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February 2017

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

Your Voice
in America!

President's Message



**Frank
J. Spula**
President

Dear Members, Officers, and Friends of the PAC,

I hope things are going well for you and your family in this New Year.

For me, 2017 started with sad news about the passing of Mr. Longin Komolowski, former Minister of Labor in Poland and President of Stowarzyszenie "Wspolnota Polska." Mr. Komolowski had a distinguished career dating back to the time of his college days. He was also very instrumental in the Solidarity movement. His funeral was attended by the President of the Republic of Poland, the Honorable Andrzej Duda, many representatives of the Polish government, and representatives of Polonia organizations from around the world. PAC Vice President for Polish Affairs Bozena Kaminski and I attended the funeral in Warsaw, representing the PAC.

With Mr. Komolowski's passing, Poland lost a true patriot and political activist, while the Polish American Congress lost a loyal supporter and friend.

A couple of weeks later, the community lost another patriot who was very much involved in the Solidarity movement. Mr. Wiktor Wegrzyn was a resident of Poland and the United States, and the founder of the "Rajd Katynski." (Continued...)

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Future PAC Newsletters will be sent out:

Deadline for submission	Publication date
Friday, April 7, 2017	Friday, April 14, 2017
Friday, June 2, 2017	Friday, June 9, 2017
Friday, August 4, 2017	Friday, August 11, 2017
Friday, October 6, 2017	Friday, October 13, 2017
Friday, December 1, 2017	Friday, December 8, 2017

"Your Voice in America" newsletter is published bimonthly by the Polish American Congress. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer PAC National Directors and PAC Executive Committee members the opportunity to share news and information about their state divisions and offices. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Mark Pienkos.

Articles should be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints, as well as correcting grammatical errors. We do not send proofs for approval. When sending photos, please include captions with names, official titles. All submitted materials become the property of the Polish American Congress and may be used to promote the mission of the PAC. Materials will not be returned unless requested.

Articles are due according to this schedule. Send your submissions to PAC National VP for Public Relations, Mark Pienkos at markpienkos2012@gmail.com.

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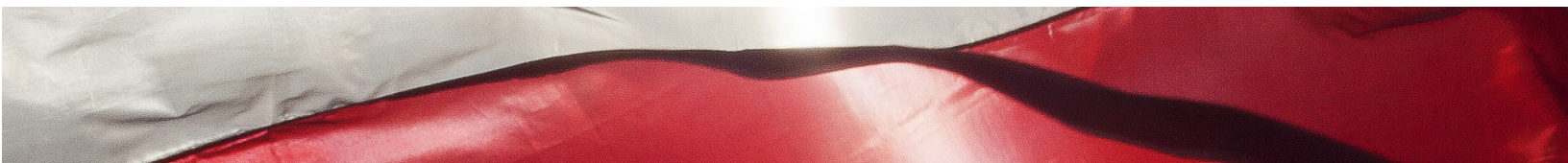
This coming year marks the 200th year of the passing of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. I am certain there will be numerous projects and commemorative initiatives planned during this coming year to remember the legacy of the General. As an organization, we need to engage our members at all levels by arranging events and making certain that General Kosciuszko be remembered as a Polish and American national hero, a freedom fighter and talented military leader. Local PAC Divisions are very strongly encouraged to take the lead in the organization of these celebrations.

With the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States, a letter of congratulations was sent to him on behalf of the Polish American Congress. Another note to President Trump was sent in recent weeks, one that addressed the issues of the inclusion of Poland into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) – an issue that was addressed in-depth during a meeting between Mr. Trump, then a presidential candidate, and members of the Polish American Congress and the Polish American Community last September. We are awaiting President Trump's response and his actions in making sure that Poland's membership in the VWP will finally become a reality in the near future.

Most recently, PAC Secretary Timothy Kuzma and I traveled to Washington and had the opportunity to meet with the newly appointed Polish Ambassador, Professor Piotr Wilczek. We were able to spend a considerable amount of time discussing issues relative to Poland, the Polish American Community, as well as our Organization. We hope that this meeting is going to be the first in a series of many similar exchanges that result in the development of successful and effective cooperation with the government of Poland and its representatives in the United States.

Plans are also being made to hold the annual meeting of the PAC Council of National Directors during the third week of July in Washington DC. Information on this matter will be made available in the very near future.

