

## Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the IU-WU Exchange

In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indiana University - Warsaw University exchange, the Polish Studies Center was honored by a visit from Rector Piotr Węgleński of Warsaw University. Several of the past directors and acting directors of the Center were also able to attend the events, including Jack Bielasiak, Owen Johnson, and Timothy Wiles. We were particularly honored by a visit from the very first director, Mary Ellen Solt, and her daughter Susan Solt. Mary Ellen Solt was instrumental in establishing the Polish Studies Center here at Indiana University and also the American Studies Center at Warsaw University.

The highlight of the visit was a concert and reception hosted by the Lilly Library on September 4th at which Kinga Skrętkowicz-Ferguson and Leopoldo Erice performed a delightful program of Polish and American music. The eventful week came to an end in Bloomington with a reception at the Polish Studies Center. During the informal reception, many of the Bloomington Polish community were able to greet the Rector.



Mary Ellen Solt, Rector Węgleński and Bill Johnston

IU President Myles Brand hosted a special dinner for Rector Węgleński. At the dinner, the Rector presented President Brand, Dean Patrick O'Meara and Timothy Wiles with the Medal of Warsaw University.



Rector Węgleński, Dean Patrick O'Meara and Mary Ellen Solt

It is also worth mentioning that as well as celebrating the past, the Rector's stay was a working visit. He visited with many faculty members, and toured the Cyclotron, the School of Informatics, the Genome Project at IUPUI and the physics and biology labs here in Bloomington. He also initiated a number of new projects with various departments and units at IU; thus, the exchange program and the Center can look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration with Warsaw University.

When the news of the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> reached Poland, Rector Piotr Węgleński immediately sent his regrets and his assurance that those at Warsaw University share our sorrow.

### Director's Remarks

Let me begin my Spring Message by wishing a very Happy New Year to all those associated with the Polish Studies Center. Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

I'm delighted to report that I survived my first semester as Director of the Polish Studies Center! Much more than that—the semester was a success, thanks to the many people who participated in the various events organized by the Center. I must say that more than anything else, I have been impressed with the great turn-outs we have had at our different events, and at the wonderful enthusiasm with which students, faculty, and community members alike have participated in our activities. This was especially evident at our “interactive” meetings such as the Andrzejki celebration in November or the reading of Aleksander Fredro's play “Revenge” in October. It gives me great hope for the future to see both the numbers of those involved and their willingness to take part, whether this means reading a role in a play, having one's fortune told, bringing a dish to share, or asking questions at a talk. Thank you to everyone for your contributions!

Alongside the aforementioned activities, highlights of the Fall semester included a very successful visit by Rector Piotr Węgleński of Warsaw University, and a wonderful lecture

and poetry reading given by Krzysztof Koehler, both of which are described in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter. We also had some very enjoyable social gatherings, beginning with the picnic in September and ending with our traditional Christmas party, during which Kinga Skrętkowicz led us in the singing of Polish Christmas carols. It was a wonderful way to finish off the semester!

The Center is going to be especially busy in the Spring. Along with the usual coffee hours and occasional other meetings, we have three major events to look forward to: A conference on Polish theater combined with performances of *Ferdydurke* by a superb ensemble from Lublin in Poland; a visit by Jan Gross, the historian and social scientist; and a visit by bestselling Polish author Jerzy Pilch. These events are described in more detail on pages 10 and 11.

Let me add that we are currently gathering ideas for the program for next year, 2002-2003. Please feel free to contact me, Heather, or Joel if you have ideas for potential events or visitors. In the meantime, I hope your Spring semester has begun well, and I look forward to seeing you at our events.

With all best wishes,  
Bill Johnston

## DSC

## Profile of Professor Teresa Kubiak

Teresa Kubiak discovered her love of singing at a young age. After graduating from a traditional high school she worked and studied to prepare for admission to the University Conservatory of music in Łódź.

