

2017 Central European Institute



Annual Report



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About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational university in Southern New England where students receive an educational experience that's both personal and challenging from faculty who care deeply about student outcomes. Our three campuses are located in Hamden and North Haven, Connecticut. We offer more than 110 programs to an estimated 7,000 undergraduate and 3,000 graduate students in business, communications, education, engineering, health sciences, law, medicine, nursing and the arts and sciences. To learn more about Quinnipiac University, please visit QU.edu.

About the Central European Institute

The Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University builds bridges between the United States and the nations of Central Europe by fostering relationships in academics, business and culture. The institute accomplishes this through country-specific endowed professor "chairs" who build programs with their respective countries. Our team consists of the following:

CEI Director: Christopher Ball, PhD

Assistant Director: Hanna Hejmowski

Novak Family Chair for Poland: Alex Storzynski and Gedeon Werner

István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics: Christopher Ball, PhD

Board of Advisers

We are thankful for the continued support and guidance of our CEI board of advisers. We proudly recognize our current board members:

- Susan Bodnár-Malloy
- H.E. Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker
- John L. Lahey
- Robert Mielżyński
- Peter Novak
- Mortimore Perlroth
- Christian L. Sauska
- Alex Storzynski

Ex-officio members:

- Christopher Ball, CEI Director
- Donald Weinbach, Vice President for Development, Quinnipiac University

Message from the Director

Dear Reader,

In June 2014 a Quinnipiac team landed in Warsaw, Poland, to explore the possibility of building programs around the recently launched Novak Family Chair for Poland. On our first night, we were welcomed with a dinner hosted by the Polish American Chamber of Commerce. While we met many business leaders that night, one became a quick friend of ours, Gedeon Werner.

Gedeon is an American of Polish origin who was at the time president of a private Polish asset management company with business interests in commercial and residential real estate, pharmaceuticals and airline catering. Prior to joining the business world, he spent over 15 years in international higher education where, among other jobs, he worked with the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland as the executive director of the Polish-American Management Center at the University of Lodz. While in Lodz, he led the university's efforts to internationalize business management curricula, established academic partnerships and launched new academic units and programs.

He understood immediately what we were aiming to do and took it upon himself to help. Over the years Gedeon became a close personal friend to us all and he became the key player in helping us develop our programs.

In July 2017, Gedeon officially joined Quinnipiac's Central European Institute as the first full-time Novak Family Chair for Poland. And we couldn't be prouder or more excited to have him on the team!

The story of the Polish chair is more than just the story of our connecting with Gedeon. It exemplifies a side to our work that's often unseen. Our mission is to connect the people of Central Europe with Americans in the fields of academia, business and culture. We believe that amazing things happen when good people connect. It shows in the story of Gedeon. It shows in the number of alumni who return to Hungary and Poland every year. It shows in the artists who we hosted over the years and the many people who experienced a little piece of Central Europe through their art.

As you read our report, each networking event, each scholar we bring to the U.S. and each American we send to Central Europe creates another link and provides another opportunity for good people to connect. It may be years before the fruits are borne from the seeds sown today, but the possibilities are endless.

We thank you all for being involved and for your support in all we do.



Christopher P. Ball
Director of the Central European Institute

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Central European Business Leaders scholarship brings talented individuals from Hungary and Poland to the U.S. for up to three years. During their first two years, the students earn an MBA at Quinnipiac while working part time at various companies. After completing the MBA, they can continue to work full time for an additional year before returning home.



Hungarian scholar Márton B. Kovács.



Hungary Initiatives Foundation Scholarship

The Hungary Initiatives Foundation awarded \$40,000 to support our Hungarian scholars in the 2017–18 academic year. The grant supported housing expenses for all the scholars and provided broader support for our newest Hungarian scholar, Márton B. Kovács, for the 2017–18 academic year.

Kovács earned a bachelor's degree in international business from Corvinus University in Budapest. Additionally he graduated from the Mathias Corvinus Collegium in international relations and participated in the leadership program there. Before coming to the U.S., Kovács worked at TATA Consultancy Services and at the K&H Group. He will earn an MBA at Quinnipiac and plans to gain work experience in health care and finance.

