Greetings from the Polish Studies Center! This has been another excellent year for us, as you’ll see from the rest of this newsletter. Despite these difficult times the Center is thriving, and for this we are grateful to our hardworking staff, our generous contributors, the faculty and students who collaborate on our projects, and the wonderful PSC community for their support.

I would like to convey some heartfelt thanks and make some related announcements. First, a huge thank you to Padraic Kenney (IUB-History), who graciously stepped into the breach and took over as Acting Director while I was away in Poland on research leave in academic year 2008–2009. Padraic did sterling service, not only guiding the year’s events but also instigating a number of major new initiatives, including (with Halina Goldberg, IUB-Music) the new Artist in Residence Program (see p. 6-7), and reviving the Executive and Advisory Committees. Padraic deserves a huge dziękuję for the enthusiasm and energy with which he addressed his tasks.

I’m sad to report that Gosia Swearingen, the Administrative Assistant of the PSC, left in January 2010 to take up another position in International Student Services at IU-Bloomington. Gosia was a valued member of our team; we’re sorry to see her go, and we wish her all the best in her new job. At the same time, we’re pleased to introduce her replacement, Bethany Lister, who has already done excellent work in the few months she’s been with us, and is settling in as our newest team member (a little bird tells me she’s also learning some Polish!).

I’d also like to express my deepest thanks to Magda Sokolowska, who completed her time as the PSC Graduate Assistant at the end of the spring 2009 semester. Magda did great work with us, and we wish her the best on her future road. Finally, we welcome Raina Polivka as this academic year’s PSC Graduate Assistant.

The Center’s other news is reported thoroughly elsewhere in this newsletter, so I won’t repeat it here—please take a look! As you’ll see, we’ve had another fine and busy year, and 2010 is shaping up to continue that tradition. I’ll end with my usual “appeal.” As you know, the Center’s success depends entirely on the goodwill, ideas, financial support, and participation of faculty, students, and community members - all those who together comprise our gifted and varied family. Please, keep up the good work! Come to our events, bring us your ideas, and help us with our plans! I look forward to seeing you over the next months.
Polish Symposium Celebrates the Rebirth of Polish Democracy

By Padraic Kenney

The twentieth anniversary of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe brought a flurry of conferences around the world, and much media attention. For most people, the opening of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 is a convenient shorthand for the events of that year. But the negotiations between Solidarity and the Communist regime, which led to the creation of the first non-communist government in the region in more than four decades, had a much greater impact. Indeed, it is impossible to imagine any of Poland’s neighbors undergoing political transformation without the Polish example.

On September 12, 1989, Solidarity activist Tadeusz Mazowiecki took office as prime minister. Almost exactly twenty years later, the PSC celebrated this event with a symposium, “The Rebirth Of Polish Democracy: A Twenty-Year Retrospective.” Special guest Prof. Marek Konarzewski, Minister Counselor for Science & Technology Affairs in the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Washington, delivered a keynote address on the transformation of Poland’s climate.

Panelists included two guests from Poland: Prof. Andrzej Rychard of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Anna Zachorowska-Mazurkiewicz of Jagiellonian University, Kraków. IU provided most of the expertise, including Daniel Cole (IUPUI Law School), Justyna Beinek (IUB-Slavic), Padraic Kenney (IUB-History), graduate students Mira Rosenthal (IUB-Comparative Literature) and Daniel Bishop (IUB-Musicology), as well as Gregory Domber of the University of North Florida, a longtime friend of the Center. Regina Smyth (IUB-Political Science) and Bill Johnston, PSC Director, provided commentary on the panels.

Participants agreed that Poland has been radically transformed in the last two decades; much discussion turned on the meaning and trajectory of that transformation, and on what impact the events of 1989 have had on those changes. All could agree that contemporary Poland is an exciting place for any scholar. As Poles continue to try to make sense of their postcommunist transformations, IU will be part of those conversations.

Celebrating Over 35 Years of Scholar Exchange

By Padraic Kenney

Bloomington, IU, and the Polish Studies Center provide fond memories for a lot of people in Warsaw; this summer, we found out just how warm those memories are.

The prehistory of the Polish Studies Center stretches back over 35 years. In the mid-1970s, faculty and administrators from IU, led by President John W. Ryan, began working to develop programs at the University of Warsaw and IU, and an exchange between the two universities.