Her professors immediately recognized that the quality and fullness of Ms. Kubiak's voice lent itself to operatic performance. In her first year at the Conservatory, Ms. Kubiak won several local and regional vocal competitions, which advanced her to international competitions in Warsaw, Moscow, Toulouse, and Munich.

Upon graduation she became a company performer at the Łódź Opera House, performing throughout Europe. One afternoon while waiting at the Polska Agencja Artystyczna (Polish Artists Agency) Ms. Kubiak was asked if she would consider auditioning for a visiting American impresario. She agreed, and the Radio Orchestra of Warsaw was called together that evening to accompany her. She performed two arias for the American William Stein, who declared her an "international voice". The audition ended and she thought nothing would come of the exchange. Several months later she was contacted by Mr. Stein and invited to make her American debut at Carnegie Hall in a concert performance of Karl Goldmark's *The Queen of Sheba*.



Ms. Kubiak initially refused the invitation out of fear. She did not speak a word of English and she couldn't conceive leaving her husband and two young daughters to travel so far. Her mentor and teacher urged her to seize the opportunity and offered to accompany and translate for her. She agreed. And after the grueling trip, made her American debut.

The performance was a pure success. The next day New York critics heralded Ms. Kubiak as a new discovery. She was swept into a whirlwind of engagements. The following day an audition was arranged with the Metropolitan Opera of New York, where she was contracted for 14 years as a leading Soprano. Performances followed at all of the acclaimed opera houses. Ms. Kubiak shared the stage with the great tenors of the time, and developed a close friendship with Placido Domingo, performing with him in *Aida* and *Tosca* at the Met and Covent Garden.

This level of international success did come with its price. In light of her consistent visa extensions, the Polish government demanded that Ms. Kubiak return to Poland and take up residence. With contracts to fulfill and a career that led her to stages throughout the world, Ms. Kubiak could not comply. From 1975 until 1988 she did not return to Poland. Shunned by the government, it was forbidden to even sell her recordings in Poland. After the social revolution of

(continued on page 5)

Visit by Krzysztof Koehler

In October we had a visit from Krzysztof Koehler, a leading writer of the younger generation. Koehler, a poet, critic and historian of literature, film-maker, editor, and librettist, lives and works in Kraków; he is currently teaching at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

We got to know our guest in two of his incarnations. First, on October 18th Koehler gave a fascinating lecture on contemporary Polish culture entitled "Transformations of Polish Culture in the 1990's: Confessions of a Combatant." In his talk, Koehler presented the development of Polish culture over the last decade as a conflict between traditional Romantic commitments of the challenges of the 1990's. In question Polish culture mantic deconstruction, fol-ironic discourse, which rap-discourse; after this, in Pol-the speaker described as a



The form of "confessions of lent his talk a personal and considerably more lively than

a combatant" adopted by Koehler polemic quality which rendered it many academic presentations.

Later the same day, Koehler appeared in another of his incarnations—that of poet. He gave a very enjoyable poetry reading in which he read his own poems in Polish, while translations were read by Bill Johnston, one of his translators. The author added his own rather atypical commentaries to his readings. He emphasized the musical and spoken significance of his verse, and also described some of the contexts in which the various poems were written, something not always evident from the poems themselves.

To give a flavor of Koehler's work, below we offer one of his poems in the original Polish and in an English translation by Bill Johnston.

Na samym krańcu  
pola ogień  
blask i wiatr  
Przechodzień  
wstąpił w las,  
zaszedł mu  
drogę

na krańcu pola  
stopy

odciśniętej  
śląd

At the very edge  
of a field glare  
fire and wind  
A passer-by  
has entered the wood;  
its way  
is barred

at the edge of the field  
by a footfall's

imprinted  
trace

## An Evening of "Revenge"

On October 4<sup>th</sup> the Polish Studies Center hosted a reading of Aleksander Fredro's comedic play "Revenge" (Zemsta). Brave volunteers from the audience chose parts to read and helped bring the play to life.

