



## CELEBRATION!

*Rituals and Revelry of Life*

**LEAVING JANUARY 11!**

Don't miss this opportunity to see the exhibit on loan from  
the National Museum of the Czech Republic in Prague!



## Have you met Saint Lucy?

She'll be leaving Cedar Rapids forever very soon!

Find out when you can see the Saint Lucia folk  
costume and other artifacts from Prague on page 7.





# NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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Enrichment Partnership Pro-  
gram administered by the Iowa  
Department of Cultural Affairs.

# Staff additions & promotions



**Tricia Bender** Collections Manager,  
Traveling Exhibits

In addition to her role as collections manager, Tricia will now develop and coordinate traveling exhibits. Tricia holds B.A. degrees from Goshen College in English and communications, as well as a B.A. degree in anthropology and museum studies certificate from the University of Iowa. She worked with collections at the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, and with archival materials at the Geological Repository at the University of Iowa. She also served as the collections manager and curator at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Medical Museum for five years.



**Megan Creasey** Education Assistant

Megan will coordinate and guide student tours. Megan graduated from Luther College. Prior to working at the NCSML, she obtained her language arts teaching license and worked as an editor at the Patient Education Institute located in Coralville, IA.



**Lindsay Erhardt** Volunteer Coordinator,  
National Programs Assistant

Lindsay joined the NCSML staff in April 2013 as museum store assistant and has now taken over volunteer coordination and assists with national programs. Prior to joining the Museum staff she obtained a B.A. in studio art from the University of Iowa, and an M.A. in Museum Studies from Syracuse University. Lindsay worked as a graduate assistant

for the Graduate Program in Museum Studies at Syracuse University, and an assistant in the Genet Gallery and the Sue Ann Genet Costume Collection.



**Kali Henson** Administrative Assistant

Kali joined the NCSML team as the new administrative assistant in October of 2014. Kali is originally from Hutchinson, Kansas. She graduated from Cornell College in May of 2013 with a degree in ethnic studies and international studies. Kali also works at a local dance studio teaching ballroom and Latin dances.



**Sara Jacobmeyer** Director of Programs

Sara has been at the NCSML since 2012. She began her career at the museum as a visitor services assistant, then moved into the role of program coordinator. As the director of programs, she designs and directs mission-based public programming for the institution, including festivals, lectures, concerts and more. Beginning in 2015, she will also oversee national programs. She has a B.A. in

history from Mount Mercy University, and has previously worked for Sanford Museum & Planetarium in Cherokee, Iowa and St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids.



**Preston Moore** Director of Marketing  
and Communications

Preston accepted the position of director of marketing & communications in September. He studied public relations in the University of Iowa's School of Journalism & Mass Communication. Prior to joining the NCSML staff, he served as marketing director for NewBo City Market, and held several marketing positions at RuffaloCODY.

A full listing of our staff  
can be found at [NCSML.org](http://NCSML.org).



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO



As I write this, I have just returned from the dedication of the bust of Václav Havel in Statuary Hall at the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Throughout the week of celebrations, the 1995 meeting of Havel, Kovač and Clinton in Cedar Rapids was mentioned several times, especially as an example of how two countries can meet and work together as allies after splitting apart.

Our historic connection to Havel is an important one for the NCSML. He is an inspiration for our work, as expressed in his speech that cold October day:

*"...the goals [for immigrants and the Czech people] were the same - freedom, tolerance and prosperity. After decades of oppression and absence of freedom, we have now reached a situation when we, too, can say in our home, 'this is the land.' It seems that our respective pasts have brought us to the same or at least a similar point. We are united by the same ideals. We believe in the same values. And we share the desire to cherish and protect them. Our experience, often a bitter one, has taught us that they cannot be simply taken for granted as something that will just be there forever, even if we were to do nothing for it."*

— Václav Havel

Our permanent exhibit, *Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey*, and our National Oral History Project, are two ways we have made a conscious pivot to find new ways to engage a wider audience. Our exhibits, programs, speakers, and staff members strive to tell stories that help people connect to Czech and Slovak history in meaningful ways. As we move into 2015, you'll see more of that from us.

Our staff and board spent time together this fall for strategic planning, making what I like to think of as our last step in recovery. We had great conversations and brainstorming sessions and agreed we need to develop programs that will have an impact far beyond the walls of the new museum and will be relevant to everyone. The planning steering committee, board and staff are working diligently to flesh out the resulting plans. While I cannot share many specifics just yet, I can say that I am extremely excited by the direction I see us heading in the coming months and years.

