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NEWSLETTER

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Embassy of Slovenia Participates at the 7th Annual EducationUSA Forum



Hundreds of international educators from around the world convened in Washington, DC from August 2 to 4 for the seventh annual EducationUSA Forum organized by the U.S. Department of State. The event convened over 500 representatives of U.S. colleges and universities, 60 EducationUSA regional educational experts and government officials. Among other topics, the participants talked about emerging trends in international student mobility, foreign government scholarships, and comprehensive approach to internationalizing higher education.

The highlight event of the conference was the Global Showcase Fair, which took place at the Washington Hilton Hotel, with embassy representatives presenting the newest trends in higher education in their respective countries. At the event, the Slovenian embassy staff members Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek and Ms. Tjaša Tanko introduced to the visitors the advantages of studying in Slovenia as well as presented the programs offered in English by all four state-funded universities. They also outlined the advanced program of scholarships for studying abroad, which is also funded by the state budget and makes Slovenia an

attractive country for collaboration.

The EducationUSA center, supported by the U.S. Department of State, also located in Ljubljana, Slovenia, operates within Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship fund and assists Slovenian students in accessing U.S. higher education opportunities. The center provides to Slovenian students information about and assistance in applying to colleges and universities in the United States. It is located at Dunajska 22, 1000 Ljubljana. The phone No. is +386-1-434-1080, and the e-mail address: EducationUSA@sklad-kadri.si.

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EDUCATION

Learn Slovenian Online

If you wanted to learn Slovenian language but didn't have time for the set times of the class or you lived too far, there is an option for you. Mr. Luka Zibelnik, a teacher of the Slovenian language at Cleveland State University in Ohio created a new program for learning Slovenian language online. In the past two years, over 170 students learned the language through the program under the guidance of Mr. Zibelnik.

The course will provide you with the structured learning of a classroom with all the online flexibility that you need. It doesn't matter where you are, as long as you have the Internet you can access his courses from any computer, laptop, tablet

or mobile device. The classes are offered throughout the U.S. and even worldwide, and are ideal for people of Slovenian descent, spouses and friends of Slovenians, and for all who are unable to attend the regular classes.

The lectures are prerecorded in the program Tegrity, and students can watch them anytime in the week in which the unit is published. Accompanying the video lectures are PowerPoint presentations (textbook), a Word document with new words, an Online tool for easier pronunciation and a Fun and Trivia folder with cultural and historical facts. Also, many of the units include Youtube videos, music and literature.

Each semester is 16 weeks long and is concluded by a final examination. Both beginner Slovenian (SLN 101 and 102) and intermediate Slovenian (SLN 201 and SLN 202) are two semesters in length (Fall semester starts in the end of August and Spring semester starts in January). The lectures are in English, and Slovenian is spoken by a native speaker and an American speaker.

For the non-credit students (Continuing Education) the price of a semester is \$425; however, if you are taking it for credit points, you need to consult with Cleveland State University's Admissions and Registrar's office. For more information visit: www.onlineslovenian.com

NEW BOOK

Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators

Edward Gobetz, PhD, has made it his life's work to record stories of Slovenians who have helped to shape our world. His latest work focuses on Slovenian Americans and their contributions to the science and technology. The book titled "Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators" has been published by Družina publishing house and provides information on over 100 innovators of Slovenian origin who have pursued - and in many instances captured - the American Dream and in the process substantially contributed to prosperity and progress of the country and

also of the entire world. The hardcover bibliophile edition of the 408-page volume very convincingly depicts how much Slovenian Americans influenced the research and development of science in the 20th century, from the first pocket-sized calculator to the manufacture of the jumbo-jet.

Dr. Gobetz is professor emeritus of Kent State University and founder of the Slovenian Research Center of America (SRCA). Together with his wife, Milena, he has been collecting for well over 60 data on various ground-breaking inventors and

innovators of Slovenian heritage in the U.S. The book can be ordered online at amazon.com or directly from the publisher at the e-mail address: barbara.brajer@druzina.si or druzina@narocila.si. The book is also available for personal pick up at the Slovenian American Times' Office, 33977 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills (tel. 440-833-0020) and at Slovenska Pisarna, St. Vitus Village, 6114 Lauscha Ave., Cleveland (Felix Gaser, tel: 216-381-2602).

