

# 2018 Central European Institute



# Annual Report





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# About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational university in Southern New England where students receive an educational experience that's both personal and challenging from faculty who care deeply about student outcomes. Our three campuses are located in Hamden and North Haven, Connecticut. We offer more than 110 programs to an estimated 7,000 undergraduate and 3,000 graduate students in business, communications, education, engineering, health sciences, law, medicine, nursing and the arts and sciences. Please visit [qu.edu](http://qu.edu) to learn more about Quinnipiac University.

## About the Central European Institute

The Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University builds bridges between the United States and the nations of Central Europe by fostering relationships in academics, business and culture. The institute accomplishes this through country-specific endowed professor/chairs who build programs with their respective countries. Our team consists of the following:

CEI Director: Christopher Ball, PhD

Assistant Director: Hanna Hejmowski

Novak Family Chair for Poland: Gedeon W. Werner

István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics: Christopher Ball, PhD

## Board of Advisers

**We are thankful for the continued support and guidance of our CEI board of advisers.**

- Susan Bodnár-Malloy
- Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker
- Robert Mielżyński
- Peter Novak
- Mortimore Perlroth
- Christian L. Sauska
- Alex Storozyński

### **Ex-officio members:**

- Christopher Ball, CEI Director
- Donald Weinbach, Vice President for Development, Quinnipiac University

## Building for the Future

Donations enable the Central European Institute to advance its mission of building international bridges between the people of the United States and Central Europe. These opportunities for engagement are enriched with bold programs and activities in education, business and culture.

Please visit our support page at [go.qu.edu/ceigive](http://go.qu.edu/ceigive)  
Your generosity makes a difference.

# Message from the Director

Dear Reader,

The year 2018 was one of transition at Quinnipiac University. The most important news was the arrival of Judy Olian as the new university president. She follows John Lahey, who took Quinnipiac from a regional college to an internationally renowned university over his 31-year term as president.

President Olian openly acknowledges that she has “big shoes to fill,” but she comes to us with an international perspective and experience at every level, from professor to executive, at some of the world’s leading universities, most recently as dean of UCLA’s Anderson School of Management. She hit the ground running in her new role, and one can already feel the pull of her leadership as she guides Quinnipiac into the future.

At the Central European Institute, our first full-time Novak Family Polish Chair, Gedeon Werner, joined the team on site at Quinnipiac in January. While he started in July 2017, he worked his first six months for us from Poland, building institutional relationships. Having him join us in person has allowed us to take our programs to the next level. Not only has he proven himself a valuable asset in terms of Poland, but his contributions have freed me to focus on Hungary again, and his positive attitude, experience and leadership have inspired me to think in new ways and explore new opportunities every day. We are glad to have him as part of the Quinnipiac—and QU CEI—family.

Building on our work, as well as the work of Peter Novak, and with the help of Werner, the CEI was finally able to launch a world-class independent advisory board in Poland in June. The advisory board will be led by both Novak and Werner and is made up of Robert Mielżyński, Robert Koński, Brendan O’Mahony, Marek Matraszek, Michał Paradowski and Professor Sylwia Sysko-Romańczuk. The board meets at Mielżyński’s Wine Bar in Warsaw around our annual alumni and executive event.

Robert Mielżyński, our long-time supporter and adviser, was awarded an honorary degree from Quinnipiac University this past May for all he’s done for wine and business in Poland and for his ongoing contributions to building our programs with Poland. With the return of our first scholarship alumni in 2019, he has agreed that Mielżyński’s will become the meeting place of the QU Alumni Bobcat Club in Warsaw, open to all Quinnipiac alumni (even those just visiting Poland) and hosting regular networking events around our programs and alumni in the region.

This has been a special year, and we hope you will enjoy learning more about our many unique programs. We are especially proud to see how many QU students, faculty and staff are taking advantage of our internationalization opportunities in Poland and Hungary. The numbers continue to grow every year!

We thank you all for being involved and for your support in all we do.

Sincerely,



Christopher P. Ball  
Director of the Central European Institute

# NEW CENTRAL EUROPEAN SCHOLARS

The Hungary Initiatives Foundation continued to support our Hungarian scholars in 2018 and was this year's lead sponsor for our 11th annual networking retreat in Zebegény, Hungary, in June.

This year's grant supported transportation, housing and transition expenses for all Hungarian scholars and provided broader support for our current scholars—László Dinca and Csilla Ábrán—and our newest scholars from Hungary—Bence Hausel and Marcell Molnár—for the 2018–19 academic year.

Hausel and Molnár arrived at Quinnipiac in August 2018 to begin their studies as part of the Central European-American Business Leaders Scholarship-Hungary program. The Central European Business Leaders scholarship brings talented individuals from Hungary and Poland to the U.S. for up to two years to work and earn an MBA at Quinnipiac. They work part time while earning their degrees and then continue to work full time for an additional year before returning home.



Our newest scholars, from left: Wiktor Bednarek, Bence Hausel, Marcell Molnár and Milena Sadurska.

**Wiktor Bednarek, MBA '20, Poland** – Wiktor Bednarek has a bachelor's degree in engineering in telecommunications from Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Wroclaw, Poland. He has two MS degrees, one in computer science from Wroclaw University of Science and Technology and another in software engineering for technical computing from Cranfield University, United Kingdom. He has gained his work and scientific experience at Files Per Hour in Hamburg, Germany. During his stay in the U.S., he will complete an MBA with a specialization in finance within one year, and during the second year, he will complete a practical training in IT/finance.

