

# ANNUAL MEETING IATC

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**Saturday, February 21st, 2026**  
**1pm to 2pm EST (19-20:00 in Prague)**

Our Annual Meeting took place **on Saturday, February 21st, from 1pm to 2pm EST (19-20:00 in Prague)**, both in person in New Orleans (AATSEEL, Oakley Room) and online.

**Attending:** Lida Cope, Masako Fidler, Andrienne Harris, Christian Hilchey, Eva Hruška, Blanka Nejedlá, Varvara Ponomareva, Holly Raynard, Kateřina Šichová, Mila Saskova Pierce, Susan Kresin, Karen von Kunes, Veronika Tuckerová, Martin Šemelík, Hana Wasserová.

## MEETING MINUTES

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### **1. WELCOMING THE NEW IATC PRESIDENT, MASAKO FIDLER; KATEŘINA ŠICHOVÁ AS VICE PRESIDENT; MARTIN ŠEMELÍK, EDITORIAL BOARD; AND TEREZA ŠVANDOVÁ, WEBMASTER**

- Mako Fidler received a gold medal from Charles University for her contributions to Czech Studies. Congratulations!
- Martin Šemelík will be help edit Czech Language News.
- Tereza Švandová will assist as a webmaster.

### **2. LAUNCHING CZECH LANGUAGE NEWS 63**

Veronika Tuckerová gave an overview of the latest issue and noted as a potential plan connecting the latest issues with a selected author presentation at least twice a year.

### **PRESENTATION**

Hana Wasserová, "**Reimagining the Czech Studies Curriculum for Enhanced Enrollment**," University of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The article emphasizes looking for new opportunities to engage students, such as teaching through film and by cross-listing courses.

- Announcement: AATSEEL '26 teaching award received by Susan Kresin. **Congratulations!**
- Report: currently 78 students in the Czech program at the University of Nebraska.
- Announcement: the annual Czech Studies Workshop will take place in April at UN Lincoln.

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## 3. VARIOUS MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPEN DISCUSSION

- Mila Saskova-Pierce spoke about a community series, in Czech. This **čtenářský kroužek** is led by different individuals with knowledge of the session's topic and basic vocabulary is provided. They read or view films together. Meets once a month via Zoom starting 6:30pm CST.
- Kateřina Šichová introduced a **call for a special issue** focused on heritage speakers, i.e. the next newsletter issue, with papers due 4/1/26. Also noted that shorter articles on innovative approaches to teaching that members currently engage in can be also published in the section Varia.
- Susan Kresin is continuing with an initiative begun in Fall 2024: open houses to connect high school students with language instructors at American universities, trying to draw them to studying 14 Slavic languages including Czech in college. Part of a national outreach effort by AATSEEL. Supplemented with virtual booths available 24/7 to students for a couple of months. **Four Zoom Open Houses** are offered in late April and early May. Last time (Fall 2024) we had great buy-in from Czech community language schools, which were the central focus for outreach. Ongoing survey of programs of Slavic and Central/East European Languages other than Russian: <https://forms.gle/g6LsECbeHssy6h1PA>
- Holly Raynard presented an updated "**Why Study Czech**" list that she created to replace the outdated version on the AATSEEL website. Suggestions should be sent to Holly Raynard ([hraynard@gmail.com](mailto:hraynard@gmail.com)) and Susan Kresin ([kresin@ucla.edu](mailto:kresin@ucla.edu)). This and similar materials will be used to update the IATC website.
- Veronika Tuckerová announced that David Cooper has been elected as the new President of ASEES. **Congratulations!**
- Karen von Kunes noted that the beginning of the organization (1994) should be indicated in the Newsletter and that she wishes to be acknowledged as the organization's founder.
- More discussion about the types of potential articles and other contributions to the **Newsletter followed.**
- **Czech Embassy:** Cultural Events; Vaclav Havel's plays, September – looking for additional locations where they could perform.

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## SURVEY

You're invited to **participate in a survey** to map where the less commonly taught Slavic, Central and East Europeans languages (other than Russian) are taught and to better understand the resources and opportunities available to students studying these languages.

The information collected will help support outreach and advising initiatives, including a series of Spring 2026 Virtual Open Houses for high school students, teachers, and families held in conjunction with AATSEEL. Please fill out the survey based on the specific language that you teach. Most respondents complete the survey in 10–15 minutes.

If you would like for us to promote your program at one of the Spring 2026 Virtual Open Houses, please fill out the survey by March 6, 2026.

If you would like to represent your program yourself at one of the open houses, please note this at the end of the survey. We will contact you by mid-March.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Frane Karabatic, [frane.karabatic@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:frane.karabatic@austin.utexas.edu). For questions about the open houses, please contact Susan Kresin, [kresin@ucla.edu](mailto:kresin@ucla.edu).

**Feel free to pass on the link to the survey to your colleagues:**  
**<https://forms.gle/g6LsECbeHssy6h1PA>**