



Slavic Languages & Literatures
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2020-2021 Czech and Slovak Program Newsletter



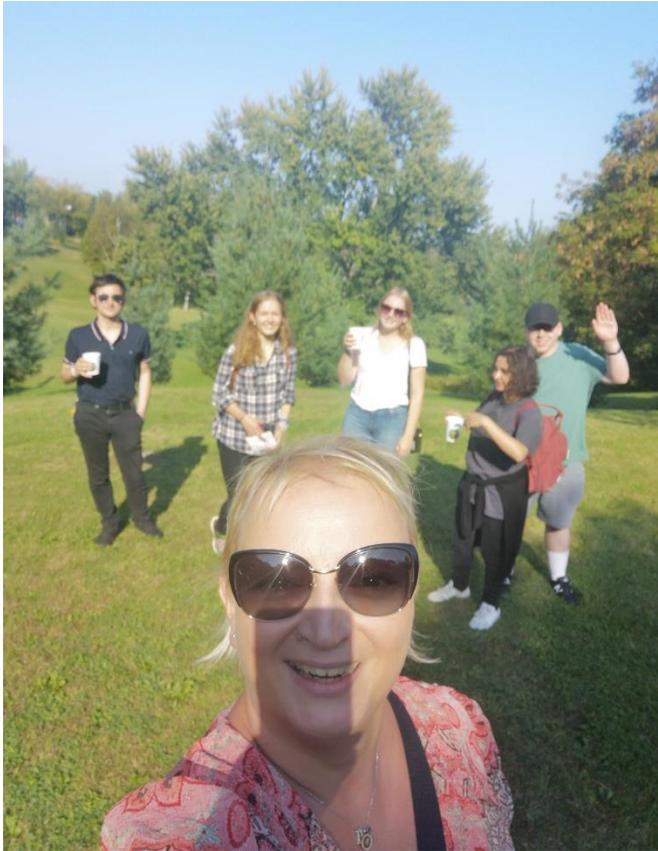
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Czech Language and Culture Students and Professor Ana Petrov

Happy new Academic Year to all!

The best way to start the new year is to look back to the previous one. Not just to put all the great results together, or to remember how the last year was great, but to motivate us to make this new one even better!

In 2020-2021 our classes and extra curricular activities will look a bit different than last year. All the lessons will be provided in the Hyflex model: in-class and online synchronous. Extra curricular activities must be online, at least in the 2020 Fall semester. We all must wash our hands and keep the required distance. 😊

This academic year the Czech and Slovak program is offering a year long ***Elementary Czech Language course*** that will be held for UofT students in a dual form – in-class and online – twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays, 4pm to 6pm. During this course we will encourage students to use Czech as soon as possible, so it will provide the basic grammar knowledge and vocabulary necessary

for everyday basic conversation and it will develop reading and listening skills so they can understand basic text or conversation in Czech. Auditors are welcome online!

In the Fall semester there is a fabulous course ***Czech and Slovak Cultures*** that will take us on a virtual journey through Czech and Slovak history, politics, arts, theatre, cinema, pubs, castles, and clubs!

Spring brings creativity and students can reap the fruits of their language knowledge. 😊 Czech, Russian and Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian language students can develop their language skills in the ***Slavic Languages through Creative Writing Spring Course!*** Besides improving writing skills in a group of diverse Slavic language learners, learning simple creative writing in different genres will show similarities and differences in Slavic languages and motivate students to use their Slavic language knowledge to understand other “Slavic family members.”

We are also planning to keep connected with Masaryk Memorial Institute and Czech and Slovak Community members in organizing events and activities together!

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Milly Syptak, Czech and Slovak Program donor, big supporter, and favourite smile

This year there will be a Czech **and Slovak Students Club** that will start with a new program of activities. Stay tuned for information about its program.