**Bence Hausel, MBA '20, Hungary** – Bence Hausel has a bachelor's degree in international relations from University of Szeged, Hungary, and a master's degree in international economy and business from Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary. He also studied business economics during his master's program at University College London, United Kingdom, and Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands. He previously worked in finance at Wizz Air in Budapest, Hungary, and MTU Maintenance Lease Services B.V. in Amsterdam. While in the U.S., he will complete an MBA in finance within one year, and then complete practical training in the aviation industry. Currently, he works at MTU Aero Engines North America, Inc. in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

**Marcell Molnár, MBA '20, Hungary** – Marcell Molnár has a bachelor's degree in international relations from Corvinus University of Budapest. He studied international relations at Mathias Corvinus Collegium, where he took part in the leadership program. Before coming to the U.S., he worked at Nexperia and the United Nations Youth Association of Hungary. During his stay in the U.S., he will complete an MBA with a specialization in supply chain management within one year, and during his second year, he will complete practical training in supply chain management.

**Milena Sadurska, MBA '20, Poland** – Milena Sadurska completed her bachelor's degree in finance and accounting at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. She also studied economics at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Before coming to the U.S., she worked at MoneyGram and Philip Morris International. During her stay in the U.S., she will complete her MBA within one year, and during the final year, she will complete a practical training in the accounting/finance field. Currently, she works at Bombardier Inc. in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

# CURRENT CENTRAL EUROPEAN SCHOLARS

**Csilla Ábrán, MBA '18, Hungary** – Works at WHQ Service OTIS as a project manager. Previously, she worked in tax and accounting for Kyle Hamilton Consulting in Stratford, Connecticut. She has a bachelor's degree from Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania. Prior to moving to the U.S., Ábrán worked as an analyst for British Petrol and as a credit controller at Marso Romania.

**Katarzyna Bogumil, MBA '18, Poland** – Works at WunderLand Group as a web production manager. Prior to this position, she worked at Quinnipiac University Poll as manager of interviewer operations. She has master's degrees in international business strategy and management from Kozminski and Bradford universities. Before coming to the U.S., she worked at Enhance Services Ltd. and was involved in the Open Reaktor and Startup Grind societies and the Forum of Young Entrepreneurs.

**László Dinca, MBA '18, Hungary** – Works in business development at Vanessa Research. He is the 2016–17 Hungarian Fulbright Scholar and is working as executive assistant to the director of Quinnipiac's People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology and another from Budapest University of Technology and Economics and is pursuing the supply chain management MBA track at Quinnipiac. Prior to moving to the U.S., he was a technical sales engineer at Texas Instruments and an account development representative at Arrow Electronics.

**Márton B. Kovács, MBA '20, Hungary** – Works in marketing for Ashcroft, Inc. in Stratford, Connecticut. Kovács has a bachelor's degree in international business from Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary. He studied international relations at Mathias Corvinus Collegium, where he also took part in its leadership program. Before coming to the U.S., Kovács worked at TATA Consultancy Services Hungary and at the K&H Group.

**Katarzyna Tworowska, MBA '18, Poland** – Works at Forevermark U.S., part of the De Beers group of companies as a merchandising analyst. Prior to this position, she worked at Legg Mason & Co., ConMed Corporation and Vanessa Research. She is the recipient of the Voitek Napiorkowski Scholarship. She has a master's degree from Krakow University of Economics in Poland and another from Skema Business School in France. Prior to moving to the U.S., she worked at the TNS Market Research Company and Roche.

**Aleksandra Wojcik, MBA '19, Poland** – Works at Kongsberg Automotive in Connecticut with the fluid transfer systems team as a project buyer. Wojcik has a bachelor's degree in international business and a master's degree in logistics and supply chain management from the University of Economics in Krakow, Poland. Before coming to the U.S., Wojcik worked at Rolls Royce and at Valeo Thermal Systems.



László Dinca



Aleksandra Wojcik

# FACULTY/STAFF EXCHANGES

The following unique experiences are part of the many internationalization opportunities that the Central European Institute provides to QU faculty and staff.

## **Koźmiński University (Poland) and Quinnipiac**

In 2015, Quinnipiac University's Central European Institute established a partnership with Koźmiński University (KU) in Warsaw, Poland, as part of the Erasmus+ Faculty, Student and Staff Mobility Partnership. In the past two years, five Quinnipiac faculty/staff members, four KU faculty/staff members, three QU students and two KU students have participated in the exchange.

The Erasmus+ program allows academic and non-academic staff or professionals to spend one week and students to spend one semester at the partner institution. The program is funded by the EU, which covers traveling costs and pays participants an additional stipend for travel and living expenses.



Valentyna Guminska

**Valentyna Guminska**, director of international relations at Koźmiński University, visited QU in May 2018. During her visit, she participated in meetings with Don Weinbach (Development and Alumni Affairs), Andrea Hogan (Multicultural and Global Education), Lisa Braiewa (MBA program), Andrew Antone (UG Admissions, director of international recruitment) and Grace Peiffer (Career Development).

The CEI's **Hanna Hejmowski** was awarded the Erasmus+ Faculty and Staff Mobility grant to visit Koźmiński University in June. The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to discuss new opportunities, learn about each university's academic programs, improve cooperation and share best practices in the context of internationalization strategies.