Over the years, about 100 faculty and graduate students from Warsaw (and, more recently, Jagiellonian University as well) have traveled to Bloomington for stays ranging from a few weeks to a few years. In June, the IU Alumni Association, the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, and the U of Warsaw’s Office of International Cooperation hosted a reception for alumni of the exchange, as well as all Polish friends of IU.

The reception, in the Kazimierzowski Palace on the campus of the U of Warsaw, was attended by about forty alumni including Prof. Franciszek Lyr; Prof. Włodzimierz Siwiński, Associate Director of the PSC in the 1980s and later Rector of Warsaw University; Prof. Włodzimierz Lengauer, Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations; Prof. Tomasz Basiuk, Director of the American Studies Center at the U of Warsaw; and Padraic Kenney, Acting Director, PSC, Indiana University.
Remembering the Holocaust through Music
By Raina Polivka

In April 2009, the Polish Studies Center and Congregation Beth Shalom hosted a concert at Auer Hall to honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day, the concert was conceived in response to a cry for help from the Children of the Holocaust, an association of Holocaust survivors who, at the outbreak of World War II, were thirteen years old or younger. Now in their seventies and older, these survivors are struggling to provide aid to aging non-Jews who risked their lives to help their Jewish neighbors.

Organized by Musicology Professor Halina Goldberg, the concert featured works by Władysław Szpilman, who survived World War II and whose life was chronicled in Roman Polański’s 2002 Academy Award-winning film, The Pianist. Says Goldberg, “Szpilman was a musician at the core of his heart. It’s what saved him from all the disaster happening during the Holocaust. So we want to give attention to his legacy through this concert, because his power to communicate through music touches so many different people.”

The concert gathered a diverse mix of people from both the Polish and Jewish communities to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and those who survived in order to help us to never forget. As Rabbi Mira Wasserman wrote to Dr. Goldberg, “With Szpilman’s help and inspiration, you helped remind me of the way music and art awaken that which is most human in us.” Three hundred dollars was raised to aid those who risked their own lives for the lives of others.

IU to House Communist Trade Union Papers
By Raina Polivka

Titles like “The Voice of the Sugar Refinery Worker” and “The Hero Worker’s Library” will soon be available to patrons at the Wells Library on the Bloomington campus. Thanks to Dr. Padraic Kenney’s enthusiastic pursuit of otherwise forgotten materials, Indiana University will be the only place in the world to house the archives and periodicals of the Polish trade unions under Stalinism.

The collection includes the complete run of Trade Union Daily and Weekly News, which spans over four years and contains stories of individual workers and policy changes; stenograms of communist party meetings; union brochures that give advice to union activists; and workers’ brochures with titles like “Youth in People’s Poland” that give tips on hygiene and manners. Says Dr. Kenney: “This collection gives a flavor of Stalinism in the early 1950s and provides a window into the Stalinist mind-set.”

Dr. Kenney sees the new collection as a way to encourage further scholarship into labor movements in Poland, a country that has a tradition of union organizing. He hopes to highlight notable features of the collection this fall with a special event dedicated to commemorating the founding of Solidarity thirty years ago. In addition, he has designed a three-week college course where students will learn about the history of labor and trade unions in Poland and democratic movements around the world.

We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations to the Polish Studies Center:

Mirka Berkvam
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D. Patricia Ryan
John W. Ryan
Eleanor J. Valentine

Our events and programs are made possible by contributions made by the friends of the Polish Studies Center.
Faculty Profile:
A Conversation with Dr. Owen Johnson
By Raina Polivka

Dr. Owen V. Johnson is Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of History and Associate Professor in the School of Journalism here at Indiana University. He also served as the Polish Studies Center Director in 1989-90 and 2004-05. Dr. Johnson has just completed a semester teaching two graduate classes at the Institute of East European Studies at the University of Warsaw in Poland. One class focused on the history of communist media in the East European region while the other concerned contemporary mass media in the same region.

You are a notable scholar of sociocultural and historical development in East-Central Europe. What originally led you to study this part of the world?

Serendipity, in a way. I studied in London the second semester of my junior year. I had three weeks left after the semester was over before my flight returned to the States. Someone suggested to me that I attend a two-week workshop on “Modern Sweden” in Uppsala. So I did. The workshop drew maybe 60 people from around the world. Four of them were from Czechoslovakia. This was 1967. Reform was in the air, reform that would culminate in the “Prague Spring” a year later. I befriended these Czechs; one became my first wife. I was excited to discover a part of the world I didn’t know and where things were dramatically changing. My first trip to Czechoslovakia came during the Christmas holidays in December 1968. Although the Soviet invasion had canceled the Czech reform movement, there was still a muffled excitement that lingered in its aftermath.

