



The Polish Studies Center Newsletter

Indiana University • Bloomington, Indiana

Spring 2014

Bloomington Polish School Expands

The Bloomington Polish School, founded in September of 2012 with 4 children in a preschool level group, has significantly expanded this year. We are thrilled by the recent growth of our program, and today we have 3 groups with 14 students at a variety of Polish language capabilities.

The Pre-K group with students ages 3 to 7 meets each Saturday morning at the Polish Studies Center. Through play and hands-on activities, the students learn Polish language, as well as the traditions and culture of Poland. Our Pre-K group even performed a Christmas program at the 2013 PSC Holiday Party! The activity was great fun for the kids and all participating adults. We were also happy to have the students from Polish Cultural Association join our preschoolers for a Christmas decoration project.

The 2nd group, for students ages 8 to 11, is beginner level, with very basic



Anna Murawska-Mroz leading Group 2 Polish lesson

or no knowledge of Polish. They learn vocabulary and composition of simple sentences, allowing them to start

basic communication in Polish. Our philosophy is that games and play are best way to learn language and start to speak. Finally we have an advanced group, which consists of chil-



Kamil Gradowski leads gymnastics class

dren 9 to 13 years old. Having learned Polish language at an early age from their parents, students spend their time practicing reading and writing skills, mastering Polish grammar, spelling, and expanding their vocabulary. These students work with textbooks, learn Polish folklore, history, and traditions. Both the 2nd and 3rd groups meet on Saturday afternoons.

Groups 1 and 2 are led by Anna Murawska-Mroz, who has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Warminko-Mazurski University, and more than 20 years' experience teaching pre-school and kindergarten in Poland and the US.

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Director's Notebook: Padraic Kenney

This Spring, Poland is marking twenty-five years since the Round Table discussions between the Communist regime and its opponents in Solidarity. The recollections are varied – in fact, the Sejm in February failed to pass even an anodyne resolution commemorating that achievement. I am as certain now as I was then that it was a historic event of worldwide importance that has encouraged the development of democracy. But whatever we may think of the Round Table, the anniversary comes as the Polish Studies Center has been reliving some of its history that parallels events in Poland. In this issue, we explore a few of those memorable moments.

The Polish Studies Center emerged in an unlikely way, as a product of an agreement between Warsaw University and Indiana University in the mid-1970s. Indiana was the only American university ready to help create an American Studies Center in Warsaw. For thirty-five years now, faculty and graduate students have been participating in an exchange between Warsaw and Bloomington, enriching the life of both our centers and of the larger academic communities. This exchange has proven so successful that it expanded in the 1990s to an exchange with Jagiellonian University as well.

At its creation, there were some who argued that Indiana University should not work with the Communist regime in Poland. From today's perspective, we can see that it was very much worth it. You'll find the impact of these exchanges throughout this newsletter. Cleaning out the Center's archives recently, we found a 30-year-old clipping from *Poland* magazine in which Mary Ellen Solt, the PSC's first director and a tireless supporter of the Center in Warsaw, Włodzimierz Siviński,

who would, after his stint in at the PSC, go on to be Rector of Warsaw University, portray the rich activities that put both centers on the map.

In the darkest days of martial law, after Solidarity had been driven underground, a young opposition-allied historian of Latin America had the opportunity to experience a year of academic freedom in Bloomington. Today, Ryszard Schnepf is Poland's ambassador to the United States; many of you were able to attend the talk he gave at IU in September. He also sat down for



Polish Studies Director
Padraic Kenney

an interview with Professor Owen Johnson, broadcast on WFIU. You can read a portion of that interview on p. 9. Indiana University recently named Ambassador Schnepf an Honorary Alumnus in recognition of his distinguished service to Polish-American relations – and Bloomington-Warsaw relations, too.

And the journey continues. Michael Young reports on p. 3 about his work in Warsaw as a participant in the exchange. Meanwhile, our close ties with Jagiellonian University have now led to a study-abroad program for undergraduates at the

Centre for European Studies there. Our first participant, Steven Hosler, is also our first recipient of the Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholarship. That scholarship connects the deep past of Polish Studies at Indiana to its future. You can read about Steven and his scholarship on p. 14.

The Polish Studies Center has never been more lively than it has been this year. In September, we were visited by the Janusz Prusinowski Trio, in town for the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. We moved our Fall Picnic inside, to the basement of St Paul's Catholic Church, and learned our fill of folk dances, as you can see on pp. 12. This was the best picnic ever, and I think all who were there will agree.

I would like to thank all those who have made this year such a success. Here on Atwater, the programming has been a success thanks to Graduate Assistant Peter Jensen, who has tirelessly worked to make every idea a reality. I know we'll miss him next year! His predecessor, Jonathan Jenner, now a PhD student at the University of Massachusetts, left his mark on the PSC as well. Thank you both!

Another big part of the PSC's success has been the revival of the student group, the Polish Cultural Association. Their enthusiasm and talents made the picnic and the Holiday Party a success, and in so many other ways they have enlivened the Center. Special thanks to this year's co-presidents, Jessie Mroz and Criss Beyers.

Many of you have given to the Polish Studies Center, and your donations have helped make these events possible. There is so much more we would like to do, and I hope you will consider contributing this year. And please watch your mailbox for more activities in the coming year!

