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The 2nd Annual
Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture in Polish Studies

Jacek Żakowski

The Pendulum of Freedom:
Where are European Ideals Today?

24 April 2014
7:30 p.m.
Georgian Room at the Indiana Memorial Union
The Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture

Timothy Wiles (1947-2003) was one of the founding spirits of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University. His work as a scholar and administrator exemplified the deep mutual respect between the two cultures, two cities, and two universities.

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 made the Polish Studies center what it is today. Now, the Polish Studies Center has created the Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture in Polish Studies to honor the legacy of Timothy Wiles.

The Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture Series invites a leading scholar, artist, or writer to deliver a lecture to the Indiana University and Bloomington community on a wide range of topics concerning Polish affairs.

Please consider supporting this initiative. You can make a donation can be made to the IU Foundation, with the notation “Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture.”

Jacek Żakowski

Jacek Żakowski is an influential Polish journalist, author, and political commentator, as well as the Journalism Program Director at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw. He is known for his public debates and criticism of Polish politicians for their dismissive attitude to knowledge and their anti-intellectual tendencies.

A 1981 graduate of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Sciences at Warsaw University, he served as spokesman of the Citizen’s Parliamentarian Caucus in the 1990s and was the first president of the Polish Information Agency. Today he is well known for his work as a political commentator for the weekly newsmagazine ‘Polityka,’ and for hosting programs on Radio Tok FM and TVP Info.

Żakowski has published several books. With opposition strategist Jacek Kuroń he co-wrote “PRL dla początkujących” (1995) and “Siedmiolatka, czyli kto ukradł Polskę” (1997). Also in 1995 he co-authored “Między panem a plebanem” – a discussion with Józef Tischner and Adam Michnik about the tradition of the Polish Church, and the tradition of the secular democratic opposition. In 2007 he published “Nauczka,” a critical look at the 4th Polish republic.