

AHEA Newsletter: April 2025

1 message

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Tue, May 20, 2025 at 4:00 PM

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## May 2025 Newsletter

### President's Corner

Dear Members and Friends of AHEA,

As we wrap up the academic year, I wanted to remind you that thanks to our generous sponsors, AHEA offers **two \$2,500 scholarship awards to support your scholarship**. These are not limited to conference participants. Any AHEA member is eligible to apply, whether or not they are presenting this year.

- [Helena History Press Scholarship](#)
- [Vardy Legacy Scholarship](#)

Due to a recent mailing list issue, many members did not receive the original reminder—so we've extended the deadline to **May 30, 2025**. Eligible applicants may apply for both awards using the same materials, though please note: a single applicant may only receive one scholarship in any given year.

I am also delighted to announce the recipients of our **Research Presentation Awards (\$500)**, given in recognition of outstanding academic proposals submitted for our upcoming conference: **Alexa Dorottya Stier** and **Rita Szuly**. Congratulations to this year's awardees—we look forward to your presentations in Pécs!

With over 100 presenters already confirmed, we're gearing up for an exciting and intellectually rich conference this June! If you're presenting, please be sure to submit the required forms and payments through the [conference website](#).

Whether or not you are attending our conference, we hope you can join us for a **three-day post-conference excursion from June 22–24**, exploring the beautiful region around Pécs. This informal gathering offers a relaxed opportunity to continue conversations and connect with colleagues. Space is limited, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All information—including application forms, registration details, and updates—can be found on the [conference website](#).

Finally, whether or not you're presenting this year, don't forget that our **international peer-reviewed journal**, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, accepts submissions year-round. We welcome your contributions!

As always, feel free to reach out to me personally with any questions or suggestions: [hl4@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:hl4@stmarys-ca.edu).

Warm regards, üdvözlettel,  
Helga Lenart-Cheng

## DEADLINES EXTENDED TO MAY 30! Várdy & HHP Scholarships Best Student Presentation Award

We have extended the application deadlines of our two research scholarships to **May 30, 2025**.

**Candidates may submit applications for both awards in the same cycle but can only receive one award.**

### Steven Béla Várdy and Ágnes Huszár Várdy Legacy Scholarship

The Steven Béla Várdy Legacy and Ágnes Huszár Várdy Scholarship has been established to recognize a scholar in the fields of history or literature, who exemplifies the high standards of original research and historical and literary writing set by Steven Béla Várdy and Ágnes Huszár Várdy. Eligible candidates must be a member of AHEA whose degree and research focus is in history or literature. Amount: \$2500. [Click here for complete guidelines and application form.](#)

### Helena History Press Scholarship

The Helena History Press scholarship is an annual award that has been established by Helena History Press to recognize a scholar in any field of the humanities who specializes in scholarship related to or about Central and East Europe. The field of humanities includes ancient and modern languages, literature, philosophy, history, human geography, law, politics, religion, and art. Amount: \$2500. [Click here for complete guidelines and application form.](#)

### Best Student Presentation Award

If you are a **student** whose proposal has been accepted for the AHEA Pécs Conference, we hope you will consider completing the short application here: <https://forms.gle/55oJ2my1eSGyUxwz7>

## A Message to our Members in Hungary: Connect with American Fulbright Scholars!

Want to meet with US Fulbrighters at your University or in your area? Please let us know and we will send you the contact information and background of scholars going there. You can then get in touch with them for coffee, networking, etc.

We are setting up a list of AHEA members who are open to this initiative. This has

worked well Hungarian Fulbright scholars coming to the USA.

We appreciate your help and many thanks!

If interested, please contact:

Enikő Molnár Basa  
[eniko.basa@verizon.net](mailto:eniko.basa@verizon.net)  
AHEA founder and former Executive Director

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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 **Enikő Bollobás, ELTE**

*Dr. Bollobás will be the keynote speaker at our 2025 annual conference*

**Please tell us a little bit about your career arc. In particular, how did you come to American Studies, and, in particular, to specialize in American literature?**

American literature had already begun to attract me during my university years. Its freshness and boldness appealed to me—I guess, that it was the voice of a relatively young nation. I began to focus on the innovative traditions of poetry, from Emily Dickinson to the radical modernists and the early postmoderns. I wrote both my MA thesis and my PhD dissertation on the free verse traditions from Whitman and Dickinson all the way to the Black Mountain poets like Olson, Duncan, Levertov, and Creeley. My other major was theoretical linguistics (in the 1970s we all had two majors), which only strengthened both my understanding of how language works in poetry and my respect for American, mostly generative, linguistics. So these two lines of interest converged, allowing me to realize that America was the land of both poetic and scholarly innovation.