Michael Young Conducts Research in Warsaw

When I began my dissertation research last summer into Polish folk music and dance, I could not have imagined the vitality and diversity of traditions that thrive in Poland today. Over the past 25 years, ethnographers, musicians, and enthusiasts have built a folklore revival that unites aficionados of traditional culture from across the country. Primarily concerned with the documentation and dissemination of Polish folk culture, organizations like the Fundacja “Muzyka Kresów” and the Warszawski Dom Tańca bridge the cultural and geographic distances between Poland’s villages and urban centers. Concerts and singing workshops organized by these organizations resound with the force of village music’s distinct *biały głos*, while dance workshops and monthly *potkańcówki* transform Warsaw’s bohemian “club-cafes” into scenes from a village hootenanny, with live *kapela* music spurring dancers on through the dizzying turns and hearty stomps of *oberek* and *polka* dances.

These organizations don’t just share the joys of Polish folk music and dance. I have been surprised by this community’s interest in the folk cultures of Ukraine and Belarus, and their affinities to Polish folklore. This insight has added an unexpected dimension to my research, which

focuses on the role of folk culture in creating and sustaining Polish national identity. Whereas national folklore has primarily been used to consolidate and reinforce state and national boundaries, these revival movements are effectively using folk culture to dissolve those boundaries and build bridges between nations.

Community-based revivals are only part of my work in Poland. I’ve also had the pleasure of working with a



Michael Young (4th from left) and the cast of “Warszawianka”

number of song and dance ensembles, such as the “Mazowsze” State Folklore Ensemble, whose activities on stage combine village traditions with classical music and ballet. This tradition dates back to the early days of the People’s Republic and is characterized by bright costumes, polished choreographies, and popular folk tunes. Because of Mazowsze’s institutional history and high level of domestic and international visi-

bility, this ensemble (and those like it) is what most often comes to mind when we think of “Polish folklore”.

“Mazowsze” became a model for similar amateur and semi-professional ensembles throughout Poland. The most hands-on part of my research has been involvement in a student group, the University of Warsaw’s Folk Song and Dance Ensemble “Warszawianka.” “Warszawianka” is known in the university folk ensemble community for high technical skill in dancing, and artistic staging of Polish song and dance. Since my audition in early October, I have been attending weekly rehearsals and performing in the ensemble’s concerts in and around Warsaw, including two performances on the stage of Warsaw’s National Philharmonic! Our concert program this winter was a Christmas Pageant (*jasełka*). It tells the story of Jesus’

birth but with one small twist: Poles show up in Bethlehem and present the holy family with gifts of song and dance, as well as all the fixings for *Wigilia*—fish, mushrooms, noodles with poppy-seeds, etc. It was my honor to play the role of Balthazar, one of the three kings. Although with my peculiar accent and even more peculiar mustache (more Piłsudski than Wałęsa), I was kind of a shoo-in. . .

Continued from pp. 1

The advanced group is led by Joanna Piątek-Swat. Joanna earned her Master’s degree in Polish Philology, and is currently participating in the “Polish as a Second Language” post-graduate program organized by Catholic University of Lublin. This year we also welcomed Mr. Kamil Gradowski, who is visiting IU with his wife. Mr. Gradowski, a physical education teacher, leads a gymnastics class for all groups. This is probably the students’ favorite part of the day!



Joanna Piątek-Swat and the advanced group

Our school is growing. It is a place for students to learn our Polish culture, to have fun speaking and playing, and to make new friends. Our kids always look forward

to Saturday –Polish School day!

We hope to keep expanding, and we hope to see more kids and families joining us in the near future. Our success would not be possible without continued support from IU’s Polish Studies Center, for which we are extremely grateful. All interested in our program should contact Anna Murawska-Mroz, Director of Bloomington Polish School at bloomingtonpolishschool@gmail.com

Faculty Profile: Joanna Niżyńska

The Polish Studies Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Joanna Niżyńska, Visiting Associate Professor of Slavic Languages & Literatures. Earlier this spring, Dr. Niżyńska set aside some time to discuss her work, background, and experiences since coming to Bloomington.

PSC: What did you know about IU before you got here in the fall? Had you ever been to campus before?

JN: Actually, I had been to campus twice for international conferences organized by the PSC. One was a conference on Polish studies and the other, which I had pleasure to co-organize on the discourse of memory in Germany and Poland in the post-war period. So I already had quite a good exposure to what the Center does .

PSC: Since arriving, how have you found the intellectual atmosphere on campus?

JN: Overall it's very welcoming and friendly. When I came what struck me was that when I had some introductory meetings with faculty, just to get better acquainted, we would often end up spending 2-3 hours talking about our research. These conversations were substantial, but relaxed at the same time. I think that such exchanges contribute to an intellectually stimulating atmosphere on campus so I'm excited to join this community.

PSC: Is there something that stands out that you've particularly enjoyed since coming to Bloomington?

JN: The music scene in Bloomington is just amazing. I loved the Lotus Festival and the opportunity to meet the musicians from the Prusinowski Trio and talk with them extensively about their fascinating project. I also love that the opera here is so affordable. The offerings in music are incredible. I can take my daughter to free concerts, and if she doesn't like it we can try something different the next week. So that's been really great.

PSC: You have quite a diverse set of research interests. How did these evolve and develop?

JN: I started as a classical phi-

lologist, so I had a strict German-style philological training when I came into the field of comparative literature and cultural studies in the US. That propelled me into research that is textually based, but is also theoretically informed. So throughout my research, I was gradually going in the direction of research that intersects different fields. I like research that poses questions that people from other fields can find pertinent to what they are doing. I think institutionally and intellectually we should balance between our loyalty to special-



ization, and outreach to other fields.

PSC: What is the nature of your current research?

