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A Conversation with His Excellency
Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf

His Excellency Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf was recently appointed as the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States, with a formal presentation of his credentials to President Barack Obama on January 14th, 2013. Previously, he represented Poland in Spain, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Paraguay. He also spent time at Indiana University in the early 80s. We spoke with him about his recent appointment, his time at IU, and the state of Polish and American relations.

* * * *

Polish Studies Center: What do you remember most fondly about your time spent in Bloomington at Indiana University?

Ambassador Schnepf: The most important thing, given the time that I was there – this was during martial law in Poland – was the sense of freedom. The way the professors spoke to me, the open discussions with students, and the library – full of books about Poland that I had never known before. Peter Raina’s books and histories, Jakub Karpinski’s. And many others.

It was, in a way, the discovery of history, of another time. There was a very friendly ambiance on the University campus – it was beautiful. I remember very well basketball coach Bobby Knight was coaching the University team in the league championships. There was a fantastic University orchestra. I did my research on Latin American history at that time, in addition to teaching. I found excellent conditions, a computerized library that for us from Poland was completely new. And also I remember the Dean of International Studies John Lombardi, as well as Professors Alex Rabinowitch and William Cohen – heads of REEI and of History, respectively. I still keep in touch with some friends I met there.

PSC: The United States and Poland share a long and storied dip-

continued on page 11
Even from the outside, you can tell that Polish Studies has changed a lot in the last year. The brick house on East Atwater St. has a new roof, new eaves and siding, new landscaping, and even a snappy new sign. We’re pretty proud of our home, even if none of the upgrades were our idea. Inside, we’ve got new housemates as well: the Summer Language Workshop (SWSEEL), which of course keeps the Polish language scene (and that of many other languages you’ll have heard of) jumping all summer long. Another new housemate is the Polish Preschool, about which you can read on page 3. The classroom upstairs is plastered with signs – “klocki,” “zabawki,” “drzwi” – to help these little learners put us to shame with their excellent Polish.

Even as our home gets handsomer and livelier, Polish Studies has moved, quite a distance. Since its founding in 1977, Polish Studies has been part of the International Office – first reporting to a Dean, then a Vice President. But though it originated in the exchange with Warsaw University, Polish Studies is an academic program, and thus its destiny had to be in the College of Arts and Sciences. We joined the College this past summer. Already the benefits have been easy to see. First, if you have not admired our brand new website, please do! You’ll find updates on events, news of our faculty, links to Polish resources, and a link to our very active Facebook page, too.

The move to the College has also coincided with a burst of fundraising activity in the Center. With the help of the College, we hope to offer our first Polish Century Club Scholarship to an incoming freshman this year. The inaugural Wiles Lecture (p. 8) was a great success, which has encouraged us to push toward the goal of creating a permanent endowment to fund the lecture series. And finally, I am honored to announce that the Polish Studies Center is on the verge of receiving its first major gift, a substantial endowment that will fund undergraduate study in Poland. More on that in our next newsletter.

In a significant way the move to the College prompts a change in our mission. For over thirty years the PSC has collected books, periodicals, and other materials. Our library, started with a significant gift of books from Warsaw University and sustained by community donations, reached into the thousands of titles, and surely would have ranked as one of the dozen best collections in North America. But it was also woefully underused, in part because it duplicated the best Polish collection in the country a few hundred meters away in the IU Library.

We have kept our extensive and growing DVD (and VHS) collection, which now numbers over 190 titles. We have also kept our collection of Polish literature (in original and translation), of over 160 titles. But the rest has found a number of new homes: some 700 titles to the IU Wells Library, a few hundred to the Music and Fine Arts libraries at IU, several boxes to the libraries at Notre Dame and Loyola-Chicago. The largest donation has gone to the Kowalsky Eastern Ukrainian Institute at the V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University in Ukraine. Just as Warsaw once provided the seeds for a great collection in Bloomington, so it is our hope that we have seeded a new Polish collection in Kharkiv, a city that boasts strong Polish traditions though it lies (like Bloomington!) well outside the traditional realm of Polish culture.

So what’s next for Polish Studies at IU? Before you know it, we’ll have a new home. We’re now part of IU’s new School of Global and International Studies, which unites and highlights all the international programs on the Bloomington campus. The SGIS is more than an umbrella for internationally focused units like ours: it’s a megaphone, transmitting to a larger world what we already do very well. There are few places in the world outside Poland that can match Bloomington for research, teaching and library resources on Poland. Even fewer are the places where Polish Studies is enhanced by similar expertise in Russian, German, Jewish, or Central European Studies. SGIS will provide a larger platform for all of us.