While you began your academic career in the field of history, your interests soon led you to pursue journalism and media, especially as it pertains to East Central Europe and the fall of communism. Do you find ways to meld the two disciplines together? Does the journalist’s perspective differ from the historian’s perspective?

It is often said that journalism is the first draft of history. Perhaps, but it’s a draft that is written on the run, without the chance to consider the longer-term factors. In a way, my position at IU has allowed me to combine my two areas of interest. I had worked part time in journalism for about a dozen years before I came to IU. Now I do most of my journalism by teaching it, although I conduct about one interview a month as a guest host on WFIU’s Profiles. The main focus of my journalism and mass media research has been history. My major project in that area is writing a book on the relationship of mass media and nation in twentieth century Slovakia.

You have written on the role of media in the fall of communism. Could you speak briefly about this? How did media affect nation-building and collapse in the period leading up to and directly following the dissolution of communism in Central Europe? How did media propel or complicate revolution?

The nation-building role of the media in East-Central Europe was finished before the end of communist rule. This was accomplished by the population transfers and forced migrations at the end of World War II, which created largely uni-national states, and by the development of compulsory education, which led to the end of illiteracy.

The official media had little to do with the collapse of communism. The public’s faith in the official media had been declining for some time, as the reality portrayed in the
media had less and less in common with reality itself. If anything, the media reflected the bankruptcy of the ruling regimes. I remember visiting the office of Trybuna Ludu, the leading Polish communist party paper, in April 1989. There was an air of malaise, a recognition that the paper’s role was over. (In fact, the paper lived on as Trybuna, a shadow of itself, until this past fall, when a brief online note said that it would not publish anymore.)

The drugi obieg, or underground press, in Poland revealed the issues that a post-communist government would have to face. But that was pretty much unique to Poland. After the roundtable talks in Poland in 1989, the underground Tygodnik Mazowsze metamorphosed into Gazeta Wyborcza, which provided intellectual leadership during the transition, following the West European pattern of a newspaper with a view, even though its partisans in the West hailed it as a model of objectivity and fact. Throughout East-Central Europe, journalism was flooded by young people who had opinions and wanted to be a part of the political action, but who soon found that day-to-day journalism is hard work and doesn’t pay well. As the public became disenchanted with the new politics, it also became disenchanted with the mass media.

How have media and their role in East-Central European society changed since 1989? What direction are they going now?

They play an important role in giving public face to the political debates among politicians. Occasionally they produce an interesting exposé that forces the government to take action. For instance, I couldn’t help noticing the interesting reporting project undertaken by Gazeta Wyborcza in October. The paper created a fake university as part of an investigative story on the continuing demand for college diplomas. A few days later after advertisements for the fake university were placed in the paper and a website created, more than 500 people, in Poland and abroad, had made inquiry to the university, which was staffed by members of the paper’s Poznan bureau. One of the paper’s reporters wondered how naïve some people were when they believed the fake university’s claim to offer the best teachers in the country at the lowest prices.

Describe the atmosphere of 21st century university life in urban Poland. How would you characterize this new generation of students, who came of age following the collapse of Communism in 1989?

Today’s undergraduate students and even those in the first few years of graduate study have no memory of communism. They cannot imagine what life was like without the Internet, iPods, and Nasza Klasa (the Polish social network that at this point still far outnumbered Facebook). They cannot imagine a society built on fear and a government or party that could not supply the society with basic necessities. It seems to them like a strange concoction of science fiction.

What are some of the hot topics in Poland’s media right now? Do these reflect a certain national Polish identity?

Like other post-communist Central European states, Poland is turned inward and focused on its own affairs. But it expects people in other countries to care about Poland. Some Poles are surprised to realize that most outsiders could not name the prime minister or the president of Poland. A new president will be voted in this year and the jostling for power is all over the news. The mass media is praising Poland’s performance over the last year or two as the only country in the EU to post positive growth figures. However, there is concern over difficulties in hosting the European football championships in 2012. Warsaw has a continuing campaign to persuade foreigners to visit the city, and is hopeful that 2010, as The Year of Chopin, will be another event that will facilitate this. Poland is concerned about its international standing. Both because of its history and the size of its population, it wants to be recognized as a power in Europe.