On a final note, I truly hope and wish that in 2017, all Members, Officers, and Friends of the Polish American Congress, will be able not only to address the divisions within our community and Organization but, and more importantly, be able to achieve higher levels of success, cooperation, and camaraderie for the benefit of the Polish American Congress, the U.S. Polonia community, and Poland.



BREAKING NEWS

Dear Polish American Congress National Directors,

On behalf of the PAC Executive Committee, I want to inform you of the resignation of long-time PAC Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Andersen. Barbara has decided to move on in her career with her last day of employment with the PAC being Friday, March 3rd. We all wish Barbara well in her new endeavors.

Although regrettable, the Executive Committee and I see this event as an opportunity to review this position, its description, goals, and objectives. To accomplish this, two sub-committees have been established: 1. A committee to review the current job description and manner in which it will be disseminated to seek candidates for interviews; 2. A committee to look at the operational side of the position. In other words, how can this position be effectively and efficiently accomplished?

The PAC Executive Committee will be working diligently to accomplish the above, as well as securing the right person to assist all of us in making the Polish American Congress the very best organization it can be.

I wanted to let you know of this event and I will update you as the process is being completed. On behalf of the PAC Executive Committee, I want to thank you for your understanding and support during the challenging times ahead. Again, this is an opportunity. Let's seize it!

Sincerely,
Frank Spula,
President

HONORING LONGIN KOMOLOWSKI

Bozena Kaminski
VP for Polish Affairs

On January 9, 2017 at the Soldier's Cathedral in Warsaw, President Frank Spula and I paid tribute to the late Longin Komolowski, the President of "Wspolnota Polska."

A special Mass organized by Wspolnota Polska was celebrated by his Excellency Bishop Lechowicz and attended by representatives of Polonia from around the world. We prayed together with the family of the late former Vice-Premier, a Parliamentarian, the President of Para-Olympic Organization of Poland, and a former high official of the Solidarity Movement.

On January 10, 2017 at the Opaczności Bożej Shrine, before the State Funeral Mass, artists' paid tribute with songs and a concert. The Mass was celebrated by his Excellency Cardinal Nycz and attended by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, former Polish Premier Jerzy Buzek, and vice-chair of the Polish Senate, Maria Koc, as well as many Polish government officials and Polonia representatives from all five continents. A letter was read during Mass from Polish Premier Beata Szydło. It stated that Poland has lost a great man, who devoted his life to a public service and a "man of dialogue" who was always uniting people. Our PAC President Frank Spula also spoke and expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased. The late Vice-Premier's body was then placed in a crypt of the Shrine, next to which Polish soldiers laid a wreath from the Polish American Congress.

On a personal note, I can state that Longin Komolowski was a great friend of Polonia and a friend of the Polish American Congress. He attended a number of our PAC meetings in Chicago and each time, he made us all feel like a one big family. Thanks to him, Polonia and World Polonia spoke with one voice on all of the matters concerning our interests. His emphasis was the East, where after WWII, hundreds of thousands of Poles were forced to live outside of Poland, but they still have not forgotten their language or their roots. He traveled there constantly. It is my hope that President Komolowski's last project "Dom Polski we Lwowie" will be completed and that it will bear his name. Finally, Premier Komolowski would often repeat Winston Churchill's saying, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Hail to his memory, may he rest in peace.



PAC - Michigan Division Commemorates Kościuszko's Death Bicentenary

Sebastian Szczepanski

As UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has taken over the patronage of observances marking Tadeusz Kościuszko's death bicentenary, the Polish American Congress Michigan Division (PAC-MI) is also joining to celebrate the life and achievements of this great Polish and American hero.

Throughout the year, our Division will hold events commemorating this great man and these will be ways of reminding our members (and general public) about the fact that in downtown Detroit (on the crossroads of Third Street and Michigan Avenue) stands a glorious monument of Kościuszko. This cast statue is the work of the Warsaw-born Italian-Polish sculptor, Leonard Marconi. It was cast in 1889 for the grounds of the Wawel Castle in Kraków. To honor Detroit on the bicentennial of the United States, the city of Kraków had the statue donated to the city.