Most important, though, SGIS will literally bring us closer to our academic neighbors. The groundbreaking for a building to house SGIS units is just weeks away as this newsletter goes to press. By the Fall of 2015 Polish Studies will be open for business in that new building. We’ll miss our house, for sure. But I’m looking forward to rolling out the welcome mat in our new home.
Polish Preschool Begins at Polish Studies Center

The Polish School in Bloomington started in September 2012. The idea was born to satisfy the needs of Polish Community in Bloomington: both parents who have Polish heritage as well as ones who come here for a limited period of time from Poland. At the very beginning our main goal was to help bilingual children to make friendships and spend time with their Polish speaking peers. Very quickly, though, the school assumed the more educational role of teaching children how to read, count, and write in Polish as well as familiarize them with Polish culture and traditions.

This semester we have had eight children between 2-7 years old, some of them who came here from Poland for a short period of time, others who live in Bloomington. Our teacher Anna Murawska-Mroz, who has a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education and many years of experience teaching both in Poland and in the United States, has managed to keep everybody engaged and to adjust the level of instruction to the oldest children without leaving behind the younger ones. At the beginning we were planning on meeting once a week but very quickly we noticed the rising enthusiasm and noticeable progress in children so we added one additional day a week. Right now we are meeting on Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30pm and Saturdays, 9-12pm. We are planning to keep the same schedule for the next semester; because of their school schedules during the week, some children can attend only the Saturday class.

Tuesday’s meetings have been dedicated to introduction to mathematics and crafts while on Saturday children have been learning letters and reading. Both days include crafts, songs and a lot of play time. During this past semester we organized one field trip to the Holiday Farmers Market where we watched a concert and met real reindeers. We also celebrated both Mikołajki and Christmas in our classroom. Children decorated Christmas tree with handmade ornaments, sang songs, did a lot of crafts, and last but not least received gifts from Santa.

We are hoping that in the future our school will be developing and that it attracts more children from Bloomington as well as the Indianapolis area since this is the only Polish school in Indiana. If we have enough children we will be considering dividing them into age groups for circle time and we will be able to adjust our program even more.

All our children love coming to school and they can’t wait for the meetings. They have become friends and they have learned a lot. We believe that the most valuable thing that we have achieved is creating a real community of parents and children who have the same goal. All of this wouldn’t be possible without our wonderful teacher, parents’ help and the support of the Polish Studies Center. Thank you all for a wonderful semester. If you are interested in joining our school please send an email to Karolina Serafin at kserafin@indiana.edu.
Jarosław Kuisz is one of the most forceful new figures in Polish public life. Just 33, he can already boast of two or three successful careers in media and academia, most prominently as founding editor of the influential online weekly Kultura liberalna. When the Polish Studies Center hosted Kuisz for a week in September, the IU community got a glimpse of the future.

Kuisz received his PhD in History at Warsaw University in 2007, having researched the legal character of the agreements of August 1980 that created the Solidarity trade union. Yet it was not his innovative scholarship that got our attention, but his expertise in film, specifically in the Polish film era known as the “Cinema of Moral Disquiet.” When the College of Arts and Sciences announced that the theme for special programming in Fall 2012 would be “Good Behavior, Bad Behavior: Molecules and Morality,” this cinematic tradition sprung instantly to mind. Once we had secured space in the IU Cinema, whom could we ask to introduce one of the films? And why not invite someone new?

Jarosław Kuisz is known for his essays on French film and politics, but also for essays he has written on Polish cinema. And he proved an excellent guide, giving a riveting introduction to Krzysztof Zanussi’s Camouflage (Barwy Ochronne, 4 1979), which we saw in a beautifully restored print. “You are about to see,” he began, “the cruelest film ever made about academic politics.” And Camouflage delivered (the adjacent box has some of Kuisz’s thoughts on the Cinema of Moral Disquiet).

Students and faculty had several other occasions to meet and listen to Dr. Kuisz. He stayed at the Collins Living and Learning Community, and gave a talk to students on his work at Kultura liberalna, titled “New Media in the New Europe,” Kuisz explained that Kultura liberalna began as a “salon” of students at Warsaw University, who invited leading thinkers and political figures to discuss issues with them, in the manner of the underground educational circles in the Communist era. The salon moved onto the web in 2009, and attracts a weekly readership in the tens of thousands. Here’s hoping Kuisz’s crash course in gatecrashing the political elites inspires similar efforts among IU students! In a related talk, Kuisz offered reflections on how Polish political culture has changed.

