A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

According to figures released by the Modern Language Association in a study assessing foreign language enrollments in the United States, in 2002 1,053 students were learning Polish at US institutions of higher learning. The study showed a 36% increase in Polish enrollments since 1998, and places Polish 21st among 177 foreign languages. At the elementary and secondary school level, Polish has also witnessed a resurgence. Dr. Edmund Osysko, Director of the Education Commission of the Polish American Congress, reports that there are now nearly 150 Saturday and evening language schools operating in some 26 states; a half dozen schools have enrollments of over 1,000 pupils. Having gained entry into NATO and the European Union, Poland is now seeking its place on the European and global stages, and it is hardly surprising that Americans, and not only those of Polish descent, are becoming more interested in Polish affairs.

The trend is also in evidence at Columbia, where enrollments in Polish language classes have been strong for many years and are growing, thanks to the efforts of Professors Anna Frajlich-Zajac and David Goldfarb, and their staff of graduate preceptors. This fall, they will be offering three levels of language instruction and graduate courses on Bruno Schulz, and Sade/Masoch. They will be joined in September by our new Kosciusko Foundation-Semper Polonia Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor of Polish Studies, Professor Leszek Koczanowicz. A philosopher from the University of Lower Silesia, he will be offering a course on “Restructuring Europe at the Turn of the Century,” and a graduate colloquium on “Politics and Culture in Central Europe.”

The expanded course offerings help meet the academic needs of students on both the undergraduate and graduate levels, many of whom have joined the vibrant and active Polish Club.

With support from the Kosciusko Foundation, the Semper Polonia Foundation, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York, the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union, and the Polish Army Veterans, Polish Studies at Columbia University have become more dynamic and visible. Our conferences and special events have attracted increasing attention. Some of them, including our March 2004 conference on “Polish-Ukrainian Relations: Past, Present and Future,” is available for viewing on our website (some of its papers have been published in the electronic journal, Intermarium). Our Fall events are listed below and we all look forward to seeing you at any or all of them.

John S. Micgiel
Director

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Danuta Sieminski, CEO of The Polish-Slavic Federal Credit Union passes a $20,000 check intended for The Polish Studies Endowment at Columbia University to Professor Micgiel.
October 31, 2003 marked a significant moment for the Polish Studies Program at Columbia University. Over 200 students, professors, and guests were in attendance to celebrate the inauguration of the program during the international symposium "Polish Foreign Policy Challenges and Domestic Reactions," organized by the Institute for Study of East Central European Center, Columbia University, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York. The host of the event, Professor John S. Micgiel, Director of the East Central European Center, introduced an impressive panel of guest speakers, which included: Ambassador Janusz Reiter, director of the Center for International Relations in Warsaw; Professor Stanislaw Wellisz, Columbia University; Professor Jan Kubik, Rutgers University; and Michal Buchowski, the Kosciuszko Foundation–Semper Polonia Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor of Polish Studies at Columbia University.

Also present were Witold Sulimirski, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation; Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York; and Danuta Sieminska, CEO of the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union.

The program serves as the first step for expanding knowledge of Polish affairs in the wider context of Central Europe and Europe as a whole for students at Columbia University. With the opportunity to further their knowledge of the culture, history, and politics pertaining to Poland, these future leaders will be vital promoters of Poland. Ultimately, the program aims at establishing an Endowed Chair in Polish Studies at Columbia University. Interested in helping?

Professor Stanislaw Wellisz (center) of Columbia University giving his presentation on "International Obligations and Economic Modernization: Poland's Economy Today"

Contributions are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to

Columbia University

and mailed to:

The Polish Studies Fund
East Central European Center
International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street

Poland Through the Looking-Glass of Anthropology

Michal Buchowski

2003-2004 Kosciuszko Foundation-Semper Polonia Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor of Polish Studies

This has been a pioneering year for the Polish Studies Chair at Columbia University. Although being a trailblazer is not always an easy or pleasant task, a whole group of people have daringly undertaken this rare challenge. During my anthropological training, a spirit of adventure and desire to navigate uncharted maps was installed in me. Thus, taking part in this program was an opportunity I could not miss. This spirit, combined with the devotion and strong work ethic of others involved convinces me that ultimate success will be the destiny of this collective effort.

An integral and vital part of this endeavor is most definitely education. No matter how perceived by the public, the university is an institution that carries research and conveys knowledge to younger generations. The task of those working and studying in the environment is to create a milieu for critical thinking, to exchange information, to shape ideas, and to make an advancement of knowledge. Learning about Polish culture, society, and politics is just a fragment of this never-ending effort. Simultaneously, a comprehension of 'Polish affairs' should be part of the general wisdom that enriches common understanding of the world and brings into account the Polish perspective on processes, developments, and events that are of and for common interest. In this way, a "native point of view," to borrow a metaphor

Continued on page 3)
from Clifford Geertz, becomes a part of a more universal perception of the world. To accomplish these goals of sympathetic understanding and insightful contribution to wider discussions requires a historical contextualization, as well as an achieved perspective on Polish society and culture today, which is thoughtful, well balanced and comparative. What ensues is an interdisciplinary approach that provides students with a captivating image of a given people, their history, the course of daily life and collective representations. In my case, it has been anthropology that functions as a focus and tool for such an intellectual and educational project.

Since an anthropological perspective may imply several characteristics, it is a challenge to, on the one hand, choose topics that students find both interesting and informative. On the other hand, the seminars should meet all criteria of good scholarship and anthropological profile. The latter implies discussions on issues important for ordinary people living in Poland, significant in the regional, continental and global context, and momentous for both historical developments and scholarly conceptualizations. Therefore, all the issues discussed in classes have been focused on Poland, but seen always as a collective actor involved in Central and Eastern European affairs. All four issues addressed this year have been, I think, of primary importance for the contemporary world as well as Poles.

The first was problems with nationalism in Central Europe. One of the major odd ideas commonly presented in the literature has been the dual division of Europe into good, western ‘civic nationalism’ and bad, eastern ‘ethnic nationalism’. In this perspective, Central Europe is often perceived as a region in which nations, awakened in 19th century, build their states, while in the West states build their nations. Poland, however, herself presents a case that does not fit this binary coding. For instance, the Polish Commonwealth had started to create a civic nation that included all its citizens, but this process was interrupted. Also, due to historical circumstances, marked by ongoing struggles for independence, Poland reappeared as a nationalizing state in 1918, and again as purely national state in 1945. in order to successfully deconstruct exiting clichés regarding Poland, the recourse to the study of the historical development of the idea of the nation and its political determinants is imperative. This enables to contextualize the very process of building nations case by case. Certain ethnographic characteristics, such as linguistic, ethnic, national and religious, have been abusively used in the process of national identity making.

Accepted as a common academic wisdom, nations are perceived as ‘imagined communities’ and have been ‘invented’ in the historical processes. Issues discussed also embrace such topics as the main minority groups (e.g. Roma, Germans, Russians), and their history and contemporary problems; ethnic cleanings in 20th century Central Europe (World War II and its aftermath, wars in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s); and, the principles of the so-called ‘ethnic democracy’ or ‘constitutional nationalism’ as developed in the Balkans and two Baltic states.

Nationalism, the transition to democracy and the free market have all become major captions used for the description of post-1989 Central and Eastern Europe. With this view, social consequences of major political and economic shifts are often forgotten, even though these societal factors in fact condition official policies. In the process of reform, social structure and perception of this structure are transformed. Both social practice and cultural images contribute to the production and reproduction of social inequalities. The principles of social distinction vary and should always be viewed in their functional context. These social distinctions are created due to ethnic, religious, linguistic, class and gender differences. Placing them in a historical perspective help us to understand the way such distinctions emerge and function. At the same time, one may also identify the mechanism of creating ‘others’ among ‘us’. Thanks to such defined studies as the phenomena of discriminating, for example, against women on the labor market, Roma people in public life, linguistic minorities in administration, and religious groups in mass-media, an illustration of a wider set of laws arises.

