

2014 Annual Report

CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE



QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

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ABOUT QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

Quinnipiac is a private university with 6,200 undergraduate and 2,300 graduate students. Quinnipiac is consistently ranked among the best universities by U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review and BusinessWeek's Business School Rankings. We offer a full range of educational opportunities including Business, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Health Sciences, Law and Medicine. To learn more about Quinnipiac University, please visit www.quinnipiac.edu.

ABOUT THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

The Central European Institute (CEI) at Quinnipiac University builds bridges between the United States and the nations of Central Europe by fostering relationships in three main areas: academic, business and culture. The CEI does this through country-specific endowed professor "chairs" who build programs with their respective countries. Currently there are two chairs: the István Széchenyi Chair for Hungary and the Novak Family Polish Chair for Poland.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

We are thankful for the continued support and guidance of our CEI board of advisors. We proudly recognize our current board members:

Susan Bodnár-Malloy
H.E. Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker
Péter Küllői
Pete Novak
Christian L. Sauska
Alex Storozyński

For more information, please contact us at:

Christopher Ball, Ph.D.
Director of the Central European Institute
Honorary Hungarian Consul
President of CEENET, Inc.
203-582-8745 (U.S. office)
203-887-4643 (U.S. cell)
email: christopher.ball@quinnipiac.edu

Hanna Hejmowski
Executive Assistant to Director
Central European Institute
203-582-8737 (U.S. office)
203-809-3193 (U.S. cell)
email: hanna.hejmowski@quinnipiac.edu

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The Central European Institute
275 Mount Carmel Ave., RT-STC
Hamden, CT 06518

LAUNCHING THE NOVAK FAMILY POLISH CHAIR

Thanks to a generous donation by Pete and Kasia Novak, our biggest news for 2014 was the establishment of the Novak Family Polish Chair! The Novak Family Polish Chair will lead to the establishment of a range of programs with Poland, including the Polish American Business Leader Scholars Program which will see its first two scholarship recipients arriving in August 2015.



Pete and Kasia Novak are both American-Polish, born into Polish-speaking households in the U.S. where they learned to be proud of their heritage. Both still have family in Poland whom they visit as often as time allows, but have built their lives in America. They are proud that this chair will reflect their love of both the United States and Poland while also promoting a closer cooperation between the two. Pete serves on the Central European Institute (CEI) advisory board and on the board of trustees of The Kosciuszko Foundation (www.thefk.org), which is dedicated to promoting educational and cultural exchanges between the United States and Poland and to increasing American understanding of Polish culture and history.

The Novaks are much more than financial donors. They are passionate about building programs with Poland that will help future generations of young Poles and deepen the connection of our countries for many years to come. To that end, they have both taken an active role in all aspects of developing our programs, including several trips to Poland to build the relationships necessary to ensure our programs succeed.

In June, Pete and Kasia joined a team from Quinnipiac travelling to Hungary and Poland to begin building relations in Poland. During the trip they met with leaders at the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission, the American Chamber of Commerce, United States Embassy, Professor Leszek Balcerowicz and his Civil Development Forum Foundation (FOR), Łazarski University, University of Łódź, the Warsaw School of Economics, the Academy of Finance and Management in Białystok, the Polish American Freedom Foundation (PAFF) and many private individuals interested in supporting our Polish initiatives. The Quinnipiac team included Don Weinbach (Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs), Chris Ball (CEI) and Hanna Hejmowski (CEI).



Left to Right: Pete Novak, Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz, Don Weinbach, and Chris Ball. June 2014.

Pete returned to Poland with Chris Ball in October for a week-long trip to meet with students and university administrators, develop new relationships, and expand existing relationships with private business leaders in Poland.



Left to Right: Chris Ball, Fulbright Dir. Małgorzata Krasowska, and Pete Novak. October 2014.

During the week they met with groups of students from FOR, Łazarski University, University of Łódź, the Warsaw School of Economics, the Academy of Finance and Management in Białystok, and various non-Warsaw-based universities as coordinated by PAFF. They also concluded and signed a memorandum of agreement with the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission ensuring the first Fulbright-Quinnipiac scholarship for Polish business students, took part in the official opening ceremony of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and met again with numerous private individuals interested in supporting our programs.

