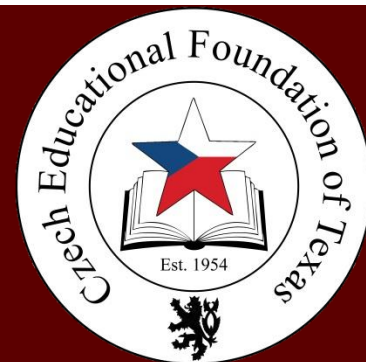




CEFT DIRECTORS AT THE JANUARY 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT THE S.P.J.S.T. HEADQUARTERS IN TEMPLE, TEXAS



Newsletter

2019 Fall Edition

This edition was created by: Lynette Urbanovsky, CEFT English Publicity Officer.

Reviewed by: John Sefcik, CEFT Website Officer.

From the President Greetings to Everyone for a wonderful Fall!

By: Woody Smith, CEFT President

Dear Members and Supporters of the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas,

The past year has been quite an active one for the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT). The CEFT Strategy/Implementation committee conducted numerous in-depth discussions on how to best lead the organization into the future. As an outcome of these discussions, the committee presented four major goals. The goals are to enhance existing programs, enhance online presence,

expand into additional educational and cultural areas, and investigate new, relevant programs.

CEFT is also aware of the importance of increasing the organization's membership to help it attain these goals and has, therefore, had an informational/promotional video about the organization produced. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Mr. Jeffrey Brown, Director of Big Day Pictures and his crew for producing this video, which is to be officially presented to the public on September 14. To help kick off the production of this video, I was pleased to host Ms. Tereza Walsbergerova (recent CEFT Texas A&M William J. Hlavinka Fellow) earlier this year at my home in Austin to be interviewed for the video. Since Ms. Walsbergerova was scheduled to return to the Czech Republic before the film crew was able to go to College Station, she graciously agreed to come to Austin to be interviewed.

As an objective of the goal of enhancing existing programs, CEFT has made a commitment to focus immediate efforts



CEFT Director Clarice Snokhous, Honorary Consul to the Czech Republic for Texas and CEFT Director Brian Vanicek, CEFT Director Woody Smith, with James Dick, the Founder of Festival Hill.

on its program at Texas A&M in College Station so that that program will become as robust as the programs at UT Austin and The University of North Texas in Denton. Numerous discussions have taken place between CEFT Board Members and representatives from Texas A&M to review various options for the enhancement of the CEFT program there. This is an exciting opportunity for expansion of the Texas A&M program. More information about the A&M program, as well as the programs at UT Austin and the University of North Texas at Denton can be found throughout this newsletter.

On April 28, Nancy Braus, an avid supporter of CEFT, sponsored a concert



CEFT President Woody Smith and CEFT English Publicity Officer Lynette Urbanovsky with our Previous CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow Tereza Walsbergerová, Matt Rowley, cameraman for Big Day Pictures and Patrick Gernagin.

at Festival Hill/Round Top in tribute to CEFT. This was the second concert performance that Ms. Braus has sponsored at Festival Hill in tribute to CEFT (the first one several years ago featuring pianist Richard Urbis). This most recent concert featured Mr. Felix Slovacek, Sr., renowned Czech clarinetist, his son Mr. Felix Slovacek, Jr. (clarinetist), and Mr. Vyacheslav Grokhovsky (pianist). This is the second time that these three musicians have performed at Festival Hill thanks to Nancy Braus. The performance was recorded by Mr. Lucian Blaga, who represented an immigrant television station from Houston. After the performance, Mr. Blaga interviewed James Dick (renowned pianist and founder of Festival Hill), Nancy Braus, and me, thus affording us the opportunity to promote CEFT.

Since its inception in 1971, Festival Hill at Round Top has hosted hundreds of young artists in its Summer Institute to study under the tutelage of masters in the field of music. Over 80 students from all over the world participated in this year's summer institute. CEFT was pleased to be able to provide a scholarship for a Czech musician to participate in this year's Summer Institute. Mr. Jaroslav Skuta, a clarinetist, was the first musician from the Czech Republic to participate in the Summer Institute. Mr. Skuta is from Prague and has been teaching music in Ostrava. During the 7-week summer institute, Mr. Skuta was able to attend master classes taught by invited music instructors, work with various music conductors and performers from throughout the world, and participate in numerous concerts and other smaller performances. Mr. Skuta has decided to continue his music studies toward a Master's Degree in the fall at Kent State University. At Festival Hill this summer, he was fortunate to be able to meet and work with the Kent State instructor under whom he will be studying. CEFT is pleased to have been able to help Mr. Skuta participate in the Summer Institute

and looks forward to further collaboration with Festival Hill.