You can find Dr. Johnson on IU’s Bloomington campus or over the airwaves on WFIU’s “Profiles” where he hosts interviews once a month to “get to know a person behind the persona”. Visit wfiu.org for more information.
Polish Studies Center Artists in Residence
By Raina Polivka

This year kicks off the Polish Studies Center Artists in Residence Program for student musicians at Indiana University. The Artists in Residence initiative, generously underwritten by the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, developed from a need to recognize and highlight the Polish musical tradition. Poland’s rich musical history dates as far back as the Middle Ages and laid the foundation for musical greats in the nineteenth century, such as Karol Łapiński, a violin virtuoso, and the innovative and lasting compositions of Fryderyk Chopin. Indeed, this legacy of musical expression and composition has extended into the present, making the twentieth century perhaps the most prolific in Polish musical history, with such masters as Witold Lutosławski, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Henryk Górecki.

The Polish Studies Center awarded $500 to one artist each in voice, piano, and viola to serve as Artists in Residence for 2009-10. As ambassadors of Polish music, these students are asked to participate in two events per semester in Bloomington or elsewhere in the region as representatives of the Polish Studies Center.

Laura Waters, soprano and recipient of the award for vocal performance, is a native of Chicago and a first year master’s student at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she recently completed her undergraduate degree. Waters became heavily involved in musical theater and operetta in high school and continued to broaden her repertoire, finding a niche in opera. She made her operatic debut in 2007 as Musetta in Giacomo Puccini’s La Bohème and has continued her stage career with small roles and ensemble work in Cendrillon, Manon, Arabella, and various other opera workshop performances. She is a student of vocal studies under Teresa Kubiak.

Alexandre Tsomaia, who received the award for piano performance, was born in Tbilisi, Georgia and began his music studies with his mother. At a young age he appeared as soloist with several orchestras in Georgia, as well as in student recitals and concerts. At fourteen, he was accepted at the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he studied with Stephen Perry. During his time in the United States, he has appeared as a featured soloist at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC and on NPR’s “From The Top”. Tsomaia premiered twenty-four preludes of the Georgian composer Sulkhan Tsintsadze at the 2002 Newport Music Festival, and has performed at Columbia University’s Miller Theatre with the members of the Toradze piano studio, receiving high acclaim from The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Tsomaia entered Indiana University in
fall 2003 as a student of Evelyne Brancart, continuing his studies with professor Edward Auer. In March 2006 he won the Indianapolis Matinee Musical competition.

Rafał Zyskowski, recipient of the award for viola performance, will be completing his Master’s program at the Jacob School of Music this spring. Zyskowski heralds from Monki, a small Polish town in the Podlaskie province. While in high school, he studied music in Białystok and in 2002 received 3rd prize in the All-Polish Viola Competition in Duszniki Zdrój. In 2004 he began his undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he studied with Prof. Jerzy Kosmala and Matthew Daline. He received his BM in Viola Performance in 2008. Over the last few years he has attended music festivals in Poland and abroad, including the International Music Festival in Głuchofazy, the Summer Music Academy in Żagań, and the Euro Music Festival in Leipzig. Zyskowski has taken lessons and master classes with known viola players Claude Lelong, Jesse Levine, Adam Smyla, and Steve Wyczynski. He is currently studying with Professor Alan de Veritch.

The Artists in Residence gave an inaugural performance at the annual Polish Studies Center holiday party, according the audience a glimpse into the richness of Polish classical music and of their own talents as musicians. They further showcased their talents in February in a concert entitled “Chopin and Beyond”, featuring the music of Chopin, Moniuszko, Lutosławski, Szymanowski, Bacewicz, and Karłowicz. The performance, sponsored by the Polish Studies Center, the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, and the Jacobs School of Music, took place at Auer Hall. Waters, Tsomaia, and Zyskowski will be performing at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago on March 20, 2010.

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The Joys of Teaching
By Iwona Dembowska-Wosik

I come from Łódź, a big city in the middle of Poland. I have spent all my life there - I have never been away from home for more than a few weeks. I never thought I would come to the U.S. It seemed too far away, too expensive, impossible. So, when it turned out I could get a Kosciuszko Foundation fellowship and actually go, I was amazed.

I wanted to come to IU because I love to teach Polish. It was my dream job from the day when I realized there were people in the world who want to learn it. And at IU I have the opportunity to teach students at 4 different levels - from elementary to advanced. My students are amazing people. Dedicated, hard-working, enthusiastic. In addition to fulfilling their classroom duties, they are eager to engage in other activities. They did a terrific job learning to dance a polonaise for the Slavic Department talent show in December. Many show up every week at The Runcible Spoon to take part in the Polish Table hosted by Professor Justyna Beinek and me, and they take part in almost every event organized by the PSC.

