

Statement of U.S. Ambassador Yousif B. Ghafari



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

LJUBLJANA • SLOVENIA

Upon His Departure
January 16, 2009

It has been a great honor and a privilege to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia.

During my tenure, Slovenia and the U.S. have worked together to further bilateral investment and trade, to increase the opportunities for academic and cultural exchange, and to advance and deepen US-EU ties. As partners in NATO, our collaboration has improved prospects for peace, democracy and prosperity in the region and far beyond our national borders -- in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. We support and appreciate the engagement of the Slovenian government, business and NGOs in the countries of the Western Balkans, where they are helping their neighbors to become fully-integrated members of European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

I would like to express my thanks to the Slovenian community for its very warm welcome to Mara and me during our time here. You have extended to us some very wonderful opportunities and our memories of Slovenia will last forever: from Bled to Koper, Maribor to Slovenske Konjice, Krsko to Trebnje. Our diplomatic life has opened up avenues of friendship in many different circles – in government, business, academia, and in service to the broader community. We have hosted many visitors, most importantly President and Mrs. Bush at the US-EU Summit, as well as many others whom we have enjoyed introducing to Slovenia. We expect they will be back, and our love of your country and the friendships we have made will surely bring us back to the most beautiful city in the world. And of course, I look forward to a return visit to climb Mount Triglav once again !

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to our two countries. I am confident that the U.S. and Slovenia will continue to enjoy close bilateral ties as partners in the transatlantic community.

Slovenska šola pri sv. Mariji Vnebovzeti

Members of the St. Mary of the Assumption Slovenian School were delighted with the success of the kosilo fundraiser dinner. It is always wonderful to share special moments with such special people from our parish. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of our parishioners and volunteers who very generously donated their time for this worthy cause.



Slovenska šola pri sv. Mariji Vnebovzeti
v Collinwoodu
PRIREDI KOSILO
Pohana svinjina in goveji zrezki
V NEDELJO, 18 JANUARJA 2009
V šolski dvorani sv. Marije Vnebovzete
Kosilo se bo serviralo od 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Odrasli: \$12.00
Otroci: \$ 6.00

Photos at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/philip.hrvatini/StMarySSlovenianSchoolKosilo?feat=email>



COLLINWOOD SLOVENIAN SOCIETY HOME

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1st MONTH – 31 DAYS

2008 December LAST MONTH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2009

NEXT MONTH February 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FIRST QUARTER FOURTH FULL MOON TENTH	LAST QUARTER SEVENTEENTH NEW MOON TWENTY-SIXTH			1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

The Collinwood Slovenian Society Home has a limited supply of 2009 calendars.
For additional information, call 216-681-6649

The Center for Slovenian Studies

in cooperation with the Department of Modern Languages
presents a series of lectures about Slovenian language and
literature.



- Main Classroom 134

Monday, January 26, 2009 12:00PM-1:00PM

ALEKSANDER BJELČEVIČ, PhD

The origins of »Rock« verse, strophe and lyrics in church music



Assistant Professor Aleksander Bjelčevič was born in 1962. He studied Slovenian Language and Philosophy and is currently employed at the Slovenian Language Department at the University of Ljubljana. His main field of research is early Slovenian literature, in which he investigates the theory of verse and its history from the Middle Ages through present day. Dr. Bjelčevič's work and interests also include the international project, *Słowiańska metryka porównawcza* (comparative Slavonic metrics), and the philosophy of literature including the ideas of fiction, quality, literarity, problems of interpretation, literature and morale. He is an analytical philosopher.

For more information contact Luka Zibelnik at l.zibelnik@csuohio.edu

Center za slovenske študije

v sodelovanju z oddelkom modernih jezikov pripravlja serijo
predavanj o slovenskem jeziku in literaturi

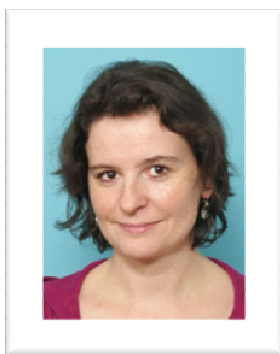


- Main Classroom 134

V sredo, 28. januarja, 6PM-7PM

dr. SIMONA KLEMENČIČ

STRATIFIKACIJA SLOVENSKEGA BESEDJA: O NASTAJANJU JEZIKOVNEGA BESEDNJAKA SKOZI ČAS IN PROSTOR



doc. Dr. Simona Klemenčič je trenutno zaposlena na SAZU (Slovenska akademija znanosti in umenosti) in na oddelku za primerjalno književnost na Filozofski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani. Področja njenega raziskovanja so: 1) indoevropska dialektologija (razčlenitev indoevropskega jezikovnega prostora, korespondence med posameznimi indoevropskimi jeziki, katerih nastanek lahko postavimo v čas po razpadu indoevropskega prajezika, predhistorične migracije); 2) "nostratsko" jezikoslovje (kako izluščimo postopke primerjalne metode in jih ovrednotimo; tipične napake pri sklepanju), v tem posebej indouralska teorija,

ki povezuje indoevropsko jezikovno družino z uralsko; 3) indoevropske starožitnosti (obravnavajo tistih izrazov iz indoevropskega besednega fonda, ki pomagajo odkrivati materialno in duhovno zgodovino indoevropskih ljudstev). V predavanju bo orisala leksikalni razvoj slovenskega jezika od prahistoričnega do modernega časa.