In the end, I firmly believe the NCSML will be stronger and more vibrant than ever before. I sincerely look forward to sharing the information with you as soon as we're ready. Until then, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year; I hope to see you soon!

All my best,

Gail Naughton

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



I write to thank you, our friends, members and supporters, for your continued generosity. In 2014, your commitment to our mission has enabled and inspired us to offer a splendid array of exhibitions, programs and speakers on both historical and contemporary themes.

In 2014, the NCSML presented world-class exhibits, including our traveling exhibits, which were seen in cities across the US, including Pittsburgh, New York City, Lisle (IL), and San Francisco. In July and August, the NCSML's play "The Finder's Daughter" was presented with a reception and panel discussion in Omaha and Chicago. Also, the NCSML embarked on its first national lecture series, presenting Slovak international relations expert, Dr. Pavol Demes. Dr. Demes presented at the NCSML as well as throughout the United States, discussing inter-

national relations and civil society.

Creativity and renewed vision will guide our mission delivery for 2015 and years to come, as NCSML looks to fulfill its natural role as a center for the exchange of ideas, experiences and perspectives. Visit us often, share your stories and your passion, and check out what's happening at NCSML throughout 2015. We're certain to offer events and programs of interest to you, that will broaden and deepen your understanding of contemporary life experiences locally and globally.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you and your family the happiest of holidays and I look forward to seeing you at NCSML in 2015.

Sincerely,

Rich Mitvalsky

# 'CHECK' HISTORY

The history of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is filled with people that care very deeply about the preservation of culture and traditions. Their stories are important and are some of the of the most fun to recount and share.

The general timeline of events that led to the opening of our museum can be found on our website, on Wikipedia, and in newsletters from throughout the years. But some of the more interesting stories can be heard simply by talking with our supporters.

In 1974, a group of second and third-generation descendants of Czech immigrants founded the Czech Fine Arts Foundation (which later become the NCSML) with the purpose of preserving Czech heritage and culture. The group worked hard to gather Czech cultural artifacts, to share them at local events, and to give talks about Czech culture.

In 1978, the burgeoning artifact and document collections moved the group to open a Czech Museum in a three-room house in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village. Slowly, the museum attracted more volunteers and artifacts. The rest of the story, as they say, is history. Since opening, the NCSML has moved through several buildings and locations (in no small part thanks to the flood of 2008), has hosted domestic and foreign diplomats, and has received national recognition.

There are a lot more pieces to the story, but when it comes down to it... the museum got its start in that house.

And the thing about a house is that even when the space itself is provided at no charge, expenses still arise each month — namely energy bills and property insurance.

To help with the costs of those bills, two Cedar Rapids groups, The Czech Heritage Foundation and the Czech Fine Arts Foundation, came together and agreed that each group should pay \$75 each month to help cover the cost of the new museum's utility bills.

The support from the groups' leaders, then Bob Schaffer (Czech Fine Arts Foundation) and Denver Dvorsky (Czech Heritage Foundation), was paramount to the early success of what would become the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.



The original museum house still stands in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village, one block from the NCSML

\$75 was a lot to the groups back in 1978. Denver Dvorsky, then president of the Czech Heritage Foundation, says his group had roughly \$1,000 in assets at the time.

One could assume that since the NCSML no longer occupies that house in the Czech Village that the donations originally meant to cover the utility payments would stop... but that wouldn't make as nice of a story. Nor is it true.

When the museum's artifacts were moved to new spaces and a new building was constructed (and then later moved), the checks kept coming to the NCSML in its new home.

"Every now and then when someone new joins the Czech Heritage Foundation we'll see a question about the \$75," says Denver Dvorsky. "But ultimately it's decided that the continued support is important."

Over the years, the support has continued, \$75 at a time.

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Over the years, the Czech Heritage Foundation has donated more than \$79,000 to the NCSML.

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Bob Schaffer (left) and Denver Dvorsky (right)



# BREWNOST! UPDATE

**THANK YOU** to all who attended **BrewNost! 2014**.

At **BrewNost! 2014**, presented by Northwestern Mutual, a crowd of over 1,000 patrons, members and friends celebrated and toasted to the most successful night to date!

The international beer and wine tasting to benefit the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was held on Friday, October 3 and featured more than 40 different beers, international wines, local restaurants, an incredible silent auction and live band! A wonderful time was had by all in attendance.



**BrewNost!** helps the NCSML continue its mission to inspire people from every background to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture.

Be sure to join the NCSML next year for **BrewNost! 2015** on Friday, October 16!