The idea of marking Kościuszko's death bicentenary has met with great enthusiasm from Detroit's City Council. A special presentation of the Testimonial Resolution is planned for the month of February at one of City Council Formal Sessions. Margaretta Venson, the Legislative Assistant at the Office of Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones, shares that the Testimonial Resolution, which will feature Kościuszko's biography, will become a permanent record in the Council's archives.

Our Division has also designed and produced (with the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools as co-sponsor) a special pamphlet to distribute at various Polonian events. The illustrated pamphlet features a short biography of Kościuszko and information about his Detroit monument.

Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817) was a Polish military engineer and a military leader who became a national hero in Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and the United States. He fought in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's struggles against Russia and Prussia, and on the American side in the American Revolutionary War. As Supreme Commander of the Polish National Armed Forces, he led the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising.

Kościuszko came to America from Poland in 1776. He was a skilled engineer who came to offer his services to the American colonies in their struggle for independence. On October 18, 1776 Kościuszko was commissioned as Colonel of Engineers by the Continental Congress and began his outstanding service of fortifying battle sites, many of which became turning points in America's fight for independence against the British.



Executive Board from the left: Jolanta Bujny, Corresponding Secretary; Ann Bankowski, President; Barbara Lemecha, Executive VP; and Donna Bielecki, Recording Secretary.

In 1778, Kościuszko was made chief engineer of West Point, New York. This fortification became known as the American Gibraltar because it was unable to be penetrated by the British Army. Eventually West Point became a military academy. In 1783, Kościuszko was appointed Brigadier General and was awarded the Cincinnati Order Medal by General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Washington also presented Kościuszko with two pistols and a sword as gifts for his outstanding service to America.

After the colonies won their independence, Kościuszko returned to Poland in 1784 to help his own country win independence from the surrounding European powers. Kościuszko was the national hero of the 1794 insurrection. After the successful battle of Raclawice on April 4, 1794, first Warsaw and then Wilno were liberated from enemy occupation. Kościuszko was wounded in the failed revolt and taken prisoner by the Russians. The insurrection's collapse was followed by the 3rd partition of Poland in 1795 by Russia, Prussia and Austria. Poland regained independence in 1918.

Kościuszko spent the last years of his life in Switzerland, where on October 15, 1817 he died at the age of 72. He is buried in Wawel Castle, in Kraków, Poland, among the tombs of the Polish Kings.

One of Kościuszko's most significant and poignant achievements was his pursuit in freeing African-American slaves. He made several wills, notably one in 1798 stipulating that the proceeds of his American estate be spent on freeing and educating African-American slaves, including those of his friend Thomas Jefferson, whom he named as the will's executor.

It is worth highlighting that a motion for UNESCO patronage over the bicentenary was submitted jointly by the Kościuszko Mound Committee in Kraków (southern Poland), the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York, and Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. in Sydney.



The INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE on

CAMP KOSCIUSZKO



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HISTORICAL MILITARY TRAINING SITE AND CEMETERY

The Polish-American Congress
Western New York Division

of

The Canadian-Polish Congress
Niagara District

GENERAL HALLER'S RECRUITS



North America's Volunteers to the Polish "Blue Army" of France WW I



INVITATION TO THE CENTENNIAL PILGRIMAGE

Greetings to All !!!

2017 Marks the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I.

Over 300,000 Polish Americans served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWI.

In response to the Executive Order of President Woodrow Wilson in 1917,
22,000 men from across America enlisted in the Polish Army of France and trained under
British command at Camp Kosciuszko, Fort George, Niagara-On-The-Lake, Canada.

With great honor, the International Joint Committee on Camp Kosciuszko,
Niagara-On-The-Lake Historic Military Training Site and Cemetery of General Haller's Recruits,
extends a heart felt invitation to you, your organization, and all your members, to join us in
this year's 100th Annual Pilgrimage to the Gravesite of General Haller's Recruits in
Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, Canada, on Sunday, June 11, 2017.

Today's commemorative pilgrimage demonstrates the historic continuity of the resolve of the
American People for the freedom and independence of Poland.

