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## AHEA Newsletter: September 2022

1 message

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**American Hungarian Educators Association** <aheanews@gmail.com>

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# September 2022 Newsletter

## President's Corner

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Taking up the editorial reins at our journal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies (HCS)*, is a considerable challenge. Thanks to the work of the previous editorial team, we have a journal that is well-established and its future is bright. Like so many aspects of our professional lives, the world of publishing is changing. It is now more important than ever to look beyond maintaining the health of *HCS*, to actively promoting its growth and further development. I am pleased to announce that our new editor-in-chief, **Paul Olchvary** has agreed to take on this challenge.

Let me introduce him. Paul Olchvary is the publisher of [New Europe Books](#), which marked its tenth anniversary in 2022, and the translator of more than twenty works of Hungarian literature for leading presses. He has received translation grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and PEN American Center. Born in 1965 to a Hungarian family in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and raised near Buffalo, New York, Olchvary lived in Hungary for many years as an adult, settling there as the Cold War ended. He earned an MA in English/writing from Indiana University, Bloomington, where he also studied Hungarian literature under the guidance of Mihaly Szegedy-Maszak and was president of the Hungarian Cultural Association. After earning his BA in English, from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Olchvary was a newspaper reporter. While in Hungary he taught composition to English majors at Janus Pannonius University (JPTE), in Pecs; held a year-long work fellowship at the US embassy; was the founding editor of the news digest *Hungary Around the Clock*; and worked as a translator (often for the *Hungarian Quarterly*), writer (of short stories and essays that appeared in Hungarian translation in the monthly magazine *2000*), and copyeditor. On resettling in the US, he worked for years as a copywriter for Princeton University Press (2000-2005, senior copywriter) and Globe Pequot Press

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(2008-2011). He lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA.

Paul has invited a competent team of highly-qualified academics in various disciplines to serve as associate editors. These individuals will be key in advising on editorial decisions and policies. Beyond the editorial team, the success of any peer-reviewed journal hinges on its peer reviewers. On behalf of the editorial team, I urge you to sign up as a peer reviewer. Our journal relies on volunteers with a diverse array of interests and expertise to review the manuscripts submitted. The steps to sign up are straightforward, go to the journal website and [create a profile](#). In the section marked "Reviewing interest," add your areas of expertise. One need not be a member of AHEA to serve as a peer reviewer; please spread this invitation to others in your network who may be qualified and interested in contributing to this effort.

Our [Call for Abstracts for AHEA23](#) is now open. The theme of our 47<sup>th</sup> annual conference is *Dependencies and Alliances*. We're so pleased to be planning an in-person conference in the Spring of 2023 (April 27-29). The list of possible submissions has been expanded to include Roundtable Discussions and Book Presentations. The Call for Abstracts will close on January 13, 2023, and abstracts are accepted on a rolling basis.

On behalf of the Board of AHEA, I convey our best wishes for your continued success. Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions on how AHEA might better support your scholarly achievements.

Klára Papp, AHEA President  
[klarakpapp@gmail.com](mailto:klarakpapp@gmail.com)

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## Member Spotlight

AHEA is a scholarly organization connecting a diverse set of educators, researchers, professionals, independent scholars and academics who come from many walks of life. Each month we highlight the academic and professional career of a different AHEA member.



This month's featured member is **Christopher Ball**

*Editor's Note: Christopher Ball is the István Széchenyi Chair of International*

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***Economics, Associate Professor of Economics, and Director of the Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University, host institution of the 2023 AHEA Conference***

**Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially how you came to specialize in central Europe and Hungary?**

I started my undergraduate career as an Economics major at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) in 1990, right after the fall of the Berlin wall. In 1992 I had the chance to study abroad for a semester at the London School of Economics where I got to take a class on "Transition Economics" which covered the topic of transitioning from a communist regime to a free-market democracy. It was a fascinating topic since it connected economics with political science, philosophy, law, and sociology. Sort of the perfect mix for a young social scientist. It also turned out that not many young Americans knew about this field, and so a year later when we had a guest speaker on campus with connections to Hungary, she found my knowledge and interest fascinating and connected me with some people in Hungary happy to invite a young American to Hungary for a year.

