



The Polish Studies Center Newsletter

Indiana University • Bloomington, Indiana

Spring 2012

Director's Notebook

By Padraic Kenney

Spring is full of tradition at the Polish Studies Center: we may not be floating *Marzanny* in Jordan Creek, but it is time for another newsletter! I am honored once again to share with you thoughts about the year that has passed.

The distinctive mission of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University has always centered on outreach to our communities. The picture that graces our cover this year reminds me that community has many meanings. Over the years, the PSC has welcomed more than a hundred scholars from Warsaw, Kraków, and elsewhere in Poland. Some have come for a year, others for just a few days. But all have left with strong impressions of the university and the city. Now, the newly-formed Polish Association of Alumni and Friends of Indiana University makes that community concrete. You can read more about that endeavor on p. 3. Meanwhile, perhaps we should form an "Association of the Friends of the

Polish Association of Friends and Alumni..."? I'll be the first to join!

Here in Bloomington, we are celebrating our community traditions



Inaugural Meeting of the PAFAIU with Piotr Serafin, Prof. Frankiszek Lyra, and Bartosz Borowski

in another way. This past fall, we began raising funds for the Timothy E. Wiles Memorial Lecture in Polish Studies. You'll be hearing more about this project soon - and can read about its origins on p. 4. I was not fortunate enough to know Tim Wiles, but our first fundraising drive confirmed the anecdotal evidence I had heard: he is much loved and remembered by the community here in Bloomington, around the country, and in Poland. Stay tuned for news about the Wiles Memorial Lecture, in Spring 2013.

Amidst the celebrations, I want to take a moment to remember three good friends of the Polish Studies

Center who passed last year. IU President John Ryan was one of the founding spirits of Polish Studies. In 1974, he answered the call for an American university to help found an American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. He stood firm amidst the controversies that accompanied working with counterparts in Communist Poland. He and his wife Patricia remained supporters of Polish Studies long after his retirement. Michael Berkvam, the greatest Norwegian-American friend the PSC has ever had, left us all too soon this past summer. Along with his wife Mirka, we will all miss his sharp wit, his infectious love of Polish culture, and his warm comradeship. And we all mourn the passing of Dr. Stan Thomas in January, but know that he lived a very full 92 years, and are grateful for the contributions he and his wife Rose made to the PSC community.

Looking ahead, I see much to be excited about in the PSC's future. We have a new study abroad program, a new undergraduate minor... but I hope you'll take the time to read the stories inside. *Serdeczne podziękowania* to the PSC Graduate Assistant, M. Benjamin Thorne, who crafted this newsletter, and to our Administrative Assistant, Jonathan Jenner. Thanks also to our Visiting Lecturer, Basia Morcinek. All three have made 1217 E. Atwater a wonderful place to be this year. We all hope to see you in the PSC, or at a Polish event, soon. As always, thank you for your support!

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The Poet of Reportage: Celebrating the Life of Ryszard Kapuściński

By M. Benjamin Thorne

Civil Wars. Palace coups. Revolutions. Poverty, wealth, hope, despair, the collapse of an empire and the birth of a dozen new states: in his fifty years as a journalist, Ryszard Kapuściński (1933-2007) saw it all, documenting what he observed first as an official



international correspondent with the Polish News Agency and later in books and essay collections that have been translated into over thirty-six languages. Posted on assignment to over 100 countries, most in the Third World, Kapuściński witnessed over twenty-seven revolutions and coups, writing about them in a curious style that mixed standard journalism with at times surreal imagery. His books, like *The Soccer War*, *The Shah of Shahs*, and *The Emperor*, won him a legion of admirers and raised awareness of human rights issues plaguing Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

What few of Kapuściński's admirers realize, however, is that he recorded his experiences in the Third World not only with words, but also images. If his writing may be described as "magical journalism," using a style somewhat reminiscent of authors like Gabriel García Márquez, then his

photography, capturing people and places with startling clarity, make it clear that Kapuściński's work is firmly grounded in reality—a reality at times bleak, other times triumphant, but always gripping.