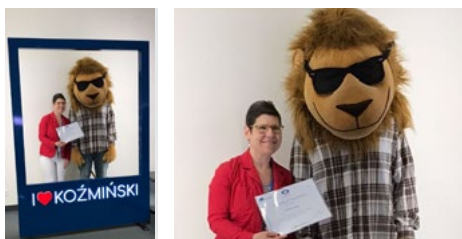


Hanna Hejmowski

**Andrea Hogan**, QU director for global education, was invited to Koźmiński University to participate in a five-day familiarization seminar. Hogan, along with 40 international colleagues representing other partner institutions, toured Koźmiński University, met with current students, participated in sample lectures by KU professors, and toured the city of Warsaw. Her visit also was funded by the EU.

## **QU faculty teach English in Poland**

The Central European Institute launched a new initiative intended to bring Quinnipiac students and professors to Poland as part of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland (TEIP) summer program. **Katarzyna Kowalczyk**, the first QU professor accepted into the program, traveled to Poland for two weeks in July 2018. The annual program is an English Language-American Culture camp, which offers an enriching program for students aged 7 through 18 and recruits teacher volunteers from the United States. Kowalczyk's participation in the program was partially funded through the Central European Institute.



Andrea Hogan

## **Mathias Corvinus Collegium (Hungary) and Quinnipiac**

Quinnipiac University's Rev. Jordan Lenaghan visited the Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC) of Budapest, Hungary, in October 2018. Lenaghan spent a week in Hungary, where he held a workshop at the MCC on the importance of integrating religious literacy into the higher education curriculum, especially in the area of leadership development. As the primary illustration, he discussed the work of Quinnipiac's new Center for Religion. In addition, he spoke to participants in MCC's Programme for Roma Students to share his experiences working and studying at universities in the United States and Europe. The MCC has been the Quinnipiac's partner university since 2009.



Professor Katarzyna Kowalczyk with her English students



# EVENTS

## Judy Olian appointed Quinnipiac University's ninth president



In January, Quinnipiac University announced the selection of Judy Olian, PhD, as its ninth president. Olian joined QU in July from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, where she served as dean and John E. Anderson Chair in Management. She holds a degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Olian succeeds John Lahey, who not only built Quinnipiac over the last 30 years to become the world-class institution it is today, but he also supported our programs in Hungary and Poland, personally traveling to both countries with us and serving on the CEI board. He will be missed, and we owe him much thanks and wish him well in his new endeavors.

We welcome our new president with enthusiasm as she leads Quinnipiac into the future. We look forward to working with her and truly wish her much success.

## Gedeon Werner joins CEI at Quinnipiac campus



Gedeon Werner, the CEI's Novak Family Polish Chair, is now settled in his new office on Quinnipiac's York Hill Campus in Hamden. Although Werner began working with CEI officially in July 2017, he worked from Poland during the Fall 2017 semester, interviewing potential scholarship students

and building the foundation for the institute's new programs and initiatives in both Poland and Hungary.

He joined the team in person at the Hamden campus in January and began teaching International Business in the fall. He has been expanding our relations with the Polonia community in the U.S., working with our Polish scholars, spearheading new Polish programs at Quinnipiac—most notably our new business certificate—and working on other initiatives, which we'll share as they come to fruition. Overall, we are proud to have someone with Werner's personality and caliber join our small family and look forward to all we'll be able to accomplish with him over the coming years.

Prior to joining CEI, Werner served as the president of a private Polish asset management company with business interests in commercial and residential real estate, pharmaceuticals and airline catering. He has extensive experience working for the U.S. government, NGOs, foundations, academia in both the U.S. and Poland, and in the business world. He brings this wealth of experience to the classroom and to all that he does at Quinnipiac.

## Launching new Polish business program at QU

We are introducing a new Global Business Affairs–Polish Certificate program at Quinnipiac. This is a major milestone for the CEI and one we've been working toward for a while. The impact we've had over the years on both sides of the Atlantic has set the stage for us to build broader programs that benefit Quinnipiac more deeply and that will benefit even more students, many of whom will be attracted to Quinnipiac because of our unique programs in Central Europe.

The Polish Certificate program is based on and enhances QU's BS in management. Elective courses and extracurricular activities will be integrated into the curriculum to develop deeper applied knowledge of global business, especially between the U.S. and Europe/Central Europe and Poland in particular. Requirements also will include both study abroad and international internships in Poland complemented by such activities as business networking and mentoring to help our graduates place well upon completion and build on their global experience. The program will begin in the business school, but we are already working on accepting students from other schools within Quinnipiac University.

Initially marketed to Polish-Americans (totaling nearly 10 million people nationwide, including about 3 million in the Northeast), we expect it to be of value to any student interested in global business affairs.

In February 2018, we hosted a strategic meeting and roundtable discussion on how to shape and market the new program. Attendees included several representatives from the Polish-American community, leaders from the regional Polish

schools, Polish Consul General Maciej Golubiewski, Polish Trade Consul Sabina Klimek and Connecticut Honorary Polish Consul Darek Barcikowski. Their insights have been helpful and their support is vital to promoting and marketing it.

### **Corvinus MBA students visit Quinnipiac**

Sixteen executive MBA students from the Corvinus School of Management in Budapest took part in an intensive executive week in Connecticut from April 30 to May 4. During the 11th annual visit, they toured Quinnipiac's campuses, the QU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and major international corporations throughout Connecticut, including Foxwoods Resort and Casino, Highclere Castle, Light Sources Inc., Marcum LLP, Murtha Cullina LLP, Stony Creek Brewery, The Garage-Incubator Space and Vanessa Research. The visit concluded with a networking event where the students enjoyed speaking with the executives they met throughout the week. The next Corvinus MBA visit will be on April 29–May 4, 2019.