A fascinating talk on his research rounded out the week. In “From Cataclysm to Utopia: Law, Film, and Propaganda at the Beginning of Communist Poland,” Kuisz explored the way ideas about law and justice, like concepts of treason or the role of courts in sentencing men to death, were encoded in early films like Border Street (1948) or Forbidden Songs (1946) (pictured above). Clips from these films illustrated the talk. Many in the audience knew these classics well; we all came to see them in a new light. Indeed, Jarosław Kuisz’s visit offered us all new windows into Poland’s past and present.

We wanted to get a better sense of the Cinema of Moral Disquiet, so we asked our visitor and expert in Polish Cinema – Jarosław Kuisz – everything we wanted to know about the phenomenon.

Q&A: The Cinema of Moral Disquiet

Polish Studies Center: Briefly, what characterizes the Cinema of Moral Disquiet – and why was it called that?

Jarosław Kuisz: The movement started with the critical evaluation of cultural administration that was publicly presented by Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi in 1975. They accused the administration of restraining freedom of expression in cinema. In 1976-1981 a group of talented directors decided to take up in their works some present socio-political themes (among them were Andrzej Wajda, who received an honorary Oscar for his lifetime achievements; Agnieszka Holland, who received three Academy Award nominations and, obviously, Krzysztof Zanussi, whose film A Year of the Quiet Sun was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film; at the Venice Film Festival, the film was awarded the Golden Lion). They undertook to make films that were linked by the unique spirit of that time and to some extent by a surprisingly common cinematic idiom. Under the idea that despotic socialism is dying a slow death, virtually every film
turned into a merciless critique of the surrounding reality. A special kind of hero appeared on the screen of the People’s Republic of Poland. They were mainly young people – Don Quixote types – who either suffered a dramatic defeat while challenging the ubiquitous opportunism, or sank into an appalling cynicism. Screenplays generally were silent on the contemporary politics, yet the buckets of despair that poured out from the screens provoked horror on the communist authorities side. Moreover, the films were supposed to meet the blade of state censorship.

Here was something much worse than mere criticism of a specific politician. The cinema of moral disquiet, closely focusing on small everyday situations and ordinary heroes, was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system. It is no surprise that was in fact undermining the entire political system.

PSC: What is your favorite moment in the canon?

JS: These films were not made for some kind of trivial fun. Camouflage, which we saw in Bloomington, is one of the best films on the depravity of university ever made. Among classic films, exposing educational mechanism of moral corruption, we have such different works as Zero for Conduct (1933) by Jean Vigo, The 400 Blows (1959) by F. Truffaut or If... (1968) by Lindsay Gordon Anderson. In comparison with them, Camouflage is unique. Instead of presenting a perspective of a student defying the existing educational order, Zanussi shows us a young scientist who ideistically wishes to join the academy. One could say, it’s nothing really interesting. Seemingly, Zanussi film helps us to understand that this is a peculiar situation in the young man’s life. His maturity is at stake, but not the one that we could easily associate with the legal concept of being adult or with the biological concept of sexual maturity. Here, we could watch the moment of deepest intimacy of the young scientist – the moment of gradual blurring of boundaries between young idealism and mature opportunism. We can still learn valuable things from such a movie.

PSC: Has the reception of the films by the general public changed over the years? How?

JS: In 1971 philosopher and former Marxist Leszek Kołakowski wrote:

Despotic socialism is dying a slow death, as described by Hegel; it seems to be intact, but is sinking in the languid boredom and numbness, which happens to be distracted by the common fear of all against all, fear that is alleviated by moments of aggression. For despotic socialism the loss of the idea means the loss of raison d’etre. Everything valuable and long-lasting in today’s culture of nations dominated by the system is created against it.

This is probably the best intellectual introduction to the cinematographic movement that was born in the Polish cinema in the second half of the 70s. Today the movies of the Cinema of Moral Disquiet have to stand the test of time. And most of them do!

PSC: What film would you recommend to a beginner? And for the more knowledgeable, are there any forgotten gems you would recommend?