JN: My book on Miron Białoszewski is a monograph, so it's traditional on the one hand, but I read his work through the theoretical frameworks of trauma studies, queer studies and the studies of the everyday, these frameworks have been used in the humanities and social sciences to analyze diverse national traditions. So I hope that even the readers not familiar with Białoszewski can still find access to his work through these frameworks. My work is culturally and linguistically specific to Poland, but I like to bring to my interpretation of Polish idiosyncrasies tools and methodologies that became the academic lingua franca. Sometimes you need to question these tools and how productive they can be for Polish context, but being critically alert to one's own methodologies is an exciting aspect of academic work.

This very problem of methodologies I encounter, for instance, in my edi-

torial work on a history of Polish literature and culture from 1918 to the present. This project has 3 editors and over 50 contributors from different countries, institutions, perspectives, and generations. Our goal is an inclusive approach to the cultural history of Poland. We would like our readers to learn about newspapers, theatre, radio, things that traditional histories of literature and culture don't usually cover, and I think this really shows how the field is evolving.

PSC: What sort of courses have you taught or are you planning to teach?

JN: Last semester I taught a half-semester course on post-1989 literature, which is my favorite topic. This semester I'm teaching an undergraduate introduction to Polish culture, and another half-semester team-taught course on Central European cities. I'm also going to teach a summer class on the culture of dissent. I was used to teaching seminar-style and thematically-oriented courses so a large class on introduction to Polish culture is quite challenging. I have to distill potentially endless material to the issues I consider most important and do it in a way that would be engaging for American undergraduates. It's a lot of work, but I enjoy how it expands my understanding of what we really do in the classroom.

PSC: Do you have a dream course that you would like to design and teach?

JN: I don't have a dream course, but I like to teach graduate seminars that align with my research, which is on fantastic representations of traumatic memory. I like courses that are laboratories to develop and test my ideas. I think it's important for graduate students to see their instructor working on and struggling with raw intellectual material. It's good to engage them in this process and I have found interactions with my graduate students extremely rewarding intellectually and otherwise. It's good to teach classes in which not only do you formulate answers but first of all formulate questions worth asking.

IU Polish Cultural Association Active Again

By Jessica Mroz and Crisstopher Beyers

After a two year hiatus, the Polish Cultural Association has been revived. This past fall, significant interest from students led to the re-establishment of the organization. It has been formed based on a survey of student opinions, which have driven a focus on cultural education to complement language study. Students Criss Beyers (Sophomore, BA) and Jessie Mroz (MPA-MSES, 2015) volunteered for the task of revitalizing the organization. They were immediately approached by other interested students to form the PCA Executive Board, which now includes Damon Smith (Dual MPA-MA, 2015), Olivia Pioszewski (Junior, Biology), and Amanda Fisher

(MA/Phd, Slavic Languages & Literatures). The board decided that the PCA's mission would be to serve not only Indiana University students and faculty, but also Bloomington's vibrant Polish community. In the fall semester, programs included: literature discussions led by some of our faculty; a visit to the Mathers Museum to view the Institute for National Remembrance's exhibit "Operation AB – Katyń: The Destruction of the Polish Elite at the Beginning of WWII;" movie nights featuring modern Polish films; and assistance with the Bloomington Polish School.

While last semester was full of successes for the PCA, the members are

continually thinking of new ways to improve programming and involvement. Continuing the Polish Studies Center's longtime friendship with CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center, founded by Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor, the PCA hopes to conduct a visit to the museum, and enrich students' understanding of the Holocaust. This is just one of many great events that the PCA hopes to have. This semester, they plan to hold 1-2 large events per month, the first of which included a potluck and karnawał! Follow the PCA on Twitter or Facebook, and email iupolishculture@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

Polish Ambassador Returns to Bloomington

Photos courtesy of Ann Schertz

The Polish Studies Center, School of Global and International Studies, and Office of the Vice President for International Affairs were pleased to once again welcome His Excellency Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States, on his second visit to Bloomington. Prior to his diplomatic career Ambassador Schnepf was an assistant professor of history at Warsaw University, and spent the 1982-83 academic year as a visiting professor at IU teaching Latin American and Polish History.

The Ambassador spent the morning of his visit strolling through campus with Jessica Mroz and Crisstopher



Ambassador Schnepf and David Zaret, VP for International Affairs

Beyers, co-presidents of the IU Polish Cultural Association, reflecting on his time at IU and how it felt to be back on campus. "It was a remarkable experience touring campus and having lunch with Ambassador Schnepf. He shared all of his favorite Bloomington spots, along with fond memories of his days here," said Mroz. "He's a fascinating man, considering his background in both international affairs and academics. We were both very lucky to have the opportunity to speak with him at length"

Over lunch, the ambassador spoke with Mroz and Beyers about the differences between university education in Poland and at IU, as well as cultural trends in Poland and the

US and the state of Polish Studies at IU. "He was quite pleased to learn that there is such a strong community of students interested in Polish culture and history," said Beyers.

Ambassador Schnepf was named Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America by President Bronisław Komorowski and accepted by President Obama in September 2012.



Ambassador Schnepf and IU President Michael McRobbie

To learn more about the Ambassador, see excerpts of Owen Johnson's interview on pg. 8, or go to <http://indianapublicmedia.org/profiles/> to hear the full interview.



Mroz, Beyers, and Ambassador Schnepf at the Sample Gates

The Polish Studies Center Picturebook 2013-14



Prusinowski Trio at the Fall Picnic and Dance Workshop



At the Fall Picnic and Dance Workshop



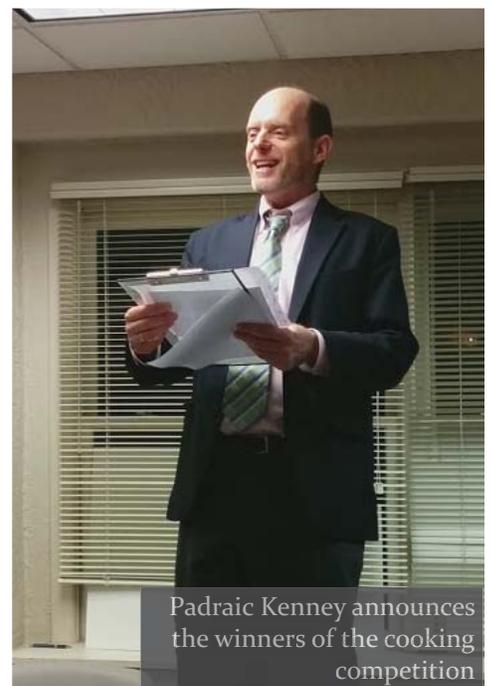
Dessert contest winner
Jessica Mroz



Voting for the
cooking competition



Polish School students
singing at the Holiday Party



Padraic Kenney announces
the winners of the cooking
competition



At the Fall Picnic and Dance Workshop



At the Fall Picnic



Singing kolędy at the Holiday Party

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An Interview with Ryszard Schnepf, Polish Ambassador to the United States

These interviews are transcripts, edited for length and clarity by IU Polish Studies. They do not represent the entire content of the interviews, originally recorded by Owen Johnson for Profiles, airing on WFIU, available at <http://indianapublicmedia.org/profiles/>

OJ: Mr. Ambassador, you entered Warsaw University to study history. Why did you choose history?

RS: There were several personal reasons. As usual at that age, my friends joining the history depart-



Ambassador
Ryszard Schnepf

ment was one of the reasons, but history surrounded me from the beginning. Knowing my past, my country's past, was important to me, and I became fascinated by history thanks to the great professors that we had.

OJ: You started your teaching career at Warsaw University and almost immediately were swept up in what became the Solidarity movement. For Americans it may seem strange that politics took place right in the university. How would you explain that?

RS: I would not agree. You have your experience of university involvement in the '60s, the

student movements and protests. For us it was a natural choice. The young intellectuals were more reluctant to accept the total control of the government over society, and they took up the flame to promote new ideas among the students. March 8, 1968 I got involved in the first clash between the students and the police, and it changed my life forever. I felt this was my fate as well. So I got involved, and in 1980 I joined the Solidarity leaders organizing in my department, the group that supported Lech Wałęsa and others.

OJ: After the declaration of martial law on December 13, 1981, did you worry about your future in the university?

RS: I remember my mother woke me up and said "Look, there is no TV, no radio, and no telephone," and all of a sudden we saw General Jaruzelski speaking to the nation, and the whole world changed. I had applied for the exchange program to visit Bloomington, and I was on the short list. When martial law came, I said, forget about it, it's finished. To my surprise, 4 months later in April of '82, we were interviewed one by one, to check whether we were real scholars. So they asked,

what is my program for research, and then nothing happened. But just before summer vacation, we learned that we still might get the passports, and in the end of August 1982, I arrived in Bloomington.

OJ: What are your memories of that year in Bloomington?

RS: Wonderful. I found free scholars, free discussion, and access to all the sources we needed so much in Poland. I had never read the books that were difficult to get in Poland, and I just found them on the shelf in the library in Bloomington. I was given the chance to teach a seminar

on Central European contemporary history. I enjoyed that time intellectually, but also on a private basis. We were met with very friendly ambience, people knew what happened to Poland, and they took special care of us. It was a great lesson in democracy, freedom, and also friendship.

OJ: How do you compare the attitudes or the approach of students in the United States with the students you had in Poland?

RS: I taught a subject that was unfamiliar to many students, but those who attended the seminar were very qualified. Many knew Polish or other Central European languages, and I enjoyed high level discussions and personal involvement. It was a friendly group, and also a great place for discussion of whatever we wanted to talk about. They were very insistent on knowing the details of everyday citizens' lives. I was a good and fresh source of information for them.

OJ: You came to the United States as Ambassador in September 2012. What is your hardest task as Ambassador here?

RS: Maintaining the traditional interests between the United States and Poland would be a great achievement. Part of my job is to explain where the United States is right now and where the country is going. There's a long tradition of Polish presence in the United States, and the special sentiment Polish people have to the American people. Just a couple of weeks ago I visited a place in Pennsylvania where the Polish population is more or less 25% of Luzerne County. I discovered those who came not in the 80s, but the mid-19th century. I met third, fourth generation Polish-Americans, who remember that. They know a couple of Polish words, they keep Polish traditions, and they asked me to keep our friendship strong, so I will do it.

An Interview with Łukasz Kamiński, Director of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance

OJ: You were born in 1973, 7 years before the opposition trade union movement Solidarity began, and sixteen years before the roundtable agreement that signaled the end of communist rule in Poland. How did you first come into contact as a young person with this communist world, how did you recognize that this, how the system worked?

ŁK: The first thing I remember was connected with a cemetery where my father's grandparents were buried, and I remember the graves of soldiers of the Armija Krajowa, our resistance movement during the Second World War. I saw the dates of death, 1946 or 1947, and it was impossible for me to understand why, one year or two years after the war. There was something strange, and of course many years later I understood that soldiers of the Polish underground were killed after the war by the communists.

