LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING

“A HIDDEN IMPACT: THE CZECHS & SLOVAKS OF LOUISIANA”

Tuesday, November 14, 3:15 pm, Library 407

Refreshments will be served

Never before has the immigration of Czechs and Slovaks to Louisiana been chronicled. They’ve had a remarkable impact on the state, arriving as early as 1720 on the so-called German Coast. The icon of New Orleans, St. Louis Cathedral, was finished by a man with Moravian roots—Benjamin Latrobe. The St. Charles Street Car line was started by the Bohemian Samuel Kohn, who also developed the Carrollton district of the city. Joseph Frankenbush helped create the New Orleans Cotton Exchange. Despite their strong legacy, the history of Czechs and Slovaks in Louisiana has been overlooked by other historians. They were small in number, but big in their “hidden impact.”

James Hlavac was born in New York City. He is a graduate of New York University and has lived in Louisiana for 20 years. He served as the first president of the Louisiana Czech Museum. He grew up with four grandparents from the Czech Republic, in a bilingual household. He has been immersed in Czech and Slovak culture all his life.

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