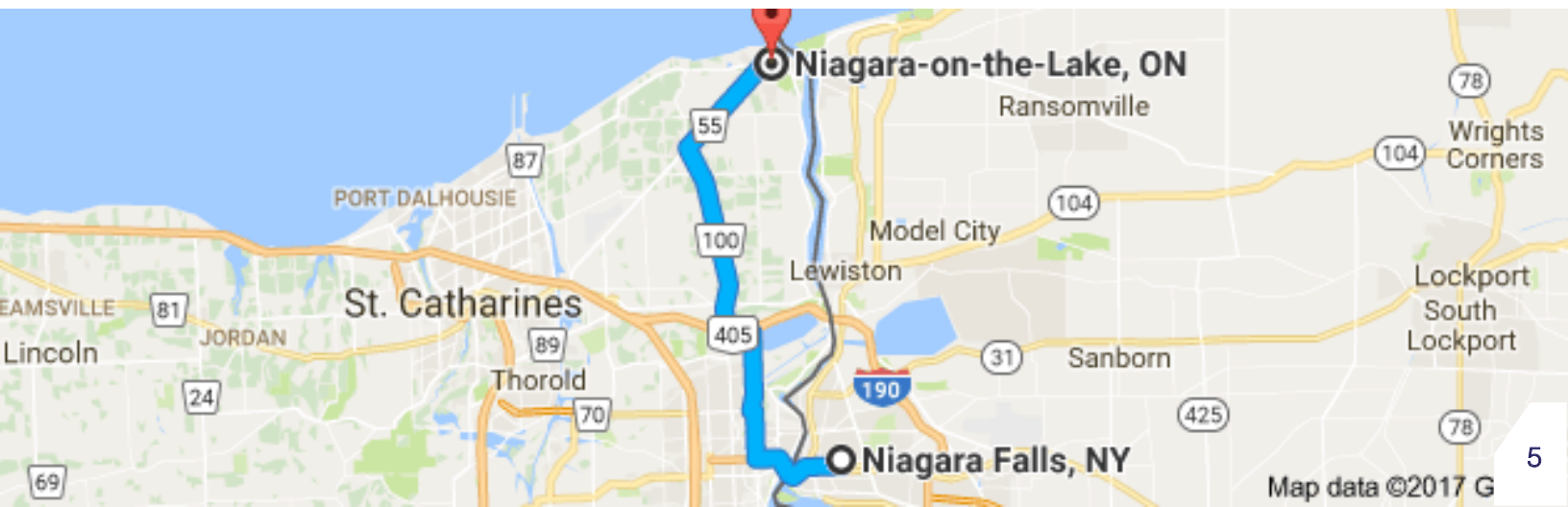
Please join us in participating in this Chapter of Our Great American Heritage !!!

With kindest personal regards, on behalf of the Committee and for the Good of the Polish
American Community, I look forward to meeting you, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Stephen J. Flor
U.S. Chairperson

8490 Wickham Boulevard, Sodus Point, New York 14555 Email: stephenflor.pacwny@yahoo.com Phone: (315) 374-2404





**14th Annual Kościuszko Conference Schedule for Friday, April 28, 2017, at the Thayer Hotel,
Eisenhower Room, 674 Thayer Road, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
presented by the
American Association of the Friends of Kościuszko at West Point, Inc.
45 Reflection Drive, Hudson, NH 03051
during the UNESCO-Declared Worldwide "Year of Kościuszko" Bicentennial**

10:30 - 05:30 p.m. Conference: **"In the Spirit of the Worldwide Legacy of Tadeusz Kościuszko
During the Bicentennial Anniversary Year of His Death"**

09:15 - 09:45 a.m. Registration

09:45 - 10:30 a.m. Dean Anthony J. Bajdek, President / Founder: Welcome and Opening Presentation:
"The Niles' Register, 1811-1849: Fostering Sympathy for Poland in the Early American Republic"

Conference Featured Participants:

Panelist: Mieczysław B. Biskupski, Ph.D., of New Britain, CT; Professor and Stanislas A. Blejwas
Endowed Chair for Polish and Polish American Studies, Central Connecticut State University; President,
Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America; author specializing in the history of Central Europe and
Poland. Title of Conference presentation: **"Hope and Struggle, 1817-2017."**

Panelist: Paweł Markiewicz, of Revere, MA; Ph.D. Candidate in History, Jagiellonian University, Kraków,
Poland and 'Etudia 4' Doctoral Fellow, Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute, Cambridge, MA.
Title of Conference presentation: **"Volodymyr Kubilovych: Population Displacement and Ethnic
Cleansing in Nazi-Occupied Poland."**