A special luncheon on Sunday, July 7 at the Texas Czech Heritage and Culture Center in La Grange was sponsored and arranged by Nancy Braus, and catered by Chef Pavla Adamik Van Bibber from Austin, for all of the Round Top Summer Institute participants. This provided Mr. Skuta and the other participants the opportunity to tour the TCHCC museum/library facilities and learn about Texas Czech heritage and culture. Following the luncheon, an early evening performance by some of the Institute's participants was offered at the amphitheater at the TCHCC.

CEFT wishes to extend its sincerest appreciation and thanks to Mr. James Dick for his continued interest in and support of Czech classical music, to Ms. Nancy Braus for her dedication to CEFT, and to Ms. Pavla Adamik Van Bibber for her untiring dedication to promoting Czech culture in Texas.

At this time, I would like to encourage you to continue your support of CEFT and to encourage others to join in. What CEFT has been able to accomplish over the years is truly amazing, but there is still much more that the organization can do with support from all who are interested in promoting Czech culture in Texas.

Woody Smith, President, Czech Educational Foundation of Texas



CEFT Board of Directors Meeting at Texas A&M University July 27, 2019.

From the Chairman

By: James Sassin, CEFT Chairman

Dear Members of the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas,

We have been focused on executing our goals and objectives in 2019. In 2018, the strategy/implementation committee established the following goals with the unanimous support from the Board:

Goal 1: Enhance our existing programs.

Objective 1: Grow the A&M program

Goal 2: Rebranding and online presence.

Goal 3: Expand into additional educational and cultural areas.

Goal 4: Grow new, relevant programs.

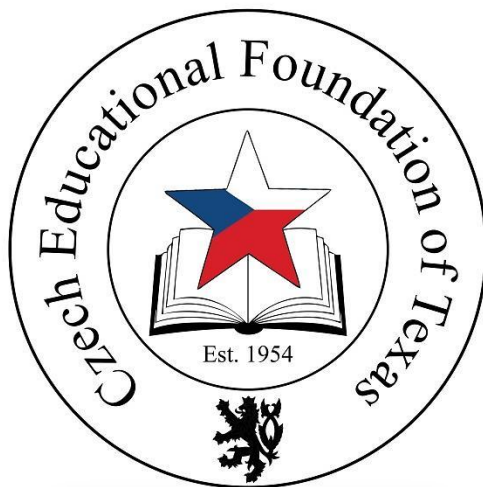
Growing the Texas A&M program: We at the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) are excited to announce that we have received interest from Texas A&M University that they would like to enhance the teaching of Czech culture within the A&M curriculum. During a meeting on June 24th with Dean Pamela Matthews, Ph.D. (Liberal Arts College), she noted that Texas A&M was interested in establishing a fully endowed Czech Chair within the College of Liberal Arts focused on teaching undergraduate/graduate students in a Czech-American (history, culture, and the impact of Czech/Moravians immigration to Texas) oriented curricula. The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas in partnership with the Texas A&M Foundation, will commence fundraising for the establishment of the Czech Chair at Texas A&M in the third quarter of 2019. It should be noted that a successful A&M Fellowship program focused on educating Czechs has been going strong for quite a while.

Celebrating a 20th Anniversary at Texas A&M University: The CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M was established in 1999. It was designed to

bring advanced graduate students from two Moravian universities (Masaryk University in Brno, Palacký University in Olomouc) to Texas A&M, establish Czech language classes in the Bryan-College Station area for members of the general public; provide Czech-to-English translation services for the Texas Czech community; provide assistance to Czech-American historical and cultural groups in Texas; and encourage cultural and educational ties between the State of Texas and the Czech Republic. Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Czech Visiting Scholar Program will take the place of the Fellowship. The CEFT visiting scholar is invited for one academic semester or one academic year at Texas A&M by one of the Departments in the College. The endowment in the Texas A&M Foundation, funded by members of the Hlavinka family and supplemented through the years by the Hlavinkas and other generous supporters, has made all of this possible.

Rebranding CEFT: A key ingredient in our rebranding operation, is our fundraising video which was developed by Jeffery Brown, (Producer and Director). It showcases the three successful programs CEFT has implemented at UT, UNT and A&M. The video will be officially rolled out on September 14th at the Texas A&M vs Lamar Football Game in front a crowd of key A&M Alumni and our esteemed host Texas A&M University System Chancellor, John Sharp. This video is intended to serve as the educational/recruiting/fundraising tool to allow folks who are not familiar with CEFT to understand our mission going back to our founding fathers. It will describe through the process of interviews, the three successful programs CEFT created. We will have the opportunity to use the video in many ways as we not only raise awareness and money but also increase membership within CEFT. Thanks to all who agreed to allow Jeffery and his crew to interview you and thanks to those who coordinated the taping at UT, UNT and A&M.

