Fritz Stern, left, delivered the keynote speech and received an honorary degree from Rector Zdzislaw Latajka at the University of Wroclaw's 300th anniversary celebration.

Fritz Stern, who received his BA from Columbia in 1946, his MA in 1948 and his Ph.D in 1953, was able to make brief trips to Poland in the late 1970s, but it was only after the fall of communism that the Poles acknowledged the legacy of the city he had known as a child. Stern's central place in the University's anniversary celebration confirmed this new openness.

"It was overwhelming. I was aware of the mixed meaning and the mixed memories, but at the same time I thought my parents would be very pleased."

—Fritz Stern, on receiving an honorary doctorate in the town of his birth.