“ This is a very special opportunity that provides all the academic and professional support you could possibly need to be successful in the future. The uniqueness of Quinnipiac’s multifaceted MBA curriculum and the inspiring environment is there; it is entirely up to you what you make of it. The connections I make during the program—both professional and personal—will certainly remain with me after the program is over. These connections will definitely make cooperating and finding solutions internationally easier, resulting in achievements mutually beneficial for the United States and Hungary.

”
- Márton Kovács

Voitek Napiorkowski Scholarship

Katarzyna Tworowska of Lelow, Poland, received the second half of her Voitek Napiorkowski Scholarship to support her in 2017. She is currently working at Legg Mason & Co. within the global sales management analytics department. In her first year in the U.S., she worked at CONMED Corp. in marketing support. She will graduate with an MBA in May 2018 and then begin working full time for her remaining 18 months in the U.S.

Janusz Napiorkowski of Poland donated \$50,000 in 2016 for this two-year scholarship. It was done to commemorate his late brother, Voitek, who launched several successful businesses in the U.S. and Poland and was known for his strong entrepreneurial passion. Today Napiorkowski manages a successful pharmaceutical retail company, Cosmedica.



Katarzyna Tworowska of Lelow, Poland, was the recipient of the Voitek Napiorkowski Scholarship.



Our newest scholars, from left: Aleksandra Wojcik, Márton B. Kovács and Adrian Sabala.

NEW CENTRAL EUROPEAN SCHOLARS

Aleksandra Wojcik, MBA '19, Poland – Works as a project buyer at Kongsberg Automotive in Suffield, Connecticut, with the fluid transfer systems team. She has a bachelor's degree in international business and a master's degree in logistics and supply chain management from the University of Economics in Krakow, Poland. Before coming to the U.S., she worked at Rolls Royce and at Valeo Thermal Systems. During her stay in the U.S., Wojcik will complete an MBA, and then pursue full-time work opportunities in the supply chain field.

Márton B. Kovács, MBA '20, Hungary – Has a bachelor's degree in international business from Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary. He studied international relations at Mathias Corvinus Collegium where he also took part in their leadership program. Before coming to the U.S., he worked at TATA Consultancy Services Hungary and at the K&H Group. During his stay in the U.S., Kovács will complete an MBA degree within two years, and during his final two years, he will complete a practical training in health care and in finance/strategy.

Adrian Sabala, MBA '19, Poland – Has a bachelor's degree in management with a specialization in entrepreneurship and a master's degree in management with a specialization in management in virtual environments, both from Kozminski University in Warsaw, Poland. Before coming to the U.S., he worked at GroupM as a junior social media specialist and launched his first startup, Chillbeans.pl, selling beach supplies in Poland. During his stay in the U.S., Sabala will complete an MBA and then pursue full-time work in e-commerce, digital marketing or marketing innovation.



Left to right (scholar's country is listed in parentheses): Adrian Sabala (PL), Katarzyna Tworowska (PL), Attila Deli (HU), Katarzyna Michalska (PL), Benjamin Szabo (HU, spouse to Malna Polya), Malna Polya (HU), Marcin Ambrozej (PL) and Beata Ambrozej (PL, spouse to Marcin Ambrozej), Hanna Hejmowski and Chris Ball.



Ambassador Kumin (front, right) and Chris Ball with Hungarian scholars and alumni, from left, Márton Kis-Dörnyei, Attila Deli, Ferenc Fazekas and Attila Erdély.

CURRENT CENTRAL EUROPEAN SCHOLARS

Csilla Ábrán, MBA '18, Hungary – Works in tax and accounting for Kyle Hamilton Consulting in Stratford, Connecticut. She has a bachelor's degree from Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania. Prior to moving to the U.S., Ábrán worked as an analyst for British Petrol and as a credit controller at Marso Romania.

Marcin Ambrozej, MBA '17, Poland – Works at United Technologies Corp. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from the Warsaw School of Economics, and a master's from the University of Finance and Management in Białystok. Before coming to the U.S., he worked at the WSE's Academic Business Incubator, Deloitte in Warsaw, and Ipopema Business Consulting.

Katarzyna Bogumil, MBA '18, Poland – Works at Quinnipiac University Poll as a manager of interviewer operations. She has a double master's degree in international business strategy and management from Kozminski and Bradford Universities. Before coming to the U.S., she worked at Enhance Services Ltd.

Attila Deli, MBA '17, Hungary – Works in purchasing for City Line Distributors. He has a bachelor's degree from Corvinus University as well as a diploma from the Mathias Corvinus Collegium. Prior to moving to the U.S., he worked at Auchan Hungary Ltd. and as a business analyst at Dűbeszedő Faktorház Ltd.

