



World-known Swedish Adventurer Renata Chlumska Joins Speaker Program for Savannah Edays

We are very excited to welcome Renata Chlumska to our stellar speaker program for Savannah Edays. Chlumska is the first Swedish woman to climb Mount Everest (in 1999). During 2005 and 2006 she performed the now world-known challenge "Around America Adventure" where she toured 48 states by paddling a kayak from Seattle to San Diego, bicycling with the kayak on a carriage from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas, continuing kayaking around Florida to Eastport, Maine, and then bicycling back to Seattle.

Renata will share some of her adventures around America with the Edays audience in Savannah. She will be accompanied by Anders Pehrsson, Professor at Växjö University in Sweden and writer of the newly released book "*International Strategy: Methods for Competitiveness*". Anders also has an article published in the *Strategic Management Journal*, Vol, 27, pp. 265-282 (2006); '*Business relatedness and performance: a study of managerial perceptions*'. SMJ is ranked as the No. 1 scientific general management journal in the world. Together Renata and Anders will share their best tips of how to set realistic goal and how to reach them

On July 4, 2005, Chlumska, then 32, left Lake Union. Her journey, which she updated regularly on her website, was split into four legs. On the first leg, she kayaked down the Pacific coast to San Diego. That was followed by a biking expedition to Brownsville, Texas. Then she kayaked around the Gulf of Mexico and up the Atlantic coast to Eastport, Maine. From there, she biked and kayaked her way back to Seattle.

"There have been days I felt really tired," Chlumska says. "But there haven't been days I wanted to give up. I knew those moments of weakness, I would regret. You just have find a way to work yourself through it."

Chlumska says she also learned a lot about the United States. She had been to the country before, but never for this long and this immersed. The people she met, the random strangers who were always willing to help, took her aback. She loved the scenery, especially the unexpected beauty of the Rio Grande. And she was shocked at the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, as she arrived in the Gulf Coast region nearly four months after the storm. The trip was physically and mentally taxing.

This is a woman who climbed Mount Everest, biked from Nepal to Sweden and rode a motorcycle from India to Sweden. But this trip, originally planned as a two-person expedition with her late fiancé Goran Kropp, who died in a climbing accident in Eastern Washington in 2002, was difficult because of its solitude, as well as its scope.

Source: seattlepi.com, Saturday, September 16, 2006
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/285337_kayak_16.html?source=myspi