OJ: When you were growing up, were you able to talk to your parents about the earlier history, what had happened? Was there communication between generations?

ŁK: No, I think in the majority of Polish families some topics were forbidden. Parents told their children that it was dangerous to speak openly, for example, about the history of the Polish-Bolshevik war in 1920, of the Katyń crime, and other events. I don't remember any talks with my parents on such dangerous topics. Of course I remember I was a child when martial law was introduced, and I remember my mother crying, but the only thing she said was that something very bad had happened.

OJ: What led you in 2000 to join this new Institute of National Remembrance?

ŁK: I decided to join the institute because, during my previous research, there were many documents,

especially documents of the former secret service, not available for historians, but were very important for me. So there were new possibilities. Polish universities in the 1990s experienced a lack of money for research, and it was a good opportunity for me to start a new project. I had a lot of ideas but it was impossible to introduce them at the university because of the lack of funding. So it was a great chance not only for me, but for the generation of young historians.



Dr. Łukasz Kamiński

OJ: Can you explain what exactly the Institute of National Remembrance is, what it's supposed to do?

ŁK: In one sentence, we are dealing with the past, but this has many meanings. First is the prosecution of crimes. We employ about 100 prosecutors, and we can investigate crimes from the periods of the Second World War and communist dictatorship. Our prosecutors also take statements from people who once held public positions, whether they were secret collaborators or officers of the communist special services. The largest part of our institute is the archive. It's the biggest in Po-

land. It's a huge amount of documents, and we think none of them, or almost none of them were even seen before 2000. The fourth branch is the public education office, which is responsible for scientific research and for publication and education.

OJ: How do you get young people interested?

ŁK: I think it is interesting because it's really a different world. The change is so huge during these 23-24 years. The only problem is finding a way to tell the story, because regular teaching at school with a manual and the teacher is not enough to create real interest. We are trying to create some projects during which pupils explore the history of their own families or cities. We are trying to find what is most important for contemporary Poles, what is most important for society.

OJ: How long do you expect the institute to remain a vital part of the public conversation before becoming a repository of historical documents?

ŁK: It's hard to say, because it's an institution for times of transition, not eternal. For example, a German institution, the office for preserving the Stasi records was created for ten years. German parliament said that was enough, and then to close the institution and move the archives elsewhere. Every five years now there is a dispute in German parliament. The last decision was to extend this activity to 2019, so 29 years after the election. I think such institutions as ours are necessary as long as there are still victims among us.

For more on the visit of the Institute of National Remembrance delegation to Bloomington, as well as photos from the connected events, see page 13

From the Archives: 30 Years of Polish-American Cooperation

The following articles appeared in the "Poland" illustrated magazine 30 years ago to commemorate the cooperation between the IU Polish Studies Center and the Center for American Studies at Warsaw University.

A Good Example of Polish - American Scientific Cooperation

Mary Ellen Solt, Former Director, Indiana University Polish Studies Center

It was most gratifying to find during my visit to the American Studies Center at Warsaw University May 20-27, 1983, that the academic exchange program between Indiana University is functioning as well at Warsaw as it is at Indiana where the Polish Studies Center has flourished since it was founded in November 1977. The Polish Studies Center was established to promote knowledge of Poland and of the outstanding contribution Poles have made to world culture. It also handles the exchange of professors and research fellows between Indiana University and Warsaw University. Exchange Professor Jacek Hołowka of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at Warsaw University is presently serving as Associate Director of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University. All the associate directors from Warsaw have made invaluable contributions towards the advancement of Polish Studies at Indiana.

Research Fellow Edmund Ronowicz is teaching Intensive Polish in the 1983 Summer Slavic Workshop. During the Spring Semester 1983, Research Fellow Ryszard Schnepf was invited to teach Contemporary Polish History as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Indiana University Department of History.

In addition to promoting Polish Studies at Indiana University, the Polish Studies Center sponsors

sions on Polish topics: concerts of Polish music, usually by Polish artists; films and other events. Many leaders in all fields participated in the Polish Studies Center program.

Nobel prize winner Czesław Miłosz has twice read his poems here, once during the conference on The Polish



Renaissance in Its European Context organized by professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures Samuel Fiszman. Eminent scholars from Poland and the United States met at Indiana University May 25-28, 1982. The fact that the Indiana-Warsaw Exchange is functioning so well is proof that the free exchange of knowledge is possible despite the present tensions between the governments of Poland and the United States.

Warsaw University-Indiana University: The Cooperation Continues

Włodimierz Siwiński, Former Director, Warsaw University Center of American Studies

The University of Warsaw, Center of American Studies concentrates on two fundamental issues which arise from the function it performs in the academic structure. The first is support of research and di-

dactic work conducted at the University on the broadly conceived American problems. The second is coordination and exchange programs with American universities.

Research and American studies are conducted at the University within the framework of the individual disciplines, notably literature, language, culture, history, economy, sociology and others, which are located in the separate faculties and institutes, including also the Institutes of English Studies, the Institute of Applied Linguistics, the Faculties of History, Economy, Social Sciences and others.

