



G A Z E T T E

THE CHRONICLE OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

Special Issue, September 1999

Academic Year 1999-2000, Opening Ceremony

TOGETHER

Stefan Messmann, Academic Pro-Rector

This year is the ninth time that we are celebrating the opening of Central European University. While 287 students constituted our first class, the class of 1992, in 1999-2000 there are about 750 students, chosen from among 4957 applicants from 55 countries. These students are enrolled in eight departments and two programs, and will be taught by almost 100 professors from many countries.



At the beginning of this academic year, as may be the case at the beginning of every academic year, the founder of our university, students, professors and others interested in CEU may ask such questions as these:

- Why did these students choose to continue their studies at Central European University?
- What intellectual atmosphere will they find here?
- What can they expect from this university?

Of course, Central European University provides very convenient material support to those it admits—fellowships, tuition waivers, the possibility to perfect their English (the *lingua franca* of the modern world), and comfortable learning facilities (relatively small classes, a well equipped library and computer labs, a state-of-the-art dormitory)—a learning environment which most students would not or could not obtain in their home countries. However, is this really the reason that students have chosen to study at Central European University? I think it is more than this; I believe the most important reasons for students to choose CEU are its quite unique curriculum, its internationalism—long taboo in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union—and now, after less than a decade of existence, the university's academic reputation.

The faculty, like the students, comes from very different countries—as different, for instance, as Albania and Estonia—and accordingly have experience not only with different countries but also with different socio-political systems, ethnic environments and teaching methods. My personal experience, for example, may not be typical for a university career, but it is in no way unique: Eastern European origin, Western European education and working experience, coupled with Asian managerial skills and a legal background devoted to the region.

Students attending Central European University in the 1999-2000 academic year will enter into a new period in the university's history: the period of stabilization and quality improvement. CEU has undergone an ambitious expansion in the past eight years, as the above-mentioned increase in the number of students indicates. Due to our present financial resources, we have to limit the number of students receiving full fellowships and tuition waivers to about 750 a year; and this number is expected to remain stable for the forthcoming years. This stabilization of student numbers will also allow us to stabilize our faculty and emphasize more than ever before the quality of teaching and research.

As in the past, we will have a core of permanent faculty in every department and program, but we will continue to rely on outstanding visiting professors from both the Western and Eastern hemispheres. However, from now on we will strive to strengthen cooperation with universities and faculties in the region much more than in the past.

In this outstanding intellectual atmosphere we will organize, as we have done in the past, seminars and lectures outside the normal curriculum, on matters of interest to

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OPENING CEREMONY

Academic Year 1999/2000

September 21, 1999 ✂ Vigadó Concert Hall, Budapest

3:00 - 3:05 p.m.

Opening Remarks: Stefan Messmann
Academic Pro-Rector

3:05 - 3:10 p.m.

Welcome by Doctoral Student Speaker:
Bojana Pecenovica, Legal Studies

3:10 - 3:15 p.m.

Introduction of the new President and Rector
Introduction of Department Heads and Program Heads,
University Officers, Academic Service Unit Heads
and Senior Administrators
Stefan Messmann, Academic Pro-Rector

3:15 - 3:20 p.m.

Musical Interlude:
Ausra Grigaraviciute, Medieval Studies '00 - flute
Szilvia Kardos, Legal Studies-Human Rights '99 - piano

3:20 - 3:30 p.m.

Greeting: Yehuda Elkana
President and Rector

3:30 - 3:40 p.m.

Opening Address: László V. Frenyó
President of the Hungarian Higher Education and
Research Council

3:40 - 3:45 p.m.

Musical Interlude:
Ausra Grigaraviciute, Medieval Studies '00 - vocal

3:45 - 3:50 p.m.

Remarks by Incoming Student Speaker:
Darin Stefanov, Nationalism Studies '00

3:50 - 3:55 p.m.

