

Kopernikana

2010

The University of Michigan
Copernicus Endowment



All of us, whether Polish by heritage or by vocation, will always remember the catastrophe of April 10, 2010. On that tragic day, a plane crash near Smolensk took the lives of 96 people, including some of the most important officials in the Polish state. We recognize that many readers of *Kopernikana* lost personal friends and colleagues, and many more grieve the deaths of respected public figures. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our sincere, heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to all those who mourn the irreplaceable losses of that day.



The Year in Programs



President Aleksander Kwaśniewski greeting a U-M student, October 8, 2009.

President Aleksander Kwaśniewski was the guest of honor in Cleveland, October 10, 2010. From l to r: **Dr. Ewa Pezacka, Dr. Włodzimierz Siemionow, Agata M. Siemionow, President Kwaśniewski, Dr. Maria Siemionow.**



Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, the recently appointed Polish Consul General in New York, has a long association with Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. She and her family lived in Dearborn for ten years in the 1980s during which time she participated in many Copernicus and Polish studies programs. Until February 28, 2010, Ewa was the Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of Poland. She lost many colleagues and friends in the air disaster that killed the president and 95 others on April 10, 2010. The University warmly welcomes Ewa once again to the United States. We hope she will visit Ann Arbor soon!



Above
Poland since 1989: A Critical Appraisal, October 29, 2009.
Magdalena Środa
Sławomir Sierakowski



Left
Poet Piotr Sommer met with students and gave a poetry reading, December 7, 2009.



Top
Brian Porter-Szűcs, with **David Ost** and **Sławomir Sierakowski** at the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck.

Above
Alex Storożyński, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation and author of *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution*, signing books at Border's in Ann Arbor, October 21, 2009.

9.16–18.2010

Upcoming Conference

Polish Studies in the 21st Century

September 16–18, 2010
 The University of Michigan
www.i.umich.edu/crees/events/polishconf

In September 2010, the University of Michigan will be the site for one of the largest gatherings of Polonists ever to assemble, when we host the 3rd International Conference on Polish Studies. This major event will attempt to capture the ways in which the field of Polish studies in North America has been utterly transformed over the past decade. There are now more people than ever studying Polish language, literature, culture, history, society, and politics, and the overwhelming majority of them entered the profession after the fall of communism. With this new generation of scholars have come new forms of scholarship, and this landmark conference will provide an opportunity to explore these new topics and questions.

Faculty organizers: Brian Porter-Szűcs, Anna Grzymała-Busse, Benjamin Paloff, and Geneviève Zubrzycki. Sponsors: Copernicus Endowment, Center for European Studies-European Union Center; Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Departments of Comparative Literature, History, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Sociology; Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies; Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies; Institute for the Humanities; International Institute; and the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia.

Faculty News



Anna Grzymała-Busse

As of July 1, 2010 **Anna Grzymała-Busse**, U-M professor of political science, assumes the Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professorship of European and Eurasian Studies and the directorship of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, where the Polish studies program is housed. She will also direct the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. A graduate of Princeton, Cambridge, and Harvard Universities, she is the author of *Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies* (Cambridge, 2007), and *Redeeming the Communist Past: The Regeneration of the Communist Successor Parties in East Central Europe* (Cambridge, 2002).

Brian Porter-Szűcs celebrated the recent publication of a book co-edited with Bruce Berglund, *Christianity and Modernity in Eastern Europe* (Central European University Press, 2010). He also published "Beyond the Study of Nationalism" in *Nationalism Today*, and received a fellowship from U-M's Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies in 2009-10.

For the past two years, **Ewa Pasek**, lecturer in Polish and Czech, has been redesigning the Third-Year Polish curriculum around a series of short films on poetry entitled "Poezja łączy ludzi" (Poetry Unites) by Ewa Zadrzyńska. This year she presented her innovative new techniques at the New School in New York and at the Language Symposium of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.