Seminars and lectures, organized by the Center are another form of activity. Two seminars, permanently associated with the Center offer a discussion series. One seminar concentrates on American culture in an interdisciplinary approach. The subject of the second seminar concerns world economy and the role the United States plays in it. The second sphere in which the Center is active is the coordination of research and didactic cooperation of the University of Warsaw and American academies. Thanks to this cooperation contacts are made between Polish and American scholars in fields represented at the University. The Center also coordinates an exchange program with five American universities on the basis of an agreement signed with them. Within the framework of these agreements, professors of the University of Warsaw teach in the United States while young scholars do postgraduate work there to raise their qualifications in their field and in teaching. From the perspective of the several years of experience, one may say that the exchange benefits both sides, the American side as well. I should like to stress this point. The best proof is the fact that, despite the difficulties that emerged in the past few years in particular, the exchange has continued and developed with equal commitment by both sides.

First among these is cooperation with Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. It is connected with the Center of Polish Studies at that University and the circle of people who are especially interested in developing cooperation with the University of Warsaw.

One aspect of this cooperation worthy of notice are the joint conferences held alternately in Bloomington and in Warsaw. Five such conferences have taken place so far. The last in Bloomington, on the subject of the Polish Renaissance in the European context, was held in May 1982. It was attended by leading authorities on the subject from both universities. In the same series a conference was held at the Univer-



Włodimirz Siwiński

sity of Warsaw in September 1983. The subject was the pathology of urbanization. It is not possible to describe even briefly in this article all the forms of activity pursued by the Center. Despite the difficulties that have emerged in recent years, the Center has been successful in developing its academic activity.

In sum, in the course of the seven years of its existence, it has fulfilled the expectations placed in it at its founding. It has been instrumental in the development of American studies, it has created better conditions for the pursuit of these studies and has contributed to the development of cooperation with American universities.

Student Marta Kizym spends Christmas in Poland

I had the pleasure of spending this Christmas with my family in Dzierżoniów, Poland which is located in the southwestern part of Poland in Lower Silesia. It is a small town about 40 miles southwest of the city Wrocław. We arrived a few days before Christmas Eve and my Babcia had already put her tree up. Many Polish families wait until a few days before, or the day of Christmas Eve to decorate their homes. In each of my relatives' homes I noticed that each tree had its own color scheme and was very elegant. They varied from red, gold, silver, or even blue, making each tree unique and fit for a Christmas catalogue.

We usually spend Christmas in Chicago, and while there are many Polish families in the city celebrating the way we are, there is an overwhelming sense of oneness that comes from being in Poland for the holidays. The morning of Christmas Eve was sunny and mild, so I wandered to the square. I saw people rushing around, many with decorations in their hands for their trees, grabbing last minute groceries. Stores are only open until about 1 or 2 PM that day. Afterwards everyone spends

time at home preparing for dinner.

On Christmas Eve, or Wigilia, it is



traditional to not eat any red meat and the dinner is prepared with varieties of fish. During this time of year stores advertise not only fresh fish, but even live. Typically families would buy a live fish a few days

ahead and keep it in the bathtub until Wigilia, and many people still do! My Babcia used to do this but now she prefers to have it killed and fileted in store. Dinner isn't served until the first star in the sky appears, and it begins with the breaking of the *opłatek*, a thin wafer imprinted with Nativity scenes. Each person present breaks a piece of the others' sharing good wishes and blessings for the New Year. A traditional Wigilia table has around twelve dishes, but since it was only my dad, my babcia and I, we had only a few of the traditional foods: two types of fish, a bowl of pierogi (potato and cheese, kraut and mushroom), cabbage and beans, and of course the first dish of red barszcz with mini pierogi filled with mushrooms. There is always an extra plate at the table for unexpected guests. Presents are always opened right after dinner is finished. Christmas in Poland is a very special experience, especially for those of Polish descent that celebrate traditionally in the United States. Although we didn't have any snow this year, it was still a magical and memorable way to spend the holidays.

Janusz Prusinowski Trio Performs at PSC Fall Picnic and Lotus Festival

In September, the Polish Studies Center was privileged to welcome the internationally-acclaimed Janusz Prusinowski Trio to the annual Fall Picnic, prior to the group's performance at the annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. The Trio, in actuality made up of five musicians, is famous for its performances of village music and dances from central Poland, as traditionally played by village masters. The group stopped in Bloomington as part of their 2013 U.S. tour.

Students, faculty, and members of the Bloomington Polish program gathered at St. Paul's Catholic Center in Bloomington on the evening of September 26, and were treated to a workshop covering a variety of folk music and dances, often infused with the group's own modern styling. "I heard there was going to be live music, dance lessons and Polish food, and it turned out to be a ton of fun!" said Liz Lipschultz, an MA student in the Russian and East European Institute. "The music was great and the musicians taught us some basic steps and moves. Eventually some of the moves got too challenging for me and my partners, mostly ones involving spinning two partners at once."

Janusz Prusinowski – multi-instrumentalist and leader of the ensemble – likens the improvisation and expressiveness of this traditional genre to such familiar and modern styles as jazz, blues, and rock 'n' roll.

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Piotr Zgorzelski, folk bassist for the group, led everyone through the steps of the Polonaise, Mazurek, and other dances which, after perhaps a few brief moments of uncertainty, everybody took to with gusto. The lively dancing certainly helped work up an appetite for the generous array of pot-luck dishes contributed by attendants, as well as the traditional offerings of Polish sausage, cheese, and salmon provided by Euro Deli.

After dinner the ensemble struck up once again with more traditional music, learned from the village masters of central Poland. This evolved into an impromptu symposium on folk music in Poland today, with members of the band answering questions from students and faculty and explaining their interest in preserving this particular niche of Polish folk culture.

