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**Fulbright Research Scholar says "thank you, Morris"**

*Summary: As she returns to the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic, Iva Stuchlikova wants to say thank you to her colleagues and the new friends she has made. Since February, Stuchlikova has been working in Minnesota as a Fulbright research scholar.*

(June 19, 2007)-As she returns to her work at the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic, Iva Stuchlikova wants to say thank you to her colleagues and the new friends she has made. Since February, Stuchlikova, an associated professor of psychology and head of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology, has been working in Minnesota as a Fulbright research scholar with Eric Klinger, University of Minnesota, Morris professor emeritus of psychology.

"I've had a marvelous time," said Stuchlikova. "I've enjoyed a relaxed but concentrated atmosphere. People are mutually interested, whether [they are] a psychologist or musician. I've felt like a real member of a community and have received support anywhere when I've asked."

The collaborative research has focused primarily on "two more recent ways to assess motivation, one of which is the creation of myself and Miles Cox (UMM faculty member 1978-85, now at the University of Wales, Bangor, United Kingdom)," said Klinger. "We've discussed theoretical issues and collected a lot of data, both here and at the University of South Bohemia."

Eric Klinger's contact with University of South Bohemia started in late 1980s. Stuchlikova's colleague met Klinger when he was in Germany. The cooperation intensified in 1990s when the Czech group ran a project using a Klinger, Cox and Blount original motivation structure measurement tool. Working on it, Stuchlikova had first visited Morris for a month in 1996. "We studied the motivation of alcohol dependent people, why they drink or why they relapse into drinking, in that project," she said. "Now, in current project we are much more concentrated on basic research, to understand how implicit motivation is related to the explicit, goal related one. This may be very helpful for understanding motivational difficulties in general, also in educational context." Stuchlikova brought with her the data she had collected in the Czech Republic and engaged approximately 100 UMM students in the study. She and Klinger will publish a paper on the findings. The first outcome was already presented at the Association of Psychological Science Convention in Washington.

In addition to conducting research, Stuchlikova also traveled the countryside of the west central Minnesota region and visited Minneapolis, Winona and Duluth. She attended concerts and exhibitions, visited the Stevens County Historical Museum and "tried to live like a Morris person," she shared.

Her son and daughter, a high school junior and a seventh grader, respectively, attended school in Morris. At first, said Stuchlikova, English was difficult for her children and she wondered if she had made the right choice to bring her young children here. However, she discovered that "teachers (here) treat children not as academically, but more informally." Music and art education are more prevalent here much as science is in her country. She is impressed by school facilities as well, "which help children to develop skills and self assurance," she added.

From her first experience in Morris, Stuchlikova especially liked the connection between the university and the city. While there are approximately 100,000 people in her native city, she lives in a small village of approximately 2,500.

“It is deserted socially and culturally,” she said of her village, as it has “become sheer suburb and the social life was driven to the downtown. I’m glad to see the vital connection (here) between the city and the university. The campus takes dedicated care about local issues – energy resources, local food, etc... The university is not just the center of academic learning it has a tacit curriculum, which makes your students to learn to be committed citizens, caring about the local problems. This is not so obvious in our university, as the relations to the 100,000- inhabitant city are neither so pronounced, nor (do) they influence so much the applied research directions taken by university.

In addition, Stuchlikova said that her student research assistants were “pleasant to work with and very dedicated. Students know that study at UMM is a challenge, not easy, but highly valued.”

During her visits to colleges in Duluth and Winona, she found that “the university here is prestigious. It made an impression when I said that I was working on the Morris campus.”

Will she return to Morris?

Stuchlikova had conversations at UMM with Thomas McRoberts, director of the Center for International Programs, as well as with Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson and Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean Judy Kuechle.

“We talked about possibly developing exchange programs with students and strengthening connections,” said Stuchlikova. “As the head of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology I was thinking about prospective summer schools topics, which might be of interest for UMM students, like art therapy. The Czech Republic has well conserved historical heritage, which might be inspiring for students and also its central location in Europe is interesting. But the connections definitely needn’t to be restricted only to psychology and education majors. The South Bohemia region is in many ways quite alike Minnesotan countryside, so we are interested in many similar problems at the USB.”

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