“Partnership” was the common theme at the Polish Studies Center this past year. Reaching across campus and across the Atlantic, we are building and strengthening the ties that keep Polish Studies at the center of international activity at Indiana University.

No program better encapsulates these efforts than our Artists-in-Residence scholarships. For the second year in a row, we’re supporting three young musicians from the Jacobs School of Music at IU. If you have not been to an AIR concert in Bloomington or Chicago, learn about the group in these pages. For an amateur in the world of classical music like me, seeing three musicians come together to develop a concert program is quite inspiring.

Two personal partnerships energized Polish Studies this past year. Bill Johnston has been translating the work of acclaimed novelist and essayist Andrzej Stasiuk for a decade. To celebrate their latest success, the essay collection Fado, Stasiuk made his first trip to the United States. Writer and translator put on a great show to a packed house in April. In October, I teamed up with Solidarity legend Witold Łuczywo (pictured at right) to teach a course on underground printing. Read about these two events inside.

The most important partnerships are at home. I’d like to thank Vice President for International Affairs Patrick O’Meara, and his office, for their continued support of PSC initiatives. The College Arts and Humanities Institute has been instrumental in several recent projects, especially the underground course. Here at 1217 E. Atwater, Bill Johnston has steered the PSC for most of the last decade. Thank you, Bill, for making the Center such a lively place! We are lucky that our Graduate Assistant Raina Polivka could return for a second year, and that Gosia Swearingen could come back as Administrative Assistant and help me ease into the director’s chair. By the time you read this, Gosia will have left us again, but we’ll be seeing her and her family at PSC events. Stop by the Center and greet our new assistant, Kate Whipple. Kate was once active in the Polish Student Association here, so she’s also an old friend.

New but familiar sounds can be heard at the Center. In one room, the Archive of Historical and Ethnographic Yiddish Memories project explores hundreds of interviews with Yiddish speakers recorded in Eastern Europe (including Poland and the kresy); across the hall, IU students are learning Yiddish. Sometimes you can stand in the corridor and hear Yiddish and Polish simultaneously, reviving the great multilingual tradition of Poland here in Bloomington.

More partnerships are in the offing. Watch for news about other East European visitors this summer, and a project with the Polish Embassy this fall. And consider how you can partner with us! Your support of our programs is vital to our future. Come to an event, make suggestions for new programs, and please donate to the PSC. I look forward to your continuing membership in the community.
In Spring 2010 beautiful melodies from some of Poland’s most famous composers befell the ears of audience members from as far away as Chicago to IU’s own Auer Hall.

The Polish Studies Center Artists-in-Residence gave two excellent instrumental and vocal performances to highlight Polish classical music from Chopin and beyond.

The event, co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President of International Affairs and the Jacobs School of Music, featured music by Chopin, Moniuszko, Lutosławski, Szymanowski, Bacewicz, and Karłowicz.

With Alexandre Tsomaia on piano, Rafał Zyskowski on viola, and soprano Laura Waters sweeping audience members off their seats with beautiful arias and graceful librettos, the performance was an homage to the contributions made by Polish musicians to the musical world. The musicians then went on to perform at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago, where they participated in a musical celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin’s birth.

Concluding the concert was a performance Edward Auer, Professor of Piano at Jacobs School of Music, IU, who is the first American to win a prize in the Chopin International Competition of Warsaw.

This year, the Polish Studies Center awarded $500 to one artist each in voice, cello, and piano to serve as Artists in Residence for 2010-11. 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.

Soprano Alyssa Cox recently completed a five-year program with a B.M. in Voice and a M.M. in Opera at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. In Fall 2009 she began post-graduate studies at Indiana University, where she currently studies with Carol Vaness.

Jinhee Han, a cellist and a native of South Korea, was a principal cellist of the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra at IU under the batons of Leonard Slatkin, David Effron, and Cliff Colnot.

