

## THE MICHAL BOSÁK PRIZE



**On the photo from the right: Ing. Dušan Garay CSC., NBS, Rodolphe „Skip“ M. Vallee, US ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Ing. Rudolf Bosák, Michal Bosák Society, Ján Kuderjavý, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.**

Since its origin in 1999, the Prešov-based Michal Bosák Society has promoted the memory and principles of one of the most important Slovaks working in the USA, the banker Michal Bosák.

Michal Bosák was a notable figure in 20th century banking. He became the president of an important American banking company and in 1907 his signature appeared on the American dollar. During the First World War, he was one of the people responsible for the Pittsburgh Agreement.

Since 2001 the society has held a contest for students studying economics at secondary schools in the whole of Slovakia. It is called the Michal Bosák Prize and is always held in the period from September to May. Every year, the competition addresses 310,000 young people aged 15 to 19 in almost 950 schools.

The competition for the fifth annual Michal Bosák Prize was declared on 12th September 2005 under the patronage of the Slovak foreign minister Eduard Kukan. It continued until December of last year. Sixty one works from the whole of Slovakia were submitted to the Michal Bosák Society. This January, the commission headed by Professor Filip Tuhy from the USA selected the 20 best works, and these were presented by the students in Bratislava on 23rd February at the Obchodná akadémia (Commercial Academy) on Nevädzová ulica in Bratislava.

The ceremonial evaluation was done on the same day symbolically in the Congress Hall of the National Bank of Slovakia at ulica Imricha Karvaša 1 in Bratislava.

The event was carried out in cooperation with the American, Czech and Russian embassies in Slovakia and the Representative Office of the European Commission in

the Slovak Republic. Tomáš Slabej, a student from the Associated Electro-Technical Secondary School in Liptovský Hrádok, became the winner of this year's Michal Bosák Prize, with the project Agrooturist s.r.o. His business plan was concerned with the development of agrotourism in Liptov. The main idea of the project is to organize visits with the aim of informing Slovak and especially foreign visitors about the culture of this region.

The second prize at the ceremonial declaration of winners in Bratislava went to Miroslava Demčáková from the Business Secondary School (SŠP) at Strážske. She worked out a business plan for a truck stop at Ilava with an associated restaurant and social facility. The third best work was a project for mutual funds from Mária Šajbidorová from the Commercial Academy on Nevädzová ulica in Bratislava, who was concerned with the problem of collective investment.

Like every year, this year's winners of the Michal Bosák Prize are visiting the USA, Moscow, Brussels, London and Prague.

### How does Tomáš Slabej evaluate his victory?



It was not really about winning, but about applying my knowledge in practice and getting the results of my work assessed by real experts. Since I come from Liptov, which is offering itself for the agro-tourism business, I chose this problem for my competition project. I want to thank my teacher Ing. Eva Trnková for her expert guidance. What is the „destiny“ of my work? Its future use is certainly possible. I see in the project many stimuli for activity in agrotourism, but capital is necessary for this.“

**Soňa Babincová**  
**Photo: Pavel Kochan**