

# The Polish Studies Center Newsletter

Indiana University • Bloomington, Indiana

Spring 2005

## Polish Center & Johnston Honored by Polish Foreign Minister

Bill Johnston, Director of the Polish Studies Center, traveled to Warsaw last October where he and the Center were presented with the Foreign Minister's Award at a ceremony in the Presidential Palace. The significance of this award was described in a letter from Deputy Ambassador of Poland in Washington DC, Bogusław Winid:

*"On October 6, 2004 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, The Honorable Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, awarded the Diploma recognizing the Indiana University Polish Studies Center and the inspiring leadership of Professor Bill Johnston for outstanding work to promote Polish history and culture in the United States.*

*Professor Johnston has tirelessly continued to bring Poland and its heritage closer to the American public by organizing various educational projects, conferences, translation workshops,*

*exhibitions, concerts, and many other events. Over the years the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University has become a focal point of interest and provides insight into the real mechanisms which have kept Poland and its People going despite historical and economic challenges.*

*This award has been presented for over thirty years to individuals or institutions which have worked very diligently to promote Poland and enhance bilateral cooperation. The Polish Studies Center at Indiana University headed by Professor Bill Johnston ideally fulfills the award's charter."*

Johnston described receiving the award as a great honor and further commented on the inspiration from directors who came before him: "The Foreign Ministry Award was a great honor for me and for the Polish Studies Center. The Award was given jointly to me and to the Center; but I feel it's very important to emphasize that I received it as current Director of the Center. The award really belongs equally to all those previous directors who have gone before me and who together helped the Center become what it is today. Above all, it is one further accolade to Tim Wiles, who more than any other individual was responsible for the Center's prominence in US-Polish relations."

Owen Johnson, the Polish Studies Center's acting director while Johnston is

on sabbatical leave, said that recognizing the Center for the promotion of Polish culture was only part of the story.

"For more than a quarter century, the Center, like other area studies at Indiana University, has been opening up the rest



Bill Johnston (left) being presented the award by the Polish Foreign Minister, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz.

of the world to IU students and faculty as well as to the people of the state of Indiana."

IU-Bloomington Interim Chancellor Kenneth Gros Louis also commented on the contribution the Center has made to the IU community and added that "the award underlines IU's ties with so many different countries, and its relationship with Poland predated the collapse of the Iron Curtain by many years." The Polish Studies Center was first opened in October, 1977. It initially served as an exchange partner with Warsaw University and contributed to the establishment of the American Studies Center at WU. An academic exchange was also established with Jagiellonian University in 2000.

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## Director's Notebook-

This is my second assignment as Acting Director of the Polish Studies Center.

During my first stint, 15 years ago, Poland had just completed its famous roundtable discussions and held its first post-communist elections, in which the communists were sent packing. The East European spotlight, which had focused sharply on Poland for the ten years since the rise of Solidarity, was diffusing across what was now becoming Central Europe, as Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany also headed into the uncertain world of democracy and capitalism. Alex Rabinowitch, then the Dean of International Programs, attended a special White House symposium on Poland and Hungary.

All the changes that were taking place were forcing a restructuring of all of the contacts and exchanges that had been

in place for years. The USIA grant that had funded the IU-Warsaw University exchange would be phased out in a few years.

We embarked on an ambitious program for the Polish Studies Center, with weekly brown bag talks, and numerous special lectures and programs. A good deal of our focus was still on politics and economics and history.

Today the Polish Studies Center is much stronger in the area of humanities, literature and culture, because that's where it can make its strongest contribution. Each year we welcome a variety of graduate students and faculty from Poland.

Our program this year might have been quieter, given the absence abroad of historian Marci Shore, political scientist Jack Bielasiak, and PSC director Bill Johnston. Fortunately, however, Bill made a number of contacts before he left that have

blossomed into a wide-ranging program of activities.

Bill helped design two of the major programs this past fall before departing for Poland. He arranged an informal reading of Czesław Miłosz's poetry and prose, when the great Polish Nobel Laureate passed away. The reading, co-sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor, drew an appreciative audience to the Federal Room in the Indiana Memorial Union.

In November, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Witold Gombrowicz, perhaps the most important Polish prose writer of the last century. Included were a reading of his play, *The Marriage*, a lecture by Grzegorz Jankowicz; readings by Bill from his new translation of the Gombrowicz short story collection, *Bacacay*, and a showing of the new film *Pornografia*, based on Gombrowicz's novel.

---Owen V. Johnson

## John Findling Retires

John E. Findling, whose association with Polish Studies began in 1984/85, retired in December from the History Department in the Division of Social Sciences at Indiana University Southeast.

In 1984/85, he served as Associate Director of the American Studies Center at Warsaw University, then partnered with IU's Polish Studies Center, through a grant from the US Information Agency. Poland was still under martial law.

"Western academics, particularly Americans, played a crucial role at this time in providing uncensored cultural programs for the [Warsaw] university community and other intellectuals," the late Tim Wiles wrote, "by means of lecture series, film showings, acquiring foreign publications for the libraries, and so on. [John] was active on all these fronts. He and his wife and son moved easily in Polish society, and he made a number of important contacts for our program. In spite of the political repression, under his co-directorship the American Studies Center grew considerably, to the point of offering a regular seminar series and supervising a number of graduate students, several of whom were able to win fellowships for study in the U.S."