Fredro's comedy tells the tale of two families who share a fence and an animosity that drives them to ridiculous feats. Throw in a cowardly and pompous soldier, a lovesick widow, and two young lovers from the warring families and it becomes clear why this classic play is still performed in Polish theaters today.

Written in 1834, it was only recently that Noel Clark's masterful English translation brought the play to an English speaking audience, conveying all of the wry yet warm humor of the original.

Based on the success of the evening the Polish Studies Center is likely to host future readings of other Polish drama. Keep checking the center's website for news and details.

### Teresa Kubiak Cont...

Solidarność and the re-opening of the region to the West, Ms. Kubiak was invited to return.

By 1988 everything had changed, Ms. Kubiak arrived in Warsaw to a literal red-carpet reception, press conferences, and numerous interviews. She returned to the opera house of her hometown in Łódź and performed *Tosca*. It became clear that while the government of the time had tried to repress her music, the people of Poland had followed her career with unwavering admiration.

As a professor of voice at Indiana University's Bloomington campus, Ms. Kubiak is known for her high standards and gifted teaching. She hopes to impart to her students the lessons she has learned during her career, encouraging them to find their calling and go aggressively forward with a willingness to succeed and the ability to overcome challenges and setbacks.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Kubiak chairs juries throughout the world for vocal competitions. She acts as a Cultural Ambassador of Poland. Last year she performed a selection of Polish songs in Amman at the International Meeting for the Promotion of Traditional Music in the Age of Globalization.

When asked which role she most identifies with, Ms. Kubiak cites *Tosca*. A character she has portrayed in almost every capital opera house. A singer, *Tosca* faces harsh treatment from the Roman government, and attempts to liberate her revolutionary fiancée through the favor of a Roman governor who is mesmerized by her voice. *Tosca's* most famous aria "Vissi d'arte" proclaims that she has lived her life for art and lived her life for love. This motto Ms. Kubiak has adopted in her career and her life.

by Joel Chanvisanuruk



**Andrzejki**

Many friends of the Polish Studies Center, both old and new, met on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November for Andrzejki, a celebration of St. Andrew's Day. Andrzejki parties feature fortune-telling games. Traditionally these games were for unmarried young ladies, but in the spirit of equal opportunity we adapted them so unmarried young men could participate too.

Partygoers took part in three traditional Polish games. In the first game, a person pours liquid wax through a key into cold water to make a random form. The wax is cooled and then placed in front of a lamp to cast a shadow on the wall. The rest of the partygoers then shout out what they see as they try to divine the person's future based on the shape of the wax. Usually the future has to deal with the person's prospects for marriage. In another game, three bowls are placed



on a table upside-down. Under one, a rosary is placed, under another, a ring, and finally a handkerchief. The bowls are moved around out of the player's view and then the player picks one. If she picks the rosary, she'll join a convent. If she picks the ring, she'll marry,



and if she picks the handkerchief, she can dry her eyes—she's going to become an old maid. In the third game, everyone takes off one shoe, and the shoes are lined up on the floor, then the last shoe is put at the front of the line repeatedly so the line moves around the room like a train. The owner of the shoe that is at the front of the line when the train reaches the door will be the next to marry.

All of the partygoers had a good time, although some were a little surprised (not to say disconcerted) at the fortunes they received!

-by Richard Knepper

The Polish Cultural Association has an opening for the office of Treasurer. If you are interested in being an influential member of the PCA leadership team, as well as building your resumé, please contact Stasiu Szubiak ([sszubiak@indiana.edu](mailto:sszubiak@indiana.edu)) or Heather Kates ([hkates@indiana.edu](mailto:hkates@indiana.edu)).

