Embassy of the Czech Republic
Washington, DC

CzechTourism

ESSAY COMPETITION:
The Salvation of This Human World
Deadline: September 12, 2016

"The salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than in the human heart, in the human power to reflect, in human meekness and in human responsibility."
~ Václav Havel

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the birth of dissident, playwright, and former Czech President Václav Havel. In honor of this occasion, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in collaboration with Georgetown University, announces a special essay competition on the theme *The Salvation of This Human World*. The submission deadline is September 12, 2016.

Georgetown University undergraduate students are invited to submit a 500–1000 word essay, concisely written, that would reflect on the theme, inspired by the above quoted words of the landmark speech which President Václav Havel gave before a Joint Session of the US Congress in 1990. President Havel's statement about human meekness and human responsibility resonates to this day. With these words in mind, Georgetown students are asked to reflect on the current migration crisis in Europe and how it should be resolved and handled.

The winner will be announced at a special ceremony on September 27, 2016. The student selected as the winner of the competition will receive a round-trip air ticket to the Czech Republic, provided by Czech Tourism and the Embassy of the Czech Republic, and accommodations for five nights in Prague (provided by Hotel Fusion).

The award winner will be required to write a 500-word journal entry on the subject *My Impression of the Czech Republic* and submit photographs, for possible publication on the Czech Embassy's website / social media (pending review). The student may create a unique title for the journal entry. The entry will be due one month after the completion of the trip.

Historical Background

Václav Havel (1936-2011), playwright, essayist, poet, dissident, and politician, was one of the writers of Charter 77, a document that criticized the communist government for failing to implement human rights provisions. After the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Havel became the tenth and last President of Czechoslovakia and the first President of the Czech Republic. Shortly after being elected, he gave the historic speech in Congress. Havel has received numerous state decorations, honorary doctorates, and international awards, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. After leaving office, he continued to work in human rights, creating the Forum 2000 Foundation. Havel passed away on December 18, 2011.

One of the first places that Havel visited when coming to the United States as a freely elected president was Georgetown University because he greatly valued the role that students played in his country's transformation to a democracy. Havel saw students as the future leaders that will shape our tomorrow. In 2013, a special living memorial called *Václav Havel's Place* was dedicated in the Alumni Square at Georgetown to continue on this thread of reflection, exploration and debate.

A bust of Václav Havel, dedicated in 2014, stands in the U.S. Capitol's Freedom Foyer.

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AWARD:
The winner will receive special recognition at a ceremony on September 27, 2016, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the birth of President Václav Havel, a round-trip air ticket to the Czech Republic (provided by Czech Tourism and the Embassy of the Czech Republic), and accommodations for five nights in Prague (provided by Hotel Fusion). The airline ticket and accommodations must be used before the end of 2017.

Furthermore, the award winner will be required to write a 500-word journal entry on the subject *My Impression of the Czech Republic* and submit photographs, for possible publication on the Czech Embassy's website / social media (pending review). The student may create a unique title for the journal entry. The entry will be due one month after the completion of the trip.

The top five finalists will receive a special gift from the Ambassador.

ELIGIBILITY AND VERIFICATION:
Registered undergraduate students at Georgetown University may submit their essays to the competition. With your submission, please provide an official letter from your Registrar's Office on letterhead, verifying your enrollment as a student at Georgetown University. Please upload the letter as a PDF as part of your online submission.

WHAT THE READERS LOOK FOR:
- Clear articulation.
- Thoroughly thought-out, tightly focused essay.
- Originality and imagination.
- Eloquence of writing style.
- Intensity and unity in the essay.
- Observation of rules for Standard English usage (grammar, punctuation, mechanics) in writing.

ESSAY FORMAT:
- In 500–1,000 words.
- Essay must be the original, unpublished work of one student.
- Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- All essays must be written in English.
- Essay should be titled, typed in 12 point font, easily readable font (such as Times New Roman), double-spaced with 1" margins and numbered pages.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS:
- Essay, enrollment verification, and the registration form must be uploaded as PDF files.
- Once submitted, you will not be able to edit your entry.
- Please note that due to the expected volume of entries, no materials will be critiqued or returned.
- No paper or hard copy submissions will be accepted.
- Submissions will be judged anonymously. Hence, no name or identifying references should appear on the title page or in the document. In the body of your email, with all the documents attached, please include your name and contact information.
- Entries must be emailed to czechembassypr@gmail.com by the deadline of September 12, 2016, 11:59 PM, EST. Please put "Czech Essay Competition" in the subject line.

JUDGING
- The essays will be judged by a panel of representatives from Georgetown University and the Embassy of the Czech Republic.
- Top essay candidates will be interviewed on September 21, 2016, with interviews beginning at 6:45 pm and held in 15-minute intervals. Judges may also contact faculty references.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic reserves the right to publish the winning essays, in whole or in part.
Said essays may not be published elsewhere without written permission from the Czech Embassy.
The Embassy of the Czech Republic is located at 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA.