Kopernikana

2012

The University of Michigan
Copernicus Endowment
From The Director

Polish Studies at the University of Michigan is as vibrant as ever. As you will see within the pages of this edition of Kopernikana, we had a fantastic year, with distinguished visitors, stimulating symposia, and exciting courses. We will have another exceptional program in 2012–13.

We inaugurate the year in October with a visit from acclaimed film director Agnieszka Holland who will deliver the annual Copernicus Lecture, followed by a screening of her Oscar-nominated film In Darkness. The University, in collaboration with the Michigan Theater, is honoring her presence with a retrospective of her films, all free and open to the public, in September and October. We also have an exciting lineup of talks and mini-courses in addition to our regular curricular activities.

All this is possible thanks to your support. More than ever, the Copernicus Endowment needs your help to continue offering this multi-faceted programming, with cutting-edge lectures from distinguished guests, round-table discussions on current affairs, and recognized excellence in our training of the next generation of scholars studying Poland. The economic crisis has seriously affected higher education funding. We remain dedicated to our mission and are working diligently at finding alternative sources of support. We seek to establish a new Endowed Polish Language Lectureship at the University of Michigan, and we are working toward raising the necessary $750,000. The Endowed Lectureship will be devoted exclusively to Polish language study, while the Copernicus Endowment will continue to support lectures, academic fellowships, and faculty research and exchange.

On behalf of students, faculty, and staff involved in Polish Studies at the University of Michigan, I thank you for your continued support and hope to see you next year at our Polish-related events.

Geneviève Zubrzycki. Director

The Year in Events

September 22, 2011. Panel: Miłosz: Made in America
Poets Robert Hass, Robert Pinsky, and Lillian Vallée joined U-M faculty Benjamin Paloff and Bogdana Carpenter in a round-table discussion honoring the life and work of Czesław Miłosz on the 100th anniversary of his birth. Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1980, Miłosz received an honorary doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1977 and was a frequent visitor in the 1970s and 80s. His last visit to Ann Arbor was in 1993, when he gave the Annual Copernicus Lecture and a poetry reading.

September 27, 2011. Christopher R. Hill, the former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Korea, Poland, and Macedonia, delivered a lecture on U.S. security abroad. Ambassador Hill helped negotiate the Dayton Peace Accords and led the U.S. delegation in North Korean nuclear disarmament talks. He retired from the State Department in 2010 after more than 30 years of service, and is now Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

October 26, 2011. Leszek Balcerowicz, former Polish Finance Minister, lectured on the current financial crisis in Europe and the future of the European economy. Balcerowicz is best known for engineering the “shock therapy” approach that moved Poland to a market economy. Poland now has one of the healthiest economies in the European Union, and is the only EU country that maintained positive GDP growth through the 2008–09 global economic crisis.
January 24, 2012. Award-winning author Agata Tuzysyńska discussed the life and work of legendary Warsaw Ghetto chanteuse Wiera Gran, whose singing was accompanied by Władysław Szpilman, the hero of Roman Polanski’s film, The Pianist. She recounted how she gained the reclusive singer’s trust, giving her unique insights into the accused collaborator’s life. Tuzysyńska also explained how she learned at 19 that her own mother was Jewish and survived the Warsaw Ghetto, motivating her research on Wiera Gran.

February 21, 2012. Adam Daniel Rotfeld, professor of humanities at Warsaw University and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a lecture on the lessons learned from his work as Co-Chairman of the Polish-Russian Group on Difficult Matters, a committee established by the governments of both countries to address their shared history. Prof. Rotfeld showed that the process of historical reconciliation can be useful for other European countries with strained historical relationships.

April 17, 2012. Symposium: World Leaders Respond to the European Crisis
U-M welcomed Ambassador Witold Sobków, Head of the Delegation of the Permanent Representative of Poland at the United Nations, along with Senator Petr Pithart of the Czech Republic for a riveting assessment of the recent crises in Hungary, Greece, and other European countries and the situation in Poland and the Czech Republic today. H.E. Mr. Sobków has served in the Polish government since 1991 as the Ambassador to Ireland, Under-Secretary of State for European Affairs, and Titular Ambassador in the Department of Strategy and Planning of Poland’s Foreign Policy.

New Courses On Polish Culture, 2012–13

Anthropology 445/REES 410 Malinowski’s Other Worlds: Journeys in and out of Polish Cultural Production
This new course, taught by Thom Chivens in Fall 2012, introduces students to Bronisław Malinowski’s anthropological fieldwork and writing in the Trobriand Islands, founding cultural anthropology’s core methodology, participant observation. The course explores how Polish cultural production and thought contributed to Malinowski’s anthropological work.

INSTHUM 411/REES 410 The Lens of History: Holocaust Memory through the Films of Agnieszka Holland
Geneviève Zubrzycki and Kathleen Canning will offer a mini–course in Fall 2012 in conjunction with Polish filmmaker Agnieszka Holland’s visit to U–M. By looking at Europa, Europa and In Darkness, the course will focus on Pre–WWII Germany, the Holocaust, and post–WWII Holocaust memory in Poland. Students will attend film screenings and Holland’s lecture, meet with the filmmaker, and participate in a writing workshop.