In December, Chris and Hanna from the CEI returned to Poland to interview finalists for the new **Polish American Business Leaders scholarship** made possible by the establishment of the Novak Family Polish Chair. The two scholarship recipients were notified in January and will arrive at Quinnipiac in August 2015. (Further details on p.2)

Pete and Kasia Novak are currently planning upcoming trips to Poland in the spring to further develop relationships and again in June for the public announcement and launch of the Chair and scholarship programs, the culmination of more than a year of hard work to launch our new programs with Poland.

Quinnipiac University and the Central European Institute cannot thank Pete and Kasia Novak enough for all they have done and continue to do. Their work will change the lives of many, many people for years to come.

U.S.-Polish Outreach: Screening Polish films at the CEI



A special screening of the movie *Ida* (Nominated for an Oscar for *Best Foreign Language Film*) took place on Friday, January 16 for an audience of 250 guests. Part of the proceeds will go toward the CEI's Polish American Business Leaders Endowed Scholarship and part to the Polonia for Kids foundation (poloniaforkids.org). Hanna Hejmowski (CEI) and Tomek Moczerniuk (Polonia for Kids) featured together (on left).

As our Polish programs grow, the CEI plans to screen more movies and organize more events with the Polish communities from New England.



HUNGARIAN AND POLISH BUSINESS LEADER SCHOLARS

December Interviews and the 2015 Scholars from Hungary and Poland

In December 2014 we interviewed 11 applicants and in January accepted our first two Polish American Business Leader Scholars, **Marcin Ambrożej** and **Katarzyna Michalska**, who will arrive in August. **Marcin** (from Bialystok and the Warsaw School of Economics) is interested in the accounting and financial management of small- to medium-sized businesses and **Katarzyna** (from the Warsaw School of Economics and Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz's Civil Development Forum Foundation (FOR)) is interested in health care management. The Fulbright commission will interview them next to determine whether one or both will receive a **Polish Fulbright-Quinnipiac scholarship**.

In Hungary we interviewed 4 applicants and selected **Attila Deli** and **Ferenc Fazekas**. **Attila** is interested in food preservation technologies and supply chain management and **Ferenc** is interested in technology applications in the health sector. **Ferenc** has already been selected as the first **Hungarian Fulbright-Quinnipiac scholar**.

We are proud not only to launch in Poland this year, but to launch our **new joint Fulbright-Quinnipiac scholarships** in both Hungary and Poland. In each case, the Fulbright scholarship recipient will be partially funded by the Fulbright commission during their first year at Quinnipiac. Fulbright support will allow them to have more freedom in their studies and in their first internship experience in the USA.

2014 New Hungarian American Business Leader Scholars

In August, our newest Hungarian American Business Leader scholars arrived: **Márton Kis-Dörnyei** and **Málna Pólya**.



Márton KIS-DÖRNYEI holds a bachelor's degree in applied economics from the Corvinus University of Budapest and a specialization in international relations from the Mathias Corvinus Collegium. In Hungary he interned at the Kopint-Tárki Institute for Economic Research. He is pursuing the Chartered Financial Analyst track in his MBA at Quinnipiac and currently interns at Travelers Insurance.



Málna PÓLYA holds bachelor's degrees in the fields of mechatronics engineering and international business from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. In Hungary she interned at the gas trading company MOL Energy Trade Ltd. and at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. During her stay in the U.S., her main focus will be supply chain management and currently interns at ASE Ameriseal.

Current HABL Scholar Update



Left to Right: Attila Erdély, Márta Lőrincz, Katalin Németh and Daniel Tubik.

Attila ERDÉLY - Attila holds master's degrees in business management and corporate finance as well as two bachelor's degrees in management and business information systems from the Babeş-Bolyai University in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Romania. Prior to his departure to the U.S. he interned at a Budapest-based financial advisory firm, Heal Partners Ltd., where he worked on mergers and acquisitions. During his stay in the U.S. he is focusing on supply chain management and currently works at Henkel Corporation North America.