American Studies as a discipline came a little later, in the 1980s and '90s. Teaching at József Attila University, Szeged, between 1985 and 1990, gave me an opportunity to seriously study—in order to teach—the “respect mode,” so to speak, of the first generation of Americanists, the humanist authors such as F. O. Matthiessen, Perry Miller, Vernon L. Parrington, Henry Nash Smith, R. W. B. Lewis, Leslie Fiedler, and Roy Harvey Pearce. Then came the 90s, the decade when New American Studies was dismantling the grand metanarratives of monolithic US culture, taking up an “attack mode” that resonated directly with what we were trying to do during the decades of socialism in Hungary. Being an adamant feminist, I was doing serious feminist criticism, while being a theoretician with roots in generative linguistics. I was doing poststructuralist language criticism. These interests converged in my various books, my monographs on American free verse and non-lyric poetics, as well as on the poets Charles Olson and Emily Dickinson, my two histories of American literature, and the theoretical inquiries into poetics, subjectivity, and performativity.

You asked about my “career arc”—well, after some forty-five years of teaching in Budapest and Szeged, I am *professor emeritus*, committing all my time and energy—but riding my “second wind,” if you will—to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (which has elected me full member just recently), heading committees and projects with a focus not only on literature and the humanities in general, but also on women in academia. So my plate is quite full, you might imagine.

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

The very first time I heard about AHEA was from Enikő Basa Molnár, in Washington, D.C., in 1990, when, right after the regime change, I took the post of DCM, Deputy Chief of Mission, at the Hungarian Embassy. Enikő and her husband, Péter, gave my family a very warm welcome, which included visits to the Library of Congress as well as their home. It was during our conversations that AHEA came up, with substantial background information, as well as lovely stories, from Enikő. Since that time, I have been following—with no little admiration—the activities of AHEA.

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

Probably I could not pinpoint a direct impact, since I have not been particularly active in AHEA, but a respectful observer rather, following its interests and activities. Such major umbrella organizations as AHEA (or the MLA) seem to do a lot for far-away scholars helping them keep up with current trends, understand directions and foci the profession as a whole is taking.

**Tell us, please, what you're working on right now.**

Apart from writing the five major lectures I give in June and September (including the keynote at AHEA and my inaugural at the Academy), most of my time is taken up by acting as the editor-in-chief of *Magyar Tudomány* (Hungarian Science). As the journal of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1840, it has the responsibility to cover all the disciplines and all the scientific sections of the Academy. It's a rather demanding job, especially in this bicentennial year (the Academy was founded in 1825), when each month we bring out an issue of 220 pages. In addition, I write a lot, essays and studies on American and Hungarian literature, and will have a new book out for our June *Könyvhét* (Book Week) on the Hungarian poet Géza Szöcs. After that I plan to return to American free verse with a book to be published by Debrecen University Press.

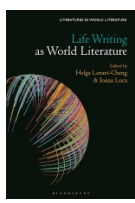
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## Member Publications

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

**Helga Lénárt-Cheng** (St. Mary's College of California) welcomes the recent release of her new volume, co-edited with Ioana Luca: *Life Writing as World Literature*, published by Bloomsbury.

From the publisher's press release: "*Life Writing as World Literature* brings together experts who map regional and local autobiographical traditions from six continents. These scholars explore the dynamic interplay between local and global aesthetics and sociopolitical concerns, presenting case studies that include prison narratives from communist regimes, Japanese diaries, multilingual Caribbean memoirs, Indian auto/biographical comics, and stories by Taiwanese domestic workers. To understand how and why some personal stories enter global dissemination, contributors inquire into translation, market mechanisms, and circulation patterns, while also exploring the affordances of new media and materialities when recording contemporary lives. *Life Writing as World Literature* brings a fresh perspective to



both fields – world literature and life writing – opening up exciting avenues of research."

**Ákos Jarjabka** (University of Pécs) announces the publication of two open-access articles:

"[Quo vadis higher education? Post-pandemic success digital competencies of the higher educators – a Hungarian university case and actions.](#)" with co-authors Norbert Sipos and Gabriella Kuráth, in *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* 11 (2024)

"[The impact of cultural distance on the migration of professional athletes as high-skilled employees.](#)" with co-authors Diána Ivett Fűrész and Zsolt Havran, in *Journal of Industrial and Business Economics* 51 (2024): 585-603

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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.



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