László Dinca, MBA '18, Hungary – Works in business development at Vanessa Research. He is the 2016–17 Hungarian Fulbright scholar and is working as executive assistant to the director of Quinnipiac's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Florida Institute of Technology and another from Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Prior to moving to the U.S., he was a technical sales engineer at Texas Instruments and an account development representative at Arrow Electronics.

Ferenc Fazekas, MBA '17, Hungary – Works in business development at Vanessa Research and is launching his own tech startup. He was the 2015–16 Hungarian Fulbright-QU scholar and has a bachelor's degree from Corvinus University. Prior to his arrival in the U.S., he worked at Oracle, at InfomatiX and at KPMG.

Katarzyna Michalska, MBA '17, Poland – Works at Traveler's. She has bachelor's and master's degrees from the Warsaw School of Economics. Prior to her arrival in the U.S., she worked in the Prime Minister's Office, PricewaterhouseCoopers and the FOR Foundation. She also published a book to teach economics to Polish children.

Málna Pólya, MBA '16, Hungary – Works in business development at Vanessa Research. She has bachelor's degrees from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. During her time in the U.S., she worked at ASE Ameriseal, SNP Technologies and Lynx Analytics.

Katarzyna Tworowska, MBA '18, Poland – Works at Legg Mason & Co. She is the Voitek Napierkowski scholar. She has a master's degree from Krakow University of Economics in Poland and from Skema Business School in France. Prior to moving to the U.S., she worked at the TNS Market Research Company and Roche.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

Student Exchanges

CEI Student Consulting Team

This year marked the first full academic year that the CEI student consulting team was fully active. The purpose of the team is to help companies from Central Europe enter the U.S. market. The multidisciplinary team consists of four to eight graduate and undergraduate students, one of whom serves as team leader/manager. The team works directly with clients and reports to the director of the CEI. Currently students can participate as interns, for class credit or as volunteers.

Throughout the year, companies from Hungary apply for the team's services by contacting Hungary's first secretary of science and technology in the United States. The team then reviews the companies, often conducting interviews, and selects two to four companies to work with each semester, on varying size projects.

Katie Covett, a JD/MBA student, has led the team since Spring 2017. Members of the Spring 2017 team included: David R. Jesensky (MBA), Alana L. Pollack (Economics), Nicole M. Riel (JD/MBA), Elliot C. Hartwell (MBA). The Fall 2017 team included: Jenna Braca (Dual-Degree BS/MBA 4+1), Brian Griffin (Economics), William Ng (Economics), Laura Roa-Moreno (Dual-Degree BS/MBA 4+1) and Megan Winagle (International Business).

Approximately 15 companies have applied to work with the CEI Student Consulting Team since its launch and the team has helped the following clients through one- or two-semester projects: BEEEM (beeem.co), Be-Novative (be-novative.com), HandinScan (handinscan.com), NowTech (nowtech.hu), Sbrick (sbrick.com) and Éltechnika/Jagorta (eltechnika.hu/home.html).

The CEI is now expanding both the team's size and the Central European countries we work with. Our goal is to include Polish and Romanian companies in Spring 2018.

Quinnipiac MBA trip to Central Europe

Nine QU MBA students were joined by two business students from Romania for the 10th annual MBA trip to Hungary and Poland from May 29 to June 10, 2017. The students spent two weeks visiting leading businesses and meeting with executives from a range of industries. The group visited 11 companies, including seven in Poland: Coca-Cola HBC Poland Services, Cosmedica Chain, Environmental Resources Management, University of Warsaw DELabs, meeting with their startups, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, The Heart and Hala Koszyki. The four companies they visited in Hungary included: Affidea, Citibank, Gerbeaud/Onyx and Morgan Stanley. During their stay, the students also had an opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural and sightseeing activities, including a tour of Budapest and Warsaw, a private tour of the Parliament of Hungary, a private meeting with the senior adviser to the prime minister of Hungary, and a weekend in the historical city of Krakow.

CEI organizes annual executive MBA trip

Twenty-two MBA students from the Corvinus School of Management in Budapest took part in the 9th annual CEI-organized executive MBA week in April in Connecticut. During the week, they visited Quinnipiac's campuses, the QU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and major international corporations throughout Connecticut, including Achillion Pharmaceuticals, American Seal & Engineering, Foxwoods Resort Casino, LightSources, Marcum LLP, Movia Robotics, Onyx Moonshine, and Updike Kelly and Spellacy.