The following weekend, the Trio gave three performances as part of the 2013 Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, co-sponsored by Polish Studies, IU European Studies, and the Polish Cultural Institute of New York. During their visit to Bloomington, the Janusz Prusinowski Trio introduced IU, Bloomington, and festival attendees to a less-familiar part of Polish culture, and joined the Polish Studies Center's international network of friends and organizations, seeking to preserve Polish culture and share it with the community here in Indiana.

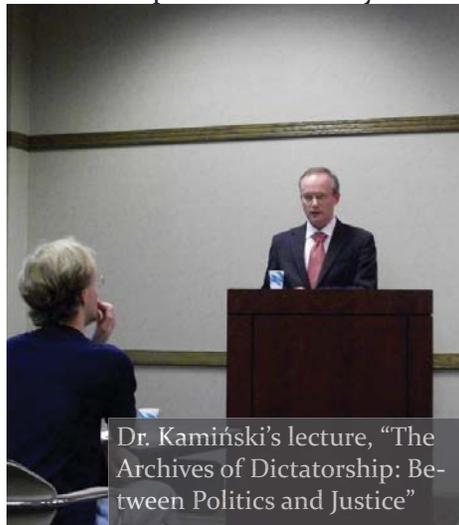
Polish Studies Hosts Institute of National Remembrance Delegation

By Padraic Kenney

September is a solemn month in Poland, an occasion to recall the double invasion of the country in 1939 and the devastation that ensued. This year, the Polish Studies Center hosted several programs that illustrated just how complex were the terrible years of World War II. The central event was an exhibit brought to us by the Institute for National Remembrance. The Institute is responsible for protecting, making accessible, interpreting and publicizing archival evidence of the repressions experienced on Polish soil from 1939 to 1989. The exhibit entitled "Operation AB-Katyń: The



Dr. Kamiński addresses the opening reception for "Operation AB-Katyń"



Dr. Kamiński's lecture, "The Archives of Dictatorship: Between Politics and Justice"

Destruction of the Polish Elite at the Beginning of World War II" juxtaposed Stalin's effort to decapitate the Polish nation in the mass executions of 1940 with the German campaign against Poles at the same time.

This exhibit has been shown all over the world, but Bloomington was particularly fortunate to welcome Łukasz Kamiński, President of the Institute. Dr Kamiński gave a lecture on the political and scholarly challenges of dealing with Poland's past, and later welcomed guests at the exhibit's opening in the Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

Accompanying Dr. Kamiński were four of the Institute's historians - Dr. Rafał Leśkiewicz, Dr. Marcin Majewski, Dr. Jerzy Bednarek, and Dr. Joanna Karbarz-Wilińska - who have collaborated with IU historian and PSC affiliate Hiroaki Kuromiya on a multi-volume collection of documents on Poland and Ukraine. The Institute has now published a selection of those documents in English, under the title Poland and Ukraine in the 1930s and 1940s. During their visit, they presented this volume to IU faculty and graduate students, many of whom do research on related topics.

Reflecting on this terrible history,



Dr. Marcin Majewski presenting on the collaborative book project

we wanted to put it all in a broader context. So with the help of the School of Global and International



IPN Historians at the Mathers Museum

Studies' Global Speaker Series, the Polish Studies Center invited Eric Weitz of the City University of New York to deliver a lecture. Weitz is one of the most distinguished scholars of genocide in North America, and his lecture to a packed auditorium, entitled "Borderlands And Bloodlands: Rethinking The Mass Violence Of The Twentieth Century In Eastern Europe," provided a fresh and stimulating perspective on Poland's place in this dark story.

IU's First Fiszman Scholar Arrives in Kraków

Steven Hosler is the inaugural Fiszman Scholarship recipient. His study at the Centre for European Studies of Jagiellonian University is made possible thanks to the generous support of Ania Fiszman O'Brien, the daughter of Samuel and Alicja Fiszman, and Theodosia Robertson, one of Samuel Fiszman's PhD students, now professor of Slavic Literature emerita at the University of Michigan-Flint.

When I was awarded the Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholarship for study abroad in Poland last fall I knew that this was a chance to experience new places and people. In my first week in Poland I have seen sights I once only dreamed of. In my first seven days I have walked the Rynek Główny and the old town with all of the small bookstores, pubs, and cafés. I saw St. Mary's Basilica, the cloth merchant's hall known as the Sukiennica, and

the towering Wawel Castle. I saw the Royal Tombs of Poland's great monarchs, where such well know figures as Władysław Jagiełło, Kazimierz Wielki, Józef Piłsudski, and Queen Jadwiga are buried. On the square, or more accurately under the square,

charming bars and cafés invite all to come in and experience Kraków's inviting personality. Already I feel that my time here will be invaluable. My stay in Kraków is a chance to experience a great country and people to the fullest. All of this is thanks to the generosity and help I have received in the form of the Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholarship, and the advice of those at the Polish Studies Center.



Steven Hosler (1st from right), and other students spending the semester at Jagiellonian University, at the Collegium Maius

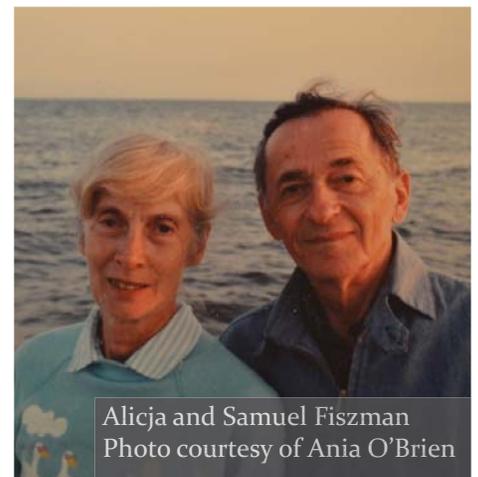
The Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholarship for Undergraduate Study in Poland

The Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholarship is open to any student at Indiana University Bloomington who intends to pursue study in Poland on an IU-approved, credit-bearing overseas program in Warsaw or Kraków. In 2014-2015, the scholarship award is \$5000. All students considering qualifying overseas study programs are encouraged to apply, even if their plans are not yet finalized.