This is why Poland's Foreign Ministry, in a program meant to highlight Kapuściński's contributions and honor his work, organized a traveling exhibition of photographs taken by him during his travels. Thanks to the Polish Consulate in Chicago and the Polish Studies Center, this exhibition, travelling much like its subject across the globe, made a stop in Bloomington from September 29th to October 16th at the BlueLine Gallery. Including a selection of photos taken from throughout Kapuściński's career, the exhibit, "The Poet of Reportage/"



Kapuściński on horseback on the Kyrghyz steppe

Poeta reportażu. Ryszard Kapuściński: A Photo Exhibit on the Journalist's Life and Work," impresses the observer with the journalist's keen ability to capture a range of emotion and meaning within a still image.

The exhibit's opening reception, held on September 29th, drew in over thirty people, including students, faculty, and local Bloomingtonites. As guests admired Kapuściński's photography, conversations turned to a consideration of how Kapuściński's photography complements his writing, providing

an organic segue way to a talk given by Prof. Padraic Kenney, the PSC director, and Prof. Owen Johnson, a specialist in the history of East European media. As Prof. Kenney put it, "I felt seeing his photographs that he has the same eye as a photographer that he did as a journalist. When you read him you can really see the images he's trying to describe. One felt like one knew the photograph already."

Take, for example, one of Kapuściński's photos featuring African civilians resting in the street, and compare it with an essay he wrote on the meaninglessness of time for people in Africa. As Prof. Kenney observes, "you can totally imagine how that could be read as 'Africans are lazy.' But really he showed that there isn't an economic incentive to do otherwise. He really understands the economic and political context that Africans find themselves in."



Profs. Kenney and Johnson discuss Kapuściński's work

Polish Conductor Heads the Indianapolis Symphonic Orchestra

By M. Benjamin Thorne

If you're walking around campus or shopping in downtown Indy and hear people humming pieces by classic Polish composers like Chopin, Górecki, and Paderewski, don't be surprised. This year aficionados of classical music and Polish Studies alike are singing the same tune, and that tune is being conducted by maestro Krzysztof Urbański.

On September 1st Urbański took to the podium as the seventh music director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, with a simultaneous appointment as Adjunct Professor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. It is only fitting that Urbański joins the ISO; after all, in April 2010 he made his U.S. debut with the orchestra and made a triumphant return last June.

Given the many plaudits Urbański's visits earned, it is no wonder that when the time came to appoint a new music director, the ISO's musicians overwhelmingly endorsed Urbański's candidacy.

Already one of the world's foremost orchestral conductors at the young age of 28—making him an enfant terrible on par with the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Gustavo Dudamel—Urbański graduated from the prestigious Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw in 2007, winning the First Prize Winner of the Prague Spring International Conducting Competition that same year. Since then, he has worked with Sinfonia Varsovia, the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Poznan Philharmonic Orchestra.

Urbański's losing no time in sharing his deep knowledge of Polish classical music with

the public. In the program for his second weekend as music director, he included pieces by two contemporary composers: Wojciech Kilar's "Orawa" and Henryk Górecki's "Three Pieces in the Old Style." In turn, Kilar has accepted a commission to write a composition exclusively for the ISO, to be debuted in 2013. Urbański hopes to eventually include Górecki's opus, "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs in a future program; whatever works he chooses for the ISO, Urbański's appointment enriches not only our musical landscape, but also raises awareness of the significant contributions made by Poles to our shared cultural heritage.

The Polish Association of Alumni and Friends of Indiana University

The inaugural chapter of the PAAFIU was founded in Warsaw on October 27th, 2011. The Association's goal is to promote academic exchange between Indiana University and Polish institutions of higher learning, including the University of

Warsaw. The founding meeting, attended by IU Vice President for International Affairs David Zaret and by several dozen scholars and graduate students, was hosted by UW Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations Włodzimierz Lengauer and by IU alumnus and UW

professor emeritus Franciszek Lyra, who compiled a list of IU-UW exchange alumni. Tomasz Basiuk, Director of the UW American Studies Center, was elected president.

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The Polish Studies Center Proudly Announces the New Minor in Polish Studies

Thanks to a new joint initiative co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Polish Studies Center, undergraduates with a strong interest in the study of Polish language and culture may now obtain a Minor in Polish Studies. This new minor will provide students with a structured course of study and will also allow them to highlight their interest in Polish Studies on their transcripts.