The CEI Student Consulting Team.

Kozminski-Quinnipiac partnership

Quinnipiac continues to build its relations with Kozminski University in Warsaw, Poland—a relationship established in 2014. Kozminski is Poland's top private business school and all programs with KU are business related. In 2015, Quinnipiac and KU signed an agreement enabling one
(continued on page 10)



Geraldine Genuino (QU student) participated in the International Summer School program in Warsaw, Kozminski University this summer July 3-14, 2017. The program offers academic courses as well as a diversity of cultural and business activities.

faculty member or administrator from each institution to spend a week at the partner university delivering lectures, working with students and meeting university officials. Additionally, it allows for up to two students from each institution to spend a period of six to 12 months each year at the partner university. This program is fully funded by the European Union, providing both travel costs and living stipends for all participants.

In Spring 2017, two Quinnipiac undergraduate business students, Alexander Bernstein and Christopher Lutz, spent one semester at Kozminski University and Adrian Sabala from KU attended Quinnipiac for one semester, focusing on entrepreneurship and management. In Fall 2017, Kozminski business student Michal Leszko spent the semester at Quinnipiac.



Chris Lutz and Alex Bernstein (both on left) in Warsaw.

Faculty and other exchanges

Kozminski-Quinnipiac partnership Professor Dave Tomczyk, associate professor of entrepreneurship and strategy, was the second QU faculty member to participate in the exchange. He visited Kozminski University in Spring 2017 delivering lectures on topics related to entrepreneurship from start-ups to corporate practices and contemporary challenges in management. The CEI's Hanna Hejmowski and international business professor Mohammad

Elahee visited Kozminski University for a week-long trip in February to explore opportunities and also to help see the first QU exchange students settled into their Kozminski University accommodations. In May, Agnieszka Slawska from KU visited Quinnipiac as part of the continued exchange and dialogue between professors and administrators of the two universities.



Professor Dave Tomczyk, right, with Beata Pirog, the Erasmus + Faculty Exchange Program coordinator at Kozminski University.

Professor Gregory Garvey visits Poland

CEI sponsored Professor Gregory Garvey, chair and director of the game design and development program at Quinnipiac, to travel to Warsaw and Lodz, Poland, in October. During his visit, Garvey stayed with the Novak Family Polish Chair, Gedeon Werner, who arranged for him to meet with counterparts from the Polish academic world to discuss possible collaboration. Garvey also gave a lecture at the Department of Mathematics and IT at the University of Lodz, where he discussed the impact of disruptive technologies. At Kozminski Academy, Garvey met with faculty and administrators to establish connections for research and potential exchanges in areas of game design and gamification.

In addition to academic meetings, Werner arranged for Garvey to meet with professionals in the game design industry and in business consulting with a focus on gamification. This provided Garvey with an opportunity to learn about the state of game design as an

industry in Poland and explore possible collaborations. Garvey hopes to build on this visit during his upcoming sabbatical, when he would be able to visit with many of the 40+ game development studios in Poland and establish the groundwork for internships for Quinnipiac students.



Professor Greg Garvey testing virtual reality glasses during a conference in Lodz.

Teaching English in Poland

The CEI launched a new initiative in cooperation with the Kosciuszko Foundation to bring Quinnipiac students and professors to Poland in the summer as a part of the Kosciuszko Foundation's long-running program teaching English in Poland. In October, the CEI's Hanna Hejmowski hosted Mary Kay Pieski and Teresa Wojcik from Kosciuszko Foundation, who were here to meet with and recruit students. The first Quinnipiac student selected to participate was Samantha Paradee from the Master of Arts in Teaching program at QU. Paradee will travel to Poland in July 2018. Her visit is partially funded through scholarship support provided by the Central European Institute.



Left to right: Hanna Hejmowski, Teresa Wojcik and Mary Kay Pieski

EVENTS

Central European Bioforum

In January 2017, the Central European Institute and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Quinnipiac University cohosted a bioforum to build wider cooperation between Central European and U.S. companies and investors. Entrepreneurs who attended the forum had an opportunity to watch presentations by Polish, Hungarian and select U.S. companies. They learned about life science and innovations in Central Europe, private and public research and development funding and the European biomarket.