An important part of social distinctions is also an urban-rural division. Rural communities comprise a significant part of Central European societies. Agriculture, for instance, was one of the major bones of contention in negotiations between candidate countries and the European Union. Even though farmers in postindustrial states compose a small minority, the fact that the Common Agricultural Policy consumes a large portion of the EU budget indicates that “rurality” plays an important symbolic role in the consciousness of western societies. In Central Europe, rural life is also strongly imbued with symbolic meanings (lifestyle, intimacy with nature, pristine folk values, religiosity), but these kinds of images are obviously strengthened by economic and social problems related to their respectively large social groups, which participate in national affairs. This common wisdom about the importance of “peasants” in Central Europe does not translate into knowledge about them. Therefore, it is important to address these prob-
spending an evening in one of the largest Polish communities on the East Coast. On April 1, 2004, a "Pisanki" Easter Egg Painting workshop was run with the help of the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, NY, which graciously lent information, worksheets and the tools needed to make the workshop a great success. In addition to the activities on campus amongst fellow Columbians, the Polish Club also tries to make use of the many resourceful Polish institutions and organization here in New York. It proudly supports the newly established Polish Studies Program at Columbia University by encouraging its members to enroll in the various Polish courses offered, ranging from language and history, to anthropology and film. The club is also an active member of the Polish Students Organization (PSO), which is one of the largest youth organizations in the tri-state area, uniting various students interested in applying to colleges, presently studying in local universities, and alumnae.

The Polish Club is in the process of compiling an alumnae database, in the hopes of organizing panel discussions and networking sessions to shine light on the various career possibilities students have once they leave Columbia. Please email the club with your information (name, address, school, year and profession) under the title "Polish Columbia Alumae."

Although not acknowledged at Columbia College by ABC, the Polish Club has great hopes of eventually receiving recognition and support from the other side of Broadway, so as to reach out to those who might be interested in taking part and helping with their events. Presently, their e mail list consists of over 125 Columbia University students and professors.

If you would like to be included on the Polish Club e-mail list to receive information regarding the happenings of the club, please email Anna Czaplinski at ac2162@barnard.edu with the title "Join PCBC list." Comments and concerns will be warmly received.

We hope to hear your cheers at the Pulaski Day Parade this October 3, 2004, while we walk down 5th Ave. All are also warmly welcome to the numerous Polish events taking place at Columbia this Fall

—Anna Czaplinski BC’06
President of the Polish Club of Barnard College, Columbia University

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**THIS FALL**


**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2004**

The Paderewski Seminar

"POLAND AND THE US: A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP"

With honored guest Wladimir Cimoszewicz Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

School of International and Public Affairs

420 West 118th St.
(corner of Amsterdam Ave.)
Columbia University

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**Conference Program**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>4.00</td>
<td>Coffee and registration</td>
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<td>4.30</td>
<td>Welcome by Prof. John S. Micgiel, Institute for the Study of Europe</td>
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<td>4.45</td>
<td>Keynote by Minister W. Cimoszewicz – Poland’s Foreign Policy after EU Enlargement and Its Special Relationship with the US</td>
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<td>5:10</td>
<td>Edward L. Rowny – The Legacy of Paderewski</td>
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<td>5:55</td>
<td>Joseph J. Maciel – The Establishment and Activities of Polish – American Political Action Committees</td>
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<td>6:20</td>
<td>Zbigniew Cymerman – The Modernization of the Polish Armed Forces and Military Cooperation with the US</td>
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<td>6:45</td>
<td>George W. Handy – R &amp; D Exchange Programs between the US and Poland</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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fabric that was favorably received and aroused interests for the students. For them, the anthropological perspective presents a window through which they can provide insights into current social and economic issues of Poland and Central Europe. It is worth emphasizing that this comparative perspective attracted many persons whose primary interest was not focused on Poland. Apparently, anthropology proved to offer a view that many find provoking and helpful. It unveils cultural currents that only seemingly are superficial. Students are fascinated by the idea that the politics and economics of culture helps to shaped various social processes. The looking-glass of anthropology (and it is a play of words on the title of Michael Herzfeld’s book on *Anthropology Through a Looking-Glass*) has successfully made Poland closer to American students.