Findling also worked with Polish scholars during the communist period on a history of the United States.

"I found that virtually nothing existed that I had to do," Findling recalled later. So he built on the initiatives and patterns established by Mary McGann, when she served as associate director, 1981-83. He and his family settled into a small apartment on Solec street, about fifteen minutes from the American Studies Center. It was so small, he wrote, "that we think entertaining will be somewhat difficult."

Sleeping was challenging, too. "If we can get hold of a double bed, we would be happier and probably healthier, as we now sleep on a fold-out couch, which isn't terribly comfortable as a couch, let alone a bed," he reported to the Office of International Programs, shortly after his arrival. His wife Carol found a job with the Polish News Bulletin.



John E. Findling

He wrote an interesting article, "Warsaw, in Early December 1984, is a City Not Quite at Ease With Itself," for the IU Newspaper, in which he sought to explain to non-specialists the complicated situation that then prevailed in Poland.

Findling received his B.A. from Rice in 1963, and his M.A. (1965) and Ph.D. (1971) from the University of Texas, where he wrote his

dissertation on "The United States and Zelaya: A Study in the Diplomacy of Expediency." Between his M.A. and Ph.D. studies, he taught high school at the American-Nicaraguan School in Managua for two years.

He joined the faculty at IUSE in 1971 and was granted tenure just four years later. He became acting chair of the Division of Social Sciences.

Over time he developed a specialization in sports history, his first article being "The Louisville Grays' Scandal of 1877." Even today his home page has a link to webcams at Chicago's Wrigley Field. He has been a member of the North American Society for Sport History, where he served as a member-at-large on the executive committee. He also developed a specialization in World's Fairs, like sports, one of the "display events" by which a culture expresses itself.

Findling's biggest contribution to academe was in the combining of his interests in World's Fairs and sports with his skill as an author and editor. The list of his books is staggering.

Three of them are single-authored: Chicago's Great World's Fairs (1994); and Close Neighbors, Distant Friends: United States-Central American Relations (1987). He edited Dictionary of American Diplomatic History (1980; 2nd ed 1989).

## Spring Conference: Gender and Feminism under Post-Communism

The Polish Studies Center will be one of the hosts for a major international conference, "Gender and Feminism under Post-Communism," to be held March 31-April 3 on the Bloomington campus. Bill Johnston, Director of the Polish Studies Center, has been working with David Ransel, Director of the Russian and East European Institute, and Maria Bucur, Associate Professor in the Department of History, to organize the conference. Two scholars from Poland will be major participants in the conference.

The conference will focus on the development of feminism and the impact of feminist theories on the reshaping of gender roles in public policies, representations, and social and cultural practices. In addition to the Polish Studies Center, the conference is supported by the Russian and East European Institute, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, the Center for the Study of Global Change, the East Asian Studies Center, the West European Studies Center, the Office of International Programs, the Humanities Institute, and the University Graduate School.

Ten prominent scholars from around the world will speak at the conference. In three panels, the scholars will present position statements in response to questions provided by panel coordinators. These materials will be available electronically two weeks before the conference at <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/events/roundtables.htm>, so that the discussion can follow a roundtable format. A commentator will initiate the discussion at each panel.

The first panel, consisting of Ransel, Katalin Fabian of Lafayette College, Elena Mezenntseva of the State University-Higher School of Economics, and Miahela Miroiu of the Romanian National School of Political Studies and Public Administration will

address issues of "Economic and Social Justice." It will examine how the introduction of a market economy and a measure of democratic political participation in some post-socialist countries has changed the conditions of social and economic justice for women.

The second panel, on "Representation," was organized by Johnston and includes Harriet Evans of the University of Westminster, Agnieszka Graff of Warsaw University and Joyce Mushaben of the University of Missouri. It will explore important themes in cultural depictions of gender, particularly of women, in post-communist societies.

Graff, an old friend of the Polish Studies Center, is Associate Professor of literature and cultural and gender studies at the American Studies Center. She is a graduate of Amherst College, Oxford and the Graduate School for Social Research in Warsaw. Since the mid-1990s she has been active in the Polish women's movement, a participant in public debates on reproductive rights, women's status in the context of Poland's accession to the European Union, and relations between church and state. She is a founding member of the Women's 8th of March Alliance. Her articles and polemics have appeared in *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Rzeczpospolita*, and in women's magazines and feminist publications. Her book, *Świat bez kobiet*, a collection of essays on gender in Polish public life, was published in 2001. She is a fellow of the Fulbright New Century Scholars Program, "Toward Equality: The Global Empowerment of Women," working on the project, "Between Politics and poetics: Rhetorical Strategies of Modern American Feminism."

The third panel, which will examine "History and Myth" is composed of Bucur, Krassimira Daskalova of St. Kliment

Ohridski University of Sofia, Yelena Gapova of the Center for Gender Studies at the European Humanities University in Belarus and Magdalena Gawin of the Historical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It will consider the challenges of the transition from communism, both to scholarship concerning women's lives and gender roles in general.