Magdalena Zaborowska received the Modern Language Association William Sanders Scarborough Prize for an Outstanding Scholarly Study of Black American Literature or Culture for *James Baldwin's Turkish Decade* (Duke University Press, 2008). She is currently conducting research in Poland on a new book project, "Racing Borderlands."

Undergraduate News

Congratulations go to new graduates **Matthew Buszek** and **Alicja Sobilo**, each with a B.S. in Polish from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. The following 2010 graduates completed a minor in Polish Language, Literature, and Culture: **Monica Arendt**, **Beth Muszkiewicz**, **Konrad Sawicki**, and **Nikolas Tyczkowski**. **Daniel Stawiarski** received a B.B.A. with a minor in Modern European Studies.

Special recognition goes to **Lisa Hebda** (neuroscience), who received the Excellence in Polish Language Studies Award.

Emma Clare Foley (REES/linguistics/history) received a Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship from CREES to support study of Polish at the University of Pittsburgh and in Kraków.

Friday, February 11, 2011, 8 pm
Sunday, February 13, 2011, 4 pm
Hill Auditorium
825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor

Polish pianist Rafał Blechacz first came to world attention in October 2005 when he arrived in Warsaw for the 15th International Chopin Competition. An unassuming 20-year-old young man from a small town in northern Poland, he not only won the competition, but also received all four special prizes for the polonaise, mazurka, sonata, and concerto performances. In fact, one of the judges remarked that he "so outclassed the remaining finalists that no second prize could actually be awarded." Blechacz was the first Pole to win the prize since Krystian Zimerman 30 years earlier. His U-M concerts, sponsored by the University Musical Society, include a chamber arrangement of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 that was written when the composer was only 20 years old. For ticket information, call 734.764.2538 or see www.ums.org.



Rafał Blechacz, piano

Graduate Student & Alumnae News

Paul Brykczyński (history) was awarded an International Institute Individual Fellowship for preliminary dissertation work in Poland focused on the murder of Gabriel Narutowicz, Poland's first president. He presented "Antisemitism in Polish Catholicism and Egyptian Islam" at the 2009 AAASS Convention; his article, "Prince Adam Czartoryski as a Liminal Figure in the Development of Modern Nationalism in Eastern Europe at the Turn of the 18th and 19th Centuries," was published in *Nationalities Papers*.

Danielle Czarniecki (sociology) is researching the relationship between religion, gender, and the post-socialist nation by focusing on reproductive and nationalist discourse and the medical treatment that women of reproductive age receive in post-socialist Poland.

Megan Elliott (sociology) is in Warsaw this summer to study Polish with support of a Summer FLAS Fellowship. She will also pursue preliminary research towards her dissertation project on philosemitism in contemporary Poland.

Ewa Pasek

Jodi Grieg (Slavic languages and literatures), a recipient of a Summer FLAS Fellowship from CREES, presented a paper on Eliza Orzeszkowa at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in Gainesville, Florida. She will present on contemporary author Natasza Goerke at the 3rd International Conference on Polish Studies.

Alicja Kusiak-Brownstein (history) spent a month at the YIVO archives in New York City doing research as the Alicja and Aleksander Hertz Fellow. She received a fellowship from the Muzeum Historii Polski in Warsaw and is taking care of her baby boy, Michael, who was born last fall.

Jessica Robbins (anthropology) is finishing up ethnographic research in Poznań and Wrocław on aging and memory and will return to Ann Arbor to write her dissertation.

Natalie Smolenski, a new student in the anthropology-history graduate program and one of this year's winners of a Copernicus Fellowship for Incoming Graduate Students, will be studying comparative religious anthropology and history, with a focus on Sunni Islam in Egypt and Roman Catholicism in Poland.

Anna Topolska, also a recipient of a Copernicus Fellowship for Incoming Graduate Students, begins graduate studies in history in fall 2010. She was trained at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, where she focused on Poland, the Balkans, and Italy in contemporary visual culture, especially visual representations of war and genocide.