Panelist: James S. Pula, Ph.D., of Chesterton, IN; Professor of History, and former Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs, Purdue University N/W, Westville, IN; Kościuszko biographer; author specializing in
American Civil War and Reconstruction, and ethnic and immigration studies; past President, Polish
American Historical Association; Board Member, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America. Title of
Conference presentation: **"Mr. Jefferson's Secret Envoy."**

Panelist: Douglas L. Wheeler, Ph.D., of Durham, NH; Prince Henry the Navigator Professor Emeritus,
Department of History, University of New Hampshire; Iberian and African history, history of international
intelligence and espionage; and contract consulting on Portuguese and African affairs for the U. S.
Department of State and other government agencies. Title of Conference presentation: **"Eagle Eyes:
Polish Codebreakers' Contributions to World War II's Ultra Secret."**

Panelist: Felix Molski, of Sefton, New South Wales, Australia; Polish Australian activist, educator, author,
world-traveler documenting Polish heroism, and proponent for the wider memorialization of explorer-
scientist-humanitarian Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki (1787-1873). Title of presentation: **"Memorializing
Kościuszko Worldwide."**

Moderator: Anthony J. Bajdek, Hudson, NH; Associate Dean (ret.) and Senior Lecturer in History,
Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Moderator: Stephen N. Olejasz, Wheeling, WV; AAFKWP Executive Vice President; Lieutenant Colonel,
U.S. Army (ret.), and Former Assistant Professor of History, USMA, West Point, NY

FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE: www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org (under 'Future Events')

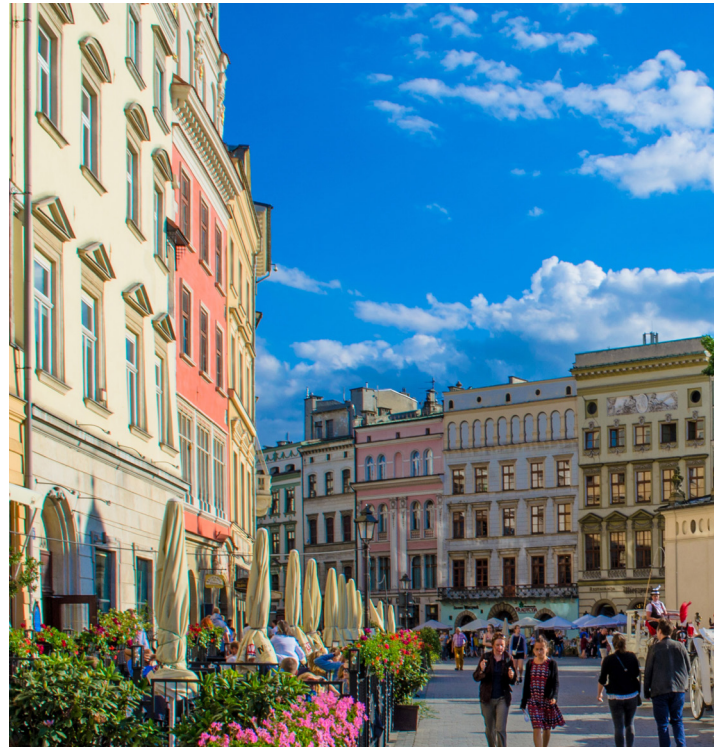
REPORT FROM THE POLISH SUMMER SCHOOL AT UJ IN KRAKÓW

Bartłomiej Boryczka

I have visited Poland many times, but I discovered Poland the most this summer through my studies. I have visited Krakow at least five times before because my family is from Krakow. However, this is the first year that I was in Krakow by myself and because of this I discovered how to navigate the beautiful city of Krakow at an almost native level. I also discovered the magnificent Jagiellonian University. I learned about the history of the University and that UJ is the oldest university in Poland, the second oldest university in Central Europe and one of the oldest universities in the world.