Gawin, a social historian, focuses her research on racial thinking and eugenics in Poland in the second half of the 19th and 20th centuries. Last year she published her dissertation, "Rasa I Nowoczesność: Historia polskiego ruchu eugenicznego 1880-1953." In addition to eugenics, she studies the history of the women's movement and feminism in Poland. She has published several articles on these issues, including works about the birth control movement in the inter-war period, the debate on the sexual education of children in pre-war Poland, the impact of World War I on Polish morals and customs. Her article on the first wave of Polish feminism is awaiting publication.

The final session at the roundtable will be an open discussion, which will integrate the work presented in the preceding sessions and set directions and goals for future research. Its theme, "Private and Public Spheres," will bring together many of the issues raised in the other panels and more broadly engage questions of visibility and the framing of women's/gender problems in both the realm of discourse and also of policy making and activism.

This conference is part of IU's annual "Roundtables on Post-communism," which in the past six years have examined comparatively the political left, social inequalities, nationalism and cultural dissent in Eastern Europe, Russia and China since 1989.

### Polish Area Studies Publications at IU in 2004:

Kathleen Cioffi and Bill Johnston, editors, *The Other in Polish Theatre and Drama*, Volume 14 of Indiana Slavic Studies, Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers.

Timothy J. Cooley, *Making Music in the Tatras*, (with CD) Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Patrice M. Dabrowski, *Commemorations and the Shaping of Modern Poland*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Sibelan Forrester, Magdalena J. Zaborowska, and Elena Gapova, *Over the Wall/After the Fall: Post-Communist Cultures through an East-West Gaze*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Halina Goldberg, editor, *The Age of Chopin: Interdisciplinary Inquiries*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Oscar E. Swan, *A Grammar of Contemporary Polish*, Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers. Received the AATSEEL Best Book in Linguistics Award in 2004.

Mirosław Żuławski, *Opowieści mojej żony* (Tales Told by My Wife), an advanced and intermediate Polish reader, edited and with a glossary by Oscar E. Swan, forthcoming from Slavica Publishers in 2005.

# Reclaiming the *Pałac*, Letting the *Palma* Languish: A Report from the Streets of Warsaw

By Karen Kovacik

November 30, 2004

The Ukrainian elections have dominated the headlines here for the last two weeks. *Gazeta Wyborcza* included complimentary orange ribbons in one of its editions so Poles could show their solidarity with Victor Yushchenko and his pro-Western, opposition party. Regular protests have occurred in front of the Ukrainian Embassy on Szucha Street, and even the notorious Palace of Culture in the center of Warsaw, Stalin's dubious gift to the Poles, has been festooned with large orange banners. Take that, Putin! Swept up in this Free Ukraine enthusiasm, I bought some cheap orange mittens on Aleje Jerozolimskie to demonstrate my own symbolic support for our neighbors to the east.

And here's another way of talking back to power: the Warsaw poetry slam scene, after months of dormancy because it couldn't find a hospitable home, is coming back to life in one of the Palace's cafés on Thursday, December 16. Maybe all these goings on at the Palace help explain the findings of a recent poll. Warsaw residents under 30, when asked to name one thing about their city of which they were proud, overwhelmingly praised the architecture, especially the Palace of Culture. For the younger generation, it seems, the Palace has become the Warsaw equivalent of Big Ben or the Eiffel Tower, devoid of the totalitarian connotations that make older Poles shudder.

I'm here on a translation Fulbright, and I got word of the slam scene by giving a talk on contemporary poetry at the American Embassy, two weeks after the U.S. presidential elections. On the wall behind where I was to stand, I was disconcerted to find large mugshots of George Bush, Dick Cheney, and Colin Powell. Could I somehow remove them, I wondered, or cover them with my friend Reineke's huge tie-dyed silk scarf? In the end, I simply chose to refer to the Gang of Three satirically throughout my talk. The sweetest revenge. . .

On a more local note, a Berlin graduate student stirred up controversy by writing a thesis critical of Warsaw's many gated communities - over 200, according to the student's count - as opposed to Berlin, which contains only one. Angry letters filled the pages of *Wyborcza* after this article ran. A typical one read: "If Herr X can find me an open neighborhood in Warsaw that is free of graffiti and crime, I'd be happy to move there. Until then, I'm staying put."

The large fake palm tree, in the rondo at one of Warsaw's most prominent intersections (Aleje Jerozolimskie and Nowy Świat), has generated a fresh controversy of its own. The creation of a local artist, this *palma* was both panned and celebrated when it first appeared two years ago. Some saw it as a ridiculous emblem of globalized culture; others considered it a postmodern riposte to the former Communist Party Headquarters, immediately adjacent, which was reincarnated in the 1990s as the Polish Stock Exchange. After two years of enduring weather that no real palm could survive, the *palma's* fake leaves had frayed and had to be removed. The city of Warsaw had promised the artist it would maintain the sculpture through 2006, though now it appears there are no funds to replace the leaves. So the *palma*, clotted with recent snow, is hovering like a forlorn obelisk over tramcars bearing McDonald's ads with the slogan: "I'm lovin' it."

