Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professional Development Awards

Fellows from Slovakia Pursuing Research at the U-M

2008

**Maria Chmelova** (MD) is an analyst-methodologist for the Department of National Health Registers within the National Health Information Center. She specializes in research on substance abuse prevention and intervention. She also teaches students of psychology at the University of Trnava, Slovakia. During her visit at U-M, she participated in seminars and research team meetings, and collaborated with the Substance Abuse Section, Department of Psychiatry, the Addiction Research Center, and Addiction Treatment Services. Her faculty host advisor was Robert A. Zucker, professor of psychology in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology, and director of the Substance Abuse Section in the Department of Psychiatry.

**Dr. Peter Krcho** (MD, Ph.D.) is the director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the Pediatric Faculty Hospital at the University of Pavol Joseph Safarik, in Kosice. His visit was an extension of two years of previous collaboration with his U-M host, Dr. Steven Donn. During Dr. Krcho’s visit at the U-M, Dr. Donn arranged for him to observe clinical rounds, meet with neonatal specialists, observe hospital procedures, and discuss management systems and procedures that could be implemented in Kosice.

**Maria Oriskova** is assistant professor in the Department of Art History and Theory, Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Slovakia. During her visit, she delivered three lectures for the Museum Studies Program and met with the Chair and Associate Chairs of the Museum Studies Program. In addition, she pursued comparative research on museum theory and the development and changes in museums in Central Europe.

**Daniel Starek** is a researcher in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, Slovakia. He conducted experiments on smart fluids and their use in vibration control with Professor Frank Filisko and his graduate students in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, extending a collaboration that began in 2006 when Professor Filisko visited Slovak Technical University as a Weiser Fellow.

**Ivica Vidrova** is associate professor and head of the department of Ceramics at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Slovakia. During her visit she worked in the studio producing ceramic pieces for a joint exhibition at the Residential College with Professor Georgette Zirbes. She also held open studio workshops for students in the School of Art & Design.

2007

**Peter Blesak** is professor of mechanical engineering at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia. During his visit at U-M, he pursued research on smart fluid use in vibration control.
control/suppression in collaboration with Frank Filisko, professor of materials and metallurgical engineering and professor of macromolecular science and engineering at the College of Engineering.

**Dagmar Kopcanova** is professor of educational psychology at the Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology in Bratislava, Slovakia. She pursued research on the development of a multidisciplinary approach to help children and distressed families in collaboration with Professors Cheryl King and Lawrence Perlman in the Department of Psychiatry at the U-M Medical School.

**Gabriel Piricky** is a research scientist at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia. During his visit, he did research on historiography and nationalist ideology in Turkey and Armenia in collaboration with Muge Gocok, associate professor of sociology and women’s studies and a specialist on Turkish-Armenian relations.

**2006**

**Jana Flochova** is a lecturer and researcher in the Institute of Computer Systems and Networks at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia. A specialist in control engineering, she worked with Stephane LaFortune, professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the U-M College of Engineering. Her research focused on the diagnostics of complex engineering and computing systems using timed and stochastic models of discrete event systems.

**Viera Rybarova** is an associate professor in the Language Department of the Academy of Music and Performance Arts in Bratislava, Slovakia, where she teaches English. While at U-M, she worked with Professor John Swales at U-M’s English Language Institute on a project to develop a textbook for teaching technical English vocabulary for students of the arts.

**Hana Smitkova** is a professor and researcher in the Department of Psychology at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her research focused on gender-related attitudes and stereotyping in counseling. She plans to introduce the findings into her teaching of courses in counseling psychology. While at U-M she worked with Carol J. Boyd, professor of nursing and women’s studies and director of the Institute of Research on Women and Gender.
2005

**Daniela Ostatnikova** (M.D., Ph.D.) is a researcher at the Institute of Physiology at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her research at U-M focused on the effects of hormones on cognition and behavior. Dr. Ostatnikova conducted research, met with faculty, and gave guest lectures in the Department of Psychology, where she was hosted by Professor Oliver Schultheiss. She also met with faculty at the School of Medicine and researched curricular offerings available to medical students.

**David Carsky**, an assistant professor in the Department of Conservation and Restoration at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Slovakia, is both an artist and an educator. His U-M host, School of Art and Design Dean Bryan Rogers, invited him to give several course lectures; exhibit some of his own work; participate in studio critiques; and visit graduate and undergraduate students’ studios, workshops, and labs. Professor Carsky also met with several faculty members in the Department of History of Art and attended some of their lectures.

**Erich Mistrik** is professor and head of the Department of Ethics and Civic Education in the Faculty of Education at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. His research at U-M focused on factors influencing reading comprehension and literacy development and the incorporation of this information into teacher training to improve literacy learning. Professor Mistrik was hosted by Professor Jeff Mirel at U-M’s School of Education, where he also met with other professors, conducted library research, and consulted with faculty on development of a new course on cultural literacy through art education which he plans to introduce at his home institution.