Closing Remarks: Stefan Messmann
Academic Pro-Rector

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Reception at CEU

5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Screening of CEU video in the Auditorium

STUDENT SERVICES UNITS ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER

The summer months saw many of the university's student services staff packing boxes to move to their new offices on the second floor of the Monument Building. As part of CEU's recent efforts to consolidate student services and improve inter-office cooperation, the Educational Advising Center and the Careers Advising Services left their former home in the Nádor u. 11. building to join the offices of Admissions, Student Welfare, Student Records and Alumni Affairs.

The consolidation of these units into adjacent space and the appointment of Jason Kelleher as Acting Director of Student Services will assist the units in developing a shared sense of purpose and mission, as well as improving communication and infrastructure development between the units. Ultimately, these changes will result in the provision of better services to meet the growing needs of the CEU student body.

In addition to administrative streamlining, the student services units are looking forward to working with the Student Council to take advantage of its insight into the interests of the student body. Some of the initial projects which are now under development include: the provision of mechanisms for a greater number of student clubs, the introduction of a peer counseling system, the expansion of the residential assistants' role in student life at the CEU Residence, and the improvement of ease-of-access to career-networking resources for alumni.



CEU STUDENT SERVICES STAFF:

Standing (left to right): Vügar Seidov (Student Records Officer) • Ivan Tsarykau (Educational Advisor) • László Kertész (ID Card Manager) • Judit Radics (Student Welfare Officer) • Csaba Mező (Admissions Assistant) • Katalin Pataki (Assistant to the Director of Student Services) • Ágnes Makáry (Admissions Assistant) • Jason Kelleher (Acting Director of Student Services) • Dmitri Vlasov (Coordinator for Advising Services) • Anna Yastrzhebska (Student Records Assistant)

Seated (left to right): Monica Selene Kerekes (Student Welfare Officer) • Zsuzsa Jászberényi (Admissions Officer) • Tatyana Trokhina (Alumni Affairs Assistant) • Anna Benedek (Student Welfare Assistant) • Serge Sych (Alumni Affairs Officer)

Please note that the **non-smokers rights bill** was accepted by the Hungarian Parliament on April 13, 1999.
The effective date of the act will be November 1, 1999.

According to the law, it will be **prohibited to smoke** in public institutions (including educational institutions).

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Economics**
Jacek Rostowski, Head
- Environmental Sciences and Policy**
Edward Bellinger, Head
- History**
László Kontler, Deputy Head
- International Relations and European Studies**
Béla Greskovits, Head
- Legal Studies**
Csilla Kollonay Lehoczky, Head
- Comparative Constitutional Law
András Sajó, Chairman
- International Business Law
Tibor Várady, Chairman
- Human Rights
Károly Bárd, Chairman
- Medieval Studies**
József Laszlovszky, Head
- Political Science**
János Kis, Head
- Sociology**
Edmund Mokrzycki, Head
- Nationalism Studies Program**
Mária Kovács, Director
- Program on Gender & Culture**
Miglana Nikolchina, Director

CEU OFFICERS

- Yehuda Elkana
President and Rector
- Stefan Messmann
Academic Pro-Rector
- Edmund Mokrzycki
Warsaw Pro-Rector
- István Teplán
Executive Vice-President

ACADEMIC SERVICE UNIT HEADS AND SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS

- Mária Szlatky, Head Librarian
CEU Library
- John Harbord, Director
Language Teaching Center
- László Csirmaz, Head
Computer Center
- Ildikó Nagy Moran, Vice-President
Public Affairs and Development
- Sophie Howlett, Dean
Special and Extension Programs
- Péter Fehér, Director
Budget and Finance
- Judit Pallós, Director
Human Resources Office
- Jason Kelleher, Acting Director
Student Services

CEU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- George Soros, Chairman and Founder
- Ambassador Donald M. Blinken
- Leon Botstein
- Colin Campbell
- Lord Dahrendorf
- Yehuda Elkana
- György Enyedi
- Wolf Lepenies
- Ewa Łętowska
- Aryeh Neier
- William Newton-Smith
- István Rév
- István Teplán
- Miklós Vásárhelyi

