which is noted in the parish chronicle of Markovci. Nowadays, he wears a mask, feathered at the back, while the facial area is covered with aged leather with a nose sewed onto it. On the top of his head, there are horns, made from leather or felt, with a goose feather attached to their point. He is dressed in a sheepskin coat turned inside out, with a cowbell attached to his back and a hedgehog-skin covered club in his hands.

Shrovetide is still in many villages a real feast day when in the old days there had to be a pork head, sauerkraut and potatoes on the table; nowadays, the pork head has been replaced by pickled pork chops or meat from »tunjka (large fat-filled container for storing meats).



“Kopjaši”

Hidria Launches New High-Tech Center in Koper

Industrial conglomerate Hidria launched in Koper on Monday, February 11, a new technological center, which will focus on high-tech solutions for automatized assembly procedures. The center is concluding the first phase of the construction of a new technological park located in the premises of former motorcycle producer Tomos.

Hidria chairman Edvard Svetlik explained that the company had invested in the last three years more than Eur25 million in high-tech solutions, especially at the Koper location. The goal is

to make the Koper center one of the key providers of innovative solutions in Europe, with the management hoping to double the number of workers in the center in the coming five years.

When completed, the technological park will employ 300 people, while the center launched on Mond will have a 30 to 40-strong team. Hidria was presented at the launch as one of the leading global players in the field of green mobility and sustainable housing solutions.

Especially the car segment has developed into one of the



leading European manufacturers of key parts for steering systems. Every sixth newly produced vehicle in Europe contains parts made in Koper, with clients including Porsche, BMW, Audi, Mercedes and Ducati.

For more information on Hidria's presence in the U.S. please see <http://www.hidria.com/>

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Josef Princ Memorial Scholarship

The Josef Princ Memorial Scholarship for a graduate student will be available to a full-time graduate student majoring during the **2013-2014 school year exclusively in science, mathematics, or engineering.** The scholarship **in the amount of \$4,000.00** will be awarded in April 2013.

The scholarship is open to full-time graduate students who have one parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent of **Slovenian ancestry**, and will be offered on alternate years. The next award will be offered during the 2016-2017 academic year, April 2016 being the award date.

Josef Princ, a native of Velika Bukovica, Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenia, graduated with an engineering degree

from the University of Ljubljana and continued his studies in Germany. After immigrating to the United States in 1957, he continued his studies and worked for Nichols Home Shield as its chief designer and acquired a number of patents. He also was a designer for Anderson Window Company. Josef and his wife Rose Marie were married for 36 years, before he died in 1999. Josef loved being an American although he was also very proud of his Slovenian heritage.

The Rose Marie Princ Scholarship will be available in alternate years to a graduate student majoring exclusively **in the field of education.** The next award will be offered in April 2014 for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The SWU Scholarship Foundation also is offering **\$1,000 and \$2,000 college-student scholarships** for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Applicants for these awards must have held membership in the Slovenian Union of America three years prior to application, and must be attending an accredited college or university full time.

Application forms can be found on website www.slovenianunion.org; however, for further information on either scholarship, please contact: Mary Turvey at mturvey@aol.com, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855, or Marge Church at yemec1@windstream.net, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio 44056

Structure of Life – Art presentation: Meta Grgurevič, Kalu & Jaša

Artists are one of the main protagonists of the fresh art scene in Ljubljana, “which is full of exuberance, irreverence, protest and celebration.” Modern Painters, Dec. 2011. 100 artists to watch 2011- Jan. 2012

The Structure is the reality of their artwork, its rational and architectural plan divided into different rooms. Every room has its own song. A song, as an elusive feeling, is the experience of the artwork. With the unfolding of alchemistic-artists cocktails of media, the cloud of experience is molded, created and offered to the public. Art has the power to truly bend the space we see. **Art has the power to inspire the other with new positions, rather than mandating them.**

When: [Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 6 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008](#)

More information and tickets:

For [RSVP](#) (obligatory) and more information, send an e-mail to Blaz.Boznar@gov.si or call [\(202\)386 6610](tel:(202)3866610)



JAJA, Apnea's Rhapsody (action 2), 2012
in collaboration with Meta Grgurevič and Kalu
image is courtesy of On Stellar Rays Gallery

Slovenian film by director Martin Turk in CA

Cinequest San Jose presents Nahrani Me z Besedami (Feed Me With Your Words), a mystery directed by Martin Turk. The film consists of three stories happening separately and simultaneously portraying a single family and its complex relationships.