Márta LŐRINCZ - Márta holds a bachelor's degree in Corporate Financial Management from the Babeş-Bolyai University in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Romania. She worked at Evalueserve as a business analyst, providing market research for companies worldwide. Prior to starting her MBA she worked at FRSGlobal Wolter Kluwers Financial Services as a financial analyst providing liquidity risk supervision and credit risk analysis for major European banks. During her stay in the U.S. she is focusing on finance and currently works at Henkel Corporation North America.

Katalin NÉMETH- Katalin holds a master's degree in communications and media studies from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Hungary. She specialized in applied media studies at the Mathias Corvinus Collegium and completed their leadership program. She joined the HABL Scholarship program after serving industrial accounts at Cook Communications Consulting Ltd. and founding and managing her own company in her home town in Hungary. During her stay in the U.S. she is focusing on information technologies. She currently works at United Technologies Corp.'s Climate, Controls & Security Systems World Headquarter.

Daniel TUBIK - Daniel holds a master's degree in international economics and business from the Andrásy Gyula German Speaking University in Budapest and completed the leadership program at the Mathias Corvinus Collegium. He worked for the Budapest Business Radio (*Gazdasági Rádió*) as a reporter specializing in financial analysis and interned at Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary as part of the Financial Management Team. He will pursue his MBA degree at Quinnipiac with the Chartered Financial Analyst track. During his stay in the U.S. he will focus on renewable energy and renewable energy financing, interned at Fossil Free Indexes and currently works at Henkel Corporation North America.

HABL Alumni



Left to Right: Blanka Balázs, Éva Bartalos, Bence Erdélyi, Dániel Erdélyi, András Herczeg, Ildikó Dombi, Alexandra Zita Pleier.

Ildikó DOMBI - Ildikó currently works in the London office for Travelers as an assistant actuary. During her scholarship, she worked at Travelers Insurance in the personal insurance division's business intelligence and analytics group.

Blanka BALÁZS - Blanka currently works for Statoil's headquarters in Stavanger, Norway, in risk management and compliance. During her scholarship, she interned for Covalence SA in Geneva, Switzerland, and worked at United Technologies Corp.'s UTC Power in South Windsor, Conn.

Éva BARTALOS - Éva currently works as the Global Process Manager for Henkel Corporation, headquartered in Dusseldorf, Germany. During her scholarship, she worked at Henkel Corporation North America as a finance manager and in property management at Charter Oak Communities and Rippowam Corporation.

Bence ERDÉLYI - Bence is currently in Hungary building his iProperty company and launching his own business ventures. During his scholarship, he worked at United Illuminating Holdings (UIL) in the Enterprise Risk Management group, at InterMerchant Services, a credit card processing start-up, and at Walmart as assistant manager for an 80+ million dollar supercenter while also passing his Level 1 CFA exam.

Dániel ERDÉLYI - Dániel currently works as a credit risk controlling professional at Raiffeisen Bank Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. During his scholarship, he interned for Birinyi Associates Inc., a stock market research and money management firm in Westport, Conn.

András HERCZEG - András currently works for Magyar Villamos Művek Zrt. Hungarian Electricity Works in Hungary as a market analyst in the Natural Gas Business Development and Support group. During his scholarship he worked in the pricing group at the electric and natural gas utility UIL Corporation and in supply chain management at the Davidson Company Inc.

Alexandra Zita PLEIER - Alexandra currently works as a direct report to the logistics director in charge of transportation planning at Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary. During her scholarship she interned at energy research firm IHS Herold, Inc. and worked in supply management at United Technologies Corporation.

MBA SHORT EXCHANGES

Every spring we host a one-week intensive course at Quinnipiac for a group of Corvinus Executive MBA students from Hungary. Every June we take a group of Quinnipiac MBA students to Hungary for a two-week intensive course which always ends on the second Friday of June with our Executive Networking and Alumni Retreat in Zebegény, Hungary.

Hungarian Corvinus Executive MBA Visits to Quinnipiac



Visit to Sikorsky Aircraft

We were pleased to receive 19 executive MBA students from the Corvinus School of Management in Budapest for one week in Connecticut. During the week they visited Quinnipiac's three campuses and the following companies (in alphabetical order): American Seal & Engineering, Bigelow Tea, Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, Hitachi Capital America Corp., Mitchells, Pitney Bowes Inc., and Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. The weeklong visit concluded with a business networking event organized jointly with CEENET (www.ctceenet.org).