COUNCIL

- Ambassador Donald M. Blinken, Chancellor
- Yehuda Elkana
- Georges de Menil
- John Edwin Mroz
- Matthew Nimetz
- Liz Robbins
- John Brademas

SENATE

- Yehuda Elkana
- Stefano Guzzini
- János Kis
- Gábor Klaniczay
- Stefan Messmann
- Andrea Pető
- Alfred Rieber
- István Teplán
- Diana Úrge-Vorsatz
- Tibor Várady
- Budapest Student Representative
- Warsaw Student Representative

TOGETHER *Continued from page 1.*

the largest possible number of students—issues concerning primarily, but not exclusively, this region. Outstanding professors from all over the world will be invited to CEU for these events. In the past, however, student interest in such events was unfortunately rather limited. As this is regrettable, and a waste of both time and money, our future efforts will focus on inviting only those professionals whose areas of specialization and experience are of real interest and fit our mission, and who are able to attract large numbers of participants. For the selection of speakers for these and other comparable events, close cooperation with the elected representatives of the students will be

sought. We will, therefore, work to reinforce cooperation between the students and the faculty, and consider more than ever before the student representatives as partners with the faculty when it comes to issues of concern to the student body. This means: we will act together.

The new academic year has already begun: for a few students, perhaps, with disillusionment, homesickness and disappointment; but for the large majority, with enthusiasm, determination and optimism. I do not have any doubt that over the course of the year the latter category will grow even further.

CEU HONORS PRESIDENT VÁCLAV HAVEL
AT GRADUATION 1999



The CEU Open Society Prize sculpture, designed by Czech artist Kurt Gebauer

At its graduation ceremony for the 1998/99 academic year, CEU honored President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel with the Central European University Open Society Prize, an award given to outstanding individuals whose achievements have contributed substantially to the creation of an open society and who have supported CEU. Created in 1994, the award was first given to Sir Karl Popper, the eminent philosopher and distinguished proponent of the concept of open society.

Demszky following the conferment of degrees upon CEU's class of 1999. CEU Founder George Soros and outgoing President and Rector Josef Jařab then presented President Havel with the Open Society Prize. After receiving the Prize, President Havel delivered the Commencement Address to an audience including members of the Budapest diplomatic community and numerous other prominent guests, in addition to the university's students, faculty and staff.

Other highlights of the ceremony were opening remarks from Josef Jařab and Lord Dahrendorf of the CEU Board of Trustees, speeches by alumni speaker Kristina Plavsak (IRES '95) and student speaker Roman Didenko (Political Science '99), and the announcement of the graduating students' selection of Loránd Ambrus-Lakatos as "Professor of the Year."

President Havel (left) enters with Josef Jařab, CEU's outgoing President and Rector.

During the ceremony, held in Budapest's Vigadó Hall on June 24, President Havel was welcomed by Budapest Mayor Gábor



OSA EXHIBITION TRAVELS TO SALZBURG

From June 30 through July 2, on the occasion of the World Economic Forum's 1999 Central and Eastern European Economic Summit, photographs and documents from the "Ten Years After" exhibition organized by the Open Society Archives at CEU (OSA) were exhibited at the University of Salzburg in Austria.

OSA mounted "Ten Years After" to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the collapse of the East European communist regimes, and to recollect the important and euphoric events of 1989, the year of transition. Photographs and archival documents revisited the most significant events—from the first free elections in the Soviet Union, through the reburial of Imre Nagy in Hungary, the victory of Solidarity in Poland



and the return of Dubcek and Havel to Czech political life, to the revolution in Romania and the political rallies that shook Bulgaria and Albania. The exhibition also featured a collection of artistic photographs assembled by the Prague-based magazine *Transitions*. "Ten Years After" opened on June 23, 1999, in the Archives' Galeria Centralis in Budapest, and the exhibits dealing with 1989 were later transported to Salzburg.

"Ten Years After," part of OSA's ongoing series of public exhibitions, provided visitors with a unique opportunity to review the process of transition in a regional context, and to get a feel for the naive, hopeful, enthusiastic and defiant atmosphere of the era.