

Kopernikana

2011

The University of Michigan
Copernicus Endowment



From The Director

It has been another exceptional year for the Copernicus Endowment and Polish studies at the University of Michigan. The highlight was hosting the 3rd International Conference on Polish Studies last fall, an interdisciplinary event gathering established and up-and-coming scholars, and providing an exceptional venue for graduate students to present their work-in-progress. We were honored to have the Consul General of Poland in New York, Ms. Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, as our guest during the two-day event.

The Copernicus Endowment also co-sponsored the visits of Marek Belka, President of the National Bank of Poland, who spoke on the “European Dimension of the Global Crisis,” and Dr. Piotr M.A. Cywiński, director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, who gave the Annual Copernicus Lecture on “Auschwitz in the 21st Century.”

The Copernicus Endowment is committed to supporting education in Polish studies across the University of Michigan. The University now boasts more faculty specialists in Polish studies than any of our peer institutions in North America, offering a wide range of undergraduate courses in the departments of anthropology, American culture, history, political science, Slavic languages, sociology, and more. We are proud to be able to attract the best students in the nation to our program by sponsoring fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students. As always, we are most grateful for your past and future donations to Polish studies. They are crucial in making our educational mission possible.

Geneviève Zubrzycki, Director



The Year in Programs



September 16–18, 2010. This year, the University of Michigan was honored to host a major interdisciplinary conference entitled **“Polish Studies in the 21st Century,”** the 3rd International Conference on Polish Studies. The papers were uncommonly innovative and provocative, and the conversations and debates left participants feeling energized and optimistic about the field of Polish studies. The conference was organized by the Copernicus Endowment Steering Committee and Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

October 12, 2010. The Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies and International Policy Center hosted **Marek Belka**, President of the National Bank of Poland, at the University of Michigan for a lecture titled “European Dimension of the Global Crisis.” Before leading Poland’s central bank, Belka was European Department director at the IMF, where he led efforts to combat the economic crisis in Europe. As leader of the Polish National Bank, Belka is focused on maintaining stability of Poland’s currency, the zloty. Belka’s lecture is available on video at www.ii.umich.edu/wced/impact/multimedia.

October 25, 2010. **Piotr Cywiński**, director of the Auschwitz–Birkenau State Museum, presented the Annual Copernicus Lecture, “Auschwitz in the 21st Century.” Dr. Cywiński discussed the future of the Nazi German Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp at a time when many of those who lived through World War II are passing on and the world is losing their first-hand accounts of that tragic historical event. Cywiński’s lecture is available on video at www.ii.umich.edu/crees/events/multimedia.

February 17, 2011. **Jeffrey Kopstein**, professor of political science and director of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto, gave a lecture titled “Intimate Violence: Popular Anti-Jewish Riots in Occupied Poland” in the Conversations on Europe series. The video is available at www.youtube.com/user/um.

March 14, 2011. In his lecture “A Stranger in a Strange Land: Traveling East to Find the World,” **Richard Noyce** traced his research into Polish graphic art in connection with his second book, *Contemporary Graphic Art in Poland*, and discussed his interactions with artists in their studios and in galleries. The lecture text is available at www.ii.umich.edu/crees/copernicus.

March 23, 2011. In his lecture “Solidarity, 1980–81,” **Michael Dobbs** spoke of his experiences in Poland as the *Washington Post*’s Warsaw correspondent. He was the first foreign correspondent allowed inside the Gdańsk Shipyard during the legendary strike to interview Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa. Dobbs was Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor in Journalism at U–M in 2010–11.



Marek Belka



Piotr Cywiński and
Kasia Kietlinska

Coming in September



Miłosz

Made in

Annual Copernicus Lecture in the Zell Visiting Writers Series

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Rackham Auditorium

915 E. Washington St.

5:10 pm—Film

The Magic Mountain: An American Portrait of Czesław Miłosz

Documentary directed by Maria Zmarz-Koczanowicz,

in English and Polish, 2001.

7:00 pm—Symposium

Miłosz: Made in America

A Conversation with Robert Hass, Robert Pinsky, and Lillian Vallée

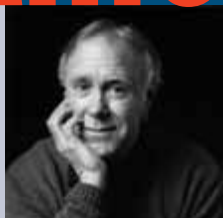
(with Bogdana Carpenter and Benjamin Paloff)

June 28, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Polish poet Czesław Miłosz (1911–2004). The Nobel laureate had close ties to the University of Michigan, where his first major collection of poems to appear in North America, *Utwory poetyckie*, was published in 1976 by Michigan Slavic Publications, and where he received an honorary doctorate in 1977. Two weeks after receiving the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature he returned to Michigan to lecture, becoming the Visiting Walgreen Professor of Human Understanding in 1983, and he was a frequent visitor to the campus until his final Copernicus Lecture and poetry reading in 1993. *Miłosz: Made in America* is a conversation about Miłosz's development as a poet in the U.S. and his continuing influence on contemporary poetry. The panelists, all celebrated poets and translators as well as long-time Miłosz collaborators, will offer their insights about this complicated man and his work and their own roles in the "making" of both.