After twenty years of struggle with the beautiful but notoriously difficult Polish language, I signed myself up for yet another course at Warsaw University's Polonicum. This time, by some miracle, I tested into the highest level, where my fellow students, except for Motoki from Japan, are all Slavs. Our teacher, Pani



Karen Kovacik

Anna Mazenak, a self-proclaimed "sadist," has assigned us numerous debate topics for tomorrow night's class. We must take positions on everything from child labor to pornography use to the euthanizing of stray dogs. Here's hoping you all will wish me "Powodzenia."

-Karen Kovacik,  
Associate Professor of English, IUPUI

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Karen Kovacik is Associate Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at IUPUI. She is the recipient of a number of awards, including a guest fellowship at the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Creative Writing, an Arts Council of Indianapolis Creative Renewal Fellowship, and a Fulbright Research Grant to Poland. Her poems and stories have appeared in many journals, including *Salmagundi*, *Chelsea*, *Glimmer Train*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Indiana Review*, and *Crab Orchard Review*. Her translations of contemporary Polish poetry can be found in *The Lyric*, *American Poetry Review*, *West Branch*, and *Poetry East*. In 1999, a book of her poetry, *Beyond the Velvet Curtain*, winner of the Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize, was issued by Kent State, and a new collection, *Metropolis Burning*, is forthcoming from Cleveland State.

## A Letter from Ellie Valentine

Dear friends,

I thought I might just send a note about my recent whereabouts and activities. And I thought you might enjoy this picture of the Polish support of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine.

I am currently the Program Director of the USAID Armenia Legislative Strengthening Program. As some of you know, I had an opportunity to head a similar program from 1994-2002 in Ukraine - the Indiana University Parliamentary Development Program of Ukraine (also funded by USAID). I have been watching the events in Ukraine with awe and wonder -- and just a bit of pride. I truly believe that what we see happening today in Ukraine is a culmination of efforts of the past 15 years with so many sectors: the parliament, the courts, civil society, political parties, election reform, independent media development, anti-corruption. Many of these efforts have also benefited from lessons learned in Poland ten years earlier.

This Christmas I had the privilege to be included in an election observation mission organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). One of the co-chairs of our delegation was Bronisław Geremek. It was truly an experience to see current events in Ukraine through the eyes of someone who was so central to the political, social and economic reform efforts which have resulted in Poland's transformation over the past 25 years. I will remember with great fondness my Christmas in Kirovohrad (where I was deployed for the observation mission) where the newly opened Catholic Church was led by a Polish priest from Kalisz. My wishes as I broke the *oplatek* that evening with friends, was that people would have the strength in Ukraine, as in other emerging democracies, to accept their responsibilities as citizens of a democratic society and to sustain their will to have their voices heard and to hold their government -- once elected -- responsible and accountable.

My very best wishes to all at (and formerly with) the IU Polish Studies Center. May we meet the challenges of the New Year 2005 with joy and vigor.

Ellie Valentine (ellieval@aol.com)

*Ellie Valentine was Program Assistant at the Polish Studies Center from 1985 to 1989 and sent this letter and photograph in December after her recent visit to Ukraine.*



The Polish flag on the streets of Kiev, December 2004, symbolizes Polish support for the Orange Revolution.

## A Letter from Kraków

Greetings from Kraków! I am writing this letter in the midst of my first holiday season in Poland. Though my wife, children and I certainly miss our family and friends during this time of year, the warmth of the ubiquitous Christmas celebrations and festivities throughout Kraków have made us feel welcome and at home here. I have seen the main square in Kraków's Old Town many times over the last several years. However, there is something very special about the atmosphere here this time of year; dozens of stalls are erected on the market square, from which are offered various holiday crafts, grilled pierogi and kielbasa, and traditional Galician mulled wine. For weeks before Christmas, nearly everyday, live music blends with the voices and laughter of those gathered in the square. It is hard not to feel a part of the tradition and celebration.

This year I am studying at the Department of Polish Philology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, thanks to a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship. This award is a great honor for me and an incredible opportunity. This funding has enabled me to spend a year in Poland improving my Polish and beginning research on a project that I hope will evolve into my doctoral dissertation. Attending regular classes at Jagiellonian has been a challenge, but I have been improving steadily. Other students in the department have been indispensable to my progress in Polish. Several other students and I have organized English-Polish language exchanges which have been among the most useful (and fun) of my academic endeavors this year. The faculty and staff at the university have also been gracious and helpful. Especially valuable to me has been my academic advisor, Prof. Michał Markowski, who, coincidentally, was a visiting professor at IU in 2002.

I am also very excited about some encouraging leads I have discovered in the Jagiellonian libraries and archives related to a research project I had outlined before leaving for Poland. If all goes well what I had originally conceived as a preliminary feasibility study could actually become a much more significant first step in my dissertation research.

by Matthew Konieczny

As a recipient of a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar, I have obligations beyond my academic work and research goals. These opportunities have made my experience in Poland truly unique. Most importantly, I am expected to serve as an Ambassador of Goodwill. I have realized this somewhat vague charge in a number of ways. I have delivered speeches to various groups around Poland explaining my take on life in America and specifically in Southern Indiana. This has led to some interesting exchanges about current American policies. But I think I can say—at the risk of being immodest—I have negotiated these issues in true ambassadorial form. Indeed, it is such personal interactions that have been a highpoint of my stay in Poland.