She is currently pursuing her D.M. with Emilio Colon as his Assistant Instructor, and she holds a M.M. at IU and a B.M. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Michael Pecak, a native Chicagoan, began playing the piano at age five. In 2008, Michael graduated from Northwestern University where he earned his B.M. degree specializing in both Piano Performance and Orchestral Conducting. He is a laureate of the prestigious Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition in New York, NY where he earned special recognition for his performance of Szymanowski’s music.
Communist regimes placed a high priority on communicating with the population. They needed to convey aspects of Communist ideology to ensure that people could identify important leaders, understand social and economic trends, recognize internal and external enemies, and know about upcoming celebrations or other mass events. Workers—whether they were members of the Party (in Poland, the Polish United Workers’ Party, PZPR) or not—were the most important target for this information. For this reason, the Party, the government, and the trade unions published daily, weekly, and monthly papers in print runs of tens or hundreds of thousands. They were not intended to turn a profit, but to saturate the workers’ environment, becoming the total source of information.

The Polish Opposition that emerged in the late 1970s recognized this. Even before they could ask people to imagine a different political or economic system, they had to provide alternative sources of information. These news sources (like *Biuletyn Informacyjny*, first published in the underground in 1976) promised readers the plain truth about the Communist regime and its repressive policies. When the opposition blossomed in August 1980, producing a massive independent social movement/trade union, Solidarity, it brought the underground press into the light. However, December 1981’s declaration of martial law sent Solidarity and its press underground again.

The October 2010 exhibit presented publications from two diametrically opposed political entities of modern Poland, the Communists and the Opposition. The exhibit featured the recent acquisitions of the Library of the History of the Workers’ Movement (Biblioteka Historii Ruchu Zawodowego, or BHRZ) in Warsaw. Materials displayed are part of The History of the Workers’ Movement Collection, found only at Indiana University—Bloomington (see *The PSC Newsletter*, Spring 2010 for more details).

**Exhibit Showcases The History of the Workers’ Movement Collection**

Curated by Wookjin Cheun

The thirtieth anniversary of Solidarity, Poland’s greatest contribution to the toppling of communism, coincided with the arrival in Bloomington of the Library of the Trade Union Movement. These two events provided the context for a symposium, “The Solidarities of Communism: Trade Unions and Social Policy in Eastern Europe.”

Four scholars presented papers related in some way to the new trade union collection and to the Solidarity anniversary. Brigitte LeNormand, a historian from IU-Southeast, spoke on “The House that Socialism Built: Reform, Consumption and Inequality in Postwar Yugoslavia,” a talk that dovetailed neatly with that by Professor Małgorzata Fidelis of the University of Illinois-Chicago, on “Trade Unions And The Question Of Gender Equality In Postwar Poland, 1945-49.” These papers reminded us that Communism’s success and failure rested above all on its ability to provide goods to workers.

In the second panel, Tomasz Inglot of Minnesota State University-Mankato considered the fate of this welfare state, in “Trade Unions And The Polish ‘Emergency Welfare State’—A Critical Reassessment.” Finally, Gerald Beyer of Saint Joseph’s University reminded us of Solidarity’s ambitions to remake the social order, in “The Discourse and Ideals of Solidarity: Beyond Communism Towards a Republic of Equals.” Commentary was provided by Professors Padraic Kenney and Jack Bielasiak of IU.

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**Symposium: The Solidarities of Communism**

Left. “Let’s Protect Our Eyes at Work.” Work safety and hygiene was a common theme of Communist trade union publications.

Right. A worker reading a Solidarity publication during a sit-in strike at a repair shipyard in Gdańsk (August 1988).
Solidarity in Action:
Revolution, Printing, and the Student Experience
By Raina Polivka

As if you could sense the watchful eyes of Communist informants or hear the wail of police sirens rushing to suppress the Uprising, students in Professor Padraic Kenney’s “Technology of Revolution” class spent a sunny Saturday afternoon in October in the murky Polish Studies Center basement building printing presses to print materials detailing revolutions past and present.

As part of a university-wide initiative to commemorate the founding of Solidarity, the Polish workers’ opposition movement that brought down communist rule in the 1980s, Kenney’s class combined seminars in historical revolutions with hands-on experiences. To accompany the students on their journey to the underground, the Polish Studies Center with help from the College Arts and Humanities Institute, brought activist and founding Solidarity member, Witold Luczywo to the IU campus.