New Logo: Thanks to the hard work of Director Lynette Urbanovsky and her cousin Hannah Charanza, Texas A&M Graduate May 2019, Director Amy Jurica Hinnant and her daughter Kate Hinnant current Texas A&M Student Class of 2020, we now have a logo Designed by Hannah Charanza that will be a part all of our outreach efforts.



CEFT English Publicity Officer and Vice Chairman to the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M with her cousin Hannah Charanza, recent Texas A&M University Graduate, Aggie Class of 2019.



CEFT Vice Chairman and Advisor to the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M University, Amy Hinnant with her daughter Kate Hinnant, a current student at Texas A&M University, Aggie Class of 2020.

Growing membership: At the beginning of 2019, we set a goal to increase our membership substantially. Perhaps striving to have 600 members may sound a little too lofty right now, but it may be okay to allow that target to remain in place until we can get a better understanding of what an optimal membership pool needs to be for an organization like CEFT. Let's challenge each member to encourage four or five new members to join CEFT within the next 12 to 24 months.

In the coming weeks, we will not only continue to execute a formal fundraising effort to strengthen and grow our A&M program, but we will stay focused on growing our other successful programs at the University of North Texas and University of Texas.

Please continue to communicate with your friends and relatives that CEFT is on a mission to continue doing what we do best: Keeping our culture and heritage thriving at institutions of higher education in Texas!

Sincerely,

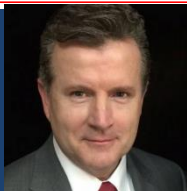
James M. Sassin
Chairman, Board of Directors, CEFT



James Sassin, CEFT Chairman with Miss Reville at the Anniversary Celebration of the William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University In October 2017.

Czech Republic planning to be "The Country for the Future"

**Update from: Brian Vanicek,
Honorary Consul to the
Czech Republic for the State
of Texas and CEFT Director**



As Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to the State of Texas, CEFT Director Brian Vanicek voluntarily serves the interests of the Czech Republic throughout the state of Texas. Duties include furthering the economic, commercial and cultural interests of the Czech Republic, promoting bilateral relations in these fields and providing assistance to Czech nationals, especially in cases of emergency. Additionally, he promotes tourism and direct contacts between the people of both countries. Brian's role as Honorary Consul complements the work he does as President of SPJST, a fraternal benefit society founded by Texas pioneers of Czech descent in 1897.

In June, Brian participated in the worldwide meeting of honorary consuls of the Czech Republic hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Czernin Palace in Prague. "Economic Diplomacy" was the primary focus of the conference with considerable emphasis devoted to matters related to nourishing business relationships through the consular network. The week-long conference also included presentations on Czechs living abroad, Czech legislation, economic prospects of the Czech Republic, the "Czech Schools Without Borders" program, government agencies and included excursions to various science, research, manufacturing and defense businesses.

"The Czech Republic wants to be the 'Country for the Future'," says Brian.

In February, the Government of the Czech Republic approved a key document "Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-2030." Prepared by the Research, Development and

Innovation Council — an advisory body to the Government of the Czech Republic headed by Prime Minister Andrej Babis — in close cooperation with a team of entrepreneurs, scientists, academics and public administrators, the strategy sets out new priorities calculated to place the Czech Republic among the most innovative countries in Europe by 2030. Part of the strategy includes the introduction of a new brand "The Czech Republic: The Country for the Future."

"The government of the Czech Republic has decided that support for science, research and innovation are an absolute priority if the Czech Republic is to raise its stature in an increasingly competitive world environment," says Brian. "It's an ambitious effort and an exciting time to be a part of the process."

That excitement, he says, extends to the work of the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas and its efforts to promote Czech language, Czech studies and an appreciation of Czech heritage and culture in Texas through its support of higher education programs.

"The Czech Republic is a beautiful and diverse country. Studying its language, history and culture including its art and music deepens that appreciation," says Brian. "Too, Czech studies have become increasingly relevant for young people seeking to establish a career in international business, finance or education."

CEFT Board Invited to Attend Events in November

The American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR) will host their annual meeting November 14 -16 in Austin,

Texas. The Texas visit is an acknowledgment to the tremendous number of Texans of Czech ancestry living in the state and the ever-widening economic and cultural bridges that exists between the Czech Republic and Texas. Readers will recall that AFoCR was a large contributor towards the rebuilding of the West Sokol Gymnasium following the fertilizer plan explosion in West, Texas in 2013. For more information on AFoCR, their objectives and the projects that they support, please refer to their website at afocr.org.