I moved to Hungary in August 1994. It was a mess because the group that invited me, the Erdelyi Híradó, run by poet Géza Szócs, had connections with the MDF government which was replaced by the MSzP government in the Spring. As a result, they didn't have the connections with the Economics related ministries that they thought they would. I didn't really have an internship or a living stipend like they planned.

After three months in Budapest, I was running out my US tourist visa and my meager savings. Several of the people at the Erdelyi Híradó invited me to Marosvásárhely for a political meeting promising to show me the region, so I got to see their part of (former) Hungary before I returned to the USA. Someone then took me from there to Csíkszereda and we travelled into the villages in that area of Székelyföld. It was there for the first time that I saw people with a deep connection to their land and history – including all the still lingering history of communism which was more prevalent then in Romania than it was in Hungary by 1994 – and I fell in love with the region and people and realized I needed to stay, study, embed myself and learn.

When I returned to Budapest I was eventually hired by the Hungarian Atlantic Council and became their program manager, helping organize conferences, manage publications and the like. I then received a 2-year fellowship from the Institute of Current World Affairs (then Dartmouth-based, now based in DC) to live in the region and study local economic differences between towns in current Hungary versus towns in former Hungary, namely in Slovakia and Romania.

In the meantime I met my wife, a Székely from Sepsiszentgyörgy. We married in 1998 when I returned to the US to finally earn a PhD in International Macroeconomics with a subfield in Industrial Organization at Texas A&M University. In 2003 I was hired at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. We landed here because it was a good and growing university at the time and said it was open to allowing me to pursue my odd interests in Hungary and the region. The local community helped me develop programs with Hungary and host speakers from the region.

In 2008 we received a private donation that endowed Quinnipiac's first endowed chair, the István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics. We named it, with the donor, after Széchenyi both because it was in Economics and because the mission of the Chair is actually to build bridges between the peoples of Hungary and of the USA. Additionally, our scholarship program – launched at the same time – was intended to bring young Hungarians to the US to study, then work at American companies and take that knowledge back home to Hungary to put to good use in the best way those people see fit, much as Széchenyi himself did.

Since then I've built our programs in Hungary and we attracted a second donation for a similar chair and programs in Poland. Around that we then built the Central European Institute at Quinnipiac and I hope our third chair is a similar one, this time for Romania.

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Today I am finally reconnecting my academic, economic interests with Hungary once again. I've been serving as an external member on some committees for Corvinus University during its transition and will give a research presentation for its Economics department this September. So, things do sometimes come full circle.

**How did you find out about AHEA, and what led you to join?**

I have met the AHEA members over the years. My programs don't teach Hungarian studies at Quinnipiac so I didn't really join, but appreciated everyone's work and very much appreciate the members. Of course, Kálmán Magyar was an early advocate for me of AHEA's work and I have long had tremendous respect for Kálmán and all he does. So I've thought highly of AHEA for years. I only joined in recent years after discussing hosting the 2022 AHEA at Quinnipiac which fell through due to COVID, but we are looking forward to 2023.

**What impact has your involvement with AHEA made on your career and/or your work?**

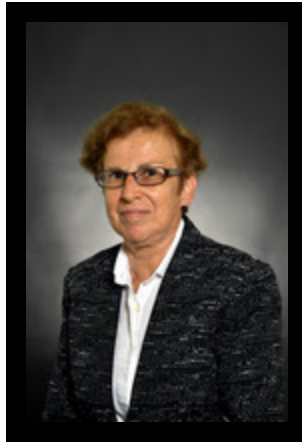
Getting to know the members has been very nice. Also, it ties a lot of different connections together for me. Already I'm talking with the Hungarian Fulbright about doing something special at this next AHEA. I'm working with Corvinus, Ludovika, ELTE, and Óbuda universities as well as the MCC already in Hungary, so the upcoming AHEA is serving as a nice umbrella event to bring together people from all these universities.