Honestly, I don’t think I could live without teaching. Being with my students, guiding them, and especially answering their questions about the Polish language and about Poland is the most fascinating thing. They make me redefine my national identity every single day. Nothing I do, nothing I used to take for granted before I started to teach, is obvious anymore.
Helena Modjeska: A Retrospective
By Raina Polivka

Internationally renowned in her time as the leading female performer of Shakespeare’s plays, Helena Modrzejewska, or Modjeska to her American patrons, captured audiences around the world with her interpretations of Ophelia, Juliet, Desdemona, Queen Anne, and others. Emigrating to the fertile terrain of Anaheim, California in 1876 and debuting on the American stage in San Francisco in 1877, Modjeska became an example of the growing presence of foreign actors in American theatre.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the actress’s death, occasioning a special performance of playwright and director Kazimierz Braun’s one-woman play, “Helena – Rzecz o Modrzejewskiej”. The play, performed in October 2009 at the Indianapolis Latvian Community Center, featured a bravura solo performance by Canadian-Polish actress Maria Nowotarska as Helena, who shuttled the spectators from the streets of Kraków and San Francisco to the actress’s private suite of her twilight years, where she meditated on the circumstances of her life. This event, sponsored by The Polish Cultural Society of Indiana, Inc. in collaboration with the Polish Studies Center, also included a special appearance by Kazimierz Braun himself, who joined in a Q & A with Nowotarska following the performance.

Mr. Braun continued his tour in Indiana with a talk given at the Indiana University Memorial Union in Bloomington where he addressed the rather extensive and significant presence of Polish actors in the history and development of American theatre. Braun highlighted the late nineteenth century as a period that saw an influx of Polish actors to the United States. No longer needing to adhere to Czarist censors, Polish-American actors were credited with propelling the mode of realism onto the American stage, where it has since remained the prevailing style of American theatre. Indeed, Polish actors have made lasting contributions to the performing arts including the Method Acting of Stanislavski.

Kazimierz Braun is an exceptional figure in the field of international theatre and drama. One of Poland’s best-known and most accomplished theatre directors at the time of his departure from Poland in 1985, since coming to the United States he has established himself here as a major director, playwright, scholar, and teacher. He is currently a professor of theatre and drama at SUNY – Buffalo.

Słowacki Play Premieres in the United States
By Raina Polivka

At the end of December, at a special event of the annual conference of American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) in Philadelphia, Pig Iron Theatre Company presented a staged reading of Balladina, the verse drama by Juliusz Słowacki (1809-1849), in the newly published translation by PSC director Bill Johnston. This event marked the 200th anniversary of Słowacki’s birth. The reading, complete with music and a reception (featuring raspberries!), was well attended by conference goers from AATSEEL and the much larger Modern Language Association (MLA) conference taking place at the same time. The direction and performances were excellent. The event was coordinated by Jessie Labov of Ohio State University, a good friend of the PSC. In November, to help Johnston prepare an effective shorter version of the play, friends of the Polish Studies Center gathered for an informal but very enjoyable reading of the script. (We note in particular that should the history business ever founder, Padraic Kenney would seem to have a second career in the theater beckoning.) Pictures can be seen on p. 15.
This spring, the PSC with the Russian and East European Institute launched its inaugural film series highlighting some of the finest examples of 21st-century cinema from East-Central Europe. In the immediate aftermath of 1989, most Central European cinema grappled with a new sense of freedom. The last decade, however, has seen a phenomenal output of creative energy in the region. Showcased in the series are established directors like Andrzej Wajda exploring new themes and styles; a talented middle generation of filmmakers like Petr Zelenka; and some emerging talents including Xawery Żuławski. Films revisit the region’s communist past, examine 21st-century life in the region, and meditate on the processes of acting and cinema. The series is also marked by stylistic originality, including the bleached neon lighting of the Budapest subway in Kontroll, and the frenetic cartoonish comedy of The Polish-Russian War. All in all, this series offers spectacular evidence that Central European cinematography is undergoing one of its strongest and most impressive periods in history. All films are shown on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in room 150 of the Student Building.

Jan 21 Sweet Rush (Tatarak) (Poland, dir. Andrzej Wajda, 2009). In a fascinating meta-cinematic creation, Wajda melds a pre-war story of passion and loss with the real-life grief of Krystyna Janda, the lead actor in the film-within-a-film, who movingly describes the recent death of her cinematographer husband.