2001-2002 Officers  
 President- Stasiu Szubiak  
 Vice-President- Kasia Adamczyk  
 Secretary- Phillip Goss  
 Treasurer- vacant

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please** welcome **Joel Chanvisanuruk**, our Graduate Student for the 2001-2002 academic year. Joel completed his undergraduate studies in philosophy at Bradford College, MA, during which time he studied and interned in Toulouse and Marseilles, France. In June of 2001 he completed his service as a member of the last group of US Peace Corps volunteers to be sent to Poland. In Poland he lived in Sosnowiec for two years where his primary assignment was as a secondary school teacher. In addition, he developed projects to train local grassroots HIV/AIDS organizations to apply for grants from western organizations. At present he is pursuing a dual degree through REEI and SPEA. He plans to focus on Poland's impending role as an EU border country and its reforms in the area of health and education in order to meet EU standards. His ambition is to become a US Foreign Service officer.

A big thank you is due to **Ula Knepper**. She has spent numerous hours cataloging and organizing the book library here at the PSC. Her work will soon be evident with the titles posted on the web and a complete facelift of the upstairs rooms.

**Rose M. Thomas** published *And So It Was As I Recall*. According to Bloomington Barnes & Noble Booksellers it was placed at No. 1 for nonfiction books surrounded by titles such as the Harry Potter books and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Visit our web site [www.indiana.edu/~polishst/](http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/) in order to find updates regarding upcoming events and to view improvements to the site itself. We are looking forward to an entire new site this spring semester designed by Joel.

### Financial Donations

Our thanks go to E. K. Belfoure, Dr. & Mrs. James Bowden, Ronnie Carter, Harriet P. Irsay, Dr. & Mrs. John W. Ryan, and Aurellia Sobczyk for their donations.

### Material Donations

Our thanks also go to Denise Gardiner, Jessica Hamilton, Ola Jarczewska-Romaniuk, and Dave and Bozena Shallcross for their donations.

### Spend Your Summer Studying Polish

Since 1950 Indiana University, Bloomington has offered the Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages. A full academic year of first year Polish is scheduled for Summer 2002, June 14- August 9. This nationally recognized intensive eight-week course is taught by Indiana University's own specialists as well as native speakers from other Universities and abroad. The course focuses on the enhancement of speaking, reading, listening and writing skills through classroom instruction and a full range of extra-curricular activities. All participants pay in-state tuition, and summer housing and board are available through the university. For more information visit the Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages website at [www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/sweesl.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/sweesl.shtml).

## Faculty News

**Bill Johnston** gave a reading from his translation of Jerzy Pilch's novel *His Current Woman* at the annual conference of the American Literary Translators Association, held in October 2001 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The novel will be published by Northwestern University Press in April 2002. He is currently finishing work on a collection of short stories by Gustaw Herling-Grudziński to be published by New Directions. Bill and his wife, Katarzyna Rydel-Johnston, recently published an English language coursebook for Poles, *Język angielski i amerykański dla początkujących* (Krakow: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 2001).

**Bożena Shallcross**, Director of the Polish Studies Center 1999-2001, left Indiana University in Summer 2001 to take up a position in the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at the University of Chicago. Bożena's term of office in the Center was marked by a large number of successful high-profile events, including two conferences and a visit by leading Polish intellectual Adam Michnik. We thank Bożena for her service to the Center, and wish her all the best in her new position.

**Timothy Wiles** (English) travelled in Russia for two weeks in December. Tim was invited to give a paper in Moscow at the Russian Society of American Culture Studies Conference, which is held at Moscow State University. His topic: Reflections of the Cold War, particularly the Rosenberg case, in plays by Arthur Miller and Tony Kushner ("The Crucible" & "Angels in America"). This is part of a larger study of Cold War drama and theater, which will include a section on Polish political playwright Sławomir Mrożek.

After the conference, Tim traveled to Ekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains, and visited the university there, as a guest of Elena Dotsenko. Tim supervised Dr. Dotsenko's drama research at IU two years ago when she held a Fulbright grant for junior scholars.

**Bernard Morris** (Political Science, Emeritus) has received a \$500 RUGS Grant-in-Aid for retired faculty to conduct research at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

**Michael Parrish** of SPEA published: *The Downfall Of The "Iron Commissar", N.I.EZHOV, 1938-1940*. *Journal of Slavic Military Studies* Vol.14 No2 (June 2001), pp.71-104.