## NCSML ON THE ROAD



The NCSML was very fortunate to host visiting scholar Dr. Pavol Demeš for its first National Lecture Series in November.

A well-known Slovak expert on international relations and civil society, Dr. Demeš' visit was timed with commemoration events for the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution.

He presented his lecture, "Slovakia's Post-Communist Journey in a Shifting Europe," on November 10 at Marian University in Indianapolis as part of its Global Lecture Series. From Indianapolis, Dr. Demeš traveled to Cedar Rapids for events at the NCSML and on the University of Iowa campus on November 11 and 12. This year's National Lecture Series concluded with a visit to Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL on November 16.

***Want the NCSML to bring programming to your area?***

Contact Sara Jacobmeyer, Director of Programs, at [sjacobmeyer@ncsml.org](mailto:sjacobmeyer@ncsml.org).

### About Dr. Pavel Demeš

Dr. Pavol Demeš is well-known Slovak expert on international relations and civil society, author and photographer. After democratic changes in 1989, he served in Slovak government in numerous capacities. He is non-resident senior fellow with GMF US, external advisor to the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs and board member of the European Endowment for Democracy.



# A STORY COMES TO 'LIFE'

When *Peter Sís: Cartography of the Mind* opened in late September, the NCSML was fortunate to welcome the author and illustrator himself to help celebrate the exhibit's opening. But the museum's staff members weren't the only ones waiting to greet the internationally acclaimed illustrator, author, and filmmaker...

After many hours of work by two NCSML staff members and a volunteer, "The Librarian," an original sculpture based upon one of Sís' in 'The Three Golden Keys,' was complete and also waiting to be seen.

To everyone's delight, the illustrator beamed when he first laid eyes on the the "real life" adaptation of his illustration while visiting on September 19, 2014.

The sculpture has been a popular destination for museum visitors as they take souvenir photos and admire its craftsmanship. You can see the sculpture — and the exhibit — too by visiting the museum before *Peter Sís: Cartography of the Mind* closes this coming spring.

*Peter Sís: Cartography of the Mind*  
closes on **March 1, 2015.**




"The Librarian" sculpture at the NCSML. Idea conceived by Museum Store Manager Catharine Otto; Designed and built by Facilities Director Grant Smith, volunteer George Hill, and Library Director David Muhlena.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Featuring our permanent exhibit in the Jiruska Gallery, *Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey*, and the exciting exhibits featured in the Smith and Petrik Galleries, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library inspires people of every background to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture.

By being a member, you help the NCSML create a place where the stories of Czechs and Slovaks come alive; stories we can all relate to; stories about people searching for freedom, pursuing opportunity, protecting human rights and celebrating community. We couldn't do it without you! But that's not all!

**Your membership comes with other perks:**

 <b>Individual Membership Levels &amp; Benefits</b>	Individual \$35	Family \$45	Contributing \$100	Sustaining \$250	Patron \$500	Benefactor \$1,000
Free enrollment in <i>Time Travelers</i> Program <a href="http://timetravelers.mohistory.org">http://timetravelers.mohistory.org</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biannual journal, <i>Slove</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biannual newsletter, MOST	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-time use guest passes		2	4	6	10	15
Free admission for family members residing with you		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free admission for guests not living in your household				+2	+4	+4
Reciprocal benefits at over 450 museums in the North American Reciprocal Museums (NARM) program			✓	✓	✓	✓
Museum Store discount (includes Online Museum Store) and special discounts throughout the year	10%	10%	10%	15%	15%	15%
Invitations to exhibit openings and members-only events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Membership in the President's Society						✓

**Looking for the perfect gift?**

Give the gift of membership this holiday season!



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

I recommend this as a worthwhile stop if you're in or near Cedar Rapids, IA. It is a cultural history goldmine with everyday and formal examples of life in the Czech and Slovak areas and the experiences of those immigrating to the US.

— David Finnegan, Visitor

As a Holocaust survivor, originally from Slovakia, I became aware of NCSML some years ago when they featured a poignant exhibit entitled, "*The Tragedy of Slovak Jews*." I got in touch with them at the time and offered them a copy of my Holocaust memoir. The latter still resides permanently in their library.

A few years later, the Museum embarked on an ambitious project, the National Oral History Project. As part of this project they hired professionals to interview people who had immigrated to the U.S. from the former Czechoslovakia, wherever they resided. Upon volunteering for this project, they dispatched a young woman who works at Columbia University, to film a two-hour interview with me, right in our living room, where I live in New York City. The National Oral History Project, containing all the interviews they conducted can be accessed on NCSML website. [NCSML.org]

We should all be grateful to this splendid organization for all the valuable work they do.