11th Bled Strategic Forum – Safeguarding the Future



Recent developments have undermined the common feeling of security, stability, and freedom. The world has been caught in a maelstrom of geostrategic upheavals, the response to which will significantly affect our common future based on shared values and norms. Organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Centre for European Perspective under the title Safeguarding the Future, the eleventh Bled Strategic Forum (BSF), to be held on September 5 and 6, will try to provide an appropriate response to these threats and challenges. The main event will again be accompanied by the Business BSF and Young BSF, whereas less common topics will be spotlighted in the debates on Hidden Dimensions of International Relations.

The Leaders' Panel, held under the aegis of the Slovenian President, will feature a debate on security challenges facing the world today. Current developments in the international community give cause for concern; the number of factors of instability is on the rise, and an inability to deal with them might lead to serious regional and global

negative security scenarios.

The panel discussion on Water Risks in Global Perspectives will confront the issues of water shortages, pollution and climate change in relation to threats to peace and sustainable development. As global trends show no improvement in the situation, the panel will examine how to address these issues appropriately and discuss the role of water as an "instrument of peace". The European Union has been disturbed by geostrategic shifts, eroded trust in institutions, a decline in solidarity among Member States and a stampede of conservative and exit movements, the migration crisis, and terrorist attacks. The future and reform of the European project will be the focus of the panel on the European Union: Integration vs. Disintegration.

Energy fluctuations and instability are another cause for concern in the international community. The panelists in the Energy Geopolitics debate will discuss energy prices, diversification of supply, the gravity of security risks, and the challenges of guaranteeing universal access to energy and

eliminating energy poverty. Particular attention will be devoted to implementing the Paris climate agreement and the transition to innovative low-carbon solutions. Security discussions are dominated by talks of national security and the states' military capabilities in the event of armed conflict and too often lose sight of the implications for the security of the individual. However, lasting peace cannot be achieved without providing for the security within a country. The Human Security: You and I Matter panel discussion will shed light on risk factors for individuals, development and respect for human rights.

Terrorism, conflicts in Syria and Ukraine, the migration crisis, and hybrid and cyber threats show that security in the Euro-Atlantic area cannot be taken for granted. The panel on Reinventing European Security will discuss how to effectively adapt European security and defense structures to the geostrategic reality and to new types of threat, which is vital for ensuring long-term stability and security on the continent.

The debate on the Western Balkans, a recurrent topic at the

Bled Strategic Forum, will assess how current developments in Europe affect the E.U.'s attractiveness to membership candidates and other countries in the region in a panel entitled Western Balkans: Is the E.U. Still a Pull Factor?. Some of their leaders have already voiced the opinion that E.U. membership has lost its appeal, which should serve as a serious warning to the E.U. to speed up integration processes and deepen cooperation.

Certain less frequently discussed issues will be in the limelight in the Hidden Dimensions of International Relations discussions. The Night-Owl Session dedicated to radicalization, and organized together with the German think-tank Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) under the title Ordinary radical(s): In Search of a Meaningful Response, will deal with preventive action, reasons behind an increasing radicalization of youth, and possibilities for education and employment in the form of an innovative and active discussion.

Growing tensions already pose a risk to security and stability around the world, and emerging challenges and new threats further erode trust between generations, nations, states, interest and social groups. The Key Disruption of the Future (Needs to be Trust), one of the debates in the Hidden Dimensions of International Relations series, will address trust as a key factor in ensuring future welfare and security, despite many unavoidable disruptions.

Another discussion in the series, Terrorism and the Media: An Uneasy Relationship will focus on the interaction, dependency and inseparability that characterize the coexistence of terrorism and the media. It will look at the phenomenon of sensationalist coverage of terrorism and explore how to ensure objective reporting without promoting terrorist

acts and spreading fear among the general public.

The business forum, which is an important medium of economic diplomacy, will be dedicated to seeking innovative opportunities and will focus on major challenges faced by European and global businesses. It is organized in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia – AmCham Slovenia, IEDC – Bled School of Management and the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.

The number one priority of today's companies, digital transformation – the topic of a dedicated panel of the same name – opens up many opportunities, but can be hard to handle, as it changes the existing business culture, models and philosophy, people and technology. In a changing context, only companies that are able to adapt can survive; and the changes they make will enable them to evolve into innovative providers of highly integrated products, solutions and services.