On the first day of the program, I was very impressed and I learned a lot from the Wiesława Szyborska's secretary professor Michał Rusinek's speech "Lost in Translation." It was very interesting and a very good start to the program. I also got to learn and discover the Polish language at a much deeper level and came to realize that nouns can have three genders (some linguists count five). Each noun and adjective can appear in one of seven cases - Verbs conjugate for gender, person, mood and time (depending on how you count, this makes over 25 forms of every verb). Verbs come in two aspects and that Polish is truly one of the hardest languages, however in my opinion also the most beautiful. At the end of the course, I believe that I learned a lot and met most of my goals. Although the program also made me realize, that I still have a lot to learn and inspired me to continue my knowledge of the Polish language, culture and history.

I also became more aware of the differences and similarities between the Polish and American cultures. First of all, Polish people, like most Europeans, do not have the same relationship as Americans do to their cars. Americans need to have a car in most parts of the country especially where I am from. Whereas in Poland, there is a much better public transportation system and people walk a lot more because everything is much closer.



I also noticed that Polish people are not as "optimistic" as Americans are. In America, especially in the Midwest, you always smile and say hello when you see someone. If this would be done in Poland, people would think one is weird. In addition, in the U.S.A., the question/greeting "how are you doing?" is always answered with a positive "great, fantastic, good" even if that is not really the case. Whereas in Poland the question "how are you" is usually met with an honest and sometimes long response about how one is actually doing. One similarity that has been brought over from the U.S.A. is that in Poland fast food is also incredibly popular; in shopping malls and in the city center the line is always longest for MacDonald's and KFC.

The program also really helped and prepared me for college. It was the first time I lived in a college like dorm and was completely independent. I also met many new and interesting people from all around the world and made some lifelong friends. The program also gave me the exposure of studying in a different country and in a different language and made me realize how great studying abroad actually is even if just for a month. Studying in Poland made me get out of my comfort zone and be fully exposed to a new culture and way of living. This program was one of the best experiences, if not the best experience in my life. I am extremely grateful that I was one of the recipients of the Wisconsin study in Poland scholarship.

Dziękuję! (Thank You)

From My Studies Abroad...

Peter Burzynski / WSIP-2016

My goals in attending the summer study abroad program in Poland were to find inspiration for my doctoral thesis and to retrace the steps I took in the program when I attended ten years ago. I was fortunate enough to accomplish these two goals and realize others. I am very proud to be a fluent heritage speaker of Polish, but I was glad that I was able to fine tune my grammar (especially case endings) while attending language classes. I tried to make the most of this generous opportunity so I decided to attend not only language classes but also the maximum amount of other classes and extracurricular activities.



I earned “A” grades in Polish Culture, Polish History, and Polish Literature, all of which were taught in Polish. I made good contacts with my professors there and am grateful for the time they shared with me in and out of the classroom. Their instruction affirmed my passion for the study of Polish culture and history, as well as given me new strategies as both an instructor and a student myself. Furthermore, my studies influenced my creative work as they always have. As I mentioned in my application letter, the study of Polish language and literature has always been tied to my study and practice of Creative Writing.

While I did spend the majority of my time in the classroom, I was able to enjoy much of what Kraków has to offer during my free time. I attended an awe-inspiring street performance festival, a Jewish music festival, and spent time in bookstores chatting with local poets and sipping coffee on tables that had original handwritten works by Nobel Laureates Czesław Miłosz and Wisława Szymborska encased within them. This last experience was especially impactful on me since I have long been inspired by the works of both poets. I teach their work every semester and have written about it extensively in my graduate studies. It was truly a pleasure to feel their presence so closely. I also made pilgrimages to their tombs in Kraków in order to pay my respect and perhaps gain insight for my own poetry.

With an eye to the future I purchased several books by Polish poets whose work has not been translated into Polish. I hope to translate these works and share them with the much larger English-speaking audience. I am currently reading a book by Martyna Buliżańska and am enjoying it a great deal. I am very fortunate to have a good enough command of Polish to appreciate its poetry. It was even more fortunate that I was kindly afforded these opportunities by you the donors, the Kościuszko Foundation, and the Jagiellonian University. I hope to continue to be an ambassador of these organizations and a supporter of these programs into the future.

As you know this program was slightly altered from how it has been conducted in the past. The last week of classes we spent in Szczawnica near the Slovak border with Poland. We had opportunities to explore the resort town and report back on our class blog. It was an interesting pedagogical experience. I was also very glad to breathe the fresh mountain air.