### **3rd annual alumni wine tasting and networking event**



On May 6, we celebrated our 3rd annual Alumni Wine Tasting and Networking event in Fairfield at the home of Christian and Andrea Sauska. More than 60 participants attended including diplomats, executives and alumni. We marked our 11th year of offering an intensive executive experience for our partner, Corvinus University of Budapest's Executive MBA program. At this event, we also host a graduation ceremony for the Corvinus executive MBA students and distribute certificates of completion to each student. This year's participants included managers and executives from the following companies in Hungary: AGS Ltd., the Central Bank of Hungary, ExxonMobil, Hartmann-Rico, IBIDEN, IT Services Hungary, KPMG, Kvintker LP, Mainstream TV Co. Ltd., Omya Hungaria Kft., Raben Trans European and Simbrella BV.

This was our second year to publicly acknowledge our Quinnipiac CEI student intern consulting team composed of Jenna Braca, Isaac Filderman, Thomas Gilmore, Eliza Kaplan, Cynthia Mauren, William Ng, Laura Roa-Moreno and Austin Solimine. This multidisciplinary team works each semester for Hungarian innovation companies entering the U.S. market.

Hungarian Ambassador Ferenc Kumin attended the event with Hungary's First Deputy for Science and Technology, Gabor Takacs, to talk with our student team and personally award them letters of thanks on behalf of the Hungarian Consulate for their service to these companies. Other diplomats included Dana Bucin, Romanian Honorary Consul to Connecticut, Darek Barcikowski, Polish Honorary Consul to Connecticut, and Hungarian Honorary Consul Chris Ball. This year we were especially proud to celebrate and publicly thank Katie Covett, who successfully led our team for two years. She graduated from QU in May 2018 with a JD/MBA. We will miss her.

### **Central European Tech Day and pitch competition**



In May, we were excited to host a one-day event for Hungarian innovation startups in the field of the life sciences on the North Haven Campus. This event, held in partnership with the Hungarian Consulate's Technology Attache, Gábor Takács-Carvalho, V4 Connects, Startup Campus, and the Hungarian Trade House, allowed us to highlight the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine's faculty, students and facilities.

Our CEI consulting team worked for months supporting several of the participating startups in preparation for the U.S. market. The Hungarian company representatives enjoyed a whirlwind trip from Boston to Quinnipiac to New York. In each location, they met with potential partners and investors. The consulting team, led by Katie Covett, JD/MBA '18, Isaac Filderman and Eliza Kaplan, arranged for professors and students from the medical school and QU's People's United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship to serve as judges for a pitch competition during which they received constructive criticism about their products and services in terms of their viability on the U.S. market.

Participants in the pitch competition were Stepan Boltalin of Notch ([wearnotch.com](http://wearnotch.com)); Balázs Gasz of ME3D ([youranastomosis.com](http://youranastomosis.com)); Mark István of Now Technologies ([nowtech.hu](http://nowtech.hu)); István Szarka of Vitrolink ([vitrolink.com](http://vitrolink.com)); Gábor Tóth of Insimu ([insimu.com](http://insimu.com)); and Fejérdy Zsófi of PromoBox ([promobox.hu](http://promobox.hu)). The winner was Mark István of

Now Technologies, which makes smart-phone controlled and head device control systems for wheelchairs.

Special thanks to our judges: Dana Bucin, JD, Murtha Cullina; Norman Gray, then-Carlton Highsmith Chair in Entrepreneurship and director of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Jennifer Herbst, JD, professor of law and medical sciences at QU; Carolyn Macica, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Medical Sciences at QU; Nitish Patidar, PhD, assistant professor of health care management and organizational leadership at QU; Jennifer Rockfeld, MD, assistant professor of medical sciences at QU; Brian Stackhouse, MD '20, Netter School; Sam Sondheim, MBA '18, MD '19, Netter School; Listy Thomas, MD, associate professor of medical sciences.

### **Robert Mielżyński presented with honorary degree**



Every year Quinnipiac University awards honorary degrees at Commencement to individuals who have been inspirational leaders in business, politics, community or just life itself. This year, Quinnipiac honored Robert Mielżyński, who joined the CEI advisory board in 2017 and since has become the founding member of our Polish advisory board.

In 2004 Mielżyński set out to revolutionize Poland's wine and food culture by establishing his own premier wine and spirits business. Today he owns three wine warehouse-retail and wine bar locations, two in Warsaw and one in Poznan, with plans for another two locations. Through the simultaneous development of his own import and distribution business, Mielżyński has become the most important wine merchant in Poland. His concept of keeping all sales channels managed by one brand has redefined wine marketing and wine distribution in Poland and gained him international recognition.

Mielżyński has been instrumental from the beginning in our efforts to build programs in Poland. From our first exploratory trip, he has hosted visiting Quinnipiac teams and

QU trustee Peter Novak in Poland, advising us, introducing us to new connections and graciously hosting our annual networking event each year. His plans with Quinnipiac's future include developing a "Bobcat Club" at his restaurants in Poland that would be meeting places for all Quinnipiac alumni and serve as locations for regular networking events attended by Quinnipiac's students, staff and alumni.