JS: The films made by Krzysztof Kieślowski, in particular Blind Chance (1981). Not only did three versions of young's man life inspire Tom Tykwer to make Run Lola Run, but subsequently Tykwer worked with Krzysztof Piesiewicz, a screenwriter who worked with Kieślowski. While watching Cloud Atlas (2012) made by Tykwer with the Wachowski brothers, one cannot forget about this source of inspiration. We have new movies made by Agnieszka Holland and Andrzej Wajda that develop a tradition of the Cinema of Moral Disquiet. Moreover, taking into consideration that the cinematic heritage of Kieślowski is examined at film schools all over the world, arguably, one could claim that in this way the Cinema of Moral Disquiet became a universal lesson for directors.
The Polish Studies Center
Picturebook
2012-13

Cooking competition winner Maria Mastalerz

Singing kolędy

Tomasz Bilczewski, Annika Frieberg, and Steven Seegel at the PSC Picnic

At the Fall Picnic
Donors 2012-13

Roberta Adams
Robin G. Elliott
Elizabeth A. Flynn
Karen and Steven Franks
Marshall B. Gentry
William P. Germano
Suellen M. Hoy & Walter Nugent
Sonja Johnson & Keith Solberg
Matthew L. Lillich and Maria M. Michalczyk-Lillich
David G. Martin
Maureen M. Martin
Alice N. and Edward J. Meros
Rear Admiral (ret) B. E. McGann
Mary E. McGann
Carol J. Morrell
Ewa Paluszkiewicz and Michael K. Ausbrook
Richard and Carolyn Panofsky
Polish American Congress
Rena’s Jewerly Parties
Reva P. & Vernon J. Shiner, Jr.
Kathryn R. and James W. Stevens
Rae H. and Gene F. Stoll
Charlotte H. Templin
Rose M. Thomas
Ruth M. Wiles

Thank You!

Support the activities & students at the
Polish Studies Center!

Learn more on our website:
http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/support/

And more at the IU Foundation’s Guide to Giving:
http://iufoundation.iu.edu/giving.html
Beth Holmgren Delivers Inaugural Wiles Lecture

The inaugural Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture was held on the 31st of January at Indiana University, where invited guest Beth Holmgren – chair of Slavic and Eurasian Studies at Duke University – delivered an address titled “Shows of Solidarity: Cabaret in Interwar Warsaw.”

The talk focused on various players in Warsaw’s interwar cabaret scene at the Qui Pro Quo Cabaret, who used the cabaret as a venue for sly social and political commentary on a variety of themes, including traditional masculinity and building a multi-ethnic society. “There are many similarities between the posture of, say, the Daily Show with Jon Stewart or The Colbert Report and the posture of Qui Pro Quo,” said Holmgren in the talk.

Beth Holmgren is Professor of Slavic and Eurasian studies and theatre studies, where her research spreads from modern Russian literature and film to Polish literature, book art, and theater history. Her most recent book, On Tour with Madame Modjeska: Starring in Poland and America (Indiana UP, 2012), a biography of Polish nineteenth-century actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska), won the Association for Women in Slavic Studies Heldt Prize for best book in women’s studies and Honorable Mention for the Barnard Hewitt Prize recognizing outstanding theater history and awarded by the American Society for Theatre Research. Her co-edited volume with Choi Chatterjee, Americans Experience Russia: Encountering the Enigma, 1917 to the Present (Routledge Press), is due out early this year. Holmgren has served as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and President of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies.

The Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture was began by the Polish Studies Center to commemorate the life and work of Timothy Wiles – a professor of English and former director of the Polish Studies Center. “I never met Tim Wiles, but in the five years I’ve been here I’ve begun to realize just how important Tim Wiles was to Polish Studies at Indiana University and across the United States. In every corner of the Center I’ve found the record of his devotion to Poland, to Polish Studies, to theater, and to Polish-American relations,” said Padraic Kenney, the current director of the Polish Studies Center, in his opening remarks.

In 1975, already an expert in Polish theater, IU Professor of English Timothy Wiles traveled to Poland to help Warsaw University establish its American Studies Center. Later, he fostered the exchange between Indiana University and Warsaw University that has yielded generations of American and Polish Scholarship.

Timothy Wiles directed the Polish Studies Center from 1983 to 1986 and from 1991 to 1999. His dedication and enthusiasm are seen across much of what the Polish Studies Center is today.