Ambassador Ferenc Kumin, consul general of Hungary in New York, moderated the forum's first panel discussion, "The Landscape of Life Sciences in Central Europe and the United States." He joined Professor Tadeusz Pietrucha, founder and CEO of Bio-Tech Consulting and the Central European BioForum, who discussed the Polish life science sector; Marcell Veidner, vice president of the Hungarian Biotech Association, who described the Hungarian biotech and bio-informatics sector; Harry Penner, director of CURE and entrepreneur in residence at Connecticut Innovations, who explained how Connecticut's science community can connect with Central Europe; and Norman Gray, director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Quinnipiac, who discussed innovation at Quinnipiac and how it connects with life science.



Quinnipiac trustee Carlton Highsmith, right, chats with Professor Norman Gray, director of the Quinnipiac Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Carlton Highsmith Endowed Chair.



Diplomatic Representatives

Left to Right: Chris Ball, CEI director and honorary Hungarian consul to Connecticut; Ambassador Ferenc Kumin, Hungarian consul general, New York City; Sabina Klimek, trade & investment consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland NYC; Darek Barcikowski, honorary Polish consul to Connecticut; Pawel Gębski, counselor, head of economic section, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C.

Gabor Garai, a partner and business lawyer at Foley & Lardner and chair of the firm's private equity and venture capital practice, moderated the session, "Leveraging Opportunities in Central Europe and the United States." He joined Pietrucha, who discussed the BioForum, the Central European forum of biotechnology and innovative bioeconomy. In addition, Mateusz Wołkowicz, consulting project manager of Bio-Tech Consulting, talked about private and public research funding in Poland. Daniel Wagner, managing director of investments for Connecticut Innovations, rounded out the panel, describing opportunities for partnerships between Connecticut and the countries of Central Europe.

In addition, Beatriz Gutierrez, executive director of business development for the state Department of Economic and Community Development, made remarks at noon, and Carlton L. Highsmith, chairman of the board for the Connecticut Center for Arts & Technology, and vice chairman of Quinnipiac's board of trustees, delivered the closing remarks, "Opportunities, Innovation and Possibilities in Connecticut," at the closing reception.

Foreign Lecture Series

As part of our Foreign Lecture Series, the Central European Institute hosted Professor Jacek Tomkiewicz from Kozminski University in February to deliver a lecture on “Emerging European Economies—Opportunities and Challenges.” Tomkiewicz is research director at TIGER (Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research), Kozminski University’s economic research center.

Wine and Networking Reception

The CEI organized a Wine Tasting and Networking reception in April at the private home of Andrea and Christian Sauska. It was a small, private event attended by regional executives, diplomats and similar-level representatives from other organizations. The event also served as the closing reception for the Corvinus Executive MBA visit to Connecticut.

Zebegény Executive Retreat

The CEI hosted its 10th annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting on June 1, 2017. It was a successful gathering of over 250 participants representing more than 100 companies, both regional and multinational.

For the first time, the retreat included a panel discussion on “The Next 10 Years: America, Hungary and Global Business Challenges,” which was led by Anna Smith-Lacey, executive director of The Hungary Initiatives Foundation. The panelists included: Nick Kós (PwC), Farkas Bársony (AmCham & GE Hungary) and Alexandra Pleier (Quinnipiac & MCC). The program ended with a piano recital by world-renowned classical pianist, Gergely Bogányi, to highlight our anniversary.

The 11th annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2018.



Quinnipiac MBA students at Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting
Left to Right: Bernard Piela, Nicholas Parke, James Mackonochie and Austin Mayhew.

Mielżyński Executive Retreat

The CEI hosted its 3rd annual Mielżyński Executive Networking and Alumni event in June. At this event, we thank those who are supporting our efforts and also announce our latest scholarship recipients from Poland. We would like to extend a special thank you to Robert Mielżyński, CEI board member, who helped organize the event at Mielżyński’s Restaurant and Wine Bar in Warsaw. This year’s event was attended by over 60 executives, leading academics and diplomats. We were honored to welcome H.E. Paul W. Jones, U.S. ambassador to Poland, as the keynote speaker.