### **Executive networking and alumni event in Warsaw**

On June 5, we hosted our 4th annual Mielżyński Executive Networking and Alumni event at Mielżyński's Restaurant and Wine Bar in Warsaw. At this event, we thank those who support our efforts and welcome this year's scholarship recipients from Poland—Milena Sadurska and Wiktor Bednarek—both of whom arrived at Quinnipiac in August. We were honored to welcome John Armstrong, the Economic Section Counselor from the U.S. Embassy, as our keynote speaker.

This year's event was the first moderated by our newly appointed Novak Family Polish Chair, Gedeon Werner. The event was attended by more than 80 executives, leading academics and diplomats along with Peter and Kasia Novak, who have been active supporters of our Polish programs.

### **11th annual retreat in Hungary**

On June 8, we celebrated our 11th annual Alumni and Executive Retreat in Zebegény, Hungary. We had more than 200 participants, executives and leaders from the area attending along with our regional alumni, who continue to make Quinnipiac proud with their professional accomplishments. We announced our next two scholarship recipients—Marcell Molnár and Bence Hausel—both of whom arrived at Quinnipiac in August. This year we also celebrated the births of four babies to alumni, all born in 2018.

The event featured a panel discussion, "Getting Innovation Right? Lessons Learned and Looking Forward," moderated by Joerg Bauer, president and CEO of the Tungsram Group; former president of GE Hungary; and co-leader of the Innovation Task Force of the Hungarian-American Chamber of Commerce. Panelists were Gergely Böszörményi-Nagy (Design Terminal and Brain Bar); Dávid Mihalik (Innovation and Technology Ministry); and Málna Polya (Quinnipiac-MCC and Vanessa Research Inc.). Our sponsors were the Hungary Initiatives Foundation, Sauska, MCC, SmartSaff, and Dependable Analytics.

## **Máté Vincze of the Hungarian Cultural Center visits**

Chris Ball, CEI director, attended the 10th Middletown International Film Festival last fall, showing “Kills on Wheels,” a Hungarian film directed by Attila Till. Ball and the CEI supported the film screening by bringing Máté Vincze, director of the Hungarian Cultural Center in New York City, as the keynote speaker.

“Kills on Wheels” was selected as one of six international films to be screened during this collaboration among Middletown’s Russell Library, Wesleyan University and Middlesex Community College.

Ball and Vincze also spent the afternoon in meetings at Quinnipiac exploring ways to cooperate. They toured Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac and met with Executive Director Ryan Mahoney. He gave an overview of the museum’s history and noted that the art within focuses on the ideas raised by the Great Hunger—poverty, oppression, sustainability and other universal challenges faced by humanity. This connection has inspired everyone involved to explore common themes and the possibility of a future exhibit of Hungarian art around such concepts as the survival of the human spirit as exemplified in Hungarian art under Communist rule and the people of Ireland following the Famine.

## **100th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian House**

In October, CEI Director Chris Ball spoke at a gala dinner celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian House in Wallingford, Connecticut. In his diplomatic role as Honorary Hungarian Consul to Connecticut, Ball also read an official letter to the community on behalf of the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, László Szabó.

## **Alumni attend Taste of Ideas in New York City**



Alumni, from left, are: Saul Ellison, Adam Calderon, Elise McGuire, Lauren Josey, CEI director Chris Ball, and John Salling.

CEI members met with alumni in New York at the Fulbright and Hungarian Idea Exchange’s Taste of Ideas event, hosted by the Fulbright Commission and the Hungarian Idea Exchange, a New York-based Hungarian scientific community. The CEI established a multi-year relationship with Fulbright Hungary, and the CEI consulting team has been working on a marketing and branding plan for the Hungarian Idea Exchange throughout 2018.

Bringing together communities from the Hungarian Idea Exchange and Fulbright’s New York chapter, the event featured professionals, scientists and entrepreneurs from a wide spectrum for an evening of flash talks and a shared enjoyment of spirits and food.

## **Celebration of 100 years of Poland’s regained independence**

In recognition of the 100 Anniversary of Poland’s regained independence, the Polish Chair and the Central European Institute sponsored a daylong celebration in November to commemorate it. With the help of Polish students, several events were conducted around the Mount Carmel Campus to acquaint the general student population with the significance of this historical event for Poland, the region and the rest of the world. During the day, we distributed more than 1,000 leaflets about Poland and passed out Polish chocolates. We also organized a virtual reality station where interested students could play Polish-designed video games—a great hit with our technologically savvy students.

The day ended with a panel discussion led by Monika Advocate, adjunct professor, that placed Poland’s regained independence in a broader context and historical perspective of Post WWI Europe. The second part of the discussion introduced achievements of Polish cinematography in the past 100 years, and Polish students made a series of short presentations on business opportunities in today’s Poland. At the end of the day, the participants enjoyed a cake in white and red colors. Long Live Poland!

## **100 years of women’s right to vote in Poland**

The CEI team and the co-directors of QU’s People’s United Center for Women & Business participated in an event hosted by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland celebrating 100 years of Polish women’s achievements. The event was co-sponsored by CEI.



# Student Experiences

## Student-focused initiatives

At Quinnipiac, students come first, and all the CEI programs are fundamentally aimed at enhancing their experience and opportunities.

## Students attend Poland's Koźmiński University



*"Studying at Koźmiński University in Poland was an indescribable experience. I was able to take business courses in a different country surrounded by people from many different nationalities and cultures. This opportunity taught me a lot about the world as a whole and gave me connections for a lifetime."*

—Andrew Lazarev '19

The CEI arranged for Quinnipiac undergraduate business student Andrew Lazarev '19 to spend his spring semester at Koźmiński University. His semester was fully funded through the EU's Erasmus+ Student Exchange Program.