The discussion on Smart Cities and Cognitive Communities will look into the communities which decide to enhance their quality of life by making use of information and communication technologies, thus ensuring better connectivity and an optimum use of energy, materials, services and financial resources.

The increasingly advanced and globalized world is challenging the well-established concepts of mobility, which has a significant impact on the development of the automotive industry. The panel on Mobility and the Future of the Automotive Industry will discuss the ability of the industry to adapt to changes in the modern world while taking into consideration new environmental, social and economic realities of contemporary societies.

Tourism is greatly dependent on global security. At present, terrorism is the main global threat, while security challenges are further exacerbated by migration waves. With Ljubljana being the 2016 European Green Capital and the Global Green Destinations Day taking place in Slovenia this year, tourism and sustainability experts on the Security and Sustainability in Tourism panel will attempt to answer questions about global security challenges and the importance of sustainable development in tourism.

Young BSF

Under the title Generation of Global Citizens, from September 2 to 5, the sixth edition of Young BSF will bring together successful and innovative young leaders, diplomats, academics, representatives of NGOs and business professionals from all around the world. They will discuss three topical and interrelated issues: youth mobility and political participation, intergenerational cooperation, and smart cities. Young BSF will again provide an opportunity for creative discussions and for the networking of participants from Slovenia and abroad, who will be granted access to the debates at the Bled Strategic Forum. More information at: www.bledstrategicforum.org



Scholarships from Kerže Trust Funds for Students at the Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California

The Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles offers scholarships to students at music schools in Slovenia. These scholarships are from the following Trust Funds:

- 1) **Therese Kerze Cheyovich Endowment Fund and**
- 2) **Frank Kerze and Florence Kerze-Dunphy Scholarship Fund for the Study of Music.**

Both funds were established by the members of the immigrant family Kerže who were extremely proud of their Slovenian origin and wanted in this way to honor their ancestry. The goal of the funds is to provide an opportunity for Slovenian students to receive education and training at the USC Thornton School of Music, to familiarize them with U.S. culture and to provide opportunities to gain U.S. exposure of their musical talents.

The scholarship(s) from Frank Kerze and Florence Kerze-Dunphy Scholarship Fund for the Study of Music will be awarded to one or more qualified students of music to support their graduate-level studies leading to a certificate, Master's and/or doctoral degree in the field of music. Once awarded, a returning candidate may continue to receive the scholarship each year until s/he completes his/her academic program. Scholarship funds may be awarded for tuition, fees, and other expenses.

The scholarships from Therese Kerze Cheyovich Endowment Fund will be awarded to one or more qualified students of music to support their undergraduate or graduate studies leading to a certificate and/or a Bachelor's, Master's and/or doctoral degree at the USC Thornton School of Music. Once awarded, a returning candidate may continue to receive the scholarship each

year until s/he completes his/her academic program. Scholarship funds may be awarded for tuition, fees, and living expenses. The donor of this particular scholarship preferred that the recipients play the cello as their primary musical instrument.

In order to be granted a scholarship, candidates must apply for and be accepted into the applicable degree and/or certificate program pursuant to the policies of the USC Thornton School of Music.

The application deadline to be considered for admission to the fall semester of 2017 is December 1, 2016.

Please note that the application and audition requirements differ from program to program. For specific department application and audition requirements, please select the appropriate program. You can find all requirements by program at the USC website: <https://music.usc.edu/admission/appreqs/>

In general, the requirements include:

- online application for admission
- prescreen recording
- resumé which should list musical, professional and academic experience
- repertoire list – to be submitted with online application
- supporting documents (e.g. academic transcripts, SAT scores for undergraduate students etc.)
- statement of purpose – motivation letter
- letters of recommendation

The undergraduate application fee is \$80, with an additional \$25 upload fee for the prescreen recording.

The graduate application fee is \$90, with an additional \$25 upload fee for the prescreen recording.

The following additional application materials are required from international

applicants:

- Confidential Statement of Financial Support (please refer to the possible funding from the Kerže Trust Funds)
- English Language Test Requirement- TOEFL/IELTS
- Transcripts and Certified English Translations from all schools attended
- Certified copy of English translation of all relevant documents
- certified copy of passport

For accurate list of requirements and department applications please double check the USC website at: <https://music.usc.edu/admission/>

The first selection done by the Selection Committee will be based on the prescreen recording submitted by the applicant **by the December 1, 2016 deadline**. Following this initial review, an invitation will be extended to a select group of applicants to perform a live audition on the USC campus in Los Angeles; Live auditions typically take place in late January and early February. The successful applicants may be offered a scholarship in the spring.