Matthew Konieczny with his sons, Andrei, 5, and Anton, 7, in Krakow

My time in Kraków has been even more rewarding as I am able to share it all with my wife and sons. This experience has certainly been an incredible one for all of us. Though speaking no Polish previously, my oldest son is now attending a Polish school. The courage and good humor with which he has approached this challenge has been an inspiration to me. My wife, as well, has embraced life in Poland, and I am envious of the speed with which she has picked up Polish. This entire experience has proven so positive that we have no doubt that this year will not be our last long-term stay in Poland.

### Polish Studies Center Travel Grants 2004-2005

The faculty award recipient is IUSB History Professor **Dmitry Shlapentokh**. He will travel to the Fourth International Napoleonic Congress of the International Napoleonic Society in Dinard, France in July 2005. He will present his paper entitled "Napoleon and the Poles and the Image of Russians as an Asiatic Threat."

The graduate student award recipient is IUB History Doctoral Candidate, **Anna Muller**. She will travel to Poland to conduct preliminary research for her dissertation which will be a comparative study of the social, cultural and political conditions that women faced in Poland and Czechoslovakia during the Stalinist period.

*The Polish Studies Center Travel Grants have been funded since 1996 through an endowment donated by the Polish Century Club of Indianapolis, Indiana.*

Donations to support the work of the Polish Studies Center can be made to:

Indiana University Foundation  
Polish Studies Center  
Account 32-CC00-038  
PO Box 500  
Bloomington, Indiana 47402

## Antony Polonsky Visits IU by Angela White

Antony Polonsky, Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Brandeis University presented a lecture on March 26, 2004 entitled "Poles, Jews, and the Problems of a Divided Memory." Professor Polonsky is one of the most distinguished scholars of Polish, Polish-Jewish, and Holocaust history in the world. He is the author of numerous volumes on East European and Polish history, including *Politics in Independent Poland: The Crisis*

*of Constitutional Government, The Little Dictators: The History of Eastern Europe since 1918, and The Great Powers and the Polish Question, 1941-45* and is the editor of the series *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*

In his lecture, Professor Polonsky described the controversies resulting from the publication of Jan Gross's contentious book *Neighbors: the Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* published in Polish (2000) and in English (2001). Although Polish reactions to

*Neighbors* have often been negative, he suggests the dialogue and investigations resulting from its publication represent an important process of reckoning with Polish and Polish-Jewish experiences during World War II. The natural process of coming to terms with the role Poles may have played in the destruction of the Polish-Jewish community was halted by the communist system, which downplayed the victimization of Jews during the Holocaust.

In addition to his lecture, Professor Polonsky also hosted a graduate student workshop with two of his articles on the Polish-Jewish poet Julian Tuwim as the basis for discussion. Under Polonsky's guidance, students analyzed Tuwim's *Bal w Operze* and literary polemics centering on the conflict between Polish-Jewish writers and Polish nationalists who rejected Jewish participation in Polish culture.

Polonsky's vast knowledge of Polish-Jewish history, combined with his engaging commentary, wit, and personal acquaintance with the main actors in the field of Polish-Jewish relations resulted in a thoroughly enjoyable educational experience.

(Note: Antony Polonsky edited, with Joanna Michlic, *The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland*, Princeton University Press, 2003.)



Professor Antony Polonsky (left) conversing with Bill Johnston, Director of the Polish Studies Center, at a reception in Polonsky's honor in March, 2004, in Bloomington.

## The Warsaw Village Band makes a splash at Bloomington Lotus Festival

The Warsaw Village Band (Kapela ze Wsi Warszawa) came to Bloomington in September as part of the annual Lotus World Music Festival, with sponsorship from the Polish Studies Center. A large crowd enjoyed meeting the band at a lunch reception held at the Center.

Even before hearing them in concert, many of us knew that this was a young, innovative band that collected traditional music from village musicians in Poland and added their own hardcore, techno twist, the mixture of old and new that their name suggests. We also knew they had revived traditional instruments such as the *suka* fiddle, and that the women had mastered the *biały głos*, the white voice singing style of the village women they had met. We had also listened to their current CD, *People's Spring*, which had won them the BBC 2004 World Music Award for best newcomer.

But in spite of knowing this background, the sheer energy and complex intensity of their music was a stunning surprise and made fans of crowds of festival goers, who filled and surrounded the outdoor tent venue in downtown Bloomington.