Za več informacij pišite Luku Zibelniku na l.zibelnik@csuohio.edu.

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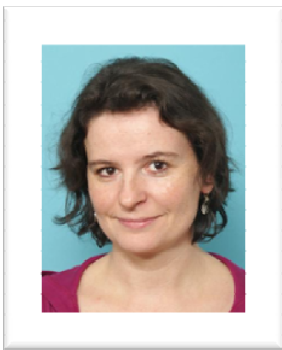


- Main Classroom 134

Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 6:00PM-7:00PM

SIMONA KLEMENČIČ, PhD

The stratification of Slovene lexis: on formation of a language's vocabulary through space and time



Assistant Professor Simona Klemenčič is currently employed at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU), and at the Department for Comparative Literature at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts. Her main fields of research include Indo-European Dialectology (analysis of the Indo-European language region, and correspondence between specific Indo-European languages and prehistoric migrations) and Nostratic Linguistics (extraction and evaluation of comparative methods procedures, and typical mistakes in making inferences). Dr. Klemenčič specializes in Indo-Ural theory, which connects the Indo-European family of languages with the Ural, and Indo-European relics of the past, in which she researches terms from the

Indo-European word pool which assist in discovering the material and spiritual history of Indo-European people. In her lecture she is going to present an outline of lexical development of Slovene language, from prehistoric to modern times.

For more information contact Luka Zibelnik at l.zibelnik@csuohio.edu



Current & Upcoming Events

December 11- January 30: Transpositions. Video art exhibition 'Transpositions' and mosaic prints 'Vortex' and 'Swimming the Dark' by **Nataša Prosenc**. Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC. For viewing, please call in advance.



Visitors viewing Prosenc's video art.

February 5 – March 15: America. Shapes, Shadows, and Colors. Exhibition of photographs by Slovenian Consul General in Cleveland, Ohio, dr. Zvone Žigon.

Minister Žbogar Meets U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Judy Garber

Ljubljana, 14 January - Foreign Minister Samuel Žbogar met US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Judy Garber in Ljubljana on Wednesday for talks dedicated to topical bilateral issues.

Efforts to strengthen economic cooperation were at the forefront of talks. Both sides agreed that despite the economic downturn, significant opportunities for trade and investment remain untapped.

Žbogar and Garber also exchanged views on the situation in the Western Balkans, agreeing that the speedy integration of the region in the EU and NATO - subject to the implementation of all membership conditions - was in the interest of the entire international community.

The pair also spoke about international issues, including the situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

U.S. Ambassador Leaving Slovenia as His Term Ends

Ljubljana, January 16 - Terms of U.S. ambassadors are ending together with that of the U.S. President. The current President George W. Bush has already confirmed the resignation of U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia Yousif Boutros Ghafari.

Ghafari is leaving Slovenia on Tuesday and will not be running for the post again.

President-Elect Barack Obama will propose a candidate for the post in the following few months, which will be followed by hearings of the candidate before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate.

It is not yet known who will be the new candidate or when the new ambassador can be expected in Ljubljana.



Ambassador Yousif Boutros Ghafari

Ghafari wrote in a special press release, preceding his departure, that it was an honor for him to have the opportunity to serve on this post. He wrote that during his term in office, the United States and Slovenia strove together for growth of bilateral investment and trade, better opportunities for academic and cultural exchange and improvement and deepening of bilateral relations.

The outgoing U.S. ambassador thanked Slovenia for a warm welcome when he took office and pointed out that he made many friends in Slovenia and that he will surely return to "the most beautiful city in the world."

"Thank you for the chance to serve our two countries," he wrote and added that he believes the United States and

Slovenia will keep their close bilateral relations.

Ghafari took office as U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia in May 2008, when he succeeded Thomas Robertson.

Slovenia Invited to Sit on UN Democracy Fund Advisory Board

Ljubljana, January 16 - UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has invited Slovenia to assume a one-year term in the Advisory Board of the UN Democracy Fund. Slovenia sees the invitation as recognition for its work in the international community.

"The invitation is a recognition to Slovenia for its good work in the international community, especially in the UN, where one of its key aims has been promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights," the Slovenian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry explained that as a member of the Advisory Board, Slovenia will be able to put forward recommendations to the UN Secretariat on the operations of the fund and its strategy for promoting democracy.