Feb 4 Kontroll (Hungary, dir. Nimród Antal, 2003). Antal’s hilarious, brilliantly crafted movie takes place entirely in the Budapest subway, and describes the fraught lives of an oddball assemblage of ticket inspectors in their effort to carry out their job under less than ideal conditions.

Feb 18 The Polish-Russian War (Wojna polsko-ruska) (Poland, dir. Xawery Żuławski, 2009). Based on Dorota Masłowska’s astonishingly successful 2002 novel “Snow White and Russian Red,” this film finds a new cinematic language to match Masłowska’s extraordinary, drug-addled vision of youth in the new Poland.


Mar 25 Little Moscow (Mała Moskwa) (Poland, dir. Waldemar Krzystek, 2008). This film explores Poland’s communist past and tells of a romance between a Pole and the wife of a Russian officer stationed in Legnica in western Poland in the 1960’s.

Apr 8 The Karamazovs (Karamazovi) (Czech Republic, dir. Petr Zelenka, 2008). A troupe of Czech actors theatrically adapt Fyodor Dostoevsky’s “The Brothers Karamazov” in an abandoned steel mill in Poland. During a rehearsal of their play, real-life events are woven into the drama.

Apr 22 12:08 East of Bucharest (A fost sau n-a fost?) (Romania, dir. Corneliu Porumboiu, 2006). A small group of 1989 “veterans” gather in a run-down provincial TV studio to discuss the burning question: What was their true contribution to the revolution? director Porumboiu offers a hilarious yet profoundly thoughtful look at the memory and remembrance in relation to the end of communism. Winner of the Caméra d’Or for best first film at the Cannes Film Festival.
At the beginning of November, Polish Studies Center director and leading Polish translator Bill Johnston took part in Polish Poetry Now, a series of events in New York and Cambridge, MA to promote contemporary Polish poetry. Together with fellow translators Benjamin Paloff of the University of Michigan and Antonia Lloyd-Jones, Johnston took part in a panel discussion and a reading at Poets House in New York, and a reading at Harvard University. Four Polish poets were visiting the U.S. especially to take part in these events: Tomasz Różycki, Marzanna Kielar, Bożena Keff, and Tadeusz Dąbrowski. The readings and discussions were co-sponsored by the Polish Studies Center, Poets House, the Polish Cultural Institute in New York, Harvard University, and Zephyr Press, which publishes the work of these poets. Johnston is working on a translation of Tomasz Różycki’s mock epic poem Twelve Stations (Dwanaście stacji), while advanced doctoral student Mira Rosenthal (IUB - Comparative Literature) published Różycki’s debut volume in English, The Forgotten Keys (Zephyr Press, 2007), and is currently working on his volume entitled Colonies (Kolonie), a project for which she has received a PEN Translation Award and an National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

The picture of contemporary Polish poetry that emerged from the discussions and readings was fascinating. The sheer variety and quality of Polish writing today is astounding. It was also very reassuring to see excellent turnouts, especially at the New York events; this, and the fact that so much Polish poetry is presently being published in English translation, it’s evident that the new poetry is beginning to resonate with American readers.


**Scorched Maps**

_I took a trip to Ukraine. It was June._
_I waded in the fields, all full of dust and pollen in the air. I searched, but those I loved had disappeared below the ground,_

deepers than decades of ants. I asked about them everywhere, but grass and leaves have been growing, bees swarming. So I lay down, face to the ground, and said this incantation—

_you can come out, it’s over. And the ground, and moles and earthworms in it, shifted, shook, kingdoms of ants came crawling, bees began to fly from everywhere. I said come out,_

_I spoke directly to the ground and felt the field grow vast and wild around my head._

_By Tomasz Różycki_
_Translated by Mira Rosenthal_
FACULTY NEWS

Justyna Beinek (Slavic) gave several talks this year including a lecture on Romantic albums and memory at UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, as well as a presentation on Polish animated film at the World Language Festival. Her article “Making Literature in Albums: Strategies of Authorship in Pushkin’s Day” is forthcoming in *Toronto Slavic Quarterly*. Beinek became Director of Graduate Studies for literature majors in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in Fall 2009.

Jack Bielasiak (Political Science) presented professional papers on Polish social movements, post-communist reform and the political legacy of Solidarity at conferences in New Zealand, Kansas, Lisbon, and Jerusalem. He also gave lectures in Philadelphia and Warsaw on Democratic movements in the Soviet Bloc and global responses to Darfur.