Visit to Bigelow Tea

The next **Corvinus MBA visit** will be on March 9-14, 2015.

The 7th annual Quinnipiac MBA trip to Hungary

Twelve QU MBA students were joined by two business students from Romania and one from Poland for the annual executive MBA trip to Hungary from June 1-14, 2014. The students spent two weeks visiting leading firms and meeting with business executives from a range of industries, allowing them to hear directly from managers about the challenges and opportunities associated with doing business in Hungary. The group visited 15 companies: Bátor Tábör, Bonafarm, E.ON, Ecolabs, Etyek Kúria, Exxon/Mobil, Gerbeaud/Onyx, Graphisoft, Info Group, KPMG Consulting, Light Tech, Morgan Stanley, Sauska Vineyard, TÜV Rheinland Group, and the Zwack Factory. During the stay, the students also had an opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural events and activities: Fonó Folk Band's music performance accompanied by the traditional Hungarian folk dance performance in Budapest; a weekend visit to Pécs, a city of art and history; Villány, Hungary's southern wine region; and a private tour of Parliament and the Presidential Palace.



Visit to Morgan Stanley



H.E. Amb. Roman Kowalski

The trip ended with the **7th Annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting**. It was a successful gathering of over 200 participants representing more than 90 companies, both regional and multinational¹. The keynote speaker was **His Excellency Polish Ambassador to Hungary Roman Kowalski** and the **Quinnipiac alumni attending this year were:** Alexandra Pleier, András Herczeg, Dániel Erdélyi, Éva Bartalos, and 25 Corvinus MBA Alumni from the Spring trips to Quinnipiac over the years.

The next **QU MBA Executive trip to Hungary** will be May 30 – June 13, 2015 and the **8th Annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting** is June 12, 2015.



2014 QU MBA group

ART AS AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

The mission of our Art as Ambassador programs is to share Central European art with the American public based on the idea that art is often a nation's best ambassador, representing its people, history and culture. As the CEI's mission is to build bridges between the peoples of the USA and Central Europe, we promote both art exhibitions and the exchange of artists themselves.

¹ Attendees included: Academy of Finance and Management in Bialystok, Allianz SE - Allianz CEEMA, Attorneys at Law, Embassy of UK, AMCO, Amrop Kohlman & Young, Bátor Tábör Alapítvány, Belgacom, Bonafarm, Budapest Art Factory, Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Environment Institutions Cluster, Construction Cluster, Tourism Cluster, Carpathia Zrt., CBRE, CEC Government Relations, Central Tertius Zrt., CISCO, DCCA and BKIK, Dessewffy and Partners Law Office, Det Norske Veritas Hungary, Duke Energy, E.ON, East Consulting, East Grain S.R.L., ECOLAB, Edge Communications, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Budapest, Exxon Mobile, Fanuc Robotics, Flash Art International, Fulbright, FWD Affairs, GDF SUEZ Hungary, Gerbeaud, Glatz es Tarsa Kft., Graphisoft, GTK, Henkel, Horváth & Partners, Hungarian Consulate NYC, Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, IBM ISSC, i-cell, iEurope, InfoGroup, KNRDY, Kousal Sign International, KPMG, Kurt, Law Firm Rurewicz and Partners, LEGO, Light Sources Inc., M&S infomatikai Zrt., Magyar Nemzeti Galéria, Marso Romania, Mc Gladrey, MCC, MD, Europe, the Middle East & India at The Conference Board Europe, MEDIX-Mofettair, Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary Kft, Mielzynski Wines, MKB Bank, MNV, Mofettair, MOL, Morgan Stanley, MVM Zrt., Oracle, PAVE Jewelry, Philips Hungary Ltd., Polish Counselling and Consulting Association, Raiffeisen Bank, Remotaid, Inc., RSM DTM Hungary Tax and Financial Advisory Services Plc., SAP Labs Hungary, Sappi Austria, Schenker, Semmelweis University, Skanska Property Hungary, Smart Staff Kft., Szent Istvan University, Tarsalgo Galeria, TÜV Rheinland InterCert Kft., UBS AG, UniCredit, UPC Hungary, VIACOM, Vipfarm, Wekler Vineyard, Wolf Theiss, Yourprezi.