When the Polish Studies Center worked towards establishing the lecture series, Timothy Wiles’ widow, Mary McGann, was integral in establishing the memorial lecture by collaborating with the Polish Studies Center and reaching out to many people for support.

Though the talk was held on a night of inclement weather, some 60 people attended the lecture and the ensuing reception.

In future years, The Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture Series looks to invite leading scholars, artists, or writers to deliver a lecture to the Indiana University and Bloomington community on a wide range of topics concerning Polish affairs.

If you would like to help support the Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture, you can make a donation to the IU Foundation, with the notation “Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture,” or go to the Polish Studies Website and click ‘Support Our Center’ – be sure to note that funds are for the Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture Fund.
When Wisława Szymborska, a Nobel Laureate and one of Poland’s finest voices, passed away last February, the Polish Studies Center organized a public reading to commemorate her life and work.

Well attended by the Polish community and the IU community (Polonists and poets alike), the event encouraged attendees to contribute to the event by reading a poem by Szymborska. Many people read from across the cannon, and attendees read Szymborska poems in Polish, English, Croatian, and Spanish.

“Szymborska is one of the most important writers of the late 20th Century... her writing has really influenced my own.”
-Nandi Comer

Bill Johnston Reads from Translated Works

Professor Bill Johnston (Comparative Literature) read from two of his translated works in February of last year. Johnston read selections from *Dukla* (Dalkey Archive Press, 2011) by Andrzej Stasiuk and *In Red* by Magdalena Tulli (Archipelago Books, 2011), both of which were translated by Johnston. Johnston briefly introduced the passages before reading, and the event was followed by a reception and chat with Johnston. Boxcar Books – an independent non-profit bookstore in Bloomington – was on hand to sell copies of both works.

Johnston’s work is translation has been highly acclaimed. Psychiatrist and accomplished translator Danuta Borchardt said of *In Red*: “A beautifully flowing translation. Johnston aptly captures the dreamy as well as the stark quality of the original.” Additionally, Johnston has won many awards for his translation work, including the 2012 PEN Translation Prize and the 2012 Best Translated Book Award from Three Percent, both for his translation of Wiesław Myśliwski’s *Stone Upon Stone*. 
Remembrance: Alicja Zadrożna-Fiszman

This past November the Polish community of Bloomington mourned the passing of Alicja Zadrożna-Fiszman. Mrs. Zadrożna-Fiszman was the widow of Professor Samuel Fiszman, who was a pillar of Polish Studies at Indiana University for more than a quarter-century.

The Fiszmans came to Bloomington in 1970, not long after Professor Fiszman was fired from his position at Warsaw University during the ugly anti-semitic campaign of 1968. They and their daughter Ania found a warm welcome in Bloomington, and more than returned the favor. Samuel Fiszman was one of the founding spirits of the Polish Studies Center, and enlivened it with several important international conferences.

Alicja Zadrożna-Fiszman opened their home on Eastside Drive to the many visitors who came to Bloomington from Warsaw University and elsewhere.

The Fiszman influence will live on at IU. Their remarkable book collection, which includes hundreds of rare works in Polish and Russian, has been donated to the IU Library; some items are now part of the collection at the Lilly Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. The Fiszmans’ daughter, Ania O’Brien, has endowed a new scholarship at the Polish Studies Center; that scholarship will be offered for the first time in 2014.

New Polish Century Club Scholarship at IU

The Polish Studies Center at Indiana University is pleased to announce the Polish Century Club Scholarship, in the amount of $1000, to be awarded to an undergraduate entering IU-Bloomington. The award will be made to a student who expresses interest in Polish Studies, including enrollment in Polish language.

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.

Now, the Polish Studies Center is making use of that endowment to fund scholarships for students interested in the study of Poland. Indiana University offers courses in Polish language, literature, and history, as well as many courses in other areas that deal with Poland. Students can participate in the informal discussions at a weekly Polish Table, participate in a wide variety of cultural activities, and take advantage of the study abroad program in Kraków.

For more information, please contact Padraic Kenney, Director, at pjkenney@indiana.edu, or 812-855-1507.
continued from page 1

romatic history – what, for you, are some of the most important aspects of the relationship between the United States and Poland?

AS: There’s a long tradition. Tadeusz Kościuszko and Kazimierz Pułaski are symbols of the first, friendly relations between our countries. Our mutual story is full of events confirming that Polish people love America. Poles have always been met in America with the best feelings and conditions that gave them a chance to develop their lives and find here a new homeland.