This program also afforded me the opportunity to see my cousin in Warsaw and meet his children for the first time. I had a very pleasant time with my family visiting different spots in Warsaw and was surprised to see how much it had developed since I was last there twenty years ago.

I will certainly remember my experiences in Poland for a long time to come. I hope that they continue to inspire my creative work and work their way into the bifurcating paths of my doctoral work. I am Polish to the very core, but I have only had three opportunities to visit and I am very grateful that you have provided me with one of them.

PAC - INDIANA DIVISION HOLDS AWARDS BANQUET

Polish American Congress - Indiana Division hosted its annual Heritage Awards Banquet commemorating Polish American heritage on November 27, 2016 at the beautiful Innsbrook Country Club in Merrillville, Indiana. With a welcoming statement by Polish American Congress Indiana Division President Steve H. Tokarski, the dinner honored four local award recipients.

Distinguished Service Civic Award was presented to Honorable Peter Visclosky. Congressman Pete Visclosky serves Indiana's First Congressional district in Washington. Born in Gary, Indiana, he has been a life-long resident of Northwest Indiana. Since 1985 he has served Northwest Indiana fighting for the area's domestic steel industry, domestic manufacturing base, and has been an unwavering advocate for investing in Northwest Indiana's infrastructure and opening up access to the lakeshore of Lake Michigan. He serves as Ranking Member on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Energy and Water Subcommittee. Due to Congress going back into session the next day, the award was accepted by his Chief of Staff, Mark Lopez, on the Congressman's behalf.

The Fraternal Award was presented to Madame Curie Circle, PNA Lodge # 3134. Organized in 1955 and named after the famous Polish-born double-Nobel-Prize winner, Marie Sklodowska-Curie, they now boast a membership of 600 adults and children. Their scholarship fund, established in 1954 in order to assist members with their college education, has awarded over 150 scholarships. The Madame Curie Circle is active in PNA Council 127, district 15, and the Polish American Congress - Indiana Division. Notably the Circle's first president, the late Lottie Kubiak, represented the lodge at many National conventions, was elected Lady Commissioner for two four-year terms, and was the first female National Secretary of the PNA, a position which she held for 9 years. The award was accepted by current President of the Madame Curie Circle, Darlene Sunny.

The Meritorious Service Award this year was awarded to Walter J. Kasprzycki, Jr., proprietor of the Cavalier Inn in Hammond, Indiana. A family owned and operated business since 1949, the restaurant has served the Hammond neighborhood and Polish community for generations. "The Cav" as it is known by fans, is located at 735 Gostling Street in Hammond, Indiana.

Finally, the Heritage Award was presented to the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. Since 1923, the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce has helped the business community grow and historically been involved in the Hammond Maria, the riverboat selection process, creating the Economic Redevelopment Commission, initiating the Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, and the long-running Whiting Pierogi Fest held in July each year.

Designed as a way to highlight the area's ethnic heritage, the Whiting Pierogi Fest has grown into one of the larger events in the state of Indiana, welcoming nearly 200,000 visitors to Whiting each year. The award was accepted by Thomas Dabertine, Chairman of Pierogi Fest, on behalf of the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce.



Photo Caption: From Left to Right, Thomas Dabertine (Chairman of Pierogi Fest), Mark Lopez (Chief of Staff for Congressman Peter Visclosky), Darlene Sunny (President Madame Curie Circle, PNA), Nancy Teller (Secretary, Polish American Congress - Indiana Division). Walter Kasprztcki (Proprietor, Cavalier Inn), Steve H. Tokarski (President, Polish American Congress - Indiana Division).

PAC – WISCONSIN DIVISION STATEMENT

David Rydzewski, President

The state of Wisconsin has one of the largest percentages of Americans of Polish heritage of any state in the country. Most of the Poles who emigrated to Wisconsin came between the time of the American Civil War and the First World War. Included in that group were members of my family. They all spoke Polish and identified themselves as Polish, although their travel papers showed they were from other countries, countries who occupied what is now modern day Poland.

I find Poland to be an amazing country, not because it's where my family came from but because of its Phoenix-like rise from the ashes of war and political dismemberment. And all of this was possible because of the strength and resilience of its people. Despite the trials and tribulations that Poland and its people have endured, it has a proud and rich history, but many Polish Americans particularly young Polish Americans don't know Poland's story very well.