Return to the Underground
Born the 23rd of Sept., 1946 in Dąbrowa Górnicza, Luczywo became an active participant in Polish protests and demonstrations against the Communist regime from a young age. While he was involved with university strikes and worker walkouts in the late 1960s-early 1970s, he discovered that he could reach a wider audience and have a louder voice through publishing and distributing leaflets and newspapers advocating solidarity among the public and an end to communism.

From 1977-1980 Luczywo was co-founder and publisher of the independent biweekly paper Robotnik (The Worker). In order to conceal publishing activities from the authorities, he invented and perfected underground printing methods such as adapting the technique of silkscreen printing for the underground serials and using shoe polish instead of the expensive and conspicuous ink jars. Thanks to the innovations circulation grew from several hundred to 60,000 in August 1980. In the years 1977-1980, Luczywo’s life was riddled with disruptions and police interference: he was arrested 25 times for 48 hours each, and his house was searched as many times by the secret police.

Luczywo went into hiding under a false name when Martial Law was declared on 13th December 1981. In the years 1982-1984 he resurfaced and became co-founder and publisher of a weekly Tygodnik Mazowsze (The Mazovia Weekly), which would become the largest paper of the underground Solidarity movement.

Since the fall of communism in Poland, Luczywo continues to stay active in politics and journalism, but finds he is most drawn to the innovative techniques designed to facilitate communication and the spread of information. He has since made a living through electrical engineering.
The Underground Comes to Bloomington

While IU students didn’t face the threat of incarceration or interrogation, they did construct and use the tools from the period of restrictions and government prohibitions.

Mixing ink with oil soap to make it suitable for silk screening, washing screens between print runs in the upstairs shower, and even muffling typewriters with towels to avoid outsider detection, students experienced what it was like to live and publish in an era of extreme and oppressive government censorship.

Mary Werden, a graduate student in History commented, “I study the communist period in Poland, so it’s important to understand the circumstances ordinary people faced everyday. In the West, we can say things like censorship, but often we don’t understand what that really entailed for the people experiencing it.”

The class consisted of both undergraduate and graduate students of disciplines ranging from Journalism to International Studies. For many, this was the first they heard of underground printing and the power these low-tech presses had on changing public policy and social structure.

Indeed, when not constructing their own press, students were learning about democratic social movements and the role of dissident journalism in movements from around the world.

Students applied these lessons to their final project: using their own presses, students published leaflets, a newspaper—entitled Solidarni—and a poster detailing the complexities and historical significance surrounding opposition movements from as far back as the Haitian Revolution at the turn of the nineteenth century to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict of today.

In keeping with the spirit of the Polish underground press, students distributed newspaper copies clandestinely, by suprising unsuspecting passersby outside of Ballantine Hall and People’s Park with a flurry of revolutionary materials. Students also gave a public presentation of underground printing techniques after a viewing of the film, Strike, by Volker Schlondorff.

Łuczywo’s visit to IU came on the tail end of his first trip to the United States. His participation and instruction in the course certainly made an impact on the students. Łuczywo told one Herald Times reporter, “I’m very surprised they are so enthusiastic. This seems to be a great adventure for them.”

Sometimes we tend to take history for granted, not appreciating the choices and circumstances that shape the actions and decisions of those people we study. I think the most important aspect was the immediacy the course brought to the idea of history.

—Mary Werden

Want a copy of Solidarni, a souvenir of the new Polish underground? Contact the Polish Studies Center, and we’ll send you one!
Arriving in Bloomington, Indiana in August, 1959, to begin graduate work in bilingualism and American literature, Franciszek Lyra would become the first Polish citizen to earn an advanced degree from Indiana University. In 1962, Lyra was awarded a Ph.D. for his work in the Linguistics Department and has since then gone on to teach and mentor students at the University of Warsaw interested in American studies. This spring, I spoke with Dr. Lyra about his time in the United States and how it impacted his life back in Poland. From a small college town in the Midwest to the hometown of William Faulkner in Mississippi, from the halls of the White House to a small Polish town in Texas, Mr. Lyra’s adventures led him through the heartland of the United States in order to understand some of his favorite writers and to discover parts of himself.

When I learned that I was the recipient of a scholarship to attend any American university of my choosing, I went to a large map of the United States and looked for a university that was near the heart of the country. You see, ever since I was in high school, following the horrid events of World War II, I was captivated by the vision of a united Europe—embedded in the oxymoron “e pluribus unum.” Later, I learned of its presence in the seal of the United States. By choosing a Midwestern location for my transient life in America, I thought I would be able to appreciate the nature of unity in the myriad ingredients that make up the United States of America.