Look for their new CD, *Uprooting*, which was released in October 2004. All of their Lotus Festival fans sincerely hope that they will return to Bloomington very soon. —JBC (The Warsaw Village Band website is at [www.wvb.terra.pl](http://www.wvb.terra.pl))



The Warsaw Village Band in Bloomington

## Paczkowski Speaks about Post-communist Poland

### by Anna Muller

Andrzej Paczkowski, a leading Polish historian, visited Indiana University at the beginning of April, 2004 to give two lectures organized by the Polish Studies Center and the Russian and East European Institute, and to meet with students and faculty interested in Polish history and the current changes

taking place in Poland. A historian at the Institute for Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Science and a member of the governing board of Warsaw's Institute for National Remembrance, Andrzej Paczkowski is also the author and co-author of many books and articles, including *The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression*.

At Indiana University, Paczkowski gave two lectures that attracted large audiences of students and faculty. The first lecture, "The Fate of Intellectuals under Post-communism," allowed Paczkowski to dwell on the challenges that intellectuals have to face in post-communist Poland stemming from the social, political, and cultural transformation that Poland went through after 1989. His presentation of the institutional changes in the Polish system of higher education, including the appearance of private schools, the economical challenges, and the introduction of new elements into the curriculum, stirred the interest of the audience and the lecture evolved into a very interesting discussion.

In his next lecture, "Reckoning with the Communist Past: The Case of Poland," Paczkowski presented several issues, amongst them the activities undertaken by the Institute for National Remembrance. During the lecture we learned details about the origins of the

Institute, which was created in 1998 as a commission for the investigation of crimes against the Polish Nation. The professor also discussed the internal workings of the IPN and the scope of their activities, which includes investigating new cases, gathering archival materials,



Professor Andrzej Paczkowski (left) speaking with IUB history professor Marci Shore and PSC director, Bill Johnston.

and supporting Polish public education by disseminating - through lectures, conferences and exhibitions - facts concerning recent Polish history. During the interesting discussion initiated by the lecture, the IPN's significant and still unique role in East Europe was highlighted.

After the lecture, the professor signed his book *The Spring will be ours: Poland and the Poles from Occupation to Freedom*, (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003, translated by Jane Cave) which was first published in Poland in 1995 and has been translated into several languages. The book focuses on Polish history, from the outbreak of World War II in 1939, through the communist rule, to 1989, when unfruitful attempts to reform the communist system from within gave way to its total transformation. The English edition of the book was supplemented by an introductory chapter on Poland's twenty years of independence prior to 1939 and an extensive postscript investigating the changes that have taken

place since the round table negotiations, which symbolize the fall of communism in 1989. A bibliography of English-language works, prepared by Padraic Kenney, makes this account a fundamental book for anyone who attempts to understand the remarkable course of Polish twentieth-century history.

Despite his very full schedule, Professor Paczkowski also found time to meet with faculty and graduate students and walk around Bloomington and the campus. The professor, interested in educational systems, discussed with us the intricacies regarding student life in America, its similarities and differences to the Polish and more generally East European systems. Some of us consciously directed the conversation towards the complexities of East European history as it gave us an opportunity to test our research interests against the Professor's unique knowledge of the subject, of archival resources, and of the internal workings of Polish history.

***Thank you to the following people for donating books and materials in Polish and for Polish cultural artifacts and folk art objects:***

Amy Goldenberg  
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Felix Smigiel



## FACULTY NEWS

**Jack Bielasiak** (IUB Political Science) was selected to be the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Central, East European and Russian Studies at Warsaw University for the fall 2004 semester.

**Malgorzata Čavar** (IUB Linguistics) defended her doctoral dissertation, *Palatalization in Polish: an Interaction of Articulatory and Perceptual Factor*, in May 2004 at the University of Potsdam, Germany. Her article "Perceptual factors in the emergence of prepalatal affricates in Polish" was published in *Ohio State University Working Papers in Slavic Linguistics*. In 2004 she gave presentations at the Poznań Linguistic Meeting in Poland and at the Mid-continental Workshop on Phonology in Evanston, Illinois.

**Halina Goldberg** (IUB Music) edited the book *The Age of Chopin: Interdisciplinary Inquiries*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004, which also included her article "'Remembering that tale of grief': the Prophetic Voice in Chopin's Music." In December 2004 she participated in a panel discussion, "Sounds as Identity Symbols: The Potential for a 'Musical Turn' in the Study of Modern Eastern Europe," at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies National Meeting, Boston. She also presented a conference paper, "The Dancing Jew: Assimilation,

National Identity, and the Majufes," at the 13th Biennial International Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music, University of Durham, in June.

**Grzegorz Jankowicz** (IUB Slavics) was awarded the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching Fellowship for this academic year. His article "W tych antologiach" about anthologies of Polish poetry in English translations appeared in *Literatura na Swiecie* No. 11-12 (winter 2004). He was co-organizer of "A Celebration of Work and Life of Czesław Miłosz" (September 2004) and "A Gombrowicz Centenary Celebration" (November 2004) at IU. During the latter he presented the lecture "The Return to Gombrowicz." He is currently editing an anthology of essays devoted to the literary work of Maurice Blanchot that will be published by Zielona Sowa Press this spring.

**Owen Johnson** (IUB Journalism and History) visited Warsaw University in March and spoke on media coverage of terrorism in the US to a comparative media class at the Institute of Journalism; spoke on media and politics to a group of journalists from "failed democracies," Center for East European Studies; and spoke on media and transition in Eastern Europe to a class studying Transition in East Central Europe, Center for East European Studies.