In order for students to obtain a deep appreciation for Poland, a working knowledge of the language is absolutely essential. The core courses provide students with an intensive, immersive exposure to a broad range of topics immediately relevant to the field of Polish Studies, allowing them to become conversant

with the dominant topics, questions, and concerns related to the academic study of Poland. The six elective credit hours allow students to select from a broad range of course offerings, enabling them to tailor their studies to develop an extensive knowledge base in disciplines and issues of personal interest. As a whole, this curriculum forms a coherent and unique plan of study by building on a core set of courses that affords students a strong, common foundation. It then allows them to branch out to build a program of individual study that, while firmly rooted in the broader field of Polish Studies, grants exposure to related fields and disciplines. The PSC is proud to offer its students this exciting new opportunity!



A New Initiative at the PSC: The Wiles Lectureship in Polish Studies

Prof. Timothy Wiles (1947-2003) gave much to the IU community since he joined the English and Comparative Literature faculties in 1973: through his scholarship, administrative prowess, and popular lecture courses, he made the university a better, brighter place. Above all, his passion for and devotion to Polish culture engendered a relationship between IU and Warsaw University that continues to enrich both institutions today. In 1975, he helped establish the American Studies Center at Warsaw University, and soon thereafter helped establish an academic exchange between our schools. As Director of the



Professor Timothy Wiles

1986, and again from 1991 to 1999, Prof. Wiles ensured IU's lasting reputation as one of America's foremost universities in the field of Polish Studies.

Now there is an opportunity to continue Prof. Wiles' memory while sharing in his generous spirit, by donating to the Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture in Polish Studies. Through this fund, each year the PSC will bring a noted scholar, artist, or writer to deliver a lecture to the IU and Bloomington community on any aspect of Polish Affairs. Individuals or organizations interested in supporting this important lectureship may do so by making a donation to the IU Foundation with the note: "Timothy Wiles Memorial Lectureship"

Award Winning Poet Returns to IU

Tomasz Różycki is a familiar face in Bloomington. In 2007, in what was his American debut he read from his work to a packed room in the IMU. His book *The Forgotten Keys* (Zephyr Press, 2008), translated by Mira Rosenthal (PhD Comparative Literature 2011), was introduced during that first visit. For this year's event, Różycki brought something

different to share. The audience, though, was required to contribute as well.

Twelve Stations (2004) is Różycki's book-length mock epic poem about Opole, his home town. He and his translator, Bill Johnston, presented a draft translation of an extract - and put the audience to work. Each line presented new choices, and

audience members shouted out words, pondered cultural nuances, or searched for ways to convey the flavor of the original.

The result of Różycki's and Johnston's efforts - with maybe a little help from the IU community - will be published by Zephyr Press in 2013. In the meantime, we present another extract from the same work in Johnston's translation.

Excerpt from *Twelve Stations*

No doubt our reader has at some time found himself lost and alone at that bus station, one of a thousand such places and yet unique and unrepeatable in the whole wide world, from which buses lumber off throughout the land, rending asunder the pure pale glow of dawn on days when spring is in the air. If you saw them from above, at a distance, they would be crawling in every direction, rumbling and muttering, stinking the place up and snorting, bearing somnolent legions of locals who are largely oblivious to their own position vis-à-vis the moon and the neighboring planets, or the attitude assumed by their own body, prey as it is to mysterious electrical currents and physical pressures inside the conveyance that is a PKS bus. The Grandson climbed aboard and bought a ticket directly from the driver, then took a seat over the wheel, more or less in the middle of the vehicle, arranging his knees neatly in preparation for the great journey ahead of him.

For this was no trivial matter, all appearances to the contrary, since anyone who has ever traveled in such a means of transportation knows how crucial it is to dispose one's knees and legs in the appropriate places.

And as one whose legs were sixteen inches longer than the norm established by the bus company for such body parts, the Grandson had to go to great pains to place them anywhere they would go, simply to ensure he could continue his journey in their company, which task took him no longer than fifteen minutes, as a seasoned veteran who had taken many such rides. For it's common knowledge that no one can fit in their entirety on the seats created to this end by designers clearly mindful of the health and physical condition of their passengers, obliging them to carry on a perpetual search for comfortable positions and to perform bodily gymnastics involving their spine with all its appendages, especially if the traveler happens to be clad in tight pants.

