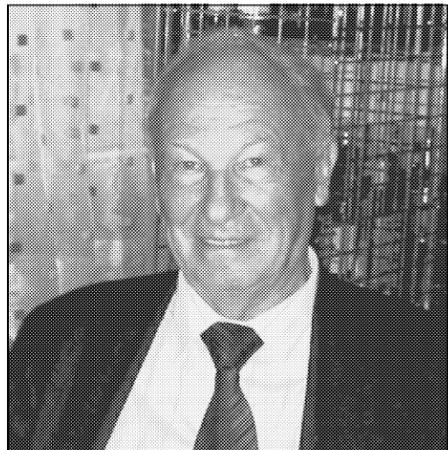


ACPC Meets in Milwaukee

By: Jo Louise Winters, PR Chair



Dr. Michael Wnuk

Pres. Thaddeus Mirecki, the officers and board members of the American Council for Polish Culture held their 2009 Spring Board Meeting in Milwaukee, WI. The meeting was hosted by the Council's Affiliate, the American Association for the Advancement of Polish Culture, Dr. Michael Wnuk, Exec. Dir. Dr. Wnuk is Professor Emeritus who taught Engineering Mechanics at the Univ. of WI -Milwaukee for more than 20 years. A Fulbright Scholar, he completed his post-doctoral studies at the California Institute of Technology, specializing in Aeronautical Engineering.

Pres. Mirecki presided over the business sessions wherein Committee Chairs reported on their program accomplishments. Among their reports was one by Camille Kopielski who heads the ACPC Summer Studies in Poland grant. The awardee for 2009 is Christopher Wojdak. The Dept. Chair at Purchase College where Wojdak is a student wrote that "Christopher is a talented producer and engineer...with a bright future." The Board decided to raise the scholarship award from \$1,500 to \$2,000 annually beginning next year. Congratulations were offered to Camille for attracting a truly competent student to an opportunity to pursue his studies further at a university in Poland.

Another very popular report was given by Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski, co-chairs of the highly successful Polonia booth at the National Conference of the Social Studies. The dynamic duo presented enthusiastic reports on our booth at the Natl. Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) last November in Houston, Texas. The booth continues to fascinate growing numbers of teachers who are clearly attracted to the splendid informative posters and the availability of large quantities of excellent books, brochures, and audio/visual materials. They also relate quickly to the very knowledgeable team that mans the booth. Co-Chairs Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski, supported by Deborah Majka and Robert Maycan, eagerly offer further information and respond positively to inquiries.

Moved by the almost overwhelming popularity of our booth, the ACPC board quickly gave approval to upgrading the booth to an even more highly visible corner site. This will result in an even greater number of teachers and administrators being exposed to the excellent books, lesson plans, audio/visual materials, periodicals, etc., that are made available to them. This program contributes richly to the dissemination of factual information about the contributions, past and present, of Poles and Polish Americans to all cultural, scientific and political fields of society in the world as well as the heroic roles of Poles in struggles for freedom and democracy.

Anna-Mae Maglaty, Pres. Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, recited

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Skalny Scholarships Awarded

By: Ursula Brodowicz

For the 10th consecutive year, the Skalny Family Foundation awarded a grant to the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) to administer the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies. Committee Chairperson Ursula Brodowicz reported that the Skalny Scholarship Committee, including Debra Majka, Ange Iwanczyk, Dr. Ed Pawlowski, and Marion Winters, awarded \$1,000 scholarships for 2009 to three outstanding applicants:

Natalie Misteravich of Dearborn, Michigan states that she takes great pride in promoting Polish culture and traditions to the community. Her extensive teaching experience includes instructing Polish folk dance for the Polish Alliance Dancers for seven years, and the Polanie Song and Dance Ensemble for four years. She also conducted ten workshops in Polish folk dance at Wayne State University, and a workshop on the subject to a group in North Dakota. Natalie also tutored students in the Polish language at Wayne State University Success Center. She has studied the Polish language, including Saturday school and four years of Polish language at Wayne State. She has traveled frequently and extensively to Poland, including a focus on the folk arts, and visiting open air and Ethnographic museums. Natalie completed the "4-Letnie Studium Choreograficzne", renowned Choreographers Course in Rzeszów, which she attended for four summers and wrote a 28 page thesis in Polish. ACPC Affiliate, Friends of Polish Art - Detroit, enjoyed a fine presentation by Natalie on the folk dance Choreographers Course. Dr. Alina Klin, senior Lecturer in Polish Studies at the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Wayne State University, writes in a letter of recommendation "It is not very often that I encounter a student who at her age has already developed such a strong commitment to Polish culture..... Natalie is an excellent student... genuinely interested in Polish issues." Last December, Natalie graduated from Wayne State University with a BA in Slavic Studies and a concentration in Polish Studies. She will be attending Indiana University as a graduate student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures in September, where she plans to pursue a master's degree. Her stated goal is to become a professor of Polish and to dedicate her life to teaching Polish culture, history, and language.

The Skalny Scholarship was presented to Natalie Misteravich on behalf of the ACPC by Caroline Meleski, Pres. Friends of Polish Arts, Detroit, an ACPC Affiliate, at a meeting of the Polish American Congress - Michigan meeting.