Today, our relations are very close. We are allies and partners in NATO but also in bilateral relations. We treat the United States as a key player in global politics and a country that takes responsibility for world stability. Poland is committed to supporting – according to our possibilities – American policy, particularly in those places where the U.S. fights against the most imminent dangers and threats: international terrorism. We worked with the U.S. and American soldiers in Iraq, we are in Afghanistan, where we came in and will go out together.

PSC: Currently, what developments are most exciting and pressing between the United States and Poland?

AS: Poland welcomes the new term of President Barack Obama with great applause and hopes that during this period Poland will continue to play a role in one of the closest alliances in Europe. We also hope that the visa waiver issue will enter the agenda of the current Congress and will be finally and positively resolved for Poland. Poland and Poles deserve it.

PSC: People of Polish descent form a significant part of the American story both historically and currently. How has your experience been interacting with the Polish-American community? Is the Polish-American community similar to what you had expected?

AS: I know the Polish-American community in the United States. I had the pleasure to meet many of its leaders years ago. I am one of the most dedicated fans of Jan Karski and his courageous and exceptional activities during the dramatic times of World War II. I have a deep respect for the whole Polish-American community and give my most sincere appreciation for the support on many occasions that the community gave to our country – particularly during the process of joining NATO.

The most important thing, given the time that I was [at Indiana University] was the sense of freedom. It was, in a way, the discovery of history, of another time. There was a very friendly ambiance on the University campus – it was beautiful.

The most important thing, given the time that I was [at Indiana University] was the sense of freedom. It was, in a way, the discovery of history, of another time. There was a very friendly ambiance on the University campus – it was beautiful.

Today, we have a new generation of young, educated, and dynamic Poles who do not come to the U.S. to look for just any job, but bring their skills and talents to enrich American economy and culture. This is why facilitating travel between Poland and the United States with the visa waiver program for Polish businessmen and women, intellectuals and tourists is so important – it will be taking another step forward in our relations and interpersonal contacts.

PSC: What are your favorite parts of living in the United States?

AS: I have been here only for a short time, but I love the spirit of liberty, of freedom, of individualism – which is the background of the development of this country. Entrepreneurship, the dedication to your country’s fate and future, your patriotism expressed not only during holidays but on an everyday basis. I know that there are many places worth visiting, and I look forward to doing so as soon as my duties permit.

PSC: What do you miss the most – from Poland, Spain, Uruguay and Costa Rica?

AS: It’s different in every case. In Poland, of course, I miss my family. And, everyday life, which has become much richer in recent years as Poland has become more and more attractive: The culture, restaurants, places that are being restored and reconstructed. People are more relaxed, less stressed, less frustrated than during times when they were not able to realize their hopes and expectations. As to other countries where I spent time as a foreigner, in the Hispanic world, there is a certain attitude and distance towards ourselves. I think that in those countries, people have much less heartbreak – they’re much more relaxed about everyday life and obligations. They say, we’ll do things, but mañana. At first, you may suffer when you encounter this, because you may not get the things you wait for. After a while, you start understanding that this is also revitalizing. It makes you more relaxed and accepting. You learn, nothing will happen. We are all important – but not that important, because this applies to your own person as well. Don’t take yourself so seriously. Family life is also very valued there – it’s very important to spend time with your children. Take them to the park, talk to them. It’s important to be able to do that, to spend time away from your Blackberry.
Ty i Ja was a revolution in East European style. Founded in 1960 by a collective of artists, poets, and journalists, the monthly magazine introduced a new generation of the Polish *inteligencja* to mid-century European culture. The Europe that Ty i Ja promoted in cinema, literature, and art had a decided French accent, but readers were also brought behind the scenes of the newest Wajda films and into Warsaw artists’ studios, and learned about hot style items for the home – and where to buy them.

This iconic magazine, which ran until 1973, has until now been unavailable anywhere in the United States. Now the IU Library has acquired a nearly complete run. In addition, we have acquired two volumes of the more practical women’s magazine *Przyjaciółka* and the first four years of the teen magazine *Filipinka*. Each of these is also unavailable anywhere outside Poland. We invite you to the IU Library to immerse yourself in 1960s Poland!
Faculty News

Karen Kovacik (English, Indianapolis), who was named as the third Poet Laureate of Indiana in 2011, has completed a translation of Agnieszka Kuciak’s Distant Lands: An Anthology of Poets Who Don’t Exist [Dalekie kraje: antologia poetów nieistniejących], which is forthcoming from White Pine in March, 2013.