In *The Magic Mountain*, the Miłosz phenomenon is discussed by U.S. scholars Richard Lourie, Robert Hass, Susan Sontag, Helen Vendler, and others. The film was shot in and around the artist's house in Grizzly Peak, San Francisco, and at the University of California, Berkeley, where the poet lived and taught for almost 40 years.

A Tribute to Czesław Miłosz Author, Poet, Nobel Prize Recipient

America



Robert Hass



Robert Pinsky



Lillian Vallée

PARTICIPANTS

Robert Hass was born in San Francisco. His most recent books of poetry include *The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems* (2011) and *Time and Materials* (2007), which won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Hass has also co-translated several volumes of poetry with Czesław Miłosz, including *Facing the River* (1995) and *Second Space* (2004), and served as Poet Laureate of the U.S. from 1995 to 1997. He teaches at the University of California, Berkeley.

Robert Pinsky is the author of several collections of poetry and prose, most recently *Selected Poems* (2011) and *Thousands of Broadways: Dreams and Nightmares of the American Small Town* (2009). He is also the translator, with Renata Gorczyński and Robert Hass, of Czesław Miłosz's *The Separate Notebooks* (1986) and *The Inferno of Dante* (1995). While serving as U.S. Poet Laureate from 1997 to 2002, he founded the Favorite Poem Project, a program celebrating the role of poetry in Americans' lives. He is poetry editor of the weekly Internet magazine *Slate* and teaches in the graduate writing program at Boston University.

Lillian Vallée was born to Polish parents displaced by World War II and grew up in Detroit. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, where she wrote her dissertation about Czesław Miłosz's writings and worked as his translator. Her many translations include Miłosz's *Bells in Winter* (1978), the three-volume *Diary* of Witold Gombrowicz (1988), and Adam Zagajewski's *Two Cities: On Exile, History, and Imagination* (2004).

Bogdana Carpenter completed her M.A. at Warsaw University and her doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where she was mentored by Czesław Miłosz. In 1983 she joined the faculty of the Slavic Department at the University of Michigan, where she taught courses on Polish literature and language until her retirement in 2008. She is the author of *The Poetic Avant-Garde in Poland, 1918–1939* (1983) and *Monumenta Polonica: The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry* (1989). The translator, with John Carpenter, of several volumes of poetry and essays by Zbigniew Herbert and Julia Hartwig, she is also the editor, with Madeline Levine, of Miłosz's *To Begin Where I Am: Selected Essays* (2002).

Benjamin Paloff is the author of *The Politics* (2011), a collection of poems, and has translated several books from Polish, most recently *Lodgings: Selected Poems of Andrzej Sosnowski* (2011). The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Fulbright Program, he edits poetry and criticism for *Boston Review* and is an assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures and of comparative literature at the University of Michigan.

This program is sponsored by the Copernicus Endowment, Michigan Slavic Publications, and Zell Visiting Writers Series with additional support from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Institute for the Humanities; International Institute; and Office of the Vice President for Research.

The Future of Europe

Leszek Balcerowicz

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
4:00 pm
Annenberg Auditorium
1120 Weill Hall
735 S. State



Leszek Balcerowicz graduated with distinction from the Foreign Trade Faculty at the Central School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw, earned an M.B.A. at St. John's University in New York, and a Ph.D. in economics from the Warsaw School of Economics. Having served as both finance minister and deputy prime minister of Poland during key transitional years, as well as president of the Polish National Bank, he oversaw a sweeping program of economic reform as his country successfully transitioned to a market economy.

In 2005, President Aleksander Kwaśniewski awarded Balcerowicz with the country's highest decoration, the Order of the White Eagle, for his contribution to Poland's economic transformation. He is currently a member of the group of trustees of the Institute of International Finance and professor of economics at the Warsaw School of Economics.

Sponsored by the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, Ford School of Public Policy, and International Policy Center.

Kopernikana News

Faculty News



Anna Grzymała-Busse

Anna Grzymała-Busse (Political Science) completed her first year as the Director of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia and Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Her inaugural lecture, "The Sacralization of Politics in Europe and Beyond," was given on December 2, 2010. She is currently researching the impact of organized religion on public policy debates and outcomes across Europe and in the U.S.