Hynek Kmonicek, Ambassador to the United States from the Czech Republic, Indra Gumarova, Honorary Consul to the Czech Republic and CEFT Director Brian Vanicek, Joan Vanicek and Kathy Hillman during the Ambassador's visit to Texas in October 2018.

In conjunction with their annual meeting, AFoCR board members and their guests will visit the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange on Saturday, November 16 to celebrate the Velvet Revolution and the 30th anniversary of freedom of the Czech Republic.

The November 16 celebration at the TCHCC will include the presentation of the AFoCR's highly-regarded Civil Vision Award to TCHCC Founding President Retta Chandler as well as a posthumous presentation to the late Effie Rosene, Founding President of the Czech Center Museum Houston. Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States of America Hynek Kmonicek will also be in attendance. Several key Texas government officials are also expected to be in attendance. CEFT Board members and their guests are also invited to attend the program which is scheduled

to begin at 4 p.m. and will likely conclude by 6 p.m.

On a related note, Ambassador Kmonicek will be in Texas through Tuesday of the following week as one of the participants in the Visegrad (V4) Economic and Energy meeting that will be taking place on the morning of Tuesday, November 19 at the Baker Institute on the campus of Rice University in Houston. Additional information related to the V4 meeting will be forthcoming. If you would like to be receive updates on the V4 presentation as well as a reception in the Ambassador's honor tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, November 17 at the Czech Center Museum, Houston, please contact Brian at texas@honorary.mzv.cz.



How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Brian Vanicek's June visit to Prague and the surrounding countryside covered a lot of ground — from the splendor of Hradcany Castle to the quirkiness of the “U Elektry” flea market — and everything in between . . . Never a dull moment! The opportunity to meet Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis, above, took place a Czernin Palace reception. One of the most beautiful palaces in Prague, Czernin Palace was built by Italian architect Francesco Caratti in 1668 and now serves as the seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



**By: Lynette Urbanovsky,
CEFT English Publicity Officer
and Vice Chair of the CEFT Texas
A&M Advisory Committee,
in collaboration with
Clinton Machann,
Committee Chair**

CEFT is excited to be celebrating the 20th Year of the William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M University! Many Texas Aggies have roots that go back to the Czech Republic, including both of us. Dr. Machann is a first generation Aggie, I am a second generation Aggie, and there are also many, many others, such as members of the Hlavinka Family, one of our first major donors. Previously the program has been shaped to enable students to come from two of the major Moravian universities in the Czech Republic and attend Texas A&M University with an assistantship in the College of Liberal Arts, while working on their Master's degrees; primarily these students would be working on a Master's in the Department of English. In the fall of 2018



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Jan Benes when he ordered his Aggie Ring.

CEFT found out that the program would need to change due to some University rules not allowing the students to have an assistantship. The assistantship enabled students to have in-state tuition with a part time salary working for Texas A&M along with our CEFT support through the endowment.



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Tereza Walsbergerová with CEFT Director Lynette Urbanovsky and Melissa (Urbanovsky) Barr.

There is no denying the joy that an Aggie feels when they can share the Aggie traditions with another. Seeing one of our Fellows attend a Fighting Texas Aggie Football Game for the first time, as well as Midnight Yell, learning about Bonfire, and singing the Aggie War Hymn is an experience that really brings the joy back home to our roots. The feeling of jubilation when one of our CEFT Fellows receives their Fighting Texas Aggie Ring, and then seeing them walk across the stage to receive their Master's from Texas A&M University. Way beyond the excitement is the experience the students receive, having the high level education from Texas A&M and the access to some of the greatest libraries in higher education.



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Markéta Byrtusová and CEFT Director Lynette Urbanovsky at a Texas Aggie Basketball game.

We are excited to share that we now have a Visiting Scholar program set up to

allow Czech students to come from various Liberal Arts programs and study at Texas A&M University, with the continued support of CEFT and the Machann gift fund set up at the College of Liberal Arts that will give students an additional \$500 per semester. As part of this program, the students will teach a Czech Language class that is open to the community, as our fellows have done in the past. Not only do the students from the Czech Republic gain, but we will gain in our cultural knowledge of our ancestral roots! The College of Liberal Arts is reaching out now to not only two, but the three major universities in Moravia.



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Petr Antene with the local Czech Language Class he taught that was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society.

CEFT does not want to stop with just the visiting scholar program; we have a vision to continue to grow our support at Texas A&M University to be self-sustaining and stronger than ever! With the support of the College of Liberal Arts Dean Matthews behind us, we are now working to try to set up a Chair of Czech Studies at Texas A&M University. Not only will we be giving back to the Czechs that come over, but now we will be reaching out to Texas Aggies with Czech heritage to help them to grow in their



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Antonín Zita with the local Czech Language Class he taught that was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society.

understanding of their ancestral roots. We have a long way to go with funding, but have a hope that with your support we will be able to set up a program that will continue to support itself much like that at the University of Texas at Austin, with full time staff members and classes offered in language, culture and beyond.