— Peter Kubicek, Author of "Memories of Evil — Recalling a World War Childhood"

*The Tragedy of Slovak Jews* returns to the NCSML in 2015.

## Sbohem to 'Celebration!'

*Celebration! Rituals and Revelry of Life* is an eye-popping, breath-taking, and conversation-starting collection of rare, unique (and some you may think are strange) artifacts directly from the National Museum of the Czech Republic in Prague. But viewing them all in one place will help you get to know the holidays we still celebrate today through the eyes of the Czech people of yesterday.

*Celebration!* features more than 200 unique items that follow a full year of sacred and whimsical holidays and traditions, ranging from Easter customs to the winter celebrations of St. Nicholas Day, Advent and Christmas. The display features rare and historic Nativity scenes; traditional *kroje* and holiday costumes; tapestries; historic photos; and more. Visitors have a rare opportunity to explore some of the more obscure and unusual holiday traditions of Czech culture through the exhibition's rich stories and engaging artifacts.

See it (*or see it again!*) before the exhibit leaves the NCSML on January 11, 2015.

### (Right) Folk Costume for Saint Lucia

The thirteenth of December, the feast day of St. Lucy, used to be the winter solstice at the time of the older Julian calendar. Saint Lucia reminds us to clean house and get ready for the holidays.

### Celebrate with us!

Make this mask and share it online.  
Tag the NCSML when you do!



# BOHEMIAN BEER TOUR

April 24 - May 4, 2014

Join us for the tour of a lifetime!

You will tour and savor unfiltered beer at one of the world's most famous breweries, Pilsner Urquell, and visit some of the oldest (and newest) breweries in Central Europe to sample old world craftsmanship – and the newest brews – plus meet the brewmasters behind the beer.

We'll visit the charming medieval village and castle of Locket, where beer is brewed in the vaulted cellars of a 14th century malt house, and sample the taverns of Prague.

We'll travel to Plzeň – the Capital City of Beer – for the famous Liberation Festival, celebrating the 20th anniversary of General Patton's Army's liberation of Plzeň in May 1945.

All this and more will make this a tour to remember... and to toast.

**Na zdraví!**

\*10 day tour, land package only. Price and details being finalized.

Email [khenson@ncsml.org](mailto:khenson@ncsml.org) to add your name to receive more information as it becomes available.



Barrels and glasses of pivo inside the Pilsner Urquell brewery.



Crowds gather during the Plzeň Liberation Festival

## #GIVINGTUESDAY

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

This year, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library took part in Giving Tuesday and created a video which showcases what happens when one's heritage is threatened or taken away.



Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett and KCRG's Ashley Hinson both make appearances in the NCSML Giving Tuesday video.

Be sure to visit our website at [NCSML.org](http://NCSML.org) to see the video and to donate to help us continue to preserve the Czech and Slovak heritage.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



## TAKE THE NCSML HOME

# Gifts for the whole family!

**(or for yourself!)**

Hundreds of items available!



### For kids

#### Wooden Children's Toys

**Only \$10**

Cute handmade wood figures on springs, made in the Czech Republic by Detoa. Choose from 8 styles.

### For everyone!

#### Embrace Your Inner Bohemian T-shirts and Sweatshirts

**Starting at \$17.95**

Logo reads "Embrace your inner Bohemian" with Czech lion emblem and NCSML logo. A great Cedar Rapids-themed gift! 100% Cotton.



### For the collector

#### Blue Caesar Crystal Vase

**Now just \$120**

Brilliant vase by Caesar Crystal Bohemiae. Gift boxed with documentation. Approximately 8" x 3".



### For her

#### Blue Bohemian Glass Feather Choker

**Only \$75**

Adjustable 15" length necklace made with Bohemian Glass Beads. KJK Jewelry. (Matching earrings available for separate purchase.)



Don't forget! You can shop online, too!  
**[store.ncsml.org](http://store.ncsml.org)**

## BUY 3, GET 1 FREE

**AUTHENTIC CZECH & SLOVAK GLASS ORNAMENTS**

— Now through December 24, in store only. —



### Museum Store

Monday – Saturday 9:30 AM to 4 PM  
Sunday 12 PM to 4 PM

319-362-8500 • [store.ncsml.org](http://store.ncsml.org)

\*No museum admission required for the store!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

### Family Fun:

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free admission to NCSML galleries and films!