In retrospect, the IU community back then, largely remained untouched by the swelling counterculture that was sweeping the nation. The community seemed oblivious to the fact that it was still living in the shadows of the most bucolic decade in American history: a time of moral and social conformity, a docile style of living reflected, for instance, in the white bobby socks and neat bow ties worn by students in the lecture halls, or the boys cruising in behemoth cars with stately fins. The only evidence of the simmering anti-establishment movement I witnessed was Allen Ginsburg’s visit for a poetry reading with rock ’n roll in the background, to what appeared to me a bashful audience. No symptoms of the soon to follow social upheaval, the Civil Rights movement, feminism, etc.

During my three years at IU I never met an American of Polish descent in town. In the university setting, however, I was immediately introduced to several colleagues of Polish descent. All told, there were four of us—a small Polish community indeed, but one that would survive to this day.

It was precisely through one of these friendships that I was led to the oldest Polish community in the United States: Panna Maria, Texas. The town is so small that it did not even show up on the Rand McNally Road Atlas!

In the summer of 1960, I traveled to Panna Maria, Texas to collect linguistic material for my dissertation on Polonia, or the Polish diaspora, by interviewing fourth and fifth generation residents of the small village who were still speaking the Silesian dialect.

Even though Polonia, the outcome of depolonization, is a phenomenon most prevalent in urban areas where large communities of Polish immigrants gather, Panna Maria, Texas and other surrounding Polish-named hamlets, provided a unique insight into the roots of Polonia through the perspective of a hundred-year history and the transition from Polishness to Americanness via bilingualism and biculturalism brought about by the radio, tv, the car, and the withdrawal of the Polish language from schools and churches.
From today’s perspective, the waves of post-WWII Polish immigrants hardly fit the paradigm of Polish immigration of the last quarter of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. Many of today’s Polish immigrants to America are highly cultured refugees and are averse to being identified as Polonians, particularly as hyphenated Americans, or as Americans though they often accept American citizenship. Such was the case, for example, with Czesław Miłosz and Maria Kuncewiczowa.

Studying and living in the United States fueled my interest in American literature. Among my favorite writers are Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, and Flannery O’Connor. I am particularly interested in the works of William Faulkner and during a summer vacation, I traveled to his hometown in Oxford, Mississippi to tread in his footsteps—to live up to Goethe’s famous motto: “Wer den Dichter will verstehen, muss in Dichters Lande gehen” (Who would the poet understand, / Must visit in the poet’s land). The visit to Faulkner’s Yoknapatawpha County/Jefferson County contributes substantially to a better understanding of his work. In teaching American literature I have always drawn students’ attention to the geography of the authors’ lives and contents of their work whenever applicable.

Apart from having had the opportunity to collect material for my future book on Faulkner (published after my return to Poland; it had two editions in the 1960s), I also came face to face with America’s greatest evil—segregation. Indeed, I am fortunate to have been in the United States during a time that was so loaded with the onset of change and charged with the challenges and anticipations of reform. I even got to shake hands with President John F. Kennedy in November 1961 to help commemorate International Students Day.

Franciszek Lyra has written about Polish-American literature and helped to found the English Department at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. He has taught classes in American Studies at University of Warsaw, and since his retirement has been working to create an alumni association for other Polish Indiana University graduates and friends.

A Message of Thanks
by Iwona Dembowska-Wosik

I bet this is how getting an Academy Award must feel—you’re there, on the top of the world, still not believing in what’s just happened but starting to feel that you have just accomplished something great and...you’re speechless.

My last semester in Bloomington is passing by and it is hard to believe I have been here for two years and must now return to Poland.

I am so grateful that I could come here to teach Polish. It has been a dream come true and every minute of it was worth leaving home. Each day I wake in the morning and the thought that I am going to teach in 2 hours makes me happy. Being with my students is awesome on many levels: they ask me questions that blow my mind, they speak Polish better and better every week, and they amaze me with their dedication. I teach them vocabulary, grammar, and I try to show them what it means to be Polish. They in turn make me discover something new about Poland, our language or the world in general almost every day.