What does the future hold beyond that? Well, our past Fellows have indicated that they would find a doctoral assistantship highly desirable, and maybe that is where we go next. If you are interested in helping the CEFT continue to grow our endowment at Texas A&M please reach out to either of us, or the amazing CEFT Directors that serve on the Texas A&M Advisory Committee with us.



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Petr Antene after his graduation from Texas A&M University with CEFT Director Lynette Urbanovsky.



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Tereza Walsbergerová presenting at the annual CEFT membership meeting January 2019.

LOOKING BACK ON MY YEAR AS AN AGGIE

**By: Tereza Walsbergerová,
former CEFT William J.
Hlavinka Fellow 2018-2019**

It has been a little over two months since I left Texas and moved back to my hometown in Brno, Czech Republic, and it is becoming increasingly hard for me to comprehend that I was actually there for an entire year. That I really went to a completely foreign country across the ocean on my own... and that it flew by so fast! Regardless of my brain's inability to compute this grand adventure, looking back on my year as an Aggie, graduate student at the English department, and a Czech teacher, I would definitely say that I came back rich with knowledge and experience, new friends, and deeper appreciation for my country, culture, and heritage.

Sharing that heritage with people so hungry to reconnect with their roots was a privilege. Since I was born and grew up mostly in the city (Brno is the second biggest city of the Czech Republic), I never had what you might consider a strong relationship with folklore, which is why I was so (pleasantly) surprised when I saw how well and alive these traditions (including music, national costumes, food, drinks, and even some of the language) still are in certain regions of Texas. What might a twenty-something doctoral student from Brno consider old-fashioned and long-forgotten is a treasured piece of heritage in Texas. Seeing people share and enjoy their culture in this way was incredibly heart-warming and one of my favorite things to experience during my time in Brazos Valley, which was also why I enjoyed teaching the Czech language classes so much.

Although College Station itself does not necessarily offer much "culture"

(especially if you compare it to European cities, which was all I had known prior to coming to Texas), I grew incredibly fond of the Texas A&M campus with its funny little trees, flooded paths, and wandering squirrels that were not afraid to literally run under your feet. Power-walking across the campus from Trigon to Beutel to catch the “Yell Practice” Aggie Spirit line to White Creek was one of my weekly pleasures. Not only because I love walking and doing that on campus was usually my only opportunity to stretch out my European legs, but also because it made me feel like I was an extra in some American TV show; passing students sitting on benches with heavy textbooks, watching senior cadets stomping around in their brown boots, throwing a quick smile at exhausted-looking undergrads struggling to hold up their giant signs promoting Breakaways, Harvest Festivals, and so on, in the wind... it felt like I was in some kind of a dream. And indeed, sometimes I had to pinch myself.



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Tereza Walsbergerová enjoying an Aggie Baseball game with a colleague from the English Department.

Regrettably, I did not get to see as much Texan nature as I would have liked due to my busy schedule, but at the same time that same busy schedule was the thing that also enriched my life during my time at A&M. I will never forget the people I met and the things I learned during my two semesters at the English Department. Although they did not have to (seeing as I only came for the two semesters), everybody at the

department embraced me as one of their own and nobody ever treated me any differently despite the fact that I was a “passing intruder”. The staff – from the director of graduate studies, Dr. Sally Robinson, who helped me reignite my passion for my PhD project, to some of my favorite teachers (e.g. Dr. Anne Morey, Dr. Marian Eide, and Dr. Mary Ann O’Farrell), took an interest in me, encouraged my ideas, and helped me with my research, which is something that I will carry with me for many years to come. Meeting such a high number of intelligent and accomplished women in academia was also pivotal for me, as I am nearing the end of my PhD studies and will inevitably have to come to a decision if I want to continue in academia or not. It can be difficult to be a young woman in that environment, so seeing with my own eyes that it is, in fact, possible, made me feel like I might be able to do it too.

Of course, none of the things and experiences I have described above would be possible without the generous support of CEFT through the William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M University. I am not exaggerating when I say that the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas changed my life and helped me grow as a person and a researcher. As someone who considers herself an Americanist (seeing as I primarily study American literature and culture as a part of my PhD project), being able to come to America and experience the country I had studied for so many years first-hand was incredibly important. I am so grateful to CEFT – not only for allowing me to take that journey and make all these memories and connections – but also for taking such good care of me while I was in Texas. Namely, I would like to thank Lynette Urbanovsky for being my friend and for always making sure I got to places (seeing as I do not drive), making sure I was always fed (which was sometimes difficult as well, seeing as I am a vegan), and for inspiring me through the way she cared so much about the little things in life – dancing, creating things, taking

care of animals, sharing stories and memories with friends and family.