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) was awarded an REEI Course Development Grant for “Music and 20th-Century Poland,” which she will teach in fall 2010, and a New Frontiers grant shared with Edward Auer for a Chopin Bicentennial event at Indiana University in July 2010. In February 2009 she presented and led an ethnomusicology workshop at the Jewish Music Forum in Chicago and has been on the Editorial Board of the Polish journal *De musica/Muzykalia/Judaica*. Goldberg has also published prolifically on Chopin and fantasy pieces of nineteenth-century Poland.

Owen Johnson (History & Journalism) see p. 4-5.

Bill Johnston (Comparative Literature & Second Language Studies) published three new translations in 2009: Jerzy Pilch’s novel *The Mighty Angel* (Pod mocnym aniołem), which was longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award for 2010; Andrzej Stasiuk’s collection of essays *Fado* (Dalkey Archive); and Juliusz Słowacki’s 1834 verse play *Balladina*, which was published (in rhyming verse) in *Poland’s Angry Romantic: Two Poems and a Play by Juliusz Słowacki* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing); see p. 8 for news of a staged reading of *Balladina* in this translation. For the first half of the year Johnston was living in Poland, completing data collection for an ethnographic study of an evangelical Christian language school. He is currently finishing work on a translation of Wiesław Myśliwski’s 1984 novel *Stone Upon Stone* (Kamień na kamieniu) for Archipelago Books.

Padraic Kenney (History), when not developing the communist labor union collection (see p. 3) or organizing symposiums (see p. 2), has been working on his book, *1989: Democratic Revolutions at the Cold War’s End*, published by Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2010.

STUDENT NEWS


Natalie Misteravich (Slavic Languages) is a new student in the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures with a focus on Polish Studies. Her interests include Polish language, literature, and culture. She holds a diploma in Polish folk and national dance from the 4-Letnie Polonijne Studium Choreograficzne in Rzeszów, Poland. Last semester she was asked to create and teach a *polonaise* for the Slavic department talent show, which was a great success! Because of that success, there is now talk of forming a Polish folk dance group at Indiana University.

Mira Rosenthal (Comparative Literature) received a 2009 NEA Fellowship to translate Tomasz Różycki’s book *Colonies*. Her translations have appeared recently in *PEN America, Poetry Daily, A Public Space, Six Polish Poets*, and elsewhere. She is now conducting research for her dissertation on the poetry translations of Czesław Miłosz, for which she received a 2010 REEI/Mellon Endowment Grant-in-Aid of Research. In June, her daughter Matilda was born at home in Jacksonville, FL, where Rosenthal now lives with her husband, historian Greg Domber.
STUDENT NEWS (continued)

David Sadlier (Voice) prepared and defended a study of Karol Szymanowski’s songs set to the poems of James Joyce.

Lisa Cooper Vest (Musicology) received a Fulbright-Hays fellowship for twelve months of study in Poland for her dissertation “Critical Discourse, Political Negotiation and the Polish Musical Avant-garde, 1956-1970”. She was also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and an American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Fellowship in East European Studies (declined).

VISITING SCHOLARS

Michał Bitner is Assistant Professor in the School of Law at the University of Warsaw, where he lectures on financial law and public-private partnerships. He is also the Director of the Management of Projects Post-Graduate Program funded by the EU. Dr. Bitner will be visiting IU - Bloomington from spring through the summer of 2010 to conduct research at SPEA.

Michał Marciak is affiliated with the Department of Jewish Studies at Krakow University and has published extensively on biblical history in German, Polish, and English journals. He is a visiting scholar in the Department of Religious Studies at IU - Bloomington for the spring 2010 semester.

Pawel Marczewski is a Doctoral student at the Department of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Warsaw. His research interests are focused on history of ideas, political theory, and sociology of knowledge. As a visiting scholar at IU he was affiliated with the Department of Political Science. During his stay from February until June 2009 he completed a part of his dissertation dedicated to republican concepts in the work of Alexis de Tocqueville. He also presented a talk within the framework of Political Theory Spring 2009 Luncheon Series.

Paulina Pietrowska is a Doctoral student in Classics at the University of Warsaw with a particular interest in translating and analyzing notions of the neoplatonic philosophers while taking their viewpoint into consideration. She visited IU - Bloomington during the fall 2009 semester with a Renaissance Studies grant through the Department of History to complete her dissertation on the writings of Marsilio Ficino.