Lazarev was our third student to participate in this unique program since it was launched in 2017. While in Warsaw, he attended our fourth annual Alumni and Executive event, where he networked with more than 80 executives, leading academics and diplomats.

## Students teach English in Poland



*"This program is incredibly beneficial to my future career as I am interested in teaching English around the world. The program allows me to get started on that dream before I am even finished with college."*

—Samantha Paradee '18, MAT '19

Samantha Paradee '18, MAT '19, participated in the Teaching English in Poland program conducted by CEI's partner organization, the Kosciuszko Foundation. This is a unique three-week educational and cultural exchange program where Paradee worked as an assistant teacher at a camp in central Poland.

## Students participate in the Hungarian Central Bank's Summer School of Economics

*"It was a fun and interesting exercise. I enjoyed the academic portion of the program, which was relevant to our studies at Quinnipiac. Overall, it was a useful and interesting program to me as an economics student."*

—Alex Robiner '18

In July, economics majors Alex Robiner '18 and Londyn Zografakis '20, traveled to Budapest, Hungary, to participate in the Hungarian Central Bank's Summer School of Economics, a competitive program hosted by the Central Bank of Hungary and the Corvinus University of Budapest, QU's partner university in Hungary.

This year's summer school focused on Central and Eastern Europe in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities in Finance and

Geopolitics. The two-week program offered students and central bankers an in-depth understanding of finance and geopolitics through 17 lectures, a half-dozen case studies, two simulation games, three cultural trips, three company visits and three networking opportunities.

The CEI sponsored Robiner and Zografakis, who were the only two undergraduates accepted as participants in 2018. This provided them a unique experience to study and work alongside graduate students and central bankers from around the world. The Hungarian Central Bank followed up with a special "thank you" to the CEI because the two students performed so well in the summer school.

## Consulting for foreign startups



*"Working with Hungarian and Polish startups is a very unique and exciting opportunity. As a group, it has been fascinating to see our team's recommendations make an impact on these small businesses as they expand into international markets. With a hardworking and driven team such as ours, the excitement and appreciation our clients display is contagious. While our clients are grateful for our perspectives, our team feels privileged to be working with such amazing and responsive companies and providing us with this experience."*

—Eliza Kaplan '18, MS '19

The CEI's Student Consulting Team has been helping companies enter the U.S. market since 2016. The multidisciplinary team consists of eight graduate and undergraduate students who work directly with clients. They have the

option of working as interns, for class credit or as volunteers.

Throughout the year, companies from Hungary and Poland apply for the team's services by contacting their respective consulate in NYC or by contacting the appropriate QU chair, Széchenyi for Hungary and Novak for Poland. The team then reviews the companies, often conducting screening interviews and selects two to four companies to work with each semester. The Consulate General of Hungary officially issues a personal letter of thanks to each team member that also serves as a reference letter.

### Central European-American Business Leaders Scholarship for Poland and Hungary

*"I believe that this program is a unique opportunity to significantly contribute to my future career while pursuing a broad range of courses in a multidisciplinary approach, as well as acquiring extensive work and cultural experience in the U.S. The acquired knowledge, the American approach to business and the professional connections made during the program will help to foster internationally easier cooperation between the U.S. and Hungary, and that will be beneficial for both countries."*

—Bence Hausel '19

The CEI was proud to welcome our newest scholars from Hungary and Poland to Quinnipiac University in August. We wish them all the best and much good luck on their new journeys at QU and in the U.S.!

Each year, the CEI selects up to two recipients per country for the Central European-American Business Leaders Scholarship (Poland and Hungary). This unique scholarship enables students to come to the U.S. to gain work experience and earn an MBA. Visit our website at [qu.edu/cei](http://qu.edu/cei) to learn more about the scholarship.

Links to the scholarship applications:

[go.qu.edu/ceipoland](http://go.qu.edu/ceipoland)  
[go.qu.edu/ceihungary](http://go.qu.edu/ceihungary)

The Hungary Initiatives Foundation awarded \$40,000 to support our Hungarian scholars in the 2017–18 academic year. The grant supported housing expenses, transportation and a range of other needs for our Hungarian scholars.

### Student Economics Research Team



The team is pictured here, from left: Tyler Brierley, Ethan Carilli, Jon Chefitz, Stephen Kern and Chris Ball.

*"I have been looking for an experience like this, where I am able to put my knowledge and skills to the test. This is an excellent opportunity to be able to work with professionals internationally and provide them something beneficial."*

—Ethan Carilli '19

Chris Ball, professor and István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics, launched a new initiative this fall. He assembled an economics research team to conduct research on the Central European economies.

The objective of the team is to develop regular economic reports on the economies of the Central European region. The reports will be released publicly and are aimed at an intended audience of bankers, investors, policy institutes and academics with interests in the Central Europe or in Transatlantic relations generally. The goal is to produce consistent, quality economic research that will help inform discussion, research and all forms of discourse. In addition to working on and producing the research, the team is already planning a trip to New York City to meet with Central Bankers, bankers, investors, and the Hungarian and Polish Consulates. Another trip is planned—to Washington, D.C.—to meet with policy institutes and the IMF as well as a possible trip to Budapest, Hungary, in spring or summer 2019.

