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Woodrow Wilson Fellow Czech Journalist to Visit IWU, Week of March 21; Spotlight on Post-Communist World

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Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Czech Journalist to Visit IWU, Week of March 21;

Spotlight on Post-Communist World

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. A journalist and former aide to the chairman of the Czech Republic's Senate will bring his eyewitness experiences reporting on eastern Europe's sweeping political and economic changes to Illinois Wesleyan University the week of March 21.

Jaroslav Veis will visit several classes and participate in panel discussions during his IWU visit as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. His visit is made possible by a grant from the German Marshall Fund of the United States to the Princeton, N.J.-based Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Veis is deputy director of the Center for Independent Journalism in the Czech Republic.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation says Veis's visit "is part of a major effort to increase understanding between prominent Europeans and young Americans. The extraordinary events in Eastern Europe, and the controversy over economic integration in Western Europe make this an especially important opportunity for students and faculty to obtain a better understanding of the realities of global interdependence."

Marvin J. Suomi, president and chief executive officer of Kajima Urban Development LLC, the world's largest construction company, visited IWU last November as a Woodrow Wilson scholar.

Veis's Schedule

Veis's schedule is shaping up this way:

- Panel discussion; **Topic:** The State of the Arts in Formerly Communist Countries, with IWU faculty: Marina Balina, professor of German and Russian and chair of the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Department; Scott Ferguson, associate professor of music and director of choral activities; and Vadim Mazo, associate professor of music; *March 22, Noon, Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center.*

- Visit to an elementary Russian class, taught by Balina; **Topic:** The Past and Present Relationship between Czechoslovakia and the Former Soviet Union; *March 23, 10:50 a.m., 103 Shaw Hall.*

- Visit to Introduction to International Studies class, taught by Teodora Amoloza, associate professor of sociology and director of the International Studies Program; **Topic:** Politics in the New World Order/The Case of Eastern Europe; *March 23, 2:25 p.m., 205 Center for Liberal Arts.*

- Panel discussion with Darina Malova, a Fulbright scholar and political scientist from Slovakia, who is on a three-month teaching stint at IWU; Presiding: Kathleen Montgomery, assistant professor of political science;

Topic: NATO Expansion/A View from Both Sides of the Border; *March 23, 4 p.m., Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center.*

- A visit to an international relations class, taught by Frank Boyd, assistant professor of political science; **Topic:** Economic Challenges/Consequences of the Post-Communist Transition (with particular emphasis on the political process); *March 24, 9 a.m., 204 Shaw Hall.*

- A visit to a class on gender and ethnic issues in eastern Europe, taught by Malova; **Topic:** Human Rights as Women's and Ethnic Minorities' Rights; *March 24, 2 p.m., 105 Center for Liberal Arts.*

- A public lecture; **Topic:** The Gypsy "Problem": Xenophobia vs. Multiculturalism; *March 24, 7:30 p.m., Evelyn Chapel.* Responding: Chris Callahan, assistant professor of French.

- A visit to a business course on policy and strategy, taught by Cyril Ling, Edward R. Telling Distinguished Professor of Business Administration; *March 25, 10:50 a.m. and 1:10 p.m.* Topics, location to be determined.

- A speech at the student initiation ceremony and dinner sponsored by Gamma Upsilon, the journalism honorary society; **Topic:** The Clinton Impeachment Drama and the Role of the Media; *March 25, 5 p.m.* News media interested in covering this event should contact: James Plath, associate professor of English, 309/556-3352.

- An informal meeting with international studies, international business, study-abroad, and foreign languages majors; *March 26, 9:30 a.m., 101 Center for Liberal Arts.*

- Luncheon meeting with Malova, Montgomery, and students taking the May Term course that will visit Bratislava and Prague; *March 26, Noon, Henning Room, Memorial Student Center.*

- A visit to a class, *In the Shadow of Monuments*, taught by Balina; **Topic:** The Soviet Past for Russians and Czechs: Problems and Solutions; *March 26, 2 p.m., 2 Buck Hall.*

Veis's Background

Anticipating his IWU visit, Veis wrote that he would like to discuss with students and faculty the "development and role of [a] free press and media in the post-communist world." Among other key topics ripe for discussion during his IWU visit are: changes in central Europe and the Czech Republic, NATO issues, multiculturalism vs. Europhobia, and the information society.

Veis, born in 1946, served as an advisor to the chairman of the Senate of the Czech Republic in 1997-98. The Senate is part of the Czech Republic's two-house parliament.

He has been a freelance writer and columnist for *The Week*, a news magazine; *Prague Business Journal*; *Literary Weekly Magazine*; and *Czech Public Radio*. Veis has served as chairman of the editorial board of *The New Presence* and has been a consultant to the Center for Media Studies at Charles University. He was program director of the Center for Independent Journalism and editor of *Communication, Media, Information, Technology*, a quarterly publication.

In 1993-94, Veis was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. The program aims at promoting and elevating journalism standards, as well as educating journalists.

Veis served as editor-in-chief and in other posts at the *People's News*.

In the fall of 1988, Veis participated in the International Writers Program at the University of Iowa.

Veis attended Charles University from 1964-70, receiving a degree in journalism.

He has translated numerous works of English and American fiction and non-fiction, including the novel *Primary Colors* by newsman Joe Klein, which deals with a presidential campaign and a sex scandal.

The Czech Republic

Veis is from the Czech Republic, a central European nation located southeast of Germany, which is slightly smaller than South Carolina. The Czech Republic has a population of 10.2 million (July 1998 estimate).

Forty-two years of communist rule ended with the election in 1989 of playwright Vaclav Havel as president of Czechoslovakia in the aftermath of sweeping but peaceful political change, dubbed the Velvet Revolution.

A strong Slovak nationalist movement emerged by 1991, seeking an independent and sovereign state. A 1992 general election failed to reconcile Czech and Slovak elements within a federation and agreement was reached to separate.

On Jan. 1, 1993, the Czechoslovak federation was dissolved, giving birth to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

German Marshall Fund

German Marshall Fund Fellows come from England, France, Ireland, Scandinavia, Portugal, Holland, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Germany.

Fellows represent business, journalism, public service, and other professions. They are placed on small liberal-arts campuses for a week of intensive dialogue with students and faculty.

Fellows are slated for formal presentations in classrooms, on panels, or public platforms. They also have informal encounters with students, faculty, and others at meals, in student centers, clubs, residence halls, conferences and social functions.

The German Marshall Fund was established in 1972 by a gift from the Federal Republic of Germany (then West Germany) to commemorate U.S. post-World War II assistance under the Marshall Plan, named for U.S. Secretary of State, former Army Chief of Staff George Marshall, and Nobel Peace Prize-laureate George Marshall (1880-1959).

Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows

For two decades, the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows program has brought about closer relations between the academic and non-academic worlds, between campus and community, between academic theory and practical reality.

More than 200 campuses have participated in the program since 1973.

The fellows program is named for educator, Princeton University president, and internationalist Woodrow Wilson, who served as the 28th president of the United States from 1913-21.

About IWU

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.