**Steve Franks** (Linguistics) was a plenary speaker at the Fourth European Conference on Formal Description of Slavic Languages in Potsdam in November, where he presented "Case Features, Markedness, and Quantification".

His recent publications include: "How Metrics Usually Wins." *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Eastern States Conference on Linguistics*, 2000 with IU Slavics grad student Don Reindl; "Metrical

Continued on Next Page

## Alumni News

**Jennifer Day** defended her dissertation "Memory as Space: The Created Petersburg of Vladimir Nabokov and Joseph Brodskij" in August. She has accepted a one-year teaching position with the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio where she will be an Assistant Professor of Russian Studies.

**Michael Katula** (REEL) and his wife, Agnieszka Gmys-Wiktor, celebrated the birth of their son Anton Soren Katula on September 2nd. Michael has accepted a new position with the United States Department of State in the Foreign Service.



## PSC

**EXCHANGEE NEWS**

**Konrad Zdanowski** is a doctoral student from the Philosophy Institute at Warsaw University. He is conducting research in finite model theory and extensions of elementary logic. He was in Bloomington from August to December 2002. While at IU, he took courses and seminars in the Maths and Computer Science Departments. He also gave two talks in the logic seminar about his work on Henkin quantifiers and two talks in Daniel Leivant's seminar "Foundations of Computing" about his work on finite models for arithmetic.

**Iwona Kurz** is a doctoral student of the Institute of Polish Culture at Warsaw University. She is conducting research regarding Polish cinema and popular culture and their social, historical, and cultural contexts through the 50's and 60's. She will be staying from January until May 2002.

**STUDENT NEWS**

**Mark Betka, Kati Cierniak, Chris Howard** and **Richard Knepper** received scholarships from the Kościuszko Foundation for the 2001-2002 academic year.

**Kinga Skrętkowicz-Ferguson**, a master's student in the School of Music, sang the lead role of Gretel in the production of Engelbert Humperdinck's opera *Hansel and Gretel*. In addition, she was the winner of the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Competition. She also received a prestigious scholarship from the Kościuszko Foundation.

**Danusha Goska**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Folklore and Ethnomusicology program at IU-Bloomington, received a Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies, given by the American Council for Polish Culture. She was one of five students to be the first recipients of this new award. Goska's essay "Silence" will appear in *TheScreamOnline.com* in January, 2002.

In late February, **Sachiko Okamoto**, an ethno-musicologist from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, will be the first IU student to take advantage of the exchange between IU and Jagiellonian University in Poland. She will be working with Prof. Jan Majda from the Polish Studies Institute to continue her studies. Sachiko will spend some of her time in the Podhale region pursuing her research on *góral* music.

If you would like more information about the exchanges from IU to Jagiellonian University or Warsaw University, please contact Charles Bankart in International Programs. He can be reached by phone at 855-7557 or by email at [cbankart@indiana.edu](mailto:cbankart@indiana.edu).

**Faculty News cont...**

Constraints on the Pronunciation of Clitics in the *Srpske narodne pjesme*." In *Clitics in Phonology, Morphology and Syntax*, 2000; "An Argument for Multiple Spell-Out". *Linguistic Inquiry* 32, 174-183 (2001) with Z. Boskovic, Univ. of CT.; and *Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics: The Bloomington Meeting*. with Tracy King, Xerox-Parc, & Michael Yadroff, IU Ph.D. Michigan Slavic Materials. (2001).

Steven Franks recently made a trip to Poland. He received funding from the International Programs Overseas Conference Fund and the PSC. In Warsaw, he was an invited speaker at the second meeting of Generative Linguistics in Poland. This is an important meeting of Slavists and linguists working within formal models of language description and analysis.