Networking Event

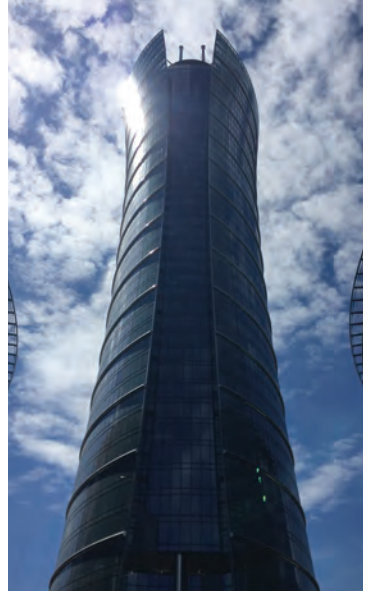
Prior to his departure from Poland, Gedeon Werner and the Central European Institute cosponsored a networking event for the business community in Warsaw, Poland. It was a memorable event with almost 100 people attending. The event was a great opportunity to introduce Quinnipiac University to yet different members of the Polish business and academic communities.

100th Commemoration of the Russian Revolution

The Central European Institute was a proud sponsor of the 100th Commemoration of the Russian Revolution events hosted by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based educational and human rights nonprofit foundation devoted to educating current and future generations about communism. CEI Director Chris Ball attended the event and the Centennial Commemoration Dinner on November 9.



New scholars Adrian Sabala, left, and Aleksandra Wojcik, right, with U.S. Ambassador to Poland, H.E. Paul W. Jones.



OUTREACH

Alumni Trip to Hungary

The CEI was excited to offer a special alumni trip to Hungary for five days in June 2017. Six alumni and several of their friends enjoyed the visit, which began with a welcome reception on the High Note Sky Bar at the lovely Aria Hotel. The following day the group attended the CEI Zebegény Executive Retreat and reconnected with executives they met in previous years. On Friday Chris Ball led the group on a private tour through Hungary's red wine country in the southern region of Villány where they met up with alumni from the Corvinus MBA trip to Quinnipiac, making it a large, international alumni gathering. Together they enjoyed a private tasting and tour at the Sauska winery and the Tiffán's vineyard cellar. The evening was spent at Tiffán's, where all the alumni, friends and family sang, danced, enjoyed a pig roast and listened to a live Hungarian band perform. The group returned to Budapest on Saturday and enjoyed some free time for the rest of the weekend. The Quinnipiac alumni participating were Ilva Dautaj, Mary Greeley, Tanya Huggler, Elise Maguire, David Neves and Matt Urdan. We were pleased to include the following friends of alumni: Joseph Fecsko, Lauren Josey, Robert McCawley and Megan Newkirk. More alumni are already planning to visit in 2018.



QU MBA students and alumni at the Zebegény Executive Retreat.

Werner Represents CEI at International Events

Gedeon Werner, Novak Family Polish Chair at the Central European Institute, was invited as a special guest at the Central European Forum on “Biotech and Innovative Bioeconomy,” May 17–18, 2017, in Lodz, Poland. At the conference, which was organized by Poland's Bio Forum, Werner led a panel discussion on “Business Opportunities for Cooperation between Central European and U.S. companies” as a followup to the CEI's BioForum in January 2017 at Quinnipiac University. He also gave an interview for local TV on issues of commercialization and university-business cooperation and had an opportunity to engage in discussions with global academic and business leaders in the life sciences.



In December, Werner attended the Conference on “Business-University Cooperation in Central Eastern Europe” organized by Óbudai University, Budapest, where he spoke about the Central European Institute's student intern consulting project (see “Exchanges”). His presentation, “U.S.-V4 University-Business Cooperation: A path to American commercialization—Quinnipiac's Experience” showcased the opportunities and benefits of university and business cooperation. The conference provided a forum for interaction between universities and businesses in the region. Participants

shared best practices, discussed successful projects within the CEE region and highlighted the benefits of cooperation from SMEs to large corporations. Werner also participated in a panel discussion on “University Business Cooperation to Develop a Knowledge-Based Society” and gave an interview for a local TV station.

In October, Werner participated on the jury at the 2017 Vitathon Hungary—Health Data Analyst Hackathon, a prominent and nationwide big data competition. The event, organized by the University of Óbuda and the Semmelweis Medical Universities, Budapest, was focused around the 2017 topic, confronting smoking with data: “Data can save lives.” Participants discussed data mining and the big data analysis of smoking and smoking-related health problems. The multidisciplinary student teams presented solutions to help people quit smoking more easily by discovering correlations and analyzing the background. Werner was a particularly valuable judge for this event and was able to provide additional value to the students because he could draw on his expertise and industry insights as an executive of a Polish pharmaceutical chain of stores and someone who worked extensively with various Polish innovation groups for many years.