**New Polish Club at Barnard College**

The Polish Club of Barnard College was officially recognized as an organization on November 10, 2003, marking a significant day for not only Poles and Americans of Polish descent at Columbia University, but the Polish Studies Program as well. Although students of Columbia University have long been actively participating in various student-led events in New York, no officially recognized club existed at the University for over 10 years. Many proposals had been submitted to ABC (Activities Board Committee) but each time, recognition had been denied.

In the fall of 2003, Barnard College students decide to mobilize and take action in this campaign to create an organization for all those interested in Poland and Polish culture. Initiated and led by Anna Czaplinski, presently a Junior majoring in East Central European Regional Studies: Concentration Poland (BC ‘06), students drafted a constitution, gathered a members list, and compiled a list of proposed events. On November 10, Anna, along with Aleksandra Cyprus (Vice President, BC ‘04), Justyna Raczkiewicz (Treasurer, BC ‘07), and Duma Marilela (Secretary, BC ‘07), made their appeal on behalf of all Polish students to have an organization supported by Barnard College that would cater to the needs and interests of students. Their efforts were well received by the Student Government Association (SGA), and approval of this request was acknowledged later that evening.

With both financial and moral support from the College Activities Office and SGA, the Polish Club has been able to celebrate the special and important features of Polish culture, making it a campus-wide affair. Their first event, a "Wigilia Christmas Gathering," held on December 4, 2003 in the North Tower of Sulzberger Hall, proved to be a great success. With over 60 members of the Polish community from Columbia University in attendance, people were able to enjoy tasty *Wiligia* foods, share *Oplatek* and warm holiday wishes, and sing traditional Polish *Koledy* as one strong, united family.

The Polish Club continued its mission of making Polish culture known on campus during the Spring semester by organizing a wide range of events to appeal to the diverse interests of the student body. The club held "Polish Film Nights" every first and third Tuesday of the month, showcasing some of the best of Polish Cinema. They hosted "Columbia Night w Europie" on Saturday, March 27, 2004 in 'Club Europa' in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. There, Columbia students, alumnae and friends had the opportunity to meet while...
Courses for Fall 2004

Polish W1101
ELEMENTARY POLISH I
Instructor: Thomas E Starky
M, W, Th 4:10pm-5:25pm
707 Hamilton Hall

Polish W1201
INTERMEDIATE POLISH I
Instructor: Anna Frajlich-Zajac; M, W, Th 1:10pm-2:25pm
716A Hamilton Hall

Polish W3101
ADVANCED POLISH I
Instructor: Anna Frajlich-Zajac; M, W, Th 11:00am-12:15pm
716A Hamilton Hall

Polish G6240
BRUNO SCHULZ
Instructor: David A Goldfarb
Wednesday 6:10-8pm
227 Milbank Hall (Barnard)

Comparative Literature: Slavic
G6120
SADE/MASOCH:
LITERATURE, THEORY & HISTORY
Instructor: David A Goldfarb
Tuesday 4:10pm-6:00pm
227 Milbank Hall (Barnard)

International Affairs U8484
POLITICS & CULTURE IN CENTRAL EUROPE
Instructor: Leszek Koczianowicz
Thursday 2:10pm-4:00pm
253 IAB International Affairs

International Affairs U8484
NEW EUROPE, NEW POLAND:
RESTRUCTURING EUROPE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY
Instructor: Leszek Koczianowicz
Wednesday 2:30pm-4:00pm
1219 International Affairs

FALL EVENTS

September 29 2004, 6:00 pm–Wednesday
Prof. Maria Malgorzata Szpakowska,
Uniwersytet Warszawski
“Chciec i miec. Samowiedza obyczajowa w Polsce czasu przemian” (Lecture in Polish)
1219 International Affairs Building

October 4, 2004, 6:00pm. Monday
Prof. Leszek Koczianowicz, Lower Silesian University and Columbia University
“The Four Myths of Solidarity”
1512 International Affairs

October 12, 2004 6:00 pm– Tuesday
Prof. Pawel Machcewicz, Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw
“The Institute of National Remembrance and coming to terms with the difficult past: World War II & the Communist Dictatorship” 1219 International Affairs Building