Continued on page 12

## Calendar of Events: Spring 2002

As mentioned in the Director's Message, we have a number of major events lined up for the Spring. They include the following:

### Friday, February 1st, 4 - 6 PM: Pierogi Party

The Polish Cultural Association will be repeating its much-enjoyed pierogi-making party at the Leo R Dowling International Center at 111 S. Jordan Avenue. Come and join in the fun! Materials will be provided. Contact Stasiu Szubiak at [sszubiak@indiana.edu](mailto:sszubiak@indiana.edu) for more information.

### Thursday, February 7th, 7.30 p.m.: Play Reading

Following up on the great success of our play reading in the Fall, we will meet again, this time to join in a communal reading of two short twentieth-century plays, one by Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (aka Witkacy) and one by Sławomir Mrożek. To be held at the Polish Studies Center.



### Friday-Saturday February 15-16: Drama Conference/Performances of *Ferdydurke*

The Polish Studies Center is hosting a conference entitled "The Other in Polish Theater and Drama." The conference includes presentations by leading scholars from all over North America, and will be held at the Indiana Memorial Union Oak Room and Fine Arts 102. More details are available on our website.

During the conference, we are extremely fortunate to be able to host the outstanding Teatr Provisorium/Kompania Teatr from Lublin in Poland, who will perform their award-winning production of *Ferdydurke*, based on Witold Gombrowicz's novel of the same name. The production had received rave reviews in New York and L. A. and also at the Edinburgh Festival. The play will be performed twice in English and once in Polish. The schedule of performances is as follows:



Friday, February 15th: 8:00 p.m.: English version

Saturday, February 16th: 3:00 p.m.: Polish version  
8:00 p.m.: English version

Tickets cost \$5 general/\$3 students, and can be obtained at the Auditorium Box office or by calling 812-333-9955. Don't miss this opportunity to see a piece of world-class Polish theater right here in Bloomington! More details are available on our website at [www.indiana.edu/~polishst](http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst).

**Monday, March 4th, 8.00 p.m.: Talk by Jan Gross**

Jan Gross of New York University, the controversial author of *Neighbors*, about the murder of local Jews by the Polish villagers of Jedwabne in Poland during the Second World War, will present a public lecture entitled "The Story of the Murder of the Jedwabne Jews (on July 10, 1941) and its Reception in Poland." The lecture will take place at Woodburn Hall 101, and will be followed by a reception.

**Thursday, March 28th: Polish Film Night: TBA**

**Thursday, April 11th/Friday April 12th: Talk by Andrzej Rychard**

Andrzej Rychard is Chair of Sociology at Central European University. He will give a talk on some aspect of the recent sociopolitics of Poland. Details TBA.

**Thursday, April 25th/Friday April 26th: Talk and Reading by Jerzy Pilch**

We are delighted to announce that bestselling Polish novelist and humorist Jerzy Pilch will be visiting Bloomington as part of the Russian and East European Institute's Writers and Their Translators series. Pilch will be reading amongst other things from *His Current Woman (Inne rozkosze)*, the first of his novels to be published in English translation, and from his Nike Award-winning 2000 novel *Pod mocnym aniołem (The Mighty Angel)*. Details to be announced.

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*Indiana University Polish Studies Center*

**Faculty News cont...**

The Warsaw meeting brought together a diverse group of linguists who are particularly concerned with the formal description Polish and other Slavic languages. He also was able to use the opportunity to promote IU Slavic ventures such the Journal of Slavic Linguistics, the offerings of our SLAVICA publishing house, the activities of the Polish Studies Center, and of course our various graduate programs. There he spoke on The Internal Structure of Slavic Noun Phrases, with Special Reference to Bulgarian. This paper will appear in the proceedings.

*The PSC Newsletter* is a publication of news and events of the Polish Studies Center, Indiana University. It is edited by: Joel Chanvisanuruk, Heather Kates, and Bill Johnston.

The Polish Studies Center can be contacted by phone at (812)855-1507 or email at [polish@indiana.edu](mailto:polish@indiana.edu). Our web page is located at <http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst>.

page 12