

EXCHANGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Jana Ernekerova

MAJOR: **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

HOME UNIVERSITY: **CZECH TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY**

COUNTRY: **PRAGUE,
CZECH REPUBLIC**



WHEN DECIDING TO STUDY ABROAD, HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO COME TO K-STATE RATHER THAN ANOTHER UNIVERSITY?

I definitely wanted to go to the USA for an exchange even before I started studying at university. Americans are so proud of their culture but I wanted to get to know them first hand. I wanted to truly understand their mentality, not only see the image from the media. K-state is very well known for their family atmosphere and closer relationship between teachers and student. In addition, as a student of the Czech Technical University, I have great conditions for studies here in terms of financial expenses, courses I can take, and also because of the host family program. Thanks to Liz and Howard Beikman, all the Czech students here have their host family, which is helping them to participate in the local community. I have also met some KSU students at my home university within the International Buddies program and once travelling through Europe, I met that American girl who convinced me that Kansas is a good choice for experiencing the USA in its pure way and that is what I really wanted.

WHAT SORT OF SERVICE LEARNING OR PROJECT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE OF YOUR CLASSES? DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DO WITH THIS. HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT FINDING IT?

One of the courses I have this semester is Implementation Project. Within it, I am developing a mobile application for iOS. The application should simplify the choice of spending free time for its user according to his or her preferences of location, kind of activity, references of other users and for example in pubs or restaurants according to the kind of beer, food or coffee they serve. The aim of the project is to create an app ready for publishing in the app store. I wanted to have some course about developing iOS applications since I found it very perspective these days. Unfortunately, the KSU does not offer course of this specialization, so I decided to do it individually and Dr. Daniel Andersen from Computer Science Department was so kind to agree on being my supervisor even before I arrived to Manhattan.

I am also teaching Czech within Basic Language Program this semester. By learning another language, even though it is only basics, you are showing respect to the people of that country. It is nice to see that someone wants to learn Czech. I can recommend this job to any incoming international student, it is interesting experience and nice opportunity to share not only your native language but also the culture.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE US UPON ARRIVAL? WAS IT WHAT YOU EXPECTED OR WERE THERE ANY BIG SURPRISES?

It is my first time in the USA and many of my expectations had come from American movies. Honestly, it mostly only met my expectations.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A K-STATE STUDENT?

I love the campus, especially the rec center. It is awesome! I also like living in dorms here. I can run into different people every day and they are surprisingly friendly. I like the diversity and the fact that they are sharing their stories without even knowing me well.

WOULD YOU MIND SHARING A PHRASE OR WORD FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY AND WHAT IT MEANS?

„Pivo, prosím” Which means “Beer, please”. It is kind of a culture thing in my home country to drink beer. More than about drinking alcohol it is about gathering people, going to the pub, having a good beer and talking.