October 15, 2004, 6:30 pm–Wednesday
Authors’ Evening with Bill Johnston, Indiana University, and promotion of his translation of “Bacacay,” by Witold Gombrowicz, published by Archipelago Books
Department of Slavic Languages
Columbia University
7th Floor Hamilton Hall
Cheese and wine will be served

November 11, 2004, 6:00 pm – Thursday
Alice Catherine Carls, University of Tennessee at Martin
“The Genesis of the European Union, 1919-1945,”
1219 International Affairs Building
Czeslaw Milosz, 1911-2004

The staff of the Polish Studies Program noted with sadness the passing of Professor Czeslaw Milosz in Krakow on August 14, 2004. The Polish and American press has had extensive commentary on his life and his writing. In an essay for The New York Times, one essayist called Milosz “a hero of the history of his time and a hero of the literature of his time.”

Perhaps less well-known among his many accomplishments was his key role in the establishment of the Adam Mickiewicz Chair in Polish Literature at Columbia University in the immediate postwar period. The incumbent turned out to be his former teacher in Wilno, Professor Manfred Kridl. A controversy surrounding the funding for the Chair during the early 1950s eventually led to its demise with Professor Kridl’s death in 1957, but Milosz’s interest in Polish Studies at Columbia remained strong. His granddaughter, Erin Gilbert, was a Barnard College student and took Polish language and literature courses at the Columbia Slavic Department in the 1990s, and when the Adam Mickiewicz Fund was established in 1998, Professor Milosz became a founding member.

A series of memorials have been or will be held to commemorate the Nobel Laureate in the New York metropolitan area, at Nowy Dziennik, at the Brooklyn Public Labrary, and at the Kosciuszko Foundation, among others.

We extend our sincere sympathies to Professor Milosz’s family.

Why Study Polish at Columbia?  
Anna Frajlich-Zajac

Polish belongs to the Slavic group of the Indo-European language family. Along with Czech, Slovak, and Lusatian, it is a member of the Western group of Slavic languages. It is spoken by 38.6 million people in Poland and some 10 million abroad. Polish has a recorded tradition of about 850 years, with the first written Polish document dating from the 12th century, and consisting of some proper names on a Latin document. Longer texts in Polish text cannot be found until the 14th century due to the hegemony of the Latin language in schools, church, and administration.

The modern literary language emerged around the 16th century. Its development can be traced largely to the work of the first outstanding Polish writers: Mikołaj Rej, Jan Kochanowski, Piotr Skarga, and others associated with the Golden Age of Polish literature during the Renaissance. During the Romantic period of the nineteenth century, Polish literature and language flourished thanks to writers like Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowiacki, Zygmunt Krasiński, Aleksander Fredro, and Cyprian Norwid.

Contemporary Polish literature and art contribute greatly to the culture at large. Great Polish writers like Gombrowicz, Witkiewicz, Schulz, Milosz, and Szymborska—the last two Nobel Prize laureates—are translated, read, and studied around the world. Polish filmmakers like Wajda and Kieslowski are the subjects of studies by aspiring students of film everywhere. Thus Polish is the language of a rich cultural tradition and a vibrant new society.

The Department of Slavic Languages at Columbia University offers three levels of Polish (Elementary, Intermediate & Advanced) as well as courses in Polish literature.

There are many reasons for students to learn Polish:

* Students can fulfill the language requirement regardless of their origin, and field of interest.
* For those interested in law, business, or finances, Polish is a useful tool in the job market. Poland’s recent induction into the European Union on May 1, 2004 has solidified Poland’s role as a major player in the global economy. Many business majors seek internships in the World Bank, or in Warsaw’s many financial institutions.
* For those interested in European history or Jewish history, a proficiency in Polish means access to a wealth of crucial historical documents.
* Of all the Slavic language countries, Poland alone has a strong Renaissance tradition and is the only one with two Nobel Laureates in literature in the last quarter of a century
* For pre-med or pre-law students, large Polish communities can become clientele in the near future.

Our classes are small and students have the opportunity to participate in exercises all the time. Language classes are taught by professionals who utilize the latest language teaching techniques like video and audio programs, etc.
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