It was for this reason that after the journey from Opole to Komprachcic, after exiting the bus people were observed to fall on their faces out of joy and gratitude that they were able to disembark. Some were seen twisting and turning furiously the entire length of the trip, talking to themselves in a local lingo barely comprehensible to visitors from Warsaw; and other, quieter folks were observed too. The latter, once the bus came to a stop, were unable to get off by themselves, having passed the ride in such an odd arrangement of arms and legs that despite frenzied efforts they were no longer capable of straightening their limbs. And though fellow travelers came to their assistance along with the driver and the local population, these wretches often had to return home with the aid of certain extremities alone, especially the thumb, which came in useful during the phase of propelling themselves along the surface of the road.



Tomasz Różycki

Study Abroad in Beautiful Krakow!

Looking to expand your horizons in one of Europe's most exciting cultural centers? Are you thinking of doing a semester abroad but can't decide where to go? A new program offered through the Office of the Vice President of International Affairs has what you're looking for. Come spend a semester at Jagiellonian University in Kraków. One of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities (founded 1364), you can roam the same halls trod by Copernicus as you go between classes. Ideal for students interested in the study of East European history, culture, and languages, Jagiellonian's Center for European Studies offers courses in English as well as Polish language instruction at all levels (or German, French, and Russian for those already proficient in Polish). You will be part of a student body numbering over 50,000, including 2,500 students from all over the world. The cultural opportunities do not stop at the campus threshold: Kraków's renowned Old Town offers a bustling market full of shops, galleries, and cafés, and music and film festivals occur on a regular basis. Whether you opt for an idyllic stroll along the Rynek, or decide to visit Wawel Castle, or visit Kazimierz, the historic Jewish Quarter where Schindler's List was filmed, there is no shortage of things to do and places to go: and that isn't even taking into account travels elsewhere in Poland and Europe!

Offered during the fall and spring semesters, the tuition costs an affordable 3,800 euros (approximately \$5,206.00), with a shared dorm room costing an additional \$100-\$150 a month. Best of all, most IU scholarships, grants, and loans can be used for the program's costs. For more info on this excellent opportunity to live and study in one of Europe's historical gems, including deadlines, application requirements, and expenses, please visit the PSC on the web at <http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/newpage.shtml>. We hope to see you next year at Jagiellonian!



Window on Kraków

By Bethany Braley

Should you ever have the chance to study in Kraków, don't you dare pass it up! When you first arrive for your year or semester abroad, things will of course seem exotic and confusing. What are those weird patterned breads being sold in the streets? How is it that everyone but you knows just when to cross a busy intersection or how to avoid the deluge of commercial fliers being thrust into your unsuspecting hands? Why did the bus or tram not take you where you thought it was going to, and where are the water-fountains and public toilets?

Yes, many things will at first seem unnatural and strange, but by the end of your first few months you'll be crossing busy streets as unblinkingly as the next Krakówian and exchanging friendly greetings with those officials who before had seemed so austere. You'll smile to yourself whenever you spot a new exchange student tackling the challenges you've already conquered, and you'll find that part of the joy of the experience is in the diversity of relationships you form thanks to the "absurd" constraints imposed by your new environment. Through awkward situations, laughter and shared experience, I met many wonderful people during my stay—both Poles and foreigners, at least one of whom I know will be a friend for life.

My semester-long research stay in the city founded by King Krak gave me numerous opportunities for cultural reflection. The day I registered at the university library I felt I'd stepped into a Kafka novel: I hadn't expected that twenty years after Communism's decline so much bureaucracy could still persist in Poland (though to be fair much has changed and is still changing). Though typically I feel more at home in a library than just about anywhere else, I found my hands were slightly trembling as I presented my newly printed ID to a security guard stationed by the stairs

Choosing the audacious research goal of interviewing some of Poland's top poets forced me into interpersonal exchanges that daily challenged my preconceived notions about "Polish character." On occasion I was deeply impressed by gestures of Old Polish courtesy, on occasion by the candor and openness of Polish youths or by the sincerity and goodwill of the artists I interviewed—especially the grace with which they treated my developing Polish!

While I was mainly involved in my own

of the world's oldest working salt mine), all of which are within a day's travel from Kraków. For such opportunities I have to thank the sizeable discount all students receive in trains and public transport, cultural events and restaurants.

