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## AHEA Newsletter: February 2026

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**American Hungarian Educators Association** <aheanews@123673990.mailchimpapp.com> Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 10:14 AM

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# February 2026 Newsletter

## President's Corner

Our 50th Annual AHEA Conference is taking shape. Our conference, with the theme "**250 Years of Hungarian Contributions to the United States of America**," will take place in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 16-19, 2026. We are delighted to be able to share some information about the presentations.

The keynote lecture, delivered by Gabriella Paár-Jakli of Kent State University, bears the title of "**Networked Governance and Transatlantic Relations: Building Bridges through Science Diplomacy**." We will have several panels focusing on history, cultural studies, literature and linguistics, music, and science, and our presenters include scholars from Hungary, from other European countries as well as from North America.

We are very pleased to note our close collaboration with **Fulbright Hungary**, which is bringing 17 former or current Fulbright alumni together at the conference.

A **draft** of the conference program is now available on our website: <https://ahea.net/conferences>

Registration information is available at: <https://ahea.net/conferences/2026-cleveland-state/ConferenceRegistration2026>

We look forward to seeing you all at our conference!

With best wishes,  
Zsuzsanna Varga  
AHEA President

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# AHEA 2026: Conference and Hotel Registration are Open!

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration for the 50th Annual AHEA Conference at Cleveland State University is open! [Follow this link to the registration page.](#)

The basic "early bird" fee is \$85 or \$35 for students, if purchased before April 1. After that, the amount will increase by \$20. The price includes on-site lunches, coffee breaks, and program materials. Tickets to the Saturday banquet (also onsite), featuring a special performance by the folk ensemble [Harmonia](#), are an additional \$50. There will also be an optional Sunday excursion, also \$50. Details forthcoming.

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## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

AHEA has reserved blocks of rooms at a discounted rate at two nearby hotels: Comfort Inn at 1800 Euclid Ave and Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square. [For prices and reservation links, go to our Conference page.](#) The group rate offers expire on March 19 for the Crowne Plaza and March 22 for the Comfort Inn.

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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 **Ghislaine Mayer**,  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso

**Please tell us a little bit about your career arc. How did your work in biomedicine and medical training bring you to Hungarian studies?**

I am a microbiologist with expertise in malaria and pathogen transmission, and I am also trained as a cell biologist. Throughout my career, I have been deeply involved in science education, teaching and mentoring undergraduate, graduate, and medical students. My professional work has focused on understanding infectious diseases at the cellular and molecular levels while integrating foundational science into medical training.

My connection to Hungarian studies developed in a personal and organic way. During graduate school, I had a Hungarian roommate whose perspective and cultural background sparked my interest in Hungarian history and identity. That interest deepened through my relationship with my Hungarian sister-in-law and through travel in Central Europe, particularly visiting Kraków, Poland. A pivotal moment was serving as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Pécs in Hungary, which further deepened my engagement with Hungarian culture, academic life, and intellectual traditions. These experiences broadened my intellectual curiosity beyond the laboratory and into the cultural and historical landscapes that shape scientific and educational traditions. Over time, this personal and professional engagement evolved into a sustained scholarly interest in Hungarian studies.

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

I learned about AHEA 2025 through a fellow Fulbright scholar, Andrew Lee, who invited me to return to Pécs last year. I have a special place in my heart for both Pécs and Hungary, and I would not miss an opportunity to go back. That reconnection renewed my engagement with the academic community there and introduced me more fully to AHEA.

I was drawn to join because AHEA brings together scholars from diverse disciplines who share an interest in Hungarian studies and Central European scholarship. The organization offers a unique and welcoming space for interdisciplinary dialogue, which resonates strongly with my own academic path bridging science, education, and cultural inquiry.

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

My involvement with AHEA has broadened my scholarly perspective by placing biomedical science and medical education within a wider cultural and historical context. It has encouraged interdisciplinary dialogue and helped me think more globally about how scientific and educational traditions are shaped by history and identity.

At AHEA 2025, I had the opportunity to meet Hungarian colleagues working in medical education. Those connections have been particularly meaningful and productive. As a result of these conversations, I began collaborating with a scientist of Hungarian descent, and we have since submitted an abstract together to the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) 2026 conference in Vienna. This collaboration reflects the tangible academic impact of my involvement with AHEA and highlights how interdisciplinary and international networks can lead to meaningful scholarly partnerships.