United Nations Headquarters

The UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was established in

2005 with the aim of promoting the role of civil society, the development of democratic institutions, the promotion of human rights and the inclusion of people in democratic processes.

The 19-member Advisory Board provides policy guidance for the development of program and funding guidelines, and to recommend funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General.

The fund has so far raised US\$ 91m and financed 205 projects in 95 countries as well as various regional and global projects.

Of the 19 members of the Advisory Board, 13 are from the member states - including seven from the biggest donor - four are personal representatives of the UN secretary general and two are from non-governmental organizations.

Senator George V. Voinovich Will Not Seek a Third Term

Washington, January 12 -

U.S. Senator George Voinovich, who has been known as a staunch supporter of Slovenia, being of Slovenian descent himself, announced on January 12 that he will not campaign for a seat in the Senate when his term ends in 2010.

Senator Voinovich, who has held the Senate seat since 1999, will have served 44 years in public office at the end of his Senate term, having been elected to more public offices than any other person in Ohio history.

Throughout his distinguished career in service to the people of Ohio, U.S. Senator George Voinovich has strived to make government "work harder and smarter and do more with less."



Senator Voinovich of Ohio

In his statement on Monday, Sen. Voinovich declared that these next two years in office, will be the most important years that he has served in his entire political career. *»I must devote my full time, energy and focus to the job I was elected to do, the job in front of me, which seeking a third term - with the money-raising and campaigning that it would require - would not allow me to do.«*

In his long and distinguished political career, Sen. Voinovich left a mark also as a Member of a House of Representatives of Ohio (1967 - 1971), Mayor of Cleveland (1979 - 1989), and Governor of Ohio (1991 - 1998).

Slovenia Announces Increase in Funds for Fulbright Program

Ljubljana, 14 January - Higher Education and Science Minister Gregor Golobič has promised an increase in the amount of funds earmarked by

Slovenia for financing the Fulbright Program here.

Golobič told Wednesday's ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of Slovenia's involvement in the cultural exchange program with the US that Slovenia would move closer to matching the amount earmarked by the US for conducting the program with Slovenia.

He said that this provision would be included in a new memorandum of understanding with the US on the program, he said.



Golobič stressed at the event that science and culture were global values, adding that Slovenia financed some 40 scientific projects involving US scientific institutions and scientists.

The US Ambassador to Slovenia, Yousif Ghafari, meanwhile said that since the Fulbright program was launched in 1949, over 300,000 people from 144 countries were included in the projects of this prestigious program.

He added that the goal of the program was to improve mutual understanding among the people of the US and other countries.

Interview Series

Dear Readers! Embassy of Slovenia has, over the years of our service to the Slovenian community in the United States, had a unique opportunity to meet numerous Slovenians and friends of Slovenia, and learn their fascinating and intriguing stories of life on this side of the Atlantic. We wanted to create an opportunity, where these stories could be shared with our readers. This week we begin with our series of interviews with some of these outstanding individuals in the United States.

Interview Series: Lucia Klanšek

Lucia Klanšek moved from Slovenia to New York City with her two children exactly four years ago. In just a few years she succeeded to set up and developed a thriving company **Easy4Busy**. Recently she founded a non-profit foundation **Slovenia4You**.



Lucia Klanšek

What is the story behind **Easy4Busy**?

E4B is a family business, a joint collaboration between my son Niko and me. For US market we developed a wholesome fruit puree, uniquely packaged in a pouch originally developed for NASA. We were a hit, E4B products were featured in Forbes Magazine, New York Times, on ABC's Good Morning America show E4B purees were presented as one of the superfoods of the future.

Last year when my son finished his studies I turned over the business to him and established a non-profit foundation Slovenia4You.

Why a foundation, what is the role of Slovenia4You?

I feel I've achieved my goals and it's time for me to give something back to community. I've been an entrepreneur for all my life and have 30 years of experience in running a business. And I want to share my knowledge and teach and promote entrepreneurship to young people in Slovenia. Having had business with my son and tutoring him, I understand children's needs.

So I acquired a fund-raising license from the New York University, developed a business plan as part of the course and registered a non-profit foundation **Slovenia4You**. Its mission is to establish a network of Slovenians worldwide by connecting professionals, training entrepreneurship and reanimating Slovenian culture. The plan is to make full use of internet networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn and BizMe.

The objective for 2009 is to start with an extra curriculum teaching of entrepreneurship in 5 elementary schools in Slovenia and coach 5 teachers. We also want to cooperate with similar foundations in the USA and engage successful Slovenians all over the world.

CORRECTION:

In the Newsletter from January 9, 2009, we published the article *Big River Man at Sundance*, where in the sixth paragraph we wrote: "Big River Man will premiere at Sundance on Friday, February 16." The film is actually opening today, **January** 16, 2009. We apologize for the mistake.

The weekly e-Newsletter is produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington. The archive of the e-Newsletter is available [online](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe to the e-Newsletter please send an e-mail to: ywa@gov.si.