In the fall, for example, thanks to my students, I found out how much fun it is to direct a commercial for the Polish language course, while they turned into actors and TV and radio presenters for the Slavic Department Talent Show.

Earlier, Natalie Misteravich, a student, organized a workshop in decorating pisanki—traditional Easter eggs. Isn’t it funny that I had to come to the other side of the world to learn a Polish tradition! (Thank you, Natalie!)

There were also moments of pride, especially during the master class and the spelling bee organized by Professor Jolanta Tambor from the University of Silesia in Katowice, who was our guest in October.

While I anticipate my return home to Poland will bring transition and change, it fills me with joy to know how much I grew to love my home here in Bloomington.

Dziękuję!
Smolensk Tragedy Brings People Together

Few moments in recent memory brought Poles and Polonophiles in Bloomington closer to their friends and relatives in Poland than the tragedy of April 10, 2010, when an airplane carrying Poland’s president, his wife, and 94 others crashed near Smolensk, Russia, killing all aboard. Some attended a mass held in a Bloomington church to remember the victims. Many gathered for a discussion of the tragedy and its consequences, led by Professor Bill Johnston and Padraic Kenney. The Polish Studies Center received many notes of condolence.

Polish Studies Film Series Goes International

Following on the heels of a successful film series from last Spring, the Polish Studies Center continues to provide viewing opportunities that take audience members beyond Poland, into the Hungarian, Romanian, Bosnian and even Russian cinematic landscape. Films range from mordant comedy with the agonies of a mother-daughter relationship in Budapest as represented in Fresh Air (dir. Ágnes Kocsis and Andrea Roberti, Hungary, 2006) to the devastating story of atrocities committed against women in the 1990’s Bosnian War as revealed through As If I Am Not There (dir. Juanita Wilson, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2010). There is ample opportunity to watch recent Polish film releases, too, such as: Rewers (2009), Dom zły (2009), and 33 sceny z życia (2008).

Co-sponsored with REEI and the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, films will be shown at the Student Building on IU Campus at 7:30, two Thursday evenings a month until the end of the Spring semester. Check out our website for more details.

www.indiana.edu/~polishst

Auction Raises $2000 for Polish Studies

The bidding was lively at an auction fundraiser at the home of Ivona and Ray Hedin earlier this month. Polish folk art, paintings, photographs, and other items - even an IOU for loaves of fresh bread - attracted a lot of interest. This event, the first in memory among the friends of Polish Studies in Bloomington, raised over $2000 for the Center and for the new Polish Century Club Endowment.

Thank you, everyone, for your generosity! Special thanks to our hosts, the Hedins; to auctioneer Bill Johnston; to the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs for sponsorship; and to those who donated items: Mary McGann, Steve and Karen Franks, Iwona Dembowska-Wosik, Izabela Ziółkowska-Kenney, Nita Levison, and Magda Sokolowski. We hope this is the start of a new tradition.

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

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

We thank you for thinking of us in these difficult economic times.
Endowment to Fund Polish Studies Students
by Raina Polivka

Founded in 1987 by Edward J. Zebrowski, the Polish Century Club of Indianapolis, Indiana worked “to translate from Polonia and transmit to the public the basic spiritual characteristics of Polish Culture.”

With the active support of its members and allies in the community, the Polish Century Club hosted an eclectic assortment of events including dinner and dance nights celebrating “Bigos,” the meat stew considered Poland’s national dish, and “Dyngus,” or Easter Monday, as well as Super Bowl Parties, International Polka Festivals and the annual pig roast.

In 1994, the Polish Century Club, under the presidential leadership of Danielle Korson, administered The Polish Century Club of Indianapolis, Indiana Fellowship Fund in recognition of the important contributions made to the study of Polish culture by Indiana University’s Polish Studies Center. The fellowship funds IU students pursuing Polish studies and faculty and students involved in Warsaw University exchange programs.

Thanks to continued support from the Polish Century Club and from our generous donors, the fellowship has reached endowment status surpassing $10,000.

This money will not only help the Polish Studies Center continue to provide resources and services to its affiliates, but will also further the opportunities available to those interested in Polish language and culture.