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

Currently, I am developing a CRISPR-Cas9 elective for medical students that incorporates a hands-on gene-editing protocol (including electroporation-based methods) to introduce learners to the practical and ethical dimensions of genome editing. The goal of this elective is to help future physicians understand the scientific foundations of CRISPR technology, its expanding clinical applications, and its ethical implications in areas such as gene therapy, oncology, and inherited diseases. As genomic medicine becomes increasingly integrated into clinical care, it is essential that medical students not only understand the theory behind gene editing but also appreciate its translational and societal impact. This elective is designed to bridge basic science, emerging biotechnology, and clinical decision-making.

In addition, I am working on projects related to antimicrobial resistance in El Paso. Given the borderland context and the global rise of resistant pathogens, this work focuses on understanding local patterns of resistance and strengthening awareness within medical education and community health frameworks. Together, these efforts reflect my continued commitment to integrating microbiology, innovation, and medical training in ways that address both global scientific advances and regional public health needs.

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## **Call for Applications: Debrecen Summer School**

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*

Date: 20 -31 July 2026

Location: DEBRECEN, HUNGARY

60 classes, 3 ECTS credits

# DEBRECEN SUMMER SCHOOL



## Structure of the Course:

- 3 blocks of classes (3 × 90 min) a day
- examination offered at the end of the course (ECTS credits)

## Cultural Activities:

- opening ceremony
- guided tour in Debrecen
- weekend excursion
- Hungarian gastronomy and foodways
- folk dances and folk songs
- quiz
- farewell party

## Leisure Activities:

- disco, karaoke night
- sports

## EXTRA Program:

- traditional handicrafts
- sightseeing tour by night
- bike tour

## Program Director:

Dr. Róbert Barta  
Professor of History (University of Debrecen)

## Accommodation & Meals:

- Accommodation: Kossuth Lajos Dormitory (single and double rooms)
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

## Dates & Reminders

- registration: 19 July (Sunday), 14–18
- course starts: 20 July (Monday)
- daily schedule: 9–10:30; 11–12:30; 14–15:30
- tuition ends: 31 July (Friday)
- check-out time: 1 August (Saturday), before 10:00



# TEMPUS scholarship

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We would like to inform you that the  
2026 scholarship opportunities  
have been announced for  
Debrecen Summer School's  
summer courses by  
Tempus Public Foundation.

Further information:  
<https://apply.diasporascholarship.hu/>

**Application Deadline**  
27 February 2026



Engedélyszám: E/2020/000097

## **Conference: 5th Farkas Ferenc International Scientific Conference (Pécs, Hungary)**

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*

The Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Pécs and the Department of Leadership and Organisational Sciences cordially invite you to the **5th Farkas Ferenc International Scientific Conference**, which will take place on 28-29 May 2026 (Thursday-Friday) in Pécs, Hungary.

**Conference theme: Human-Centred Leadership and Change Management in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**

Building on the intellectual legacy of Professor Ferenc Farkas, the conference will focus on human-centred leadership, change management, AI-driven management and HR, organisational resilience, and the future of management education.

Venue: University of Pécs Faculty of Business and Economics (H-7622 Pécs, Rákóczi str. 80)

The official languages of the conference are Hungarian and English, and participation is possible both onsite and online.

Detailed information on thematic tracks and registration are available on the conference website: <https://ktk.pte.hu/en/kutatas/rendszeres-esemenyeink/ferenc-farkas-international-scientific-conference>

Important deadlines:

- Registration deadline: 31 March 2026
- Payment deadline for the registration fee: 25 April 2026

We warmly welcome applications from both presenters and participants.

We would appreciate it if you could share this call with your colleagues and professional partners.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference, either in person or online.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ákos Jarjabka  
Associate Professor, Department Head  
University of Pécs Faculty of Business and Economics  
Department of Leadership and Organisational Sciences

Dr. Zsófia Ásványi  
Associate Professor, Conference Chair  
University of Pécs Faculty of Business and Economics  
Department of Leadership and Organisational Sciences

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## Renew Your Membership for 2026!

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We invite you to renew your membership or become a member of the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA). To become a member or to renew for 2026, [click here](#) to access the link. Please note that we now offer a discounted 3-year, and life membership.

Renewing today will allow you to maximize your membership benefits by maintaining access to the organization's member benefits and resources. Your membership enables you to:

- Present at AHEA Conferences and have the privilege to chair sessions
- Participate in the Committee work of AHEA
- Be eligible for awards
- Become a voting member

We are grateful for your support, and please let us know how we can continue to provide value for our members.

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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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