2015 Artist in Residency: *EastmeetsWestport*



2015 will see our first artist in residence. The new residency program was announced at our **2014 Zebegény event** where three contemporary Hungarian artists were also invited to present their work: Zsolt Bodoni, Márton Nemes, and Gergő Szinyova.

We are proud to announce that **Márton Nemes** was selected as our first artist in residence!

Márton will do his residency in Connecticut for 6 weeks during May and June 2015 at the **Westport Art Center** (westportartscenter.org). During his residency he will have the chance to take part in the events surrounding Westport Art Center's annual exhibition SOLOS exhibit featuring local artists, he will meet local artists and collectors, speak to local groups about his art and Hungarian art, and he will visit the New York City art scene. The CEI is very proud to partner with the

Westport Art Center on this project and special thanks is due to several people who helped select the winning artist and organize the residency: Peter Van Heerden (Westport Arts Center Executive Director), Helen Klisser During (Westport Arts Center Artistic Director), Árpád Krizsán (Enterprise Research Group), Julia Mechtler (David Zwirner), and Emese Gáll (Central European Institute Art Advisor).

The 2014 Budapest Art Market, Ambassador Brinker and the Boca Raton Museum of Art



The **Boca Raton Museum of Art** (www.bocamuseum.org) is currently organizing a 2016-2017 exhibit of Hungarian art based around the private collection of **Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker**, also a CEI board member. **Ambassador Brinker** organized a weeklong visit to Hungary for the Executive Director of the Boca Raton Museum, Irvin Lippman, and board members Peg Greenspon and Dr. Nicole Edeiken, Eric Brinker, and Brinker Collection Manager Barbara Rogoff to learn more about Hungary, Hungarian culture and especially Hungarian art (group pictured left). During their

visit they attended the **Budapest Art Market** (www.artmarketbudapest.hu), received private tours through Hungary's major art galleries and museums, enjoyed private visits to Hungary's top artists, took part in a special reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence, and enjoyed countless fabulous restaurants. **Ambassador Brinker** and the group kindly invited Chris Ball from the CEI to join the trip and the CEI will be one of the proud educational sponsors of the 2016-2017 exhibit. Details to follow as they become available.

The CEI's Art Collection



Through the generous support of two people to date, the CEI is beginning to develop its own collection of Central European art. The first donation came in October 2014 from Pete and Kasia Novak who donated a small work by contemporary Polish artist **A. Jaruszak**, 2007 (featured right). The second donation came from Mort Perlroth, brother of former Quinnipiac board member Don Perlroth. Don and Mort are related to the famous Hungarian artist, **Vilmos Perlrótt-Csaba** (1880-1955). Mort donated two original works from the family archives. The first arrived to the CEI in January 2015 (featured left) and is "Self-portrait with the Notre Dame", signed and dated Paris, 1937. The second work, "Family in the room", will arrive soon.



The CEI is very honored to receive these donations and proud to build a small collection of works from Central Europe. As the CEI expands its space, we hope to add to our collection and one day maintain a small exhibit of our collection along with works on loan from private collections so we can permanently share Central European art with the public.

CEENET UPDATE

Polish Business Cluster Visit to Hungary

The CEI in cooperation with CEENET Inc. (www.ctceenet.org) hosted Polish business and university leaders from Bialystok at the **8th Annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting**. The companies and representatives were all affiliated with the Business Environment Institutions Cluster in Poland and attended to meet potential Hungarian and American business partners.