Where: [Camera 12, Second Street, San Jose, CA 95172](#)

When: [Thursday, February 28 at 6:45 p.m.](#); [Saturday, March 2 at 11:45a.m.](#), [Friday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m.](#)

Tickets are available on the day of the showing or through the Cinequest website <http://www.cinequest.org/film-festival>

More information: <http://payments.cinequest.org/WebSales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=6936~78899376-35a9-4153-8303-e1557be2dc32&epguid=70d8e056-fa45-4221-9cc7-b6dc88f62c98&#.URppHx1EFxs>

[Perpetuum Jazzile in Washinton, DC](#)

Perpetuum Jazzile performs with a passion everything from pop to soul, funk, swing, bossa nova, and gospel. The group, featuring 35 powerful voices, is a massive global sensation, having toured to sell-out crowds in Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, and Canada. Along with vocal percussions, performances include an incredible array of drums and choreographed hand movements that simulate storms. Perpetuum Jazzile has garnered millions of YouTube hits of their dynamic live performances of pop classics by Lady Gaga ("Telephone"), Cyndi Lauper ("True Colors"), Earth, Wind & Fire, Gloria Estefan ("Conga"), Bee Gees and Toto ("Rosanna" and "Africa," which has scored over 14 million views alone).

When: [Thursday, March 7, 2013, at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: [Lisner Auditorium, GeorgeWashington University, 730 21st St., N.W.](#)

More information and tickets:

<http://www.lisner.org/eventdetails.asp?id=772>

[Slovenian Kurentovanje in Cleveland](#)

The Slovenian National Home, Slovenian Museum and Archives, St. Clair Superior Development Corp. and Sterle's Country House, in partnership with local businesses and institutions, bring a piece of the most popular carnival in Slovenia, Kurentovanje (koo-rent-oh-VAHN-yeh), to St. Clair Avenue. This cultural event, connecting ethnology, culture, arts, and people from all over Europe, has been celebrated in Slovenia for the past 50 years. The central figure of the carnival, the Kurent, is believed to chase away winter and usher in spring with its supernatural powers. The festival in Cleveland will be free to the public. Visitors are encouraged to dress in costume as they partake in the many different foods, wines, beers, music and dances of Slovenia and Eastern Europe. A prize will be awarded for the best homemade Kurent costume.

Procession: Traditional Kurentovanje starts with a parade, which, commencing at 1:00 p.m., will stretch through the neighborhood from St. Vitus's Church on Lausche Ave. to the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave.

Explore: Beginning at 2:00 p.m., visitors can explore the Slovenian National Home as well as many other storefront businesses in the area, which will feature samplings of food, spirits and music.

When: [Saturday, February 23, 2013, from noon to 6 p.m.](#)

More information:

[Michael Fleming of the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation at \(216\)881-0644, ext. 103\).](#)

[Celebrating Slovenian Cultural Day in CA](#)

Orange Coast SNPJ Lodge 786 cordially invites you to attend an event celebrating Slovenian Cultural Day. The program will feature the artwork of Dr. Kiar Mesko, a renowned artist in Slovenia for his historical and biographical paintings. Also featured will be NASA physicist Dr. Dusan Petrac, who will talk about the history of Slovenian independence and especially about his work in and the contributions of several American-Slovenes to the space program both as astronauts and as scientists. In addition to the interesting program, the food and wine of Slovenia will be offered. Voluntary donations will be accepted for this event.

When: [Saturday, February 23, 2013, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Program starts at 1:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Clubhouse 3, Dining Room 2, 23822 Avenida Sevilla, Laguna Woods Village, CA 92637](#)

More information: ajkoci@cox.net