That's why I believe the mission of the Kościuszko Foundation is so important. It allows a young generation of Polish Americans to experience Poland for themselves; and with that I trust that the Wisconsin Study In Poland Scholarship will allow students with this Polish "experience" to more deeply value their heritage.



Scholarships For Study in Poland



The Kosciuszko Foundation with support from members of Wisconsin's Polish community has launched its Wisconsin Study in Poland Scholarship. This scholarship is offered to two students for the summer study program at Krakow's Jagiellonian University. The scholarship includes tuition, room and board, text materials and sightseeing trips away from campus on weekends.

Scholarship winners will have the choice of selecting either a four or six week program at Jagiellonian University.

Students at least 18 years of age, of Polish descent and a resident of Wisconsin are eligible. Also eligible are non-residents of Wisconsin of Polish descent who attend a Wisconsin college or university.

Details of the scholarship are available on the Kosciuszko Foundation's website "Thekf.org". See the Wisconsin Study in Poland Scholarship info under Programs, Summer Study Abroad.

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Undergraduate Study Abroad Program

The courses offered at the Centre for European studies are designed to give undergraduates a comprehensive and in-depth introduction into the complexities of European political, economic, and social realities and to provide a Central and Eastern European perspective on the contemporary as well as historical events and transformations occurring in Europe. Furthermore, intensive foreign language instruction is offered. Basic knowledge of the Polish language is essential for living in Poland and all students are strongly encouraged to learn Polish during their study abroad. French, German and Russian are available at the beginner's level for students who are advanced in Polish.

Each course totals 40 hours of classroom time. Students complete the course with either a written exam or final term paper. Each student must take at least three lecture courses and a language class per semester. Some home institutions may require heavier course loads. Regular courses are worth 6 ECTS points (roughly 3 US semester credits). Language courses are worth 7.5 ECTS points (roughly 4 US credits).

While our courses are diverse in subject matter, some students may feel that they would like to choose from more advanced classes. If a student wishes to take a graduate-level class, he/she may request permission to do so from the Director of CES. Similarly, it is often the case that study abroad students must or want to take a course or two outside of our department in order to satisfy graduation credits at their home institution. Although we encourage and support this choice, we would like to caution that students may experience scheduling conflicts, language barriers and credit transfer issues. CES will help in every way possible, but please be sure that upon your arrival at CES, you are on a good graduation track that won't be deterred by study abroad.

Study abroad finances may often be an overwhelming but very significant factor that each student must consider. While personal choices (such as housing, travel, and lifestyle) vary from student to student, the cost of living for international students in Krakow is low and you may enjoy a lot that the city has to offer without stretching your wallet. The following information will help you determine an estimated budget and plan accordingly.

PROGRAM FEES

The programme fees cover all tuition (including language courses), one study-trip abroad per semester, as well as access to all CES and university student facilities.

PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
One Semester	4,000 euro
One Year	7,500 euro

Students studying at CES for two semesters may pay in two instalments of 4,000 euro (by 15 October) and 3,500 euro (by 15 March).

PAYMENT DEADLINES

SEMESTER	PAYMENT DEADLINE
Autumn	15 October
Spring	15 March

NOT COVERED BY PROGRAM FEES

The programme fees do not cover room, board, transportation, insurance, the costs of additional study trips or other miscellaneous costs.

BILLING

There are two billing options, either your home university is billed or you pay the programme fees directly to us. Please consult your Study Abroad office to determine your school's policies and billing procedure.

If you are paying directly, the programme fees must be paid by bank transfer.

FUNDING

There are several outside funding opportunities that are worth looking into. We encourage that you explore these options so that your study abroad experience may be not only educational and fun but also cost effective.



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

Founded in May, 1944, the Polish American Congress is a National Umbrella Organization, representing at least 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its membership is comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. We are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress, an “umbrella” organization, is a federation of over 3000 Polish American organizations and clubs, ranging from national fraternal benefit societies, such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women’s Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious and social associations, with aggregate membership of over one million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership, as well as associate membership.

The PAC promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The governing body of the PAC is the Council of National Directors, consisting of directors elected by their respective State Divisions or National Organizations and up to 10 at-large directors elected by the Council. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Executive Committee elected by the Council of National Directors for a two year term.

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