



Listopadový fond
November fund

The November Fund Newsletter

January 2004 leden 2004

Thanking the Founders

In its first year of existence, the November Fund raised almost three thousand dollars. The Fund is grateful for the support of its Founding Members: Gregory Bettwy, the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas, David Danaher & Chris Ott, Gloria and Jere Danaher, Renata Grillová and Benjamin Vail, Jean Hennessey, Randall Kadlec, Jakub Klíma, Judith Deutsch Kornblatt, Jeff and Jean Rabas, and Karen Rosneck.

Particular thanks go to the members of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc., Wisconsin's Czech and Slovak heritage organization, whose members graciously voted to donate \$1,000 to the Fund.

This Is Just The Start

Our goal for 2004 is to raise an amount equal to or greater than the 2003 total. Consider making a yearly donation to the Fund, and tell friends about the Fund's mission. Any form of support is appreciated.

The Value of Your Support

The November Fund has been used to purchase materials to support the teaching of Czech (the cost of a CD: \$15, the cost of a DVD: \$30). The Fund has sponsored two awards—to Regina Sojka and Peter Fiala—for outstanding undergraduate achievement in the study of Czech (\$100). Additionally, the Fund co-sponsored the Chytilová film series brought to Madison in summer 2003 by UW Cinematheque as well as two lectures on Czech literature in fall 2003 (cost of a co-sponsorship: \$100).

On the Fund's Wishlist: a Project Assistant for the Czech program to assist in the development of curricular materials and to work on community outreach (semester-long cost at 5 hours per week: \$1,000).



Support the work of the Fund. Tax-free donations to the Czech Fund can be sent to the address below. For other methods of donating, see the Fund's website.



Undergraduate and graduate students gather at the Rathskeller in the Memorial Union for the weekly Czech Language Table.

Czech Student News

Paul Howe writes: "I studied Czech while abroad in Prague and I liked it so much that I decided to enroll in the Czech class at UW. I enjoy the class and as an added perk I get to go by the pseudonym Pavel, which makes me feel a little like the Central European hockey player I never was. I plan on living in the Czech Republic for some time after I graduate so Czech at UW is immensely helpful."

Andres Abreu writes: "Whenever asked about my descent, I have always wanted to respond with more than just 'Well, I'm part Czech on my mom's side.' As a student at the UW, I've had the opportunity to take courses in Czech literature and language. Through them, I've been able to develop a much better understanding of the country to which I have so often alluded."

From John Scherpereel: "I defended my dissertation *Between State Socialism and European Union: Remaking the State in the Czech Republic and Slovakia* on November 24, 2003. My plans are to convert the thesis into a book manuscript (which will require some more research in the CR) within the next year and to begin a new project on sub-national governments in CEE, including the newly established regions in the CR."

Professor Jason Wittenberg (Political Science) writes: "For me learning Czech at UW has been both useful and interesting. As an East Europeanist I have long felt the need to expand beyond my first area of expertise in Hungary. I look forward to digging through dusty archive boxes in out-of-the-way places in Bohemia and Moravia. Linguistically Czech also has its charms. Its declensions are amusingly and preposterously complicated. I consider it a challenge to master them and a welcome diversion from other academic tasks."

From Peter Fiala: "When I came to UW-Madison I was looking to take a language with the most fulfillment for me personally. My father's side of the family is all from the Czech Republic, and so my childhood had a large Czech component. Taking Czech here made me realize how important it has been to me all along. Czech at UW is challenging, but it is a challenge that is loaded with rewards, especially for those with Czech upbringing!"



Support the work of the Fund. Your donation enhances the opportunity for future students to study Czech language, literature, and culture.

Czech Film Festival Planned for Spring Semester 2004

With the support of the November Fund, the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia is arranging a Czech film series for spring. The tentative program is: January 27, *Closely Watched Trains*; February 10, *Daisies*; March 2, *A Report on the Party and the Guests*; March 23, *Home Sweet Home*; April 13, *Kolja*; and April 27, *Conspirators of Pleasure*. All films have English subtitles and will be shown on Tuesday evening at 7 pm. Check the Fund's website for an updated schedule and the location. We hope to make this an annual festival!



Contact us. Tell us about Czech- and Slovak-related events in Wisconsin and share your vision of the Fund's future!



Slavic Department grad students and Fund Supporters Molly Peeney and Shannon Spasova smile for the camera.

2003 News from the Czech Program...

- Enrollments in Czech increase for fall semester
- UW's Czech professor publishes book on Czech
- Prague Fulbright Scholar teaches Czech lit at UW
- Czech receives grants for curricular development
- Czech Traveling Scholar on campus in spring
- Grad student receives FLAS award to study Czech
- Czech talk at Languages Day draws crowd

For details and other news, see the Fund's website!

A Farewell Message from our Czech Fulbright Scholar:

Můj Madizoon Politicon

Čtenářům Karla Čapka a lidem, kteří si oblíbili Madison a jeho přátelskou tvář, není třeba vysvětlovat titulní hříčku. Českému bohemistovi přinesly dosavadní pobyt v rámci Fulbrightova stipendia na zdejší univerzitě, její pohostinnost a kolegialita mnohé z toho, na co si mimoděk před odjezdem z hektické a místy nevraživé Prahy myslel: uvolnění v pravidelně proudícím životě spjatém s učením a studiem, vyvázání z neustále útočícího akademického aparátu, prostor k dokončení rozpracovaných věcí a k promýšlení něčeho dalšího. To však jakoby mimochodem – slavistika na wisconsinské univerzitě v Madisonu především od samého počátku zve nově přichozího do svého kruhu. Představuje mu společnou věc, na níž se zde pracuje, a postupně mu umožňuje pochopit, že se mu naskytla skutečná příležitost znovu si s radostí uvědomit, jak vše, s čím sem přišel a s čím se setkává, roste ze společného zdroje vzdělanostní myšlenky. Setkání toho druhu překvapí svou přirozeností a později se většinou jeví jako nutná, je tomu však v dnešním světě většinou naopak a je potřeba si uvědomit jejich nesamozřejmost, tak jako se nijak snadno a nikoli nahodile nerodí vědomí společné věci. A třebaže Madison může působit jako odlehle místo, právě tady se ukazuje, jak podstatně politickou v širokém slova smyslu myšlenka vzdělanosti je (slavistika ostatně z tohoto zdroje vždy vyrůstala) a jak široký dosah může mít uskutečňována soustavně v univerzitním společenství: tak i její minoritní a podceňované zdroje nabývají nových významů a mnohdy rezonují více než tam, odkud pocházejí. Nakonec se vše zdá tak prosté, když se spojí lidé, kteří vědí, o čem jde a právě tím se řídí – dovedou tak nejspíše překonat všudypřítomné nesnáze. Máte to tu hezké, přátelé, hodně štěstí!

- Daniel Vojtěch

Daniel, you'll be missed!



Support the Fund in 2004! Our 2004 goal is to match or exceed the generous support given to the Fund in 2003. Please help spread the word!



Daniel in the Slavic Department (the 14th floor of Van Hise)

Czech on the Net

- Czech language: www.czech-language.cz
- Czech culture: www.bohemica.cz
- English-language news: www.praguepost.cz
- News in English: www.radio.cz
- Animation: www.animation.cz
- Prague guide: www.prague-city.cz
- Culture and travel: www.myczechrepublic.com

Thanks to Susan Kresin for suggesting these links!

Faces of the November Fund



Founding Member Chris Ott enjoys a beer in Prague.