A New Way to Support Polish Studies
by Padraic Kenney

The Polish Studies Center is striving to find ever new ways to connect with students, with the community, and with our colleagues in Poland. We hope to present the latest in knowledge about Polish history, literature, arts, politics, and society, and to encourage new explorations and create the next generation of Polish scholarship.

We believe those goals are the ones shared by everyone in our community. We know they are the ones that motivated the Polish Century Club of Indianapolis, more than 15 years ago, to create a new scholarship fund, now the Polish Century Club Endowment. Please consider contributing to the endowment. Contributions to this fund will go to support students interested in Poland and research on Poland.

The Polish Studies Center also welcomes donations to support the many activities we sponsor during the year. Please consider adding your support to our work.

For more information about ways you can give to the Polish Studies Center, please visit our website at:

www.indiana.edu/~polishst/

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

Mirka & Michael Berkvam
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Our events and programs are made possible by contributions from the friends of the Polish Studies Center.
In Spring 2010 Andrzej Stasiuk, one of Poland’s most important contemporary writers and public intellectuals, made his American debut at Indiana University where he gave a talk and bilingual reading with IU Professor Bill Johnston. A gifted travel writer, Stasiuk has journeyed widely in Central and South-East Europe and has been a notable voice in recent debates about regional identity and the post-1989 experiences of the postcommunist states.

He and his wife Monika Sznajderman together run one of Poland’s leading publishing houses, Wydawnictwo Czarne, which has served as a major venue for up-and-coming writers and for translated fiction and non-fiction. Stasiuk himself, has become one of the most widely translated Polish authors of his generation. Four of his books have appeared in English, including two—the novel Nine and the book of essays Fado—translated by Johnston.

Known for his perceptive wit and discerning eye, Stasiuk’s work ushers the reader into the heart of Central Europe, where the countries’ rich traditions and cultures are permanently inscribed on the landscape and its inhabitants. Revealing “the face of a continent”, Stasiuk explores the effects of capitalism and consumerism on a countryside that has already undergone the shuffling of power and the repartitioning of borders. Heralding the onset of the twenty-first century, Stasiuk leaves the reader with this: “from the reek of cabbages, you’ve entered the world of plastics.”

The Polish Studies Center event was made possible by The Horizons of Knowledge Lecture Series and was co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and REEI. Stasiuk and Johnston read to a packed house of students, faculty, and Polish enthusiasts from all disciplines. Following the reading, Stasiuk traveled to New York City where he participated in open readings with Patti Smith and Salman Rushdie at the 2010 PEN World Voices Festival.

Anna Niedźwiedź’s The Image and the Figure

An anthropologist teaching at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Jagiellonian University, and an IU Visiting Scholar alum, Anna Niedźwiedź’s latest book looks at contemporary representations of Our Lady of Częstochowa, the most famous and the most venerated holy image in Poland. Characteristics of the image—the outline of the Virgin with Child on her lap, the dark face of Mary, and the scars visible on her right cheek—are all very well known in Poland. During the communist period (1945-1989) the image served as one of the most popular symbols of resistance—combining religious and national dimensions. Nowadays, countless copies of the original image can be seen not only in churches but also on streets, above building gates, in shops, cafeterias, in public places like offices and libraries, or in public transportation as well as in private cars where drivers often hang it above the steering wheel. Niedźwiedź’s The Image and the Figure examines the popular symbolic and mythological meanings embodied by this figure.
Bill Johnston translates Myśliwski’s *Stone upon Stone*  
by Raina Polivka

“The war will be won not by bullets, but by feet,” muses narrator Szymek in Wiesław Myśliwski’s novel *Stone upon Stone*, newly translated by IU’s Bill Johnston. Set in the rural landscape of the Polish countryside, *Stone upon Stone* tells the story of one man’s journey from impetuous youth to the many roles and adventures that befall him in a small village through wartime and the tranquility of old age. Considered Myśliwski’s most celebrated work, *Stone upon Stone* is a meticulously crafted epic story taking the author over ten years to finish. Though Johnston’s translation did not take nearly as long, he does admit that he first encountered the book over twenty years ago. “Translating is a craft. I feel that for a book of this magnitude and unique complexity, I am only now qualified to take on this project.”