Gedeon Werner attending the European Forum for New Ideas meeting in Poland.



Chris Ball gives keynote address at “Business Meets Universities” meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary.

CEI Director Participates in Outreach

CEI Director Chris Ball participated in the “Pulse of the Region” MetroHartford Alliance’s weekly radio broadcast with the MetroHarford Alliance’s vice president of global business development, Becky Noland, and Dana Bucin, immigration attorney and chair of immigration practice at Murtha Cullina. The panel discussed business challenges in Connecticut and ways in which the state can expand through international business connections.

Ball was the keynote speaker for the “Business Meets Universities” meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) held in Hungary in May. The meeting was hosted the AmCham’s Innovation Policy Task Force to build a stronger local innovation ecosystem with transparent cooperation frameworks to substantially enhance cooperation between large enterprises, SMEs and academia on large and strategic R&D projects. Ball was introduced by AmCham and GE Hungary’s president, Farkas Bársony. Ball spoke about the practical side of university and business cooperation, drawing heavily on the experience of Quinnipiac in general and specifically sharing the successes and failures he’s had in launching the CEI Consulting Team over the past two years.

In April Ball served as an invited speaker at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association 2017 Connecticut Economic Update. He participated on the panel “Are We There Yet? Balancing the Budget, Fueling the Economy” with representatives from the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, DataCore Partners LLC, Moody’s Analytics and the CBIA.

Ball also attended the annual Tuszányos Summer University in Baile-Tusnad, Romania. The 2017 theme was “Central Europe—the certain point in an uncertain world?” Ball served on the main panel, “Hungary, Romania and Central Europe in the world of Trump,” with Zsolt Németh, chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Hungarian Parliament; Radu Carp, foreign secretary of the Romanian National Liberal Party; Attila Korodi, fraction leader of the Romanian Hungarian Democratic Union; Zsolt Szilágyi, president of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Party; and Tomáš Strážay, lead researcher at the Slovakian Foreign Association. Ball argued for the need for greater American leadership in Europe as Brexit continues and Europe fragments.

Ball attended “The Big Connect,” hosted by the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, where he served on a panel of experts who discussed “Making Your Business Attractive to Foreign Investors,” addressing cross-border business opportunities for Connecticut. The event included industry leaders from across Connecticut. Ball explained that, despite the fiscal challenges Connecticut faces, the state is an excellent location for international businesses due to its educated workforce, high-quality educational infrastructure and close proximity to major hubs like Boston and New York. He argued that Connecticut is an especially good location for

Central European companies due to its multicultural environment and 11 percent of the population being of Central European descent. Other panelists included Michael Bloom, senior investment associate, CT Innovations; Dana Bucin, immigration attorney and chair of immigration practice at Murtha Cullina; and moderator Jason Guiletti, vice president of business recruitment for CERC.



Chris Ball, right, on panel with Zsolt Németh, center, at Tuszányos Summer University.

Outreach and Partnership Building

To promote Quinnipiac’s Polish programs on a national scale, Gedeon Werner, Novak Family Polish Chair at the CEI, spent extensive time from July to December 2017 visiting premier higher education institutions in different regions of Poland and meeting with students, faculty and administrators. In addition to program promotion, Werner initiated contacts and met with the top administrators of Akademia Ekonomiczna in Krakow (Economic Academy in Cracow), Gdanska Fundacja Kształcenia Menadzerow in Gdansk (Gdansk Foundation for Management Development) and Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki i Zarządzania in Rzeszow (University of Information and Management in Rzeszow). The goal was to establish the groundwork for developing future collaborative relationships with those institutions.



Poland's Ambassador to the United States Piotr Wilczek speaks at luncheon for installation of new Polish Honorary Consul to Connecticut, Darek Barcikowski.



Hanna Hejmowski, assistant director of the CEI and member of the Polonia Advisory Board for the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York.

DIPLOMACY

Polonia Advisory Council

Hanna Hejmowski, assistant director of the CEI, participated in regular meetings of the Polonia Advisory Council (PAC) of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York. Hejmowski was invited to the distinguished council in 2016 in recognition of her active involvement with the Polish community in Connecticut as well as for her leadership in the success of the programs with Poland through the CEI.