Another very important task that I have this year is to inform you all that this might be the last year that Czech and Slovak Program exists at the University of Toronto. The University decided three years ago not to finance the Czech and Slovak Program, but the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department and our Chair, Professor Donna Orwin, found a way to keep it active until the end of this academic year (June 2021). Meanwhile, we were supposed to motivate students to be more interested in our Program, and to engage more with the Czech and Slovak community. I can proudly say that we succeeded in (and enjoyed) both! Unfortunately, the growing numbers of students,

successful events and great results that we accomplished together is not enough to keep the Program going at U of T. We need to do the **fundraising** and to collect funds to keep the only Czech and Slovak Program in Canada alive. I want you all to be aware of this and, also, to kindly ask you for help. The University has a policy that for “minority” languages, community engagement and funding is the only way to keep them going. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

To end on a positive note, below I summarize our wonderful academic year 2019-2020 in pictures and words and wish you all a healthy, successful, and joyful 2020-2021 academic year!

Hope to see you all soon – online and in-person 😊!

Best regards

Ana Petrov

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Czechtobberfest

A field trip to Masaryktown to the 5th Annual **Czechtobberfest** was the perfect way to start the academic year. Students were introduced to the Czech community and learned about Masaryk Memorial Institute and the activities of the community in the GTA.



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Making and Remaking Central Europe: Czech and Slovak Contribution?

The Czech and Slovak Program together with the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (Munk School of Global Affairs) and Professor Robert Austin and Georgina Steinsky organized a series of talks entitled **Making and Remaking Central Europe: The Czech and Slovak Contribution?**

In partnership with the Centre, students and community members had the great opportunity to attend lectures from various fields given by our fabulous guests Elena Krejčová and Richard Q. Turcsányi (Czech Republic), Ivan Chorvát (Slovakia), Mark Kramer (United States), and Pierre Guimond (Canada).



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Czech Culture Students Project and Award



Together with Czech and Slovak Culture Course students we did a Project that included Czech and Slovak community members, so that way we strengthened our relationship and students presented wonderful stories about community members and their life in Canada. Also, students found out about different Czech and Slovak organizations in Toronto – Sokol, the Masaryk Memorial Institute and Masaryktown, the Bata Museum, Czech Theatre, MeetUp group, etc.

At this event we were very happy to invite guests from the Czech and Slovak community, the Czech

Consulate, and faculty members.

Each year, thanks to our donors, we are happy to award two students for their extraordinary engagement and great results in Czech and Slovak Studies with the **Tibor P. Gregor and Arthur J. Langley Sr.** and **Ernest Tauber Awards**.



Nicolle Mitacek



Alex Bercik

For the academic year 2018-2019 **Nicolle Mitacek** won the Ernest Tauber Award and **Alex Bercik** won the Tibor P. Gregor and Arthur J. Langley Sr. Award.

Congratulations to Nicolle and Alex! And a huge thank you to Anne Gregor and Kathryn Langley Hope for getting engaged with the winners!

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Why are interpreters important – workshop



Professor Elena Krejčová with students

After giving a lecture about ***Political correctness and language of the media***, our guest from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, Professor **Elena Krejčová**, had a workshop with Czech and Slovak Program students and Slavic Languages and Literatures graduate students about the importance of translators and interpreters.

Being an experienced interpreter at the highest diplomatic level and an author of numerous dictionaries and studies in temporary linguistics, Professor Krejčová answered student questions about how to become a good

translator/interpreter and the job market in the field. Also, her anecdotes illustrated the excitement and adventures of this profession.



And more...



The Czech and Slovak Program was presented at the University of Toronto Fall Campus Day



We organized Czech movie nights.

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Ana Petrov presented the Czech and Slovak Program at the AATSEEL conference in San Diego, USA.

And finally, our great **Talent Show** that was very well visited by the community members, Czech Consulate, and students!

Please visit following links to enjoy again our fabulous Czech and Slovak students 😊

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ow4jSG6tHtEzRSdmBQZz4upg6irqUiQ/view?usp=sharing>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OluoMGj7hrUoYqnaBI_fiR3kQU-dhNez/view?usp=sharing

Thank you all for all your support!

A Special thanks to all our friends and supporters ...we hope to enlarge the group!

We hope to see you all soon!

If you have any comments, ideas, thoughts you would like to share, please write to ana.petrov@utoronto.ca

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