As the title suggests, the book builds from one story to the next, carefully constructing a narrative that is as close to the land as it is to the speaker, our narrator Szymek. It is precisely this attention to language that brought Johnston back to the book. “This book is erroneously categorized as ‘peasant literature.’ While it is true that Myśliwski links language with place, dialects and locations are left intentionally ambiguous. It is in this indistinguishable pan-peasant Polish landscape, that the novel takes on mythical features—where Szymek is the everyman suffering and living in the everywhere.” Indeed, the language itself, at once pithy and earthy, almost seems to come from the land—as if the stories shared with the reader will be passed on and, like the earth that bears markings and memories of human folly and delight, endures.

Johnston shared his translation with a packed house early this year. A book signing and Q & A followed the reading.

*Stone upon Stone* is available in paperback from Archipelago Press.

An Adventure in Polish Reference Sources: 2010-2011 Faculty Exchange  
by Wookjin Cheun

I had no complaints about my stay in Warsaw, well, except for the unusually early winter. Three consecutive days at -15 C with 10 cm of snow everyday forced some stores to close earlier than usual. But the university library (BUW), an impressively modern six-story building on Dobra Street, did not seem too concerned about these “adversities” of nature, and for that I was immensely grateful because the dependence of my project on the library was almost total. While in Warsaw, I planned to examine *de visu* at least 50 “landmark” reference works (encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies) of Poland, with the Slavic Bibliography class that I teach every other year in mind, and to gather sources on the history of Polish bibliography for journal publication. Poland is a nation with a long list of significant reference works, usually beginning with Józef Andrzeicz Żalski of the 18th century. Although his magnum opus, *Bibliotheca Polona magna universalis*, was never published and its original manuscript destroyed in late 1944, he evidently set the curve for future Polish librarians and bibliographers. The 19th and 20th centuries witnessed a continued stream of magnificent, grand-scale reference works in Poland. Clearly towering over all these great works was Karol Estreicher’s (1827-1908) *Bibliografia polska*, the 34-volume encyclopedic national bibliography, consisting of more than 200,000 entries. The author, a trained lawyer who worked at the courts of Warsaw and Lwów, spent his entire adult life on this bibliography. How he made it and, most of all, what drove him to pursue such a grand national project under foreign rule, would be an interesting story.
Faculty News

Justyna Beinek (Slavic) published an article in *The Effect of Palimpsest*, Bozena Shallcross and Ryszard Nycz, eds., 2011. A collected volume co-edited with Piotr Kosicki, *Re-mapping Polish-German Memory: Geographical, Cultural, and Intellectual Space since World War II*, is slated for publication in the IU Slavica series this summer. Beinek’s second monograph proposal on the idea of “The West” in Russian and Polish cultures won her a Senior Fellowship at Harvard University for the academic year 2011-12. She has given many talks pertaining to Polish literature and cinema and continues to serve as Director of Graduate Studies (Literature) in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Wookjin Cheun (Slavic Librarian) was busy this year compiling and organizing the exhibit at the Wells Library which featured items from the new History of the Workers’ Movement Collection acquired in Spring 2010. Cheun also participated in the Faculty Exchange Program with the University of Warsaw (see p. 11).

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) co-organized the Chopin Bicentennial Concerts and Symposium “Chopin at the Piano: Modern Performance Informed by Period Practices” at IU in July 2010 and organized and lectured at a concert of Polish music celebrating the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin’s birth presented by the Jacobs School of Music at the Chopin Theatre, Chicago, March 20, 2010 (see p. 2). While Goldberg continues to contribute to scholarly discourse on Chopin and Polish composers through publication and conferences, she has also served as consultant and interviewee for three different documentaries on Chopin.

Owen Johnson (Journalism & History) wrote 4 articles for *Slovak Spectator*, the English-language Bratislava weekly and contributed to “The Crisis in American Journalism,” lecture at Institute of Politics, Wroclaw University, in January 2011. In the August 2010 he participated in the 93rd Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications and went on to present a lecture in Los Angeles at the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies convention in November. He continues to host an occasional edition of Profiles, on WFIU.