**Tell us, please, about your current project.**

My current, post-COVID, project is to launch "QU in BP". We have a QU in DC program where our students study for a semester in DC and work in various agencies. I want to do the same in Hungary. I worked this past year with Corvinus and QU's 3<sup>rd</sup>-party study abroad coordinator (they have great dorms near Semmelweis!) to put together a nice package for a semester abroad. Participating students can then use 1 course (3 credits) to do an internship which would be part time in the Spring semester but could continue through the summer. Ideally a student would live and work in Hungary for 6 months. My long-term goal with this is to get more young Americans then moving to Hungary to live and work for a few years. I'm talking with several companies, partnered with AmCham in Hungary, and talking with Corvinus about amazing Master's degrees Americans could earn as well. The idea is: Go to Hungary. Yes, the salary is initially a little lower, but it's a wonderful country, wonderful people and over, say, five years you can gain quality international work experience and a high-quality Master's degree (for cheaper than in the USA) and launch an amazing global career. ... Secretly I know if they live in Hungary for 5 years, we'll have a next generation of crazy Americans like me who understand and appreciate Hungary enough. I'd love to see new future bridges between wonderful people that flourish for many years to come.

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## **In Memoriam: Susan Glanz**



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Susan Glanz, Ph.D. (July 2, 1949 – August 24, 2022).

Dr. Glanz was on the faculty at St. John's University in New York City, NY for over three decades. She taught economics and impressed upon her students the importance of this subject to their roles as citizens in society. She was an outstanding academician and her research focused on Hungarian economic history and Hungary's relations with the European Union. She also had a research interest in effective teaching methods and the use of technology in the classroom. She published on these topics and delivered more than 20 papers and chaired several panels at professional conferences. She also worked with a number of textbook authors contributing to several widely-used college textbooks.

She was a cherished colleague and member of AHEA and this year's winner of the Peter Basa Award. Her generosity of spirit and competence will long be remembered in our organization. Dr. Glanz served two terms as president. During her tenure, she oversaw several important milestones of the organization: she organized its 30th anniversary celebration in 2004; she organized an AHEA conference in Budapest in 2005; under her leadership, AHEA launched its peer-reviewed journal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*; in 2007, she organized another AHEA conference at St. John's University in New York City, the theme of which was "Hungarians in a Larger World."

Susan served on the Program Committee reviewing Economic and Science abstracts for decades. Those who knew her commented on her emotional intelligence, collegiality, her high level of professionalism, her quick, inquisitive mind, no-nonsense organizational skills and her team spirit. She served as a role model to all of us who contribute to the work of AHEA.

Each year, she took an active part in the organization of our annual conferences, offering her expertise and dedication in assembling its intricate three-day program. She assembled the submitted abstracts and clustered them into coherent groups creating the first draft of the Program.

Those who have had the pleasure of working closely with her for many years in AHEA will long remember her quick wit and great sense of humor. She will be dearly missed.

-Klara Papp

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## Have a New or Upcoming Publication?

We would love to help share news of the impressive and diverse work that AHEA members are doing! If you have a recent book, article, or other scholarly/artistic work you would like your fellow members to know about, send a brief description/promotional blurb and a link to further information to [aheanews@gmail.com](mailto:aheanews@gmail.com). Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

The listing of publications is for our members' information and does not signify endorsement by the AHEA.

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## Don't Let Your Membership Benefits Stop!

Renew your 2022 membership to ensure uninterrupted membership today to ensure access to an expanded network of scholars and academics working in multidisciplinary fields of Hungarian Studies.

AHEA's membership dues enable you to access "Members Only" section of the website, participate in the governance of AHEA through your vote on our newly revised Bylaws as well as officers and board members.

We are pleased to announce membership discounts as well as the option of a new **lifetime membership**. Visit <https://ahea.net/members/membership-information>.

Only members in good standing can vote in leadership elections. Please remember to renew yours! **Click here** to access our PayPal link, or to get information on paying by check or bank transfer.

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