### Hungarian students to participate in QU's BAKOTA project this summer

Our two CEI-supported students this past summer were: Ákos Mengyán and Réka Péter from the Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem in Budapest. Mengyán and Péter worked alongside eight American undergraduate students (and a large international research team) on the excavation and analysis of a Bronze Age cemetery from southeastern Hungary. Mengyán studied stylistic elements found on ceramic funerary urns, and Péter studied variation in the color of cremated human bone found inside those urns. Their research will be presented at an upcoming national archaeology conference (the Society for American Archaeology) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in April 2019, which they are both planning to attend.

# OUTREACH AND DIPLOMACY

## The Connecticut World Affairs Council



The World Affairs Council held its first annual Diplomat Reception in March in Hartford. Diplomatic representatives from Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Poland and Romania attended. Chris Ball, CEI director, attended as Honorary Consul for Hungary to Connecticut.

In December, the CEI partnered with the World Affairs Council to co-host and sponsor a “Centennial Celebration: Central and Eastern Europe” at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford. The event celebrated the 100-year anniversaries for Central European nations marking the end of WWI and the definition of their modern borders. A reception was followed by a panel discussion with Connecticut’s three Central European Honorary consuls and moderated by Ball.

### **Hungarian Ambassador visits Connecticut**

On March 22–23, László Szabó, MD, the ambassador of Hungary to the U.S., was hosted by Honorary Hungarian Consul Chris Ball on Szabó’s first visit to Connecticut. As part of the diplomatic agenda for the visit, Ball organized the Global Connections reception with the ambassador, exploring the strength of the Hungary-U.S. strategic relationship and the critical economic impact in Connecticut. Ball also hosted numerous events to promote relations with Hungary including a lecture and reception at the state capital hosted by the Metro-Hartford Alliance and the World Affairs Council.

Other events included a roundtable discussion in New Haven (co-hosted by the Murtha Cullina Law Firm) on innovation and technology in the life sciences and launching Hungarian companies in the U.S.; a private meeting with American Seal and Engineering in Orange, Connecticut; a private meeting with the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine in Farmington; a private meeting with Vanessa Research in Hamden; meetings with Quinnipiac University’s Central European Institute; and a private wine dinner at Roia Restaurant in New Haven hosted by John Salling, a Quinnipiac alumnus and brand ambassador for wines from Hungary and Romania.

While in Connecticut, Szabó met with state Department of Economic and Community Development officials to discuss economic cooperation and possible bilateral relations. The key outcome was a general agreement that Connecticut is a good partner for Hungarian innovation companies given Connecticut’s geography in terms of market access, the fact that Connecticut and Hungary both have strong life sciences sectors and the similarly highly skilled labor forces in STEM fields. Ball and the ambassador discussed these topics as well as CEI’s role on the WTNH TV show, “Good Morning Connecticut.”

The majority of Connecticut’s international trade and investment is with Europe. Connecticut citizens mostly claim European heritage with approximately 40,000 citizens who claim Hungarian descent. About 11 percent claim Central European heritage with Poland being first, followed by Hungary.

WTNH News 8 reporter Jocelyn Maminta interviewed Hungarian Ambassador László Szabó and Chris Ball, director of the Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University. See the interview at [go.qu.edu/ceibuildingbridges](http://go.qu.edu/ceibuildingbridges)

### **Outreach and partnership building**

To promote Quinnipiac’s Polish programs on a national scale, Gedeon Werner, Novak Family Polish Chair, spent extensive time from June to December 2018 visiting premier higher education institutions in different regions of Poland and meeting with students, faculty and administrators. In addition to program promotion, Werner initiated contacts and met with the top administrators of Akademia Ekonomiczna in Krakow (Economic Academy in Cracow), Gdanska Fundacja Kształcenia Menadzerow in Gdansk (Gdansk Foundation for Management Development), the University of Gdansk and Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki



Zarządzania in Rzeszow (University of Information and Management in Rzeszow). The goal was to establish relations and lay the groundwork for developing future collaborative relationships with those institutions.

Additionally, when in Poland, Werner met with Polish government officials from the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Agency for Academic Exchanges. He is exploring potential funding opportunities for collaborative U.S.-Polish academic/business programs. For example, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Relations has asked the CEI to assist in organizational development of the newly established Polish university in Lithuania, and talks are underway.

Finally, Werner met in November with the Polish ambassador to the United States, Piotr Wilczek. The ambassador, a former faculty member at Poland's prestigious Warsaw University, is Poland's leading expert on American studies and is well informed about Quinnipiac initiatives. He is a great supporter of all Quinnipiac programs related to Poland. Wilczek has expressed his desire and interest in visiting Quinnipiac University in the near future.

### **Polonia Advisory Council**

Gedeon Werner, the Novak Family Polish Chair, and Hanna Hejmowski, CEI's assistant director, participated in regular meetings of the Polonia Advisory Council and the Higher Education Advisory Council.

PAC was formed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and operates in every consulate on all continents with the goal of integrating Polish organizations and communities, exchanging information, implementing joint projects and initiatives, and mediating relations between the Polish community and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The New York consulate's PAC includes leaders from economic, social, educational and political Polish organizations from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland,

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. Hejmowski has served on PAC since 2016, and her relationships there have been valuable for developing Quinnipiac's programs in Poland.

Werner was invited by the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York to meet with the Polish deputy prime minister and the minister of higher education, the minister of technology and members of the Parliament of Poland. The meeting was focused on Polish government initiatives being developed in support of academic relations between the United States and Poland.



Werner also met with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchanges, a new governmental agency created to provide financial support for international academic initiatives/exchanges between Polish and international universities.