As July turns into August and this long, hot, and tedious summer draws to an end, I am slowly making preparations for the upcoming semester at Masaryk University. Although I will no longer have access to the (incredible) Texas A&M library (also one of my favorite places on campus), I feel ready to tackle whatever challenges await me. I definitely would not have this kind of confidence without spending a year in Texas, dealing with all the challenges and projects that I have dealt with, and meeting all the people that I have met. And that is why I will always be incredibly grateful to everyone who either donated to CEFT to make the fellowship possible or to everyone who enriched my life during my time in Texas, including my Czech language students, English department friends, and my friends up in Waco.

Although I will never graduate from Texas A&M and will therefore never wear the Aggie ring on my finger, there is one phrase that I kept hearing over and over in College Station that I will never forget – Once an Aggie, Always an Aggie. Being an Aggie means something slightly different to different people. For me, being an Aggie is a memory of my year in Texas. Of challenging myself and growing as a person. And with that, I want to end my contribution by saying: Whoop!



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Tereza Walsbergerová with CEFT Director Lynette Urbanovsky at Midnight Yell.



By: Ray Lenart, CEFT Vice President and Chair to the CEFT Kostohryz & Bezdek Foundations at the University of North Texas College of Music

Activities during 2018-2019

Thursday, 11 October (1 performance)

Baylor University Armstrong Browning Library, Waco

"Celebrating 100 Years of Czech Independence"

with Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček

3 UNT opera soloists, faculty accompanist

Performance of scenes from Leoš Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen*



Tuesday 27 November – Saturday, 1 December (10 performances)

Denton

"A Centenary Celebration of 100 Years of Independence"

3rd International Festival of Czech Music, all music units involved

This event included the staging and performance of two operas *Coronide* (Vít Zouhar) and *Cunning Little Vixen* (Leoš Janáček), the *Piano Concerto in g minor* (Antonín Dvořák), *Má vlast* (a symphonic poem by Bedřich Smetana), and numerous smaller works



** in addition to the music performances the festival included two academic conferences, hosting Dr. Jaroslav Miller, Professor History and Rector of Palacký University (Olomouc) as the keynote speaker as well as six additional guest artists and speakers from the Czech Republic

<https://czech.music.unt.edu/content/major-performances>

**** visiting Hussite priest Fr. Jaroslav Křivánek**

was hosted by the festival to present a lecture on the history of the Hussite Church after 1918

Sunday, 2 December (1 performance)

St. Mary's church of the Assumption, Praha TX

4 UNT opera soloists, cellist, faculty accompanist

Performance of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*

** visiting Hussite priest Jaroslav Křivánek, hosted by the festival, presented the sermon in the Czech language; following the performance of the *Stabat Mater*, Fr. Křivánek led the Texas-Czech congregation in the singing of traditional Bohemian and Moravian Christmas carols



Tuesday, December - Saturday, 8 December (6 performances)

Texas-Czech community outreach tour to Austin, Bryan-College Station, Dallas (2 performances), Ennis, and Temple-Belton
10 UNT opera soloists, faculty accompanist
Scenes from Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen*

Wednesday, 9 July – Friday, 26 July

Travel to the Czech Republic for language coaching and rehearsals
5 UNT opera soloists



Wednesday, 17 July – Saturday, 20 July (4 performances)

Olomouc, Czech Republic

5 UNT opera soloists

Four performances each of two operas at the Olomouc Baroque Opera Festival

1. *Le Veglie ossequiose* (Johann Heinrich Schmelzer)

2. *Die sieben Alter stimben zu samben* (Johann Heinrich Schmelzer)

* composer born in Austria but largely working in the Czech kingdom

<https://baroko.olomouc.eu/en/program-2019/>



Sunday, 20 July (1 performance)

Hussite Church, Olomouc, Czech Republic
5 UNT opera soloists

Performance of different styles of American worship music, multiple composers



EXCHANGE PROGRAM: partially funded by the CEFT-UNT endowment, artist and opera coach Martin Vodrážka from Palacký University (Olomouc, Czech Republic) is on campus to offer recitals of Czech music and classes in singing in the Czech language



Planned Activities during 2019-20

Saturday, 21 September (1 performance)
Performance of Czech music by UNT opera singer Bree Nichols, including duet with Martin Vodrážka

Monday, 23 September (1 performance)
Performance of Czech music by Martin Vodrážka

Wednesday, 4 December – Saturday, 7 December
Travel to Washington. D.C. rehearsals

Friday, 6 December (1 performance)

10 UNT opera soloists, cellist, faculty accompanist
Performance of Jan Ryba's *Czech Christmas Mass* at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington D.C., **working in conjunction the Czech Embassy.** We're hoping that some Texas Czechs will attend!