Ewa Wampuszyc (MA REES '96, PhD Slavic '04), lecturer in Polish studies at the University of Florida's Center for European Studies since 2004, has accepted an assistant professorship in Slavic languages and literatures at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Lenny Urena (history PhD '10) received the 2010 PIASA Dissertation Award for "The Stakes of Empire: Colonial Fantasies, Civilizing Agendas, and Biopolitics in the Prussian-Polish Provinces, 1840-1914."

Jessica Zychowicz (Slavic languages and literatures) presented papers at two conferences: "Toward a Poetics of Municipality, or, The Place of Personality: Meditations on the Poetry of Zbigniew Herbert and Adam Zagajewski" at the conference "Literature and Art after 1900" hosted by the University of Louisville; and "Amnesiacs and Maniacs: The Abject Chronicler in Prus' *Lalka* (*The Doll*) and Dostoevsky's *Besy* (*Demons*)" at the 48th AAASS Southern Slavic Conference. This summer she is traveling to Lviv, Ukraine to research the Ukrainian-Polish borderlands and the Carpathians and their portrayal in 20th-century Polish literature.

Sławomir Sierakowski, with graduate students **Megan Elliott** and **Danielle Czarnecki**.



Miłosz Remembered (1911–2011)



Miłosz walking near his family home in Krasnogruda, Poland. Photo courtesy of Krzysztof Czyżewski, Borderland Foundation.

June 28, 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Polish poet Czesław Miłosz (1911–2004). The Nobel-prize winner had close ties to the University of Michigan where his first major collection of poetry, *Utwory poetyckie*, was published in 1976 by Michigan Slavic Publications, and where he received an honorary doctorate in 1977. Two weeks after winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1980, he returned to Michigan and remained a frequent visitor to the campus until his final Copernicus Lecture and poetry reading in 1993. The long association lessened but did not end with the poet's return to Kraków where he would spend his final years. Please watch for announcements of the tribute to Czesław Miłosz on the centenary of his birth which will take place in fall 2011, sponsored by the Copernicus Endowment, Zell Visiting Writers Series, and Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

3.14–18.2011

Upcoming Copernicus Lecture

Artist Residency: March 14–18, 2011
Annual Copernicus Lecture: TBA

Joanna Kaiser, Professor, Academy of Fine Arts, Kraków

Joanna Kaiser studied printmaking at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków (ASP). Currently a professor and vice-dean in ASP's Faculty of Graphic Arts, she directs a drawing studio and works in painting, printmaking, and drawing. She belongs to the neo-expressionist artists' group Trzy Oczy (Three Eyes) and has had ten major individual exhibitions in Poland and abroad. During her visit in Ann Arbor, Professor Kaiser will also provide lectures for "Picturing Power: Political Graphics and Propaganda Art of Central and Eastern Europe," a course in U-M's School of Art & Design taught by Endi Poskovic.



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For more information about Polish studies at the University of Michigan or to learn more about our events, contact:

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Photos by Marysia Ostafin,
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The Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment was established in 1973 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the great Polish astronomer's multifaceted genius. Initially created with the cooperation of students, faculty, and the Polish–Americans of Michigan, the Copernicus Endowment is sustained today by the energy and financial assistance of hundreds of individual supporters. The principal goal of the Endowment is to enable faculty appointments, programming, and student fellowships in Polish studies. Income from the Endowment makes the Annual Copernicus Lecture possible, and ensures the continued scheduling of public events dedicated to advancing a deeper understanding of the people, culture, and politics of Poland.

The Annual Copernicus Lectures

Since 1980, the University of Michigan has hosted prominent political, cultural, and academic figures from Poland as part of the Annual Copernicus Lecture series. Prominent presenters in this series include Leszek Kołakowski, Czesław Miłosz, Stanisław Barańczak, Timothy Garton–Ash, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Adam Michnik, Jacek Kuroń, Krzysztof Penderecki, Henryk Górecki, Krzysztof Zanussi, Ryszard Kapuściński, President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Kora Jackowska, Adam Zagajewski, Zbigniew Libera, Krzysztof Cyżewski, Stasys, Magdalena Środa, and many more. A complete list is available on the Copernicus website.

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