9:30 a.m. - 16th Annual NCSML Guild Cookie Walk (Ends at 12:30 p.m., or when cookies are gone.)

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Family craft activities available in Jiruska Gallery

10:00 a.m. Storytime in Skala Bartizal Library

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Dean of Juggling performing in Jiruska Gallery

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nick) and friends visit with children in Rozek Grand Hall

1:00 p.m. Storytime in Skala Bartizal Library

### Shopping:

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Museum Store open, special sales on gifts and handmade ornaments

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Marketplace open inside WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall

### Entertainment:

10:00 a.m. Silbertaler Musikanten play Austrian and contemporary holiday music in Rozek Grand Hall

12:00 p.m. Světlušky Youth Ensemble performs in Rozek Grand Hall

2:15 p.m. Sisters of the Shifting Sands Middle Eastern dance group performs in Rozek Grand Hall

### Horse & Wagon Rides:

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free horse and wagon rides through Czech Village. The wagon will load and unload in the circle drive at the NCSML.

Sponsored By:



HARD WORK • INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE

Media Sponsor:



# FREE ADMISSION ALL WEEKEND!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

### Family Fun:

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Face painting by Lizzy outside Skala Bartizal Library

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Family craft activities available in Jiruska Gallery

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free admission to NCSML galleries and films!

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Dean of Juggling performs in Jiruska Gallery, Papa Balloon in Rozek Grand Hall

### Shopping:

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Marketplace open inside WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Museum Store open, special sales on gifts and handmade ornaments

### Entertainment:

10:00 a.m. Santa's Saxs performance in Rozek Grand Hall

11:00 a.m. *The Snow Queen* puppet show with Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company in the Skala Bartizal Library (If you love Disney's 'Frozen,' don't miss this!)

### Workshop:

1:00 p.m. Czech Hand Puppets Workshop in the Alliant Energy Classroom (\$10 per student, pre-registration required on NCSML.org)





# December 2014 Events

## Can't attend the Old World Christmas Market?

Be sure to check out one of these other great events happening at the NCSML in the month of December.

M-U-S-E-U-M  
**Store**

NATIONAL  
CZECH &  
SLOVAK  
MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY

Thursday, December 11

All Day

Museum Store Holiday Open House

Shop in the Museum Store for unique last-minute gifts and beautiful ornaments made in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

**Free** parking is available under the museum in our heated parking garage.

- For every \$10.00 spent, enter to win a gift (multiple items TBD).
- We will have hot drinks and treats all day.
- 20% off for members, 10% off for general public (with the option to purchase a membership, ½ off NEW memberships)
- Discounts can be combined with other offers (some exclusions apply)



**CELEBRATION!**  
*Rituals and Revelry of Life*

Saturday, December 13

1:00pm (Petrik Gallery)

Curator Guided Tour of:

*'Celebration! Rituals and Revelry of Life'*

Join NCSML Curator Stefanie Kohn for an in-depth look at this exhibit from the National Museum in Prague. *Free with museum admission.*



Saturday, December 20

Beginning at 12:00pm (Hemphill Theater)

*Three Nuts for Cinderella*

*(Tři oříšky pro Popelku)*

**In Czech with English subtitles.**

Come see one of the most popular European holiday films of all time. Cinderella (Popelka) is a skilled sharpshooter prone to wearing hunting outfits. When she comes across three magical nuts, she is granted a wish for each of them.

# Coming in 2015

## ***The Tragedy of Slovak Jews***

Returning to the NCSML in  
February 2015

Addresses the tragic demise of  
the Jewish communities in Slovakia

## ***The Year of Beer!***

*A year-long celebration*

Featuring an original beer  
exhibit and programs

Beginning in April 2015

## ***Global Shoes***

*Visting from the Brooklyn  
Children's Museum*

A hands-on, feet-in  
exhibit for kids opening  
in March 2015

These are just three of the many things going on in 2015!

Keep up-to-date with our events at [NCSML.org](http://NCSML.org).

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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1400 Inspiration Place SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
(319) 362-8500  
[www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org)

**FREE  
ADMISSION  
ALL WEEKEND!**



## **HOLIDAY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 7 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Experience the magic of the Christmas season at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library! This year we're celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Old World Christmas Market. Shop for gifts by selected artisans and enjoy ethnic food and seasonal treats. Take a horse and wagon ride, bring the kids for free holiday craft activities, and stop for a visit with Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas) and friends. Enjoy free admission to our galleries, hear live music, and more!

*More information on page 10!*

**Full schedule for the event at  
[www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org)**