

Czech Educational Foundation of Texas

The William J. Hlavinka Fellowship At Texas A&M University



MASARYKOVA
UNIVERZITA



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY®



Palacký University
Olomouc

Faculty of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M, College Station



List of William J. Hlavinka Fellows

- Daniela Kukrechtová (ties to both Palacký and Masaryk) 1999-2001
- Martin Svoboda (Palacký) 2001-2002
- Magdalena Vintrová (Masaryk) 2002-2004
- Martina Vranová (Palacký) 2004-2006
- Hana Waisserová (Palacký) 2006-2008
- Jana Drešerová (Masaryk) 2008-2010
- Petr Anténe (Palacký) 2010-2012
- Antonín Zita (Masaryk) 2012-2014
- Markéta Byrtusová (Palacký) 2014-15
- Jan Beneš (Masaryk) 2015-2017

Faculty of Arts at Palacký University, Olomouc



Faculty of Arts at Masaryk University, Brno



Daniela Kukrechtová, Ph.D.



“Although, or because, I continuously worked, without a single moment of respite during my first year of stay in College Station, both studying and teaching proved to be very rewarding for me. Teaching Czech has been an absolutely wonderful experience. I admired my students for their patience with hard Czech grammar and I was grateful for their friendliness towards me. I am thankful and proud that I was offered this opportunity by CEFT, and I must say that interaction with the Czech community, giving short lectures and talks and teaching my native tongue have provided me with much better and broader views than if I was only to study English and American literature as a regular graduate student in the Department of English. This way I was also learning to put things in a broader historical, political and cultural perspective. I have met many wonderful, friendly and helpful people through my interaction with the Czech community of Texas and I hope that I have been giving something in return, too.”



Hana Waisserova, Ph.D.

Earned Ph.D. in Anglophone Literature from Palacky University, Czech Republic in May 2010. Spent two years at Texas A&M University (2006 and 2007) as CEFT Hlavinka Fellow teaching Czech under kind guidance of Dr. Clint Machann, and continued work on her doctoral thesis under Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya.



“This very fortunate experience certainly predetermined my future career - now I serve as Instructor of Czech Studies, DMLL, UNL, teaching introductory, intermediate, and advanced Czech Language, Literature, and Culture courses, as well as teaching Euroasian and Global Women Totalitarian Experience (WMST, HIST, GLST). Last but not least, I also lead the activities of Komensky Club, that are designed for UNL students and Czech-American Community of Nebraska, and I serve on executive board of Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.”

With students of Czech
and Komensky club



With recognized
students of Czech



“I have a lot of fond memories of TAMU, and College Station. In here, I formed great friendships, visited memorable events and places, have discovered new horizons, and my various cross-cultural exposure and discoveries have been integral to my comparative literary and cultural comprehension.”

Hana Waisserova, Ph.D.

“I confess, I reached a decisive moment during my two years of teaching and research at Texas A&M University. In here I worked and did research with all my heart and energy – in other words, I became “hooked” for academia. I felt that my experience in TAMU had helped me to understand the full potential of being a university instructor in a competitive environment, and I felt “like a fish in the water.” I am deeply grateful for the opportunity provided by CEFT Hlavinka Fellowship.”



“Upon returning to the Czech Republic, I began teaching at Masaryk University in Brno, and at the Anglo-American University in Prague, where I helped to develop Central and Eastern European Studies program, and I served as short-term visiting scholar at several European and African universities (under Erasmus program). While I was teaching at Masaryk University and at the Anglo-American University, I started a family and I have two daughters - Amalka (8) and Ruzena nicknamed Rose (5).”

“My recent research has focused primarily on the nature of Czech identity as reflected in twentieth-century writing, on the lingering influence of the totalitarian experience upon Czech culture and literature, and on Czech and global transnational writing, recently mostly by women. I have immensely benefited from my earlier doctoral research - conducted at large at TAMU - on themes such as “East meets West” and transnationalism. In 2013 I applied to be a Czech lecturer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where I serve till now.”



Petr Antene, Ph.D.



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“My stay in Texas was a great contribution to my personal and professional development, as it provided me with an authentic experience of American life and culture. As the courses I took at Texas A&M were often quite demanding, my studies improved my academic writing in English, which was very beneficial for completing my Ph.D. at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. In 2015, I started working as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education at Palacký and revised my Ph.D. dissertation into the book *Campus Novel Variations*, published by Palacký University. In the acknowledgements, I thank to Texas A&M and the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society, as my stay in Texas also enabled me to conduct research for my dissertation.”





“I am also grateful for the opportunity to teach Czech language for the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society in Bryan. While many of my students shared with me the experience of having studied at Texas A&M, getting to know them enabled me to make friends with people outside academia and thus learn more about the whole of American society.”

“My teaching experience was also useful for me in the Czech Republic, as in 2015 and 2016, I taught Czech as a foreign language at the summer school organized by Palacký University. I am also interested in the contacts between the US and central Europe. Currently, I am a member of a research team including university professors from the Czech Republic and Austria who are studying the perception of American literature and culture in these two countries.”

Antonin Zita, Ph.D.

“When I was offered the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship, I had just started my doctoral studies. As I was planning to become a scholar, the fellowship was not something I could pass on: it not only enabled me to carry out archival research invaluable for my dissertation, but it also allowed me to study at one of the largest universities in the United States.”



“However, there was more to my decision to become a William J. Hlavinka fellow. Working with Czech-Texans was a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it gave me something more than just education. It gave me insight into the history of Czechoslovaks in Texas, and the opportunity to teach the local Czech-Texan community Czech was a truly unique experience.”





“My stay at TAMU, therefore, not only helped me to get my current job at Masaryk University, but also allowed me to learn a great deal about the Czechoslovak history and heritage in the United States, which, in turn, made me more appreciative of my Czech roots. In other words, learning about Czech-Texans also allowed me to learn about myself. Therefore, I am truly grateful for the fellowship and for meeting all the fine folks from Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society.”

Mgr. Marketa Byrtusova



Faculty
of Arts

Palacký University
Olomouc

“During my Master studies at Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, I decided to apply for a Graduate studies abroad to answer a question if the pursuit of an academic career is the right choice for me. Out of two possibilities, the Hlavinka fellowship became a reality. The time in Bryan/College Station taught me more than I expected both in my field of expertise and in life.”



“I particularly value the time spent with and for the people of Czech Heritage Society, since sharing our perspectives on Czech culture was, I believe, more than mutually inspirational. It created space for true friendships despite distance and differences. Thanks to Hlavinka Fellowship, I have chosen to do cross-culture work, helping to share Czech heritage with 40 million Scouts all over the world as a coordinator of International Department of Junák – Czech Scouting.”



Jan Benes, M.A.



LIBERAL ARTS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

“In my studies at A&M, I have mostly focused on coursework related to African American literature, culture, and history. This led to finding a new research topic for my dissertation in the form of African American aviation and its presentation in Harlem Renaissance literature and newspapers. Through coursework, I was also able to earn a Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies. During the Fall 2017 semester, I am teaching Composition and Rhetoric to freshmen Aggies and gaining new teaching experiences in the process. Overall, the coursework as well as the grading and teaching assignments at Texas A&M have considerably improved my knowledge in my area of study and have provided me with skills that I would have never been able to acquire and develop in the Czech Republic.”



“The stay in College Station as a Hlavinka fellow has been a blessing and I am very grateful to CEFT and the Czech-Texan community for having invested in me and for providing me with the opportunity to earn a Masters degree from Texas A&M, teach Czech, find new friends, and engage in research that finally fulfills me and gives sense and purpose to my academic career.”