Polish 215 Heart of Europe: Poland Today
Piotr Westwalewicz offers this new course in Fall 2012, providing an introduction to all aspects of contemporary life in Poland: culture, politics, education, sports, entertainment, and economy. The main focus will be current Polish perceptions and constructions of national, ethnic, religious, sexual, and gender identities in Poland in the context of on–going European integration.
Agnieszka Holland graduated in 1971 from the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU). There she studied with Miloš Forman and Ivan Passer and participated in the Prague Spring. She launched her film career in Poland through her collaboration with Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi, winning prizes and accolades for her first feature-length film, Provincial Actors, at the Cannes Film Festival in 1980. Holland received Academy Award nominations for Best Foreign Language Film for Angry Harvest (1985) and Europa, Europa (1990), which was also nominated for a Golden Globe. She has also directed several episodes of the television series The Wire, Cold Case, The Killing, and Treme. Her screenwriting career includes classics such as Kieślowski’s Blue, Wajda’s Rough Treatment and Korczak, as well as Bogayewicz’s Anna. Holland is currently working on a mini-series for HBO titled Burning Bush, about a hero of the Prague Spring.

Agnieszka

Annual Copernicus Lecture & Film
Wednesday
October 10, 2012
Michigan Theater
603 E. Liberty
Ann Arbor

5 pm Lecture
A Filmmaker’s Approach to Society’s Most Vexing Concerns: A Conversation with Agnieszka Holland

7 pm Film
In Darkness

Acclaimed film director Agnieszka Holland will deliver the 2012 Annual Copernicus Lecture. Her lecture will be followed by a free screening of Oscar-nominated In Darkness, based on Robert Marshall’s heroic tale of surviving the Holocaust in the sewers of Lvov. Prior to her visit, seven of her best-known films will be screened to the public at no charge: Fever; A Woman Alone; Europa, Europa; The Secret Garden; Total Eclipse; Copying Beethoven; and Washington Square.

This program is sponsored by the Copernicus Endowment, Department of Screen Arts & Cultures, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, Michigan Theater, and the Polish Cultural Fund–Ann Arbor.

For detailed information about the Holland Film Retrospective, please go to www.i.umich.edu/crees.

All events are free and open to the public.
Faculty Accolades

John Jackson (Political Science) co-authored, with Bogdan W. Mach and Jennifer Miller-Gonzalez, the article “Buying Support and Regime Change: The Evolution of Polish Attitudes towards the EU and Voting between Accession and 2008,” published in European Union Politics. He and colleague Mach are currently working on a paper on generational change and attitudes on voting in the 2011 Polish election.

Brian Porter–Szűcs (History) was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor for his outstanding commitment to undergraduate education. His first book was translated to Polish by Agnieszka Nowakowska and released as Gdy nacjonalizm zaczął nienawidzić (Pogranicze, 2011).

Theodosia "Teddy" Robertson (History, UM–Flint) is retiring after 26 years of service. She has published extensively on Polish literature and culture and the Holocaust. Her students praise her enthusiasm, knowledge, and innovative approaches to teaching, earning her UM–Flint’s Excellence in Teaching Award. Robertson has served as president of the Dom Polski Cultural Center of Flint and as president of the International Institute of Flint Board of Directors.

Piotr Westwalewicz (Slavic) was promoted to Lecturer IV. Magdalena Zaborowska (American Culture/Afroamerican & African Studies) lectured via Skype at a Borderland Foundation symposium held in Sejny, Poland on April 29–May 4, 2012.

Geneviève Zubrzycki (Sociology) received the Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article in the Sociology of Culture from the American Sociological Association for her article “History and the National Sensorium: Making Sense of Polish Mythology,” published in Qualitative Sociology. She will be a faculty fellow at U-M’s Institute for the Humanities in 2012–13, and received several research grants for her new project, “Stretching the Symbolic Boundaries of the Nation: Jewish Renaissance and ‘Philo–Semitism’ in Contemporary Poland.”

Undergraduate Students

The Excellence in Polish Language award went to Jeff Lemanski, a junior majoring in Polish and accounting.

Congratulations to recent graduates who earned bachelor’s degrees in Polish from the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, Jill Szydloski and Julia Solarewicz, and to Paulina Kolczykiewicz and Joanna Smulska, who completed minors in Polish Language, Literature, & Culture.

Graduate Students

We welcome Alena Aniskiewicz (Slavic) and Rebecca Dulemba (REES) to their graduate studies in Ann Arbor in the fall. Both received the prestigious Copernicus Fellowship for Incoming Graduate Students.

Paulina Duda (Slavic) received a CRIF grant to conduct research on Polish–Lithuanian relations during WWII and attitudes toward Home Army soldiers in Lithuania. She will present a paper on Polish commercial/”capitalist” cinema at a conference in Kaunas.

Johanna Folland (History) began her PhD in the Department of History in Fall 2011 after graduating with a BA and MA in history from Binghamton University (SUNY). She has a strong interest in the transitional years of the early 1990s in Poland and the former DDR.

Jodi Greig (Slavic) passed her qualifying exams and advanced to candidacy in 2012. She will visit Kraków, Warsaw, and Gdańsk this summer to conduct interviews and do preliminary research for her dissertation, which concerns queer approaches to historiography in contemporary Poland.

Jessica Robbins (Anthropology) was awarded the Milford H. Wolpoff Graduate Student Writing Award from the Department of Anthropology. She has presented at several conferences and will conduct follow-up research for her dissertation in Poland in June–July 2012 on the moral and political–economic dimensions of aging, care, and personhood.

Natalie Smolenski (Anthropology/History) received a Jean Monnet Fellowship to write a paper about the response of Polish clergy to Poland’s integration into the EU.
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 Kuron, Krzysztof Penderecki, Henryk Górecki, Krzysztof Zanussi, Ryszard Kapuściński, President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Kora Jackowska, Adam Zagajewski, Zbigniew Libera, Krzysztof Czyżewski, Starsy, Piotr Cywiński, and many more. A complete list is available on the Copernicus website.

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