It is hard to believe I am already back in Bloomington, Indiana. Mentally, I guess I still haven't left Poland's most charming city. In my mind's eye I am now pausing in the famous Planty Gardens at the foot of Poselska Street, my favorite cobblestone lane leading up into Cracow's picturesque Old Town. When I arrive at the corner of All Saints' Square,

I might head down Grodzka Street towards the Center for Polish Language and Culture in the World, where over the fall semester I took a first-rate Polish language course, to arrive soon at the base of the impressive Wawel Castle hill. From there a few steps more will bring me to a breathtaking view of the Wisła (Vistula) River. Or instead I might turn up Grodzka and amble through the narrow streets of the Old Town lined with cafes, pubs and shops (a mix of traditional and modern) and populated by churches, decorative arcades, statues and all manner of historical landmarks. The choices are

practically endless!

From the measured ambiance of Kazimierz, the old Jewish quarter, to the noble magnificence of Jagiellonian University's Collegium Maius or Collegium Ignatium and the city's five uniquely styled "mounds" (cultural traces of the region's pagan past), Kraków leaves a deep impression not only on the eyes but also on the mind and heart. Kraków's geography—like Poland at large—opens itself to the adventurous spirit like a richly illuminated manuscript, each page offering its reader a unique experience. But Kraków is better than any book, for it is very real, and you can reach out and touch its reality for yourself just about anywhere you go. Some of history's darkest corners are hidden there, but from it there also emanates the brilliant glow of a glorious national and cultural tradition.



Bethany Braley, scholar and reporter

research, I deepened my understanding of Polish intellectual and cultural history by attending a class called "Religion and Identity in Poland," one of Jagiellonian University's numerous courses taught in English. My friends in the Erasmus academic exchange program took an exciting array of courses, which, with the help of their academic advisors, they tailored to fit their individual study programs. Jagiellonian University offers a large selection of travel opportunities to its students as well, and regularly plans events aimed at helping integrate international students into the university system and local community. In the course of my stay, I independently traveled to Warsaw (Poland's capitol city), Wrocław (in Lower Silesia), Toruń (in north-central Poland), Częstochowa (home of the icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa), Zakopane (a ski resort with

Polish Days at IU!

Andrzejki by M. Benjamin Thorne

On a misty autumn evening, soft candlelight limned the faces of new friends and old as they gathered in the Polish Studies Center for an evening steeped in magic and tradition. Stooped over a bowl of cold water, students took turns pouring hot wax through the holes of a large key into the bowl and puzzled at the swirling shapes of cooling wax. Was this witchcraft? No, although the custom's origins predated Christianity. In fact, what I witnessed was one of several games played during the holiday of Andrzejki, yet another aspect of Polish culture brought alive at IU as part of the Center's annual Polish Days festival.

Led by guests Prof. Bernadeta Szamburska-Niesporek and Dr. Aleksandra Achteлик, on November 7th twenty-five participants explored a centuries-old Polish tradition first-hand. As Szamburska-Niesporek and Achteлик explained, Andrzejki, or St. Andrew's Eve, began as a pagan holiday celebrated at the end of October, but Poles assimilated the tradition into the Catholic calendar of feasts after conversion. Originally, only women participated in this event, gathering for a night of divinations. Auguring various omens, the women would attempt to read the future, and in particular who they would marry or how many children they would have. As Dr. Achteлик explained, single women did not fare well in a heavily patriarchal society: "knowing" if they would get married and to whom thus provided young women with a sense of comfort.

There are many variations on the Andrzejki rituals: one method was for women to write the names of all the eligible men in her village on slips of paper and place them under her pillow. Upon waking the next morning, the woman reached under her pillow, pulled out a slip, and read the name of the man she would marry.



At this year's event, after learning the history of Andrzejki students took a piece of candy from a passing bowl. Unwrapping it, they learned the name of their "future" spouse found written on a slip placed around the candy. At the same time, students practiced pronouncing Polish names and forming diminutives. While everyone enjoys free candy, melting hot wax through the keyhole garnered the most interest. Supposedly, once could read the profession of your future

beloved in the shape of the wax once it hit the water. Whether anyone's romantic destiny was sealed that night remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: as the heavy attendance that night demonstrates, interest in Polish Studies at IU continues to be strong.



Bethany Braley explores the Andrzejki tradition during her time in Kraków



Polish Days at IU!