For any additional queries you may contact Ms. Darinka Trček at at the Slovene Human Resources and Development Fund: EducationUSA@sklad-kadri.si or Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek at the Embassy of Slovenia in the U.S.: Nuska.Zakrajsek@gov.si or contact USC directly: Ms. Kit Bellamy, Associate Director for Graduate Admission at keb@thornton.usc.edu or Ms. Brittany Seits, Associate Director for Undergraduate Admission at seits@thornton.usc.edu. We also kindly ask to inform the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington about the submitted application at: Nuska.Zakrajsek@gov.si.

Farewell to Old and Welcome to New Colleagues



Mr. Damir Devčič.



Ms. Metka Urbas.

During the summer months, three diplomats: **Ms. Petra Langerholc**, **Mr. Borut Blaj** and **Mr. Gorazd Renčelj**, ended their tenure at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington. Ms. Langerholc was posted as political counselor in July 2012. She was an excellent member of the diplomatic team advancing the cooperation and enhancing relations between the U.S. and Slovenia. She continues her career at the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York.

Also after four years, Mr. Borut Blaj ended his term at the embassy. Besides holding the

political affairs portfolio, his work also focused on human rights issues, science, and cooperation with Mexico, Organization of American States and CARICOM. After doing a superb job in Washington, he is headed for the post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana.

Mr. Gorazd Renčelj started with the embassy in January 2013 as an economic counselor. He was engaged in advancing business cooperation between the two countries and helping Slovenian companies trying to enter the American market. He will also continue his work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana.

Ms. Langerholc, Mr. Blaj

and Mr. Renčelj were outstanding members of our team, known for their professionalism and hard work and, most importantly, to all of us they were great colleagues and friends. We wish them all the best in their future as they begin new chapters in their professional careers.

On the other hand, we are delighted to announce new additions to our staff and therefore we welcome **Mr. Damir Devčič**

and **Mr. Borut Žunič**, who will take the posts as the new political officers. For the past three years, Mr. Žunič worked as the United States desk officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and before that at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to NATO in Brussels.

Mr. Devčič started his career at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports and later joined the Ministry of Economy. Under the latter, he served at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the European Union and later as the economic counselor at the Slovenian Embassy in Berlin. Prior to arriving to the U.S., he worked at the Ministry's Department of North, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We would also like to welcome new Economic counselor **Ms. Metka Urbas**, who joined us here from the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. Among other positions, she served as an economic counselor at the Slovenian embassy in London. We wish them good luck as they undertake new duties and firmly hope that together we will be a compatible team, able to realize our professional and personal goals.



Mr. Borut Žunič.

Four Medals for Slovenia in Rio



Tina Trstenjak.



Anamari Velenšek.

Four is the final count of medals for Slovenia at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which took place from August 5 to 21, 2016. At the Slovenia's seventh consecutive appearance at the Summer Olympics as an independent nation, the first win was by judoist Tina Trstenjak, who on Tuesday, August 9, received the gold medal in women's 63kg category. Slovenia's

second medal in Rio de Janeiro was gained by Slovenian kayaker Peter Kauzer, who on August 10 won the silver in men's K-1 slalom event.

Judoist Anamari Velenšek won bronze in her Olympic debut on Thursday, August 11 in the 78 kg category to secure the third Slovenian medal in Rio. Sailor Vasilij Žbogar, the flag bearer for Slovenia, won the silver medal at the Rio Olympics

in the Finn class competition on Tuesday, August 16. This was the third Olympic medal for the 40-year-old, the fourth for Slovenia in Rio. An excellent job was also done by the handball team, which after being absent from the last two Olympics, qualified again for the tournament and finished in the quarterfinals.



Peter Kauzer.



Vasilij Žbogar.

IN SHORT

- Fresh off the printing press is the poetry book *Angel of Oblivion* (Angel Pozabe) by Maja Haderlap, translated into English by Tess Lewis: <https://archipelagobooks.org/book/angel-of-oblivion>

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