A complete application includes:

- *A letter of application, detailing the applicant's interest in Polish studies, and discussing how study abroad will contribute to the realization of the student's goals.*
- *An official IU transcript*
- *A letter of recommendation from a professor familiar with the student's work. This should be submitted separately by the professor.*

The Fiszman Scholarship was established in 2013. Professor Samuel Fiszman was a pillar of Polish Studies at Indiana for more than a quarter century. He and his wife, Alicja Zadrożna-Fiszman, came to Bloomington in 1970, after Professor Fiszman was fired from his position at Warsaw University during the anti-semitic campaign of 1968. Ania Fiszman O'Brien endowed the 14 scholarship in 2013 in honor of her parents, who were fixtures of the Bloomington Polish community.



Alicja and Samuel Fiszman
Photo courtesy of Ania O'Brien

Faculty News

Jack Bloom (Sociology, Fort Wayne) recently published a book entitled *Seeing Through the Eyes of the Polish Revolution: Solidarity and the Struggle Against Communism in Poland*, Brill Press, based on 150 in-depth inter-



views with Solidarity leaders and activists, their supporters and opponents. It covers the entire period of Soviet domination, with a focus on how an opposition was built and what happened when it was.

Steven Franks (Slavic & Linguistics, Bloomington) participated in an IU International Programs short-term faculty exchange to Jagiellonian University in Fall 2013. While in Poland he presented "Cased PRO in Slavic: From GB to Minimalism and Back Again," at the 8th annual meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society, in Szczecin. He also presented his



paper "Against Successive Cyclicity" at three Polish universities. Earlier in the year he presented "Focusing

on Irrealis Concessions, submission to volume" at Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 22 in May in Hamilton, Ontario. He co-edited *Formal Approaches to Slavic Lin-*

guistics: The Third Indiana Meeting, published by Michigan Slavic Materials. Franks stepped down as chair of Slavic Languages & Literatures at the end of 2012. He continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Slavic Linguistics.

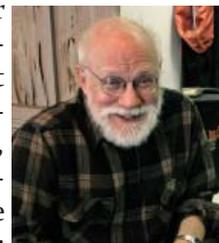
Halina Goldberg (Musicology, Bloomington) has received grants for the creation of a Digital Scholarly Companion to "In Mrs. Goldberg's Kitchen" from the Borns Jewish Studies Program, the Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Funding Program, and the New Frontiers in the Arts & Humanities Award. In May 2013, the exhibit itself has received nomination in the category of Historical Exhibits for the Sybilla Award 2012 (Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage).



Dr. Goldberg also gave conference presentations on: "In Mrs. Goldberg's Kitchen" at "Going to the People: Jews and the Ethnographic Impulse," in Bloomington; and "On the Wings of the Beautiful Towards the Radiant Spheres of the Infinite: Maskilic Views on Liturgical Music in 19th-Century Warsaw" at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

Owen Johnson (Journalism, Bloomington) presented "Journalism & the Pursuit of Truth in East Central Europe since 1989," at the conference, "The Right to Know: Privacy vs. Transparency in the U.S. and

the EU," University of Florida, April 5; "Whom Do We Serve? A Comparative Historical Analysis of Journalistic Professionalism in Russia and East Central Europe," a seminar at the Center for Baltic and East European Studies at Södertörn University in Stockholm, April 17; "Different Paths to the Same Destination: Thoughts on Journalism Professionalism in the United States and Central and Eastern Europe," keynote address at the International Conference on Media in Central and Eastern Europe, Kaunas, Lithuania, April 26-27.



Bill Johnston was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2013 - 2014, enabling him to begin work on a new translation of Adam Mickiewicz's 1834 epic poem *Pan Tadeusz*. He is currently on sabbatical in Nice, France working on this project, which in September-October 2013 was also supported by a Lannan Foundation Writing Residency in Marfa, Texas.

In December 2013 his translation of Wiesław Myśliwski's 2006 novel *A Treatise on Shelling Beans* was published by Archipelago Books. His forthcoming translations include Tomasz Różycki's 2004 poem *Twelve Stations* (Dwanaście stacji), with Zephyr Books, and Stanisław Lem's 1964 novel *The Invincible*, to be published as an e-book.



Grad News

Mary Werden (History) presented a paper entitled "Changing the Face of the Village: Industrialization and Rural Modernization in Communist Poland, 1956-80" at the 2013 Social Science History Association conference on November 24, 1013 in Chicago.

Natalie Misteravich (Slavic) was awarded an exchange with the Jagiellonian University by the Office of the the Vice President for International Affairs, to conduct research on the workers of Nowa Huta for five months from February to the end of June. In 2013 she was awarded the Pułaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies by the American Council for Polish Culture.

Hubert Izienicki (Sociology) has spent the past year collecting data on the comparative social circumstances of gay men in Chicago and Warsaw. In 2013 he was awarded Polish Studies financial support, allowing him to travel to both cities to conduct interviews with respondents and gather data. In the coming months, he plans to complete his data collection and begin writing his dissertation. 15



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Dziękujemy Bardzo!

