

## Pulaski Scholarships awarded – 2007

By: *Marion V. Winters*

Five winners of the eighth annual \$5,000 Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies were announced recently by Mr. Marion V. Winters, MA, Committee Chairman, American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Serving with Mr. Winters on the Committee are: Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, MSED; Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS; Mrs. Carolyn Meleski, MS; and Mr. Peter Obst, MA. The Committee found that the exceptional number of applications from very bright students of Polish heritage across the United States made the selection process most challenging. Mr. Winters pointed out that, "Truly, all of these student applicants deserve recognition not only for their scholastic achievements, but also their compassionate natures to help others and contribute to society."

The Committee awarded \$5,000 scholarships to each of the following students:



**Aniela Baj** of Buffalo NY is a candidate for an MA in Organizational Leadership at Medaille College, NY, with a GPA of 3.80. Faculty recommendations

referred to her as a "superior student with real leadership potential" and "...a person who will enhance any organization that is lucky to have her as a member." Ms. Baj demonstrated that exceptional leadership quality at a very early age. When she was 13 years old she designed and implemented a summer program for under-privileged children in East Buffalo for which she succeeded in getting grants of \$16,000 to run it six summers for over 250 children. She has served as President of the Erie Co., PA Youth Board for six years, administered a summer intern program for city council members, and brought in approximately \$500,000 in items donated to the WNED's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Great TV Auction. The City of Buffalo recognized her gallant services in 2000 by declaring an "Aniela Baj Day" and the AmPol Eagle cited her as the "Youth Citizen of the Year" in 2001. Ms. Baj also took part in the ACPC's Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, 2005. She has always been very much involved with the Polish American community having