John Jackson (Political Science) continues his research with Polish partners using longitudinal data from Poland and Ireland to examine how changes in attitudes towards the EU are affected by individual and regional income and employment patterns. He recently published, with Bogdan W. Mach and Radosław Markowski, "Party Strategy and Electoral Competition in Post-Communist Countries: Evidence from Poland" in the *Journal of Electoral Studies*.

Benjamin Paloff (Slavic/Comparative Literature) published *The Politics*, a collection of poems, and a translation of Andrzej Sosnowski's work, *Lodgings: Selected Poems*, in 2011.

Ewa Pasek (Slavic) taught a new course, "Gipsy Kings," which focused on issues related to contemporary situations of the Roma, including assimilation and marginalization of the Roma minority, economic problems, housing, education, and healthcare.



**Benjamin Paloff and
Karen Underhill**



Teddy Robertson and
Brian Porter-Szűcs



Chris Chrobak and Ewa Pasek



Jessica Zychowicz
and Jodi Greig

Brian Porter-Szűcs (History) was promoted to full professor in 2010 and received the John Dewey Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. He introduced a new course, “Poland in the 20th and 21st Centuries,” which was popular with students. His new book, *Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland*, was published in May, 2011.

Geneviève Zubrzycki (Sociology) assumed the directorship of the Copernicus Endowment in fall 2010. She works on national identity, religion, and symbolic boundary-making in Poland, and is now studying the renaissance of Jewish communities as well as non-Jewish Poles’ interest in Jewish culture and Polish-Jewish relations.

Undergraduate Students

The Excellence in Polish Language award went to **Chris Chrobak**, a senior majoring in creative writing, literature, and philosophy. Chris hopes to pursue an M.F.A. in creative writing or become a professor of creative writing or philosophy.

Congratulations to **Katarzyna Franczyk**, **Kristy Lukaszewski**, **Alicja Sobilo**, and **Joanna Solarewicz**, who earned bachelor’s degrees in Polish from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Undergraduate minors in Polish went to **Lisa Hebda** and **Monika Martusiewicz**.

Graduate Students

Paulina Duda (Slavic) came to U-M in January 2011 with a degree from Jagiellonian University and University College London, where she wrote a thesis on Tadeusz Konwicki’s cinema. She will be studying Polish literature and cinema.

Megan Elliott (Sociology) studied and lived in Warsaw for four months doing intensive language training. She is currently writing an article about the gentrification of Kazimierz and the idea of cultural authenticity.

Jodi Greig (Slavic) presented papers at the 3rd International Conference on Polish Studies, the Central/Southeast European Film and Visual Culture Symposium, and at the 1st Global Conference on Queer Sexualities in Warsaw. She is conducting archival research on author Maria Komornicka and organized a panel for the upcoming ASEES conference on “The Other ‘Other’ Europe,” which will address homosexuality in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Jessica Robbins (Anthropology) continues her research on aging, medical anthropology, kinship, and memory in postsocialist Poland. She received the Elderhostel K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant and a Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, and will be a Sweetland Junior Fellow in 2012.

Natalie Smolenski (Anthropology/History) traveled to Poland for three months to visit various saints’ shrines and determine potential sites for extended fieldwork to complete research for an Anthro-History seminar paper.

Katie Wroblewski (History), a recipient of a Copernicus Fellowship for Incoming Graduate Students, will join the Department of History in the fall. Wroblewski is interested in the Polish diaspora, and has already done archival work in Poland and the U.S. She approaches the study of Polish–American history as a transnational topic, and her work deals with the process of emigration and immigration and the way we define the boundaries of Polish history.

Barbara Zukowski (Comparative Literature) received a Copernicus Fellowship for Incoming Graduate Students, and works on the dynamics of reception and its influence on political discourses in Poland and the Anglophone literary marketplaces. She received a Fulbright grant in 2008–09 to study poetry and poetics at Jagiellonian University.

Jessica Zychowicz (Slavic) participated in a conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of State in Prague, “Young Leaders in Dialogue with America.” She presented academic papers at the 3rd International Polish Studies Conference, ASEES Annual Convention, and the Midwest Slavic Association Conference. She reached candidacy in 2011.

Alumni

Alex Gerber (Sociology) defended her doctoral dissertation, titled “Being Polish/Becoming European: Gender and The Limits of Diffusion in Polish Accession to the European Union.”

Raymond Patton (History) defended his doctoral dissertation entitled, “Screamed Poetry: Rock in Poland’s Last Decade of Communism.” He has a tenure–track appointment at Drury University in Springfield, MO.