Bill Johnston (Comparative Literature) In April and May, Bill Johnston helped host author Andrzej Stasiuk on his debut visit to the United States, giving joint readings with him in Bloomington and Chicago. In July Johnston stepped down as director of the Polish Studies Center and took over as chair of the Department of Comparative Literature. In December, Archipelago Books published Johnston’s translation of Wiesław Myśliwski’s novel *Stone upon Stone*. Forthcoming translations include Andrzej Stasiuk’s *Dukla* and the first translation directly from the Polish of Stanislaw Lem’s classic science fiction novel *Solaris*.

Padraic Kenney (History) presented a paper entitled “Electromagnetic Forces and Radio Waves, or, Does Transnational History Actually Happen?” at a conference on Transnational History and 1989. A Polish translation of that paper was published in the inaugural issue of “Wolność i Solidarność,” the journal of the Europejskie Centrum Solidarności in Gdańsk. In July, he became Director of the PSC and concluded his term as President of the Polish Studies Association.


Maria Mastalerz (Geology) continued her research on the energy from fossil fuels by evaluating the Illinois Basin coal bed and CO2 emissions. She was a keynote speaker at the North American Coalbed Methane Forum in Pittsburgh and at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver. In 2010, she published two chapters in books and twelve research papers in international journals on energy-related issues. Recently she has been invited to be a scientist on the International Ocean Drilling Project off the coast of Japan to study deep biosphere 2500 m below the sea floor.
Nikodem Poplawski (Physics) researches theoretical gravitational physics and cosmology, in which he studies the origin of the Universe, the nature of black holes and the origin of elementary particles. Summaries of findings can be found in The Washington Post, Science Now, and on the Discovery Science Channel.

Student News

Jolanta Mickute presented a paper on Zionism and Jewish women nationalists in interwar Poland at the AAASS /ASEEES conference in LA last year and gave a talk on the same topic at the National Bodies in Eastern Europe conference at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand.

Anna Muller successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation in November 2010 titled, “If the Walls Could Talk: Women Political Prisoners in Stalinist Poland, 1945-1956” and will participate in the translation seminar, “Miłosz 365.” Since last summer, she has been working at the WWII Museum in Gdańsk, where she is in charge of the exhibition devoted to Nazi concentration camps.

Raina Polivka received a Master’s degree in Comparative Literature and will complete a second Master’s in Rare Books and Special Collections this summer from the School of Library Science where she is focusing on early printed Slavic and French texts.

Mira Rosenthal received a 2010 ACLS Fellowship to complete the writing of her dissertation on Czesław Miłosz as a translator for the Department of Comparative Literature. She has given several talks on Miłosz and translation in both the U.S. and abroad, and will participate this summer in the seminar, “Miłosz 365,” thanks to a fellowship from the Polish Book Institute. Her own poetry collection, The Local World, won the 2010 Wick Poetry Prize and will be published by The Kent State University Press later this year.

Alumni News

Phil Goss lives in Warsaw and works as a voice-over artist for television and film, and has his own radio show. In 2010 he had an acting role in Skolimoski’s film entitled Essential Killing, for which he also did two voice-only roles.

Anna Niedźwiedź teaches at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Jagiellonian University. She is researching the symbolic dimension of urban space in East-Central European cities and changing notions of heritage and historical memory in post-communist societies. Her new research examine religious experience in popular Catholicism in West African societies.

Magda Sokolowski has moved to Montana where she and her husband are using innovative designs and natural materials to homestead. When she is not writing poetry or building, she is recording her experiences in the Montana wilderness on her blog, which you can find here: squarefootshortage.blogspot.com.

Are you an alumnus? Drop us a line!
Photo Review of the Year

Sharing delicious Polish food at the Polish Studies annual picnic.

Discovering treasures in the book give-away at the Polish picnic.

Teaching the art of pisanki.

Invoking the muse: decorating the pisanki egg.

Students gearing up for the Polish Spelling Bee

Iwona Dembowska-Wosik catching up with Polish Studies students at the holiday party.
Photo Review of the Year

Student types on a muffled trypewriter to reenact publishing conditions in Poland during the period of Solidarity.

Łuczywo demonstrates printing techniques to the public.

Guests join hands in a traditional Polish dance.

Let the judging begin! Guests feasting at the holiday party.

Holiday guests gather around the piano to sing Polish Christmas carols.

Breaking Oplatek and sharing holiday cheer.