Nicole Pawluskiewicz of Bellevue, Washington is described as a "good and proud ambassador for Polish culture and tradition" in a letter of recommendation from Elżbieta Rodziński, President of the Polish Ladies Auxiliary in Seattle. Nicole has been involved in the Polonia community of Seattle from an early age and has followed in the footsteps of her family. According to Ms. Rodziński and John Golubiec, president of the Polish Home Association of Seattle, both her parents and her late uncle have served in leadership capacities in Polonian organizations. Nicole began as a one year old in the "Young Polanie" group, was a Polish Girl Scout, and as a teenager volunteered to assist with various events and fund raisers for the community. In 2004, as a member of the Bellevue Christian High School choir, Nicole suggested and helped facilitate a trip to Krakow to be included in their tour of Europe. The group gave two concerts, visited famous sites, and met socially with Polish youth. The Seattle students voted

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Eugene Kwiatkowski Memorial Award



Leopold and Stasia Wierzbicki

This year's Eugene Kwiatkowski Memorial Award was given to Dr. Leopold Wierzbicki of Hanford, California, for his achievement in Professional and Economical Development in the United States and his continuing interest in business development between the United States and Poland. This plaque award was given on June 6, 2009, in Warsaw, Poland, during the 13th International Conference of Economical Polonia (Polish people living abroad from Poland)-- which was organized for the purpose of "Leadership and Partnership for Success." The Vice Premier of Poland, Waldemar Pawlak, inaugurated the conference and gave the awards to *this year's* Polonia recipients from Brazil, Macedonia, Israel, and to Dr. Leopold Wierzbicki of Hanford, California, Dr. Wierzbicki and his wife Mrs. Stasia Wierzbicki attended this year's award celebration.

The name of the Eugene Kwiatkowski Award was chosen in recognition of his contribution to the industrialization and urbanization of Poland between the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Eugene Kwiatkowski was a chemical engineer and economist who held the positions of Vice Premier and Minister of the Treasury. He organized and planned the infrastructure of the national defense industry of the newly created Republic of Poland after the year of 1918.

Dr. Leopold Wierzbicki organized and operates his dairy feed plant, California BioProductex, Inc., and food plant Crown Natural Foods, located at the Industrial Park in Hanford, as well as his consulting business Wierzbicki and Associates, Inc. Dr. Wierzbicki graduated from the Technical University of Łódź, Poland, in Chemical Engineering and Master's Degree in Bio Engineering. He worked and studied at Vermont University, MIT, and Cornell University, where he received his Ph.D. in the field of Food Science and Industrial Microbiology.

Dr. Wierzbicki spent time in research and development in the food industry at several companies throughout the United States and has published many research papers in the field of enzyme technology which contributed to the development of low lactose milk products presently used in the dairy industry. Dr. Wierzbicki was also heavily involved in the design of fuel alcohol plants in the United States from the 1980's to the present. Dr. Wierzbicki was the recipient of the Richard M. Hoyt Memorial Award presented by the American Dairy Science Association for recognition of his research and development of a microbial lactase system for production of low lactose foods conducted at Cornell University. □

Beginning Polish Language Study Group

Meet at Hastings Library
3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA, 91107
Beginning Saturday September 20th
from 1.00 PM to 4.30PM.
For info: Ronald Small 818-785-4094.
E-Mail dazyron@earthlink.net
Richard Lis 626-799-7930

Piast Institute to cooperate with Young Polonia Foundation on fostering understanding of Polish Heritage among young Polish-Americans

Hamtramck, MI - The Piast Institute, a National Institute for Polish and Polish American Affairs, located in Hamtramck, Michigan, has developed an agreement to cooperate with the Young Polonia Foundation (Fundacja Młodej Polonii) to help carry out its mission and increase their presence in the US. Many in the Polish and Polish American communities in the United States complain that not enough work is done with young members of our community to preserve their Polish heritage. There are organizations, however, dedicated solely to fostering understanding of Polish culture among young people with Polish roots living around the world. The Young Polonia Foundation is the prime example. It has been working towards bringing young Poles living outside of Poland together for almost 20 years by organizing events that promote Polish cultural competency, language proficiency, and historical aptitude.

The Young Polonia Foundation, despite a multitude of successful projects completed worldwide over the last two decades, remains a largely unknown organization for a great majority of Polonia in the United States. "United States is a huge country, and despite our good relations with the Polish embassy and multiple consulates, we are unable to reach all Polish-American communities throughout America," says Józef Kaczmarek, the president and founder of Young Polonia Foundation, which is based in Warsaw, Poland. "And even with those obstacles, we notice a growing number of American participants in our art and poetry contests. Therefore, we are pleased to partner with the Piast Institute to increase our presence in the United States and help spread the knowledge of Polish heritage among millions of young Americans with Polish roots."

The Piast Institute, with its knowledge of the Polish-American landscape of the United States, is the perfect fit to promote Young Polonia's efforts in the country that is home to 2,340,309 people with Polish roots under 18 years of age (according to the 2005-2007 American Community Survey Estimates). "The possibilities are great," says Dr. Thaddeus C. Radziłowski, the president and founder of the Piast Institute. "The mission of Young Polonia complements our mission of building a new Polonia for the 21st Century. Many programs developed by Young Polonia encourage young people to learn the language, explore the culture, and ultimately maintain our rich Polish heritage in America. That is priceless for the future of our community."

To learn more about the Young Polonia Foundation, their programs, different way to support them, or the partnership between Young Polonia Foundation and the Piast Institute, visit youngpolonia.piastinstitute.org.

For more information on Young Polonia Foundation and its partnership with the Piast Institute, contact Dominik Stecula at 313.733.4535 or email him at stecula@piastinstitute.org. □

Your help is needed
Get involved in Polonia!
Join a
Polish Organization