

July 20, 2008

Dear Ms. Slavik and Mr. Senko,

This summer 2008 I have had an excellent opportunity to attend the Engalitcheff Institute on Comparative Politics and Economic Systems at Georgetown University sponsored by The Fund for American Studies. I would not have had the chance to come to Washington, DC without the Friend's of Slovakia's generous sponsorship. I am so thankful to those people who have given of their time and money for my benefit this summer.

Through The Fund for American Studies, I was able to attend briefings at the White House, Capitol Hill, Federal Reserve Bank, the Hong Kong Trade Office and the State Department. Various political and government officials came to Georgetown to give lectures on topics such as the upcoming election which strengthened my understanding of American culture and politics. In addition to interning and attending briefings, I took two Georgetown classes: economics and American foreign policy. I found the lecture styles very different from any of class that I've taken, even when my professors discussed complicated economic systems in depth. At times it was difficult to balance all of these obligations, but I have worked hard to make these past eight weeks the best summer of my life.

My internship at the Institute of World Politics and classes were great ways to develop relationships with American professionals, expose myself to new ideas and make the most personal and intellectual progress. Many other great experiences took place outside of the classroom or office. I've learned how to debate but also respect people of differing opinions while balancing the mental stress of managing an incredibly busy schedule.

I would highly encourage anyone to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities provided by TFAS and Friend's of Slovakia.

Thanks again,

Martin Socuvka

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