

## PRESS RELEASE

### **“How Kolaches came to Texas” featuring Masaryk University Scholar Alice Lunakova of Prague, Czech Republic**

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Alice Lunakova, of Prague, Czech Republic, will share the results of research she conducted in Texas last summer, while a student at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. She will give four presentations of her final thesis on the History of Czech Immigration to Texas in the Nineteenth Century. One of the four stops on her trip across Texas will be the **Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center in La Grange at 2 PM on August 14**. The presentation is open the public.

In addition to her presentation in LaGrange, her tour includes the following locations:

August 9: Czech Heritage Museum, 119 W, French Ave., Temple.

Begins at 2 p.m.

August 14: Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, 250 W. Fair Grounds Road, La Grange.

Begins at 2 p.m.

August 19: Czech Center Museum Houston, 4920 San Jacinto at Wichita. Houston.

Begins at 6 p.m.

August 30: Baylor University, Guy B. Harrison Jr. Reading Room, Waco.

Begins at 3:30 p.m.

Lunakova graduated in May from Masaryk University. She majored in French and English language at the Faculty of Education and currently teaches languages full time.

Lunakova explained why she chose to study the Texas Czechs:

“The motivation for writing about this topic originates from my two extended stays in Texas. First, I studied for one semester at McLennan Community College in Waco in 2014 with the exchange program offered by the English Department of Faculty of Education at Masaryk University. Thanks to this opportunity, I not only learned about the remarkable history of thousands of the Czechs who settled in Texas, but I was also able to visit the local towns that once used to be the thriving Czech communities, see the Czech signs at the shops and streets, enter the Czech bakeries to smell and taste the renowned, “kolaches” (kolače), attend the Czech festivals, and last but not least, to speak with the Czech descendants whose enthusiasm when speaking of their ancestors amazed me. Their striking pride of being of Czech ancestry raised my interest in learning more about the history of their ancestors.”

She continues, “After coming home and starting to research the available sources, I could not find any particularly useful literature as sources of reference, and therefore I decided to return to Texas in the following year. This enabled me to undertake my research at the Library of Baylor University, visit Czech museums and heritage centers, attend the traditional mass at the Praha Feast, and to meet many Czech descendants who were more than willing to share with me their personal experiences.”

Information contributed by Susan Chandler



**Alice Lunakova**

Photo by Rod Aydelotte