Upcoming Romanian Trade Visit to Connecticut

On March 24, 2015, CEENET Inc. will host B2B matching sessions for **14 Romanian IT companies** visiting the U.S. in search of business partners and market opportunities. The event will also be organized in coordination with Updike, Kelly and Spellacy, P.C., **attorney Dana Bucin**, Connecticut's leading immigration attorney with a special interest in Romania. More details to follow at www.ctceenet.org.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES**Quinnipiac President's Council trip to Budapest, Hungary**

A private visit to Hungary was hosted on June 8 - 15, 2014 by the Quinnipiac University President's Council. The trip was organized jointly with Quinnipiac University's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, the CEI, and Quinnipiac trustee Christian Sauska and wife Andrea. The exclusive group enjoyed private tours of Budapest, the Hungarian Parliament, Presidential Palace, Bátor Tábor, Lighttech, Sauska Vineyards, leading restaurants and, of course, our 7th Annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting. *Special thanks to Quinnipiac Vice President Donald Weinbach for spearheading the effort and leading the group.*

Hungarian Excavation

The CEI sponsored one QU student, **Justine Tynan**, to participate in the Bronze Age Körös Off-Tell Archaeology (BAKOTA) archaeological research project in Hungary in summer 2014. **Julia Giblin**, QU assistant professor of anthropology, was on the team that conducted research and excavated a prehistoric cemetery called Békés 103. The site is split into about 5 zones spread out over what is believed to be a huge Bronze Age cemetery. "It is a surreal experience to be able to touch artifacts that have been in the ground for about 3700 years", said Justine.

**First Hungarian Festival in Connecticut**

The CEI was a proud sponsor of the very first Hungarian Festival of Connecticut at the **Hungarian Community Club of Wallingford** on September 7, 2014. Chris Ball, the Honorary Hungarian Consul for Connecticut, opened the festival with a speech welcoming over 200 guests. The event grew out of an idea by **Kata Dobri**, a young Hungarian diplomat who worked with the Connecticut Hungarian Community as a **Sándor Körösi-Csoma Scholar**. The festival featured Hungarian food, folk music, folk dancing, various programs and attracted visitors from CT, NY, NJ, and MA interested in experiencing the Hungarian culture.



The CEI was proud to offer Kata the use of our offices and voluntary support from our staff and scholars during Kata's time in the U.S. *We owe Kata Dobri special thanks for all she did and continues to do to support the Hungarian community in Connecticut.*

Romanian Students' Perspectives on Markets

The CEI co-sponsored a **Tihanyi Alapítvány Foundation**-led research project with the **Mathias Corvinus Collegium** in Hungary. The project studies the perceptions of Romania students toward markets, business, and government. The results of the study will be published in 2015.

FASHION SHOW PROMOTING BÁTOR TÁBOR

In 2014 Quinnipiac students designed, constructed and modeled paper dresses along with Hanna Hejmowski of the CEI who spearheaded the idea, using only Quinnipiac printed materials and showcased the recycled couture at the Sustainable Fashion Show on April 22, 2014. The show was part of Quinnipiac's annual Earth Day celebration, hosted by the University's Sustainability Committee and Students for Environmental Action and sponsored by the CEI.

This year's fashion show will promote **Bátor Tábor's** unique initiatives in Central Europe. **Bátor Tábor** offers complex therapeutic recreation programs for children in Central Europe with cancer, diabetes, JRA or haemophilia and for their families (www.batortabor.hu/eng). During this summer's camps, children drew butterflies which will be used by a class of Quinnipiac students (Eco-Fashion course taught by Hanna Hejmowski) to design paper dresses which will be showcased on Quinnipiac main campus April 17, 2015 as part of Quinnipiac's annual Earth Day celebration.



Thank you for your interest in and support of our activities!

For more information, please contact us at:

Christopher Ball, Ph.D.
Director of the Central European Institute
Honorary Hungarian Consul
 President of CEENET, Inc.
 203-582-8745 (U.S. office)
 203-887-4643 (U.S. cell)
 email: christopher.ball@quinnipiac.edu

Hanna Hejmowski
Executive Assistant to Director
 Central European Institute
 203-582-8737 (U.S. office)
 203-809-3193 (U.S. cell)
 email: hanna.hejmowski@quinnipiac.edu

To offer your support, please visit our website to complete our online giving form
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Or mail a check payable to QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY
 The Central European Institute
 275 Mount Carmel Ave., RT-STC
 Hamden, CT 06518