Anna Zachorowska-Mazurkiewicz is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Economics and Management at Jagiellonian University. She visited IU and the Polish Studies Center in August and September 2009. As an affiliate of the Economics Department, she is interested in heterodox economic theories, especially in institutional and feminist economics. While in Bloomington she conducted research on care and economics.

Jakub Zająckowski is Assistant Professor at the Institute of International Relations, which is part of the Department of Journalism and Political Science at the University of Warsaw. His research interests include the foreign and security policy of India, India-US relations, and major-power status. He studied with faculty from the Department of Political Science during the summer of 2009.

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Polish Studies Center Executive Committee and Advisory Board

Executive Committee Members:
Bill Johnston, Director, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and of Second Language Studies
Justyna Beinek, Assistant Professor, Slavic
Steven Franks, Professor and Chair, Slavic
Halina Goldberg, Associate Professor of Musicology Padraic Kenney, Professor of History
Jeffrey Veidlinger, Professor of History and Associate Director, Borns Jewish Studies Program

Advisory Board:
John Brian O’Donnell, MD
Marian Krajewska Bates
Mirka Berkvam
Monika Stepień
Zygmunt Pizło

The Polish Studies Center now benefits from the advice of our friends in the Polish community in Bloomington and around Indiana.
Upcoming Events

March 20 - Polish Studies Center Artists in Residence to give a concert in Chicago at the Chopin Theatre

March 25 - *Little Moscow (Mała Moskwa)* (Poland, dir. Waldemar Krzystek, 2008), 7:30 pm in SB 150

April 8 - *The Karamazovs (Karamazovi)* (Czech Republic, dir. Petr Zelenka, 2008), 7:30 pm in SB 150

April 22 - *12:08 East of Bucharest (A fost sau n-a fost?)* (Romania, dir. Corneliu Porumboiu, 2006), 7:30 pm in SB 150

April 26 - Andrzej Stasiuk, internationally acclaimed writer, with publisher Monika Sznajderman to deliver a reading and talk at Indiana University, Bloomington

September 11 - Polish Studies Center Annual Picnic at Bryan Park, Woodlawn Shelter, from noon - 3:00pm

October - To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Solidarity’s pivotal role in the dissolution of communism, Witold Łuczywo, journalist and inventor of underground printing techniques used by activists to avoid communist censors, will teach an IU class with Padraic Kenney entitled “The Technology of Revolution”. This course will be supplemented by a special exhibit of trade union literature at the Wells Library and an international symposium.

October 22 - International symposium exploring the origins and legacies of trade union activism

Donate to the Polish Studies Center

The PSC is greatly in need of financial contributions for its scholarly, cultural, and social activities. Donations to the Center are crucial in allowing us to build our programs. As you know, the Center arranges a wide variety of scholarly events including conferences, talks, and symposia; cultural events such as concerts, theatrical performances, readings, and exhibitions; and informal gatherings. Your help is vital in pursuing the Center’s mission to promote the study of Polish culture, history, and society at Indiana University and beyond.

To donate to the Polish Studies Center, please make checks payable to the “IU Foundation” and be sure to write “Polish Studies Center” in the memo portion of the check. Checks should be sent to:

IU Foundation
Polish Studies Center
Post Office Box 500
Bloomington, IN 47402

Or donate online by visiting our website at www.indiana.edu/~polishst/donate.shtml

*We thank you for thinking of us in these difficult economic times.*
Photo Review of the Year

Bill Johnston welcoming everyone to the 2009-2010 Polish Studies picnic

Gosia shares a taste of Polish culture at Foster Residence Hall’s Cultural Fair.

Polish favorites were enjoyed by picnic guests

Iza and friends enjoying the picnic

Bill Johnston and Kazimierz Braun

Kazimierz Braun sign his new book
Dr. Padraic Kenney reads the part of Kirkor during the *Balladina* reading at IU

Urszula Paleczek and Iwona Dembowska-Wosik participating in the *Balladina* reading

Stan Garus and guests at the Polish Studies Center holiday party

Halina Goldberg with Artists in Residence, Bill Johnston, and Vice-Pres. of Int’l. Affairs, Patrick O’Meara at the PSC holiday party

Keynote speaker Marek Konarzewski from the Polish Embassy in Washington during the September symposium

Lively conversations at the PSC holiday party
Director
Bill Johnston

Administrative Assistant
Bethany Lister

Graduate Assistant
Raina Polivka

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