Polish Language Spelling Bee by Barbara Morcinek

On November 8 a Polish Language Spelling Bee was held at Indiana University. It took place at Ballantine Hall and was organized by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Polish Studies Center. All candidates who wished to win this competition of erudition had to present their knowledge of Polish spelling while writing especially prepared for them dictation. For this event we were fortunate enough to include guests from Poland, both faculty at the University of Silesia in Katowice: Prof. Bernadeta Niesporek-Szamburska and Dr. Aleksandra Achteлик. Together with Prof. Steven Franks, Prof. Padraic Kenney, and Prof. Barbara Morcinek

they formed the competition jury.

This grueling test of linguistic prowess had two parts: first, students had to spell words from dictation; and second, a language quiz. After the first part, the jury chose the three best participants to compete in the second part. These competitors were given numerous questions from Polish spelling, grammar and culture. All of them fought intensely for their points. But final results were: first place – Stanley Migala, second place – Anna Tondel, and third place – Veronica Trotter. We want to thank all students who gathered to take part in the spelling bee and congratulate the winners!



Congratulations to the winners!

My Stay in Bloomington by Magdalena Foland-Kugler

I was a Polish language instructor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Indiana University from August 24, 1984 till August 16, 1986.

The person who encouraged me to go to the U.S. was Professor Jadwiga Puzynina, Dean of the Polish Department at Warsaw University. My decision depended on whether I could take my 5-year-old daughter with me. I received permission and so we flew over the ocean to an unknown world, where everything was so different than in Poland: big car huge shopping malls, and a friendly, informal manner between students and the faculty. Other novelties observed: there were no benches in the streets to sit down while walking back home with groceries; the teachers were regularly evaluated by students (which has now become common practice in Poland); and the my students remembered my birthday. My daughter and I had to learn what a tornado drill was; yard sale and garage sales were also new to us.

Our greatest success was staging a play in Polish in December 1985, Sławomir Mrożek's "The Martyrdom of Peter Ohey". My students gave a witty and articulate performance that was attended by a wide audience with members from the university and the local Polonia.

I must mention the cast of characters, because they were my best students: Michael Berkvam as Peter Ohey, Cindy Mercer as his wife, Douglas Stewart, Ani Kedzierska, Amy Rominger, Andrew Kelner, Steve Wlodek, Julie Furdyna, Pamela Snyder, Larry Stassini and Jean Dickinson as an old hunter, dressed in Tom Wiles's sheepskin coat.

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FACULTY NEWS

Justyna Beinek (Slavics) held a Senior Fellowship at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University in Fall 2011. She published articles in *Pushkin Review*, *Warsaw East European Review*, and *Rocznik Antropologii Historii* (Annals of the Anthropology of History) in 2011. She

delivered three public lectures, based on her current research, this past fall: one on the idea of "The West" and Polish film after 1989, at Harvard; one on the topos of the émigré in Polish film at the conference *Transnational Subjects: Framing Post-1989 Migration on the European Screen* at Leuven University

in Belgium, and one on the construction of the "Wild West" in Miłosz's writings at the conference *Miłosz's "America" in Kraków, Poland*.

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Faculty News contd.

Jack Bielasiak (Political Science) recently published "The Afterlife of Solidarity: Political Contestations in Post-1989 Poland" in *Hungarian Studies* 25:2 (December 2011): 185-202. This stemmed from a paper he gave at the 2011 Ranki Hungarian Chair Symposium, "The Political Ambiguities of Solidarity: Value Contestations in Post-1989 Poland." Together with John W. Hulsey, Prof. Bielasiak also gave a paper at the 2011 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting entitled "The Effects of Party Systems on Electoral Reforms in Post-Communist States."

Jack Bloom (Sociology, IUNW) recently finished the manuscript for his book *Seeing Through the Eyes of the Polish Revolution*. Research for this book benefited greatly from the exchange program between IU and Warsaw University, including a one-year term spent as a Visiting Professor. Travel grants awarded on a competitive basis from the Polish Studies Center allowed Professor Bloom to present various parts of his book at international meetings. He will present a paper in England in April at an international conference and another at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Denver in August.