The PAC was formed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and operates in every consulate on all continents with the goal of integrating Polish organizations and communities, exchanging information, implementing joint projects and initiatives, and mediating relations between the Polish community and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The New York consulate's PAC includes leaders from economic, social, educational and political Polish organizations from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. Hejmowski has continued to play an important role in the council, and her relationships there have begun to bear fruit for developing Quinnipiac's programs in Poland.

Honorary Hungarian Consul Conference

CEI Director Chris Ball, Honorary Hungarian consul to Connecticut, participated in the annual conference hosted by the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C., for all honorary Hungarian consuls in the U.S. During the two-day conference, honorary consuls hear from Hungarian state officials, diplomats and special guests on the latest Hungarian foreign and economic policy matters. Consuls from across the U.S. report on their regions and their activities throughout the year and share their perspectives as Americans with Hungarian officials to continue to improve bilateral relations between Hungary and the United States.

Connecticut Launches Polish Honorary Consulate

Poland opened an honorary consulate in New Britain, Connecticut, and in March 2017, inaugurated the new Honorary Consul for Poland, Darek Barcikowski. Barcikowski is founder and editor of White Eagle Media, publisher of the White Eagle newspaper, which boasts the largest readership of any Polish-language paper in the U.S. Barcikowski and the White Eagle both have been longtime supporters of the Polish programs at Quinnipiac. Hanna Hejmowski and Chris Ball from the CEI were invited as special guests to the private business luncheon with Poland's Ambassador to the United States Piotr Wilczek and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal as well as the public evening ceremony to inaugurate Barcikowski and open the consulate. Ball also attended in his official capacity as Honorary Hungarian Consul to Connecticut.



SCHOLARSHIP ALUMNI (HUNGARY)



At the 9th Annual Zebegény Executive Retreat and Alumni Meeting, from left: László Dinca, Bence Erdélyi, Márta Lőrincz, Csilla Ábrán, Katalin Németh, Alexandra Zita Pleier, Éva Bartalos, Dániel Erdélyi and Chris Ball.

Blanka Balázs (2010) – Works at Statoil headquarters in Stavanger, Norway. During her scholarship, she interned for Covalence SA in Geneva, Switzerland, and worked at United Technologies Corp. in Connecticut.

Éva Bartalos (2013) – Works at Henkel Corp. headquarters in Dusseldorf, Germany. During her scholarship, she worked at Charter Oak Communities, Rippowam Corp. and Henkel Corp. North America.

Ildikó Dombi (2014) – Works globally for Travelers Insurance. During her scholarship, she worked at Travelers Insurance in the personal insurance division's business intelligence and analytics group.

Attila Erdély (2015) – Works in Hungary and Romania launching his own companies in marketing and promotion. During his scholarship, he worked at Shred It, Henkel Corp. and United Illuminating.

Bence Erdélyi (2014) – Currently in Hungary building his iProperty company and launching his own business ventures. During his scholarship, he worked at United Illuminating, InterMerchant Services and Walmart.

Dániel Erdélyi (2011) – Works at Raiffeisen Bank Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. During his scholarship, he interned for Birinyi Associates Inc.

András Herczeg (2013) – Works for Magyar Villamos Művek Zrt. (Hungarian Electricity Works) in Hungary. During his scholarship, he worked at Davidson Company Inc. and United Illuminating Corp.

Márton Kis-Dörnyei (2017) – Works at Morgan Stanley in Budapest. During his scholarship, he worked at Traveler's Insurance and at the Young America Capital.

Márta Lőrincz (2015) – Works at Henkel Europe in Vienna, Austria. During her scholarship, she worked at Birinyi Associates and at Henkel Corp. North America.

Katalin Németh (2015) – Works in Hungary at her own business as a consultant to United Technologies Corp. During her scholarship, she worked at LinkVehicle, Touchstone Research, Upcycle and UTC.

Alexandra Zita Pleier (2012) – Works at Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing in Hungary. During her scholarship, she interned at IHS Herold, Inc. and United Technologies Corp.

Dániel Tubik (2015) – Works at GLS Bank in Germany. During his scholarship, he worked at Fossil Free Indexes and at Henkel Corp. North America.

Thank you for your interest in and support of our activities!

For more information or to offer your support, please contact:

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