### **Honorary Hungarian Consul Conference**

Chris Ball, Hungarian Honorary Consul to Connecticut, participated in the annual Hungarian diplomatic conference at the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C. During the two-day conference, honorary consuls heard from Hungarian state officials, diplomats and special guests on the latest Hungarian foreign and economic policy matters. Consuls from across the U.S. report on their activities throughout the year and share their perspectives as Americans

with Hungarian officials to continue to improve bilateral relations between Hungary and the U.S.

This year's meeting included the special opening of BPDC (Budapest in D.C.), which will be an innovation hub for Hungarian technology companies entering the U.S. market. The physical location will be on the grounds of the Hungarian Embassy in D.C. The opening event included a number of Hungary's leading startups with a special focus on artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality tech. Ball conducted an interview for the Hungarian media covering the event.

### **Observing United Nations General Assembly Week**

Gedeon Werner, the Novak Family Polish Chair, attended a gala celebrating the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence. The event was organized by the Consulate General of Poland in New York in November as a side event to the United Nations sessions. The guest of honor was President Andrzej Duda of the Republic of Poland, and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda.

Chris Ball, István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics, was invited to the Consulate General of Hungary in New York to meet H.E. Péter Szijjártó, minister of foreign affairs and trade, for a seminar on U.S.-Hungarian investment hosted by the Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency. At the event, BlackRock was awarded 2018's Chain Bridge Budapest Award as the most significant U.S. investor in Hungary in 2017. BlackRock executive Joseph Konchansky accepted the award before an audience of business leaders from both Budapest and New York City.

# SCHOLARSHIP ALUMNI



At the 9th Annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting, from left: László Dinca, Bence Erdélyi, Márta Lörincz, Csilla Ábrán, Katalin Németh, Alexandra Zita Pleier, Éva Bartalos, Dániel Erdélyi and Chris Ball.

**Marcin Ambrozej, MBA '17, Poland** – As part of his scholarship, he worked at United Technologies Corp.

**Blanka Balázs, MBA '10, Hungary** – Works at Statoil headquarters in Stavanger, Norway. As part of her scholarship, she interned for Covalence SA in Geneva, Switzerland, and worked at United Technologies Corp. in Connecticut.

**Éva Bartalos, MBA '13, Hungary** – Works at Henkel Corp. headquarters in Dusseldorf, Germany. As part of her scholarship, she worked at Charter Oak Communities, Rippowam Corp. and Henkel Corp. North America.

**Attila Deli, MBA '17, Hungary** – As part of his scholarship, he worked in purchasing for City Line Distributors.

**Ildikó Dombi, MBA '14, Hungary** – Works globally for Travelers Insurance. As part of her scholarship, she worked at Travelers Insurance in the personal insurance division's business intelligence and analytics group.

**Attila Erdély, MBA '15, Hungary** – Works in Hungary and Romania launching his own companies in marketing and promotion. As part of his scholarship, he worked at Shred It, Henkel Corp. and United Illuminating/Avangrid Inc. subsidiary.

**Bence Erdélyi, MBA '14, Hungary** – Currently in Hungary building his iProperty company and launching his own business ventures. As part of his scholarship, he worked at United Illuminating, InterMerchant Services and Walmart.

**Dániel Erdélyi, MBA '11, Hungary** – Works at Raiffeisen Bank Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. As part of his scholarship, he interned for Birinyi Associates Inc.

**Ferenc Fazekas, MBA '17, Hungary** – As part of his scholarship, he worked in business development at Vanessa Research and is launching his own tech startup. He was the 2015–16 Hungarian Fulbright-QU scholar.

**András Herczeg, MBA '13, Hungary** – Works for Magyar Villamos Művek Zrt. (Hungarian electricity works) in Hungary. As part of his scholarship, he worked at Davidson Company Inc. and United Illuminating Corp.

**Márton Kis-Dörnyei, MBA '17, Hungary** – Works at Morgan Stanley in Budapest. As part of his scholarship, he worked at Travelers Insurance and Young America Capital.

**Márta Lörincz, MBA '15, Hungary** – Works at Henkel Europe in Vienna, Austria. As part of her scholarship, she worked at Birinyi Associates and at Henkel Corp. North America.

**Katarzyna Michalska, MBA '17, Poland** – As part of her scholarship, she worked at UnitedHealth Group, Travelers Insurance, and Stratis Group.

**Katalin Németh, MBA '15, Hungary** – Works in Hungary at her own business as a consultant to United Technologies Corp. As part of her scholarship, she worked at LinkVehicle, Touchstone Research, Upcycle and UTC.

**Málna Pólya, MBA '16, Hungary** – As part of her scholarship, she worked in business development at Vanessa Research, ASE Ameriseal, SNP Technologies, and Lynx Analytics.

**Dániel Tubik, MBA '15, Hungary** – Works at GLS Bank in Germany. As part of his scholarship, he worked at Fossil Free Indexes and at Henkel Corp. North America.

**Alexandra Zita Pleier, MBA '12, Hungary** – Works at Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing in Hungary. As part of her scholarship, she interned at IHS Herold, Inc. and United Technologies Corp.

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

## Special Thanks

We are thankful for the continued support and guidance of our CEI board of advisers.

The programs of the Central European Institute would not be possible without the support of our Hungarian and Polish partner institutions.

## Special thanks to the following organizations:

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Consulate General of Poland in NYC  
Corvinus University of Budapest

Hungary Initiatives Foundation  
Kosciuszko Foundation  
Kozmiński University of Warsaw  
Mathias Corvinus Collegium of Budapest

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