**Bill Johnston** (IUB Applied Linguistics) had a busy year. He published three translations--Magdalena Tulli's *Dreams and Stones* (Archipelago Books), and Witold Gombrowicz's *Polish Memories* (Yale University Press) and *Bacacay* (Archipelago Books). He is currently spending the spring semester at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, where he will be working on two translation projects: Magdalena Tulli's latest book *Parts of Speech* (Tryby), and Stefan Zeromski's *The Coming Spring* (Przedwiosnie), for which he has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

**Karen Kovacik** (IUPUI English) is a 2004-2005 Fulbright Research Grant recipient and is spending the year in Warsaw translating current Polish poetry. A new collection of her own poetry, *Metropolis*

*Burning*, is forthcoming from Cleveland State. (See her article and one of her translations on pages 4 & 5)

**Marci Shore** (IUB History) signed a contract with Yale University Press in August 2004 for her book manuscript *Caviar and Ashes: A Warsaw Generation's Life and Death in Marxism, 1918-1968*. *Caviar and Ashes* won the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History for 2004. Her article "Children of the Revolution: Communism, Zionism, and the Berman Brothers" appeared in *Jewish Social Studies* vol. 10, no. 3 (spring/summer 2004). In November 2004 she presented the paper "When God Died: Slavoj Žižek on Modernity and Revolution in Eastern Europe" at the workshop, "Modernity and Its Disciplines" at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. She also gave a lecture at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in London, "A Funeral for Futurism: Or, How the Polish Avant-Garde Found Its Way to Marxism in the 1920s." At the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen seminar Series "Europe or the Globe?" in Vienna she presented "Once Upon a Time, in a Café Called Ziemiańska: Making Choices and Coming to Marxism in Interwar Poland."

## STUDENT NEWS

**Jamie Ferguson** (IUB Comparative Literature) received the College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Grant for the 2004-2005 academic year and the Greenberg Albee Fellowship.

**Matthew Konieczny** (IUB History and REEI) is currently at Jagiellonian University in Kraków on a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship where he is conducting research for his doctoral dissertation. (See his article on page 6.)

### SPEA participating in Warsaw's Public Policy Course

For the second year, IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) will be working with the National School of Administration in Warsaw to deliver 3 days of its 4 week intensive course in European Union Public Policy. Indiana University will have 22 graduate students participating from SPEA, the Russian and East European Institute, and West European Studies. The Warsaw program will be held June 5 - 8. For more information, contact Charles Bonser, SPEA's Program Director.

### Coffee and Tea Hour

Spring Semester 2005  
Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 pm

at the Polish Studies Center  
1217 E. Atwater, Bloomington

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Anna M. Cienciala** (Ph.D. History and REEI 1962), professor emeritus at the University of Kansas, participated in a roundtable discussion, "The Warsaw Uprising: A Historical Appraisal," at the annual AAASS meeting in Boston in December.

**Amy Goldenberg** (IUB Folklore) defended her dissertation "Polish Amber Art" in the Spring of 2004. In November, she presented the paper "Art, Politics and Religion Encased in Amber: The Amber Altar in Gdansk, Poland" at the American Folklore Society annual conference.

**Barbara Hicks** (Ph.D. Political Science and REEI Certificate 1992), teaches courses in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, the European Union, the Collapse of Communism, and Women After Communism, as well as a cross-regional seminar in Transitions to Democracy, at New College, the Honors College of Florida, in Sarasota. Her research specialization is in Eastern Europe, and she's currently working on a book about how transnational influences affect the role of social movements as channels of citizen participation in the new democracies of Eastern Europe.

**David Mason** (Ph.D. Political Science and REEI Certificate 1977), who first started writing books on Poland, and then on Eastern Europe, has now published a short history of all of Europe which, however, includes many nuggets on Poland! *Revolutionary Europe 1789-1989: Liberty, Equality, Solidarity* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005)

**Nathan Wood** (IUB History) defended his dissertation in June 2004, "Becoming Metropolitan: Cracow's popular press and the representation of modern urban life, 1900-1915". He is currently a postdoctoral scholar of modern European history at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Kinga Skrętkowicz-Ferguson (left) graduate assistant at the Polish Studies Center and visiting scholar Magdalena Żuradzka lead the singing of Polish carols at the annual potluck Christmas Party for friends of the Polish Studies Center.



## VISITING SCHOLARS TO IU

**Zofia Fabiańska** (Associate Professor of Musicology, Jagiellonian University) met with musicologists at IU in order to explore possible common projects between their institutions, and she did research on the tonal language of the Italian music in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. She was in Bloomington for three weeks in November and December.

**Grzegorz Marzec** (Doctoral Candidate, Warsaw University) spent the fall 2004 semester pursuing research for his dissertation, "Historiography as Hermeneutics: On the Writings by Jarosław Marek Rymkiewicz." While at IU he was affiliated with the Department of Philosophy.

**Jadwiga Paja-Stach** (Professor of Musicology, Jagiellonian University) spent 4 weeks in June and July at the IU School of Music, researching Polish émigré composers who settled in the USA in the 20th century, especially Wiktor Łabuński, in preparation for her book on Polish music of the 20th century.