<https://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/>

PENDING:

Fall semester 2019: the COM will send 3 faculty members to Palacký University (Olomouc) to work out the details of a formal student-exchange program

Spring break 2020: Czech brass band to 9 cities? Working on it.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM: Spring semester 2020 – the COM will be sending 1 student to Palacký University (Olomouc) and 2 exchange students to the Janáček Academy of Music (Brno) in exchange for accepting 2 students from the Janáček Academy



By: Christian Hilchey
Lecturer,
Department of
Slavic and Eurasian
Studies
University of Texas
at Austin
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I. Endowment - we will be able to provide information on the endowment's earnings after the start of the new fiscal year.

II. Visiting Faculty Member - Interest in Czech classes has increased and we now regularly offer four years of Czech language courses + independent studies. In order to balance the load, we have invited Petra Dominková to teach some of our upper-level courses in Fall 2019.

Petra Dominková received her PhD from the Center of Audiovisual Studies at Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in 2008. This will not be her first time in the United States, as she spent one year at UCLA as a Fulbright scholar. Besides FAMU,

she teaches international students at Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and CET. She is interested in Czech and East European cinematography and film noir.

III. Courses

Fall 2019

	Instructor	Enrollment
First-year CZ I	Hilchey	5 undergraduates 3 members of the community at large
Second-year Czech I	Hilchey	3
Third-year Czech I	Dominková	2
Fourth-year Czech I	Dominková	2
Upper Level Independent Study (History Ph.D. student)	Dominková/Hilchey (split)	1
Upper Level Independent Study (CREEES MA student)	Dominková	1

Spring 2020

	Instructor	Enrollment
First-year CZ II	Hilchey	Spring Enrollment Has Not Yet Begun
Second-year Czech II	Hilchey	
Third-year Czech II	Hilchey	
Fourth-year Czech II	Hilchey	
Upper Level Independent Study (CREEES MA student)	Hilchey	

IV. Reality Czech Online Textbook - Work on the textbook is being completed. Christian Hilchey is currently working as project director and primary materials author. The last components of the textbook are being edited and chapters will be made available progressively over the next several months. Here are some preview versions of the first four chapters:

Unit 1 - <https://realityczech.org/gdoc/#1tq3w5-koZMkHYMtJ3hn2FYJynZwL4UB3RDhzMZ8wiSk>

Unit 2 - https://realityczech.org/gdoc/#1rO8bIUZv1Pj6IRJ9sJBBT16OqqsKICXfJZ3Cpv_Xy8

Unit 3 - https://realityczech.org/gdoc/#1SEGE1ZN3w2wF2C_KpkJPs2DDZ52jsdFag9spg5DN36uk

unit 4 --

<https://realityczech.org/gdoc/#1DUBTmqL2Z2-vnJoeEjAFPO5BgioAvn6uCyHrQruAOBg>

V. Czechs Mix - We will continue to hold Czechs Mix on a weekly basis. Times will be determined at the beginning of the Fall semester.



VI. Czech that Film - Over the past three years we have contributed to the Czech that Film (<http://www.czechthatfilm.com/>) traveling film series every spring. This past year we were able to help them show four Czech films.

VII. Maymester proposal - We will be submitting a proposal for a 4-week summer program tentatively titled *Prague to Table: Mapping Central European Foodways*. If approved, the course will explore primarily Czech foodways through visits to restaurants, farms, manufacturing facilities, etc. Students will learn about Czech history and culture through the lens of cuisine. The program will be based primarily in the Czech Republic, but will also include trips to Slovakia, Poland, and possibly Vienna. Lecturer Christian Hilchey spent 7 weeks traveling and developing professional contacts during summer 2019 in preparation for proposing this program. We will update CEFT in the spring about the status of this program.



Christian Hilchey
Lecturer, Department of
Slavic and Eurasian
Studies
University of Texas at
Austin



By: Jaroslav Skuta

Dear Dr. Smith, dear Czech Educational Foundation of Texas,

First of all, I would like to thank the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas for your generous support that you provided for me to participate in Round Top Festival Institute 2019. I would like to share my experience with you. Round Top Festival Institute is an amazing 6 weeks long summer music festival for students, young musicians, who want to work on their musical and performing skills even outside of school. Every student has to apply with an audition video; a lot of people apply every year. It's prestigious to get in.



CEFT Sponsored student musician Jaroslav Skuta with CEFT Directors Daniel Hrna, Clarice Snokhous, Woody Smith, and Brian Vanicek, CEFT member Joan Vanicek along with Nancy Brous.