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) organized and provided the lecture for a concert commemorating the Holocaust through the musical legacy of Władysław Szpilman, "Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto with The Pianist", at Purdue University last April. She also initiated, helped develop, and organized the overall concept for a permanent exhibition at the Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź, Poland, titled "In Mrs. Goldberg's kitchen." The exhibition shows the multicultural milieu of interwar Łódź as seen through the eyes of a single Jewish family, in which the fates of several generations are entangled with the city's burgeoning textile industry. Prof. Goldberg designed the soundtrack for the exhibition. Last spring Prof. Goldberg also taught a course on "20th-Century Polish Music". It was the first course on this topic ever to be offered at IU (and seldom offered elsewhere in the United States).

Owen Johnson (School of Journalism) presented a paper titled "Making Sense of What's Happening: Slovak Mass Media" at the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies annual convention in Washington, DC on Nov. 19th. On March 4th WFIU broadcast his interview with Peter Burian, Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. In April Prof. Johnson will give a talk, "The Impact of Media Economics on the Role of Mass Media in U.S. Politics and Society," at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow. "Entertaining the People, Serving the Elites: Slovak Mass Media Since 1989," Prof. Johnson's contribution to *Fighting Windmills: A Retrospective on 20 Years of Media Transformation in the Post-Communist World* (edited by Peter Gross and Karol Jakubowicz; Lexington Books), will appear later this year.

Hiroaki Kuromiya (History) is collaborating with a team at the Studium Europy Wschodniej of the University of Warsaw to study the inter-war political movement called the Promethean movement. Last autumn he took part in its now annual conference. On 27 October 2011 he gave a presentation, "Stalin as a Politician," for the university's Stanisław Świaniewicz Memorial Lecture. He has written a preface to a book to be published by IPN this year that collects Polish and Ukrainian documents, translated into English, on Polish-Ukrainian relations in the 1930s and 1940s.

Mary McGann (English, U. of Indianapolis) will spend the 2012-2013 academic year teaching as a Fulbright Fellow in Poland.

STUDENT NEWS

Mira Rosenthal (Comparative Literature) reports: "This past year, I presented at numerous conferences in celebration of the year of Miłosz, including the *After Miłosz Festival* in Chicago and the *Miłosz and the Future Festival* at Claremont McKenna College. I traveled to Poland in May to participate in the translation seminar as part of Miłosz365. In December, I defended my dissertation, "The Refugee's Refuge: Czesław Miłosz, Translation, and the Circulation of Poetry after World War II." I am now a Stegner Fellow in poetry at

Stanford University."

Jolanta Mickutė (History) defended her dissertation, "Modern, Jewish, and Female: Politics of Culture, Ethnicity, and Sexuality in Interwar Poland, 1918-1939." In November she received the ASEES Graduate Student Essay Prize. Currently she is a Prins Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Jewish History in New York.

Mary Werden (History) will embark on her dissertation research in Poland next year (2012-2013) with funding provided by an IIE Fulbright fellowship. Her dissertation "Communicating Communism: Power and Ideology in the Polish Countryside, 1956-1980" will examine the relationship between the communist party and the peasantry. She plans to travel to Warsaw, Lublin, and Poznań. She presented a paper at the 2012 Paul Lucas Conference hosted by the IU History Graduate Student Association, entitled "Not By Ideology Alone: The Polish Communist Mentality, 1945-1949."

Lisa Vest (Musicology) received a PEO award for 2010-2011 and a REEI Mellon Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship for 2011-2012.

My Stay In Bloomington' (cont.)

One of my students, Cindy Mercer, received a Ph.D. in Slavonic languages and later taught English at Warsaw University for a few years; Jean Dickinson spent more than a year in Poland. One of the highlights of our stay was the wedding of my students, Leslie and Doug. My daughter was the flower girl.

At IU, I met real friends, like Ronald Feldstein, Samuel Fiszman, Timothy Wiles, Aleksander Fiut, and Jan Jaworowski: we spent our first unforgettable Christmas in Bloomington with his family.

Sadly, throughout the next 26 years, some of my friends from IU passed away: Tim Wiles, Michael Berkvam, Rysiek Jakubiak, Andrzej Ziemiński, and Samuel Fiszman, who used to invite us to pick strawberries and blueberries and to participate in yard sales in his garden.

My stay was very interesting and fruitful and afterwards I returned to teaching foreigners at Warsaw University. I wrote several books, including "Concise Polish Grammar" inspired by my experience teaching at IU.

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