Jack M. Bloom (Sociology, Gary) presented two papers last year at different conferences: “Political Opportunity Structure, Contentious Social Movements and State-Based Organizations: The Fight Against Solidarity Inside the Polish United Workers’ Party” at the Seventeenth International Conference on Alternative Futures and Popular Protest at Manchester Metropolitan University (UK) and “Can A Social Movement Limit the Political Opportunity Structure of the State? Examining the Fight Against Solidarity in Poland” at the American Sociological Association in Denver, Colorado.

Hiroaki Kuromiya (History, Bloomington) wrote the preface to Poland and Ukraine in the 1930s and 1940s: Documents from the Archives of the Secret Services, a new collection published by the Polish Institute for National Memory (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej).


Grad News

Slavic Languages and Literatures doctoral candidate Bethany Bradley completed research in Poland during the 2011-2012 academic year (from late September 2011 through February 2012) thanks to the OVPIA graduate exchange program with Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Among other research activities, she interviewed a number of Polish poets and collected research materials for her dissertation on contemporary Polish and Russian poetry. She is currently using a semester-long writing fellowship to complete her dissertation and hopes to graduate by fall 2013.

In 2012 Natalie Misteravich (Slavic Languages and Literatures) presented a paper on Bruno Schulz at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State. In the spring she will have completed PhD coursework and will begin her PhD exams. Additionally, she was chosen to participate in the OVPIA Graduate Student Exchange with Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland and in January 2014 she will conduct dissertation research for six months in Kraków. The working title of her dissertation is “Nowa Huta as Subject and as Author: A Cultural Study of Agency.”

Michael Young (Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology) received a REEI Mellon Travel Grant to study Polish language this summer. While there, he’ll be enjoying the summer folk festival season and preparing for dissertation research on Polish folk dance and music ensembles in Warsaw during the 2013-2014 academic year.
I had already been living in Ukraine for eight months before I first traveled to Poland. Despite this I felt a connection the whole time for I had been living in the Kresy or Poland’s former eastern territories the whole time. Little was visibly left of the Polish heritage in my adopted home of Drohobych (Drohobycz), Ukraine beyond the faded letters that read “karczma” on a building, the statue of Pope John Paul II in front of the “Polish Catholic” church, and the plaques that marked Bruno Schulz’s birthplace and the spot of his murder. During my travels in Poland to cities like Sanok, Tarnów, and Nowy Sącz, I believe I saw what a piece of Drohobych might have looked like before World War II. Over the years I travelled throughout much of eastern and southern Poland. Although I love cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Lublin, a little provincial city called Przemyśl in the Sub-Carpathian region is what I look back on most fondly. Perhaps that is so because it was my first place in Poland to visit, however, I think it is because of the diverse cultural heritage that the unassuming city boasts.

Of the seven times I crossed into Poland, by far the best experience was entering from Slovakia instead of Ukraine. This was not as much for the open border as for my descent from the Tatra’s Mount Rysy, Poland’s highest mountain and border with Slovakia, in thick fog and intermittent rain. The descent to Czarny Staw, Morskie Oko, and Zakopane was of course beautiful but was also a Polish language lesson. I had never studied the language but just adding some Polish “sz” and “rz” sounds to my Ukrainian usually sufficed when I could not find the Polish. I had several conversations with ascending groups of Poles that generally went like this:

“How much farther is the summit?”
“Is it difficult?” and “Is it slippery?”

I did my best to answer in my accented and warped Polish, but each time they looked at me quizzically and asked, “Where are you from?” I confidently responded, “I’m from Texas.”

“And you’re alone?” They seemed confused.

“Yes, just traveling” I remarked while watching my footing.

“Oh, but your parents are Polish!” They thought they had me figured out now.

“No, I have no Polish roots. I just thought I’d see the Tatras. They’re beautiful!” Then we went on our way.

My Polish got better and better, and that is exactly what I wanted. Many of my students in Ukraine had family across the border, went to college in Poland, studied Polish with private tutors after school, and went on vacations to cities like Kraków and Gdańsk. With my newfound interest, I felt more connected not only to Poland itself, but also to the histories of Drohobych and Galicia (Halychyna) and to contemporary geopolitical and socioeconomic issues of the region.

A part of my spirit descended into Poland with my body that day. I do not presume that spirit will ever make the ascent out.
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