I was personally very happy that I got picked to be part of the clarinet section at Round Top Festival Institute 2019. During the whole festival, I got chance to study with three famous clarinetists and teachers – Jonathan Gunn (University of Texas in Austin), Amitai Vardi (Kent State University) and Jason Shafer (Colorado Symphony Orchestra). Each of them spent two weeks at the Festival Institute working with us – with the clarinet section. Every clarinet student had 2 lessons with each of the teachers and we also had weekly studio class, where we performed for each other, talked about performance preparation procedure or worked on the clarinet reeds. Mr. Vardi and Mr. Shafer also

did masterclasses opened for public to show, how actual clarinet lessons may look like. I have enjoyed presence of each of these clarinet teachers, I learned so much about music generally, about specific clarinet pieces and also about everything connected with performing and auditioning – what is the best way to prepare, how to work with performance anxiety etc.

Another important part of Round Top was the orchestra. To play well in the orchestra and become a reliable orchestra player – that needs a lot of work and training. Fortunately, the program offered by Round Top Festival Institute 2019 suited extremely well to all students in every orchestra section. As an orchestra, we had every week different program and different conductor, that's exactly how it works in a professional orchestra. What an amazing thing to experience and for six weeks!

Thanks to the diversity of the program, we could rotate within the clarinet section and get more comfortable with every position, even on the auxiliary instruments – in our case that means E flat clarinet and bass clarinet. I really enjoyed every week playing in the orchestra, working on different pieces with different conductors. I focused on learning from them how to become the best orchestral musician as possible.

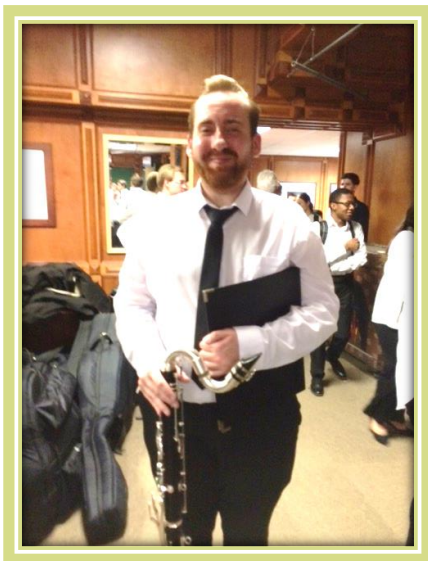
The other part of the Round Top Festival Institute 2019 was the chamber music. Every student got assigned to one or two chamber music groups. Then every group had assigned a piece to be working on during certain scheduled times with a teacher. That was very valuable experience for me since I want to focus on chamber music in my future. I was assigned into a woodwind quintet; we worked on a piece by Paul Taffanel, and a mixed wind octet, where we worked on a piece by Igor Stravinsky. During these six weeks I got to work not only with great students from all over the world, but also with many renowned musicians and teachers.

With the mixed wind octet we got the opportunity to perform in the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange. We were also one of the few ensembles who got picked to perform at the last chamber music concert held in Round Top Festival Institute concert hall.

All of this made truly one of the best summer music festivals I have ever experienced and for 100% I would recommend this for any music performance students from Czech Republic.

Thank you again for your very generous financial support.

Jaroslav Skuta



CEFT Sponsored student musician Jaroslav Skuta with his instrument.

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Did you know that CEFT not only has a website, but is also on Facebook! Please look us up for upcoming events, history, programs, articles, past newsletter editions, and much more to come!

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<https://www.ceft.us/what-we-do>

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Featured In This Newsletter Edition:

- ★ From the President Pg. 1
- ★ From the Chairman Pg. 2
- ★ From the Honorary Consul to the Czech Republic for the State of Texas Pg. 4
- ★ Report from the CEFT Texas A&M William J. Hlavinka Fellowship Pg. 5
- ★ Retrospective Report from the past CEFT Texas A&M William J. Hlavinka Fellow Pg. 6
- ★ Report of CEFT (Kostohryz and Bezdek) Endowments at University of North Texas Pg. 8
- ★ Report of the from UT Austin Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies to Czech Educational Foundation of Texas 9
- ★ Thank You from Jaroslav Skuta to CEFT Pg. 10



Past CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M University Tereza Walsbergerová with the local Czech Language Class she taught that was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society Spring 2019.



CEFT Chairman James Sassin, Honary Consul to the Czech Republic for the State of Texas & Director Brian Vanicek, CEFT English Publicity Officer & Director Lynette Urbanovsky with the Royalty at the Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant in 2019.

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Chair in Czech Studies at University of Texas

Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M University

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Send Acknowledgment to:

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Please return form with contribution to:
CEFT c/o Cindy P. Belknap
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