**Magdalena Żuradzka** (Doctoral Candidate, Jagiellonian University) did research for her dissertation on *madrigali concertati* in northern Italy, during her stay in Bloomington from October to February. Being at IU allowed her to consult with the chair of the Department of Musicology, Dr. Massimo Ossi, an authority on Italian madrigals. She also graciously volunteered to accompany, on piano, the singing of Polish carols at our annual Christmas party.

## Call for Papers TRANSLATING EASTERN EUROPE: ART, POLITICS, AND IDENTITY IN TRANSLATED LITERATURE

September 30-October 2, 2005

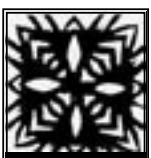
Papers are invited for an interdisciplinary conference that will explore the role played by translated literature in the evolution of literary traditions and national identities in Eastern Europe and Russia, as well as ways in which the West has imagined the "other" Europe

The conference will also host a workshop on translating literature, sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures of the Ohio State University, to be conducted by Marian Schwartz, and a reading of translated literary works, sponsored by the Polish Studies Center of Indiana University at Bloomington.

The keynote speaker will be Clare Cavanaugh of Northwestern University.

*The conference will be held at the Blackwell Center on the main campus of the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.*

Interested scholars and literary translators should submit paper proposals of no more than 500 words and a curriculum vitae by **15 March 2005** to: Brian James Baer, MCLS, 109 Satterfield Hall, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242 (email: bbaer@kent.edu).



## Polish Studies Center Events • Spring Semester 2005

### Polish Film Series:

Thursday, February 17: **Żurek /Sour Soup** 2003, Directed by Ryszard Brylski

Based on the story by Olga Tokarczuk, this film tells the dramatic tale of a woman's struggle to discover the identity of her grandchild's father. Starring Zbigniew Zamachowski, Katarzyna Figura, and Natalia Rybicka.

Thursday, February 24: **Życie Jako Śmiertelna Choroba Przenoszona Drogą Płciową/ Life as a Fatal Sexually Transmitted Disease** 2000, Directed by Krzysztof Zanussi

Tomasz, a sixty-year-old doctor, suspects that he has a fatal disease. The tests prove he is right. Tomasz is an atheist, but the closeness of death makes him think about the meaning of life and death. The answer - or a sign - is given to him in a hospital room. Starring Zbigniew Zapasiewicz, Krystyna Janda, and Paweł Okraska

Thursday, March 3: **Zmruż Oczy /Squint your Eyes** 2002, Directed by Andrzej Jakimowski

This is a beautifully understated comedy about a spirited ten-year-old girl who has run away from her proudly affluent parents in town and finds safe haven on a derelict communal farm where her former teacher is watchman. Starring Zbigniew Zamachowski, Małgorzata Foremniak, and Andrzej Chyra.

*All showings will be at 7:00 pm in Swain Hall East, Room 105, on the IU Bloomington Campus  
All films are in Polish with English subtitles. Free and open to the public.*

### Conference:

March 31- April 3

**IU Roundtable: Gender and Feminism under Post-communism:**

This conference provides a gathering point of scholarship on women's issues in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as China and Central Asia.

Sponsored by the Russian and East European Institute, the Polish Studies Center, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, the Center for the Study of Global Change, the East Asian Studies Center, the West European Studies Center, the Office of International Programs, the Humanities Institute, and the University Graduate School.

### Lectures:

February 15

**Tomasz Basiuk**, faculty member at the American Studies Center at Warsaw University and currently a Fulbright scholar at the CUNY Graduate Center (Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies), will speak on "The LGBTQ Movement in Poland Today and the Case of the Poster Campaign."

March 25

**Keely Stauter-Halsted**, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at Michigan State University, will speak on the topic "'Women about Whom One does not Speak.' Prostitution and the Articulation of a National Public Space in 19th Century Poland"

### Poetry Reading:

April 21

**Piotr Sommer**, major Polish poet and distinguished translator of contemporary English poetry into Polish, will read from his new book, *Continued*, (Wesleyan University Press.)

*Details of all events will be updated at [www.indiana.edu/~polishst](http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst)*



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Indiana University Roundtables on Post-Communism Presents:  
**GENDER AND FEMINISM UNDER POST-COMMUNISM**  
An International Conference  
March 31- April 3, 2005

The conference will focus on the development of feminism and the impact of feminist theories on the reshaping of gender roles in public policies, representations, and social and cultural practices in Eastern Europe, Russia, and China since 1989.

Sponsored by the Russian and East European Institute, the Polish Studies Center, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, the Center for the Study of Global Change, the East Asian Studies Center, the West European Studies Center, the Office of International Programs, the Humanities Institute, and the University Graduate School.

The conference will bring to campus ten prominent international scholars who will speak on four panels: "Economic and Social Justice Issues," "Representations," "History and Myth," and "Public and Private Spheres."

*Faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students, as well as the public at large are encouraged to attend*

See the conference web site:  
[www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/events/2005/roundtables05.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/events/2005/roundtables05.htm)