Magdalena Szafarska (B.A. German/REES '90, M.A. REES '93) works at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Medicine in the Department of Public Health Sciences, teaching courses in global health/medical sociology. Her research focuses on religion, HIV, and immigrant and comparative health.

Lenny Urena Valerio (History) defended her doctoral dissertation, “The Stakes of Empire: Colonial Fantasies, Civilizing Agendas, and Biopolitics in the Prussian–Polish Provinces (1840–1914).” She is the assistant director of U–M’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Katarzyna Zechenter (Ph.D. Slavic '95) teaches literature at University College London; her current research focuses on memory and national conscience after 1989. An accomplished poet, her poetry has appeared in *Tygodnik Powszechny*, *Kultura*, *Zeszyty Literackie*, and *Przekrój*. She has just published a new volume of poetry, *W Cieniu Drzewa*.



Magdalena Szafarska
and family

Farewells

Henryk Górecki (1933–2010) visited the University of Michigan as a Copernicus Lecturer and again to receive an honorary doctorate in 1996. This tribute was written by Luke B. Howard (Ph.D. Musicology '97), associate professor of music at Brigham Young University.

It was while a graduate student at the University of Michigan School of Music from 1994–97 that I started to examine the music of Henryk Górecki in detail—his famous Third Symphony eventually became the topic for my doctoral dissertation. And during those years I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing the composer several times in Ann Arbor, thanks to the Copernicus Endowment and the generosity of CREES. Over the course of these visits, and other meetings with Górecki, I came to know something about the man himself as well as his music.

Górecki was unfailingly kind, patient, and generous, despite painful physical ailments and an exhausting schedule that would render any normal person decidedly ill-tempered. I recall him literally bounding across the stage from player to player, with that pronounced limp from childhood injuries, cheerfully offering advice and assistance to student musicians playing his works, while his close friends threw up their hands in frustration because he would not slow down or calm down. He was irrepressibly enthusiastic, almost giddy, when it came to making music. And he was equally reticent when it came to talking about his music. It's true that he could be dismissive of the merely curious journalist who wanted a quick quote or who attempted to pry into the composer's psyche. But the flip side is that Górecki was consistently respectful of the serious musician who sought for musical answers to the profound questions his compositions raise. It was the music, not the ego, that was most important to him. And that kind of integrity in a composer cannot be faked.

When I came to the end of my journey with Górecki's music, it was such a joy to know that my focus on him was not misplaced. His compositions withstood all the scrutiny I could give them, and every impression that I teased out of my analysis confirmed my feeling that he had reached a place of purity—especially with the Third Symphony—that few composers ever glimpse, never mind achieve. That such extraordinary music could come from such a humble, self-effacing soul should not



Luke B. Howard and Angela Dadak with Henryk Górecki, Ann Arbor, 1995

surprise us. Górecki was a master of his craft, certainly. But for music to speak sincerely to the deepest emotions within us, it must spring from a deep well of sincerity and not merely a reliance on sound compositional technique.

Arvo Pärt, the Estonian composer with whom Górecki was most often grouped during the 1990s, once asked, "How can one fill the time with notes worthy of the preceding silence?" If music aspires to break the powerful, divine stillness that Pärt spoke of, then its inescapable duty is to be exceptional. Górecki's music is exceptional; it has earned the right to break the silence. But when Górecki had nothing to say musically, which was often the case in his last years, he respected the silence, too. At precisely the time when he might have sought for commercial gain, notoriety, attention, and honors, or be tempted to write "copy-cat" works in the wake of the Third Symphony's stunning success, he chose instead to remain silent. That eloquent silence, now perpetual, will be one of Górecki's most powerful legacies. For in an age when so many composers exploit their music to honor themselves, Górecki stood out as a composer who, above all, gave of himself in honoring music. And now in return, his music—and his silence—honor him.

Sally Konopka Iversen, Amelia Kulesa Konopka's daughter, passed away on August 1, 2010. She was in the prime of her life—a life of discipline, work, endeavoring to learn and improve, manage responsibilities, play the piano, read, look her best, and above all, hold high the value of an education. It was her immense and deep satisfaction to know that the U–M Polish Studies Program had organized and awarded the Amelia Kulesa Konopka Fellowship to Monica Sendor in 2006 and Natalie Smolenski in 2010.

Thad Koza (1940–2010) held a B.A. in English from the University of Michigan. A long-time friend of the Copernicus Endowment, he was a photographer of tall ships and publisher of popular calendars. Among his favorites were the Polish tall ships *Dar Pomorza* and *Dar Młodzieży*, whose beauty he captured in photos in various locations around the world, including Poland. Fair Winds, old friend.



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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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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, Piotr Cywiński, and many more. A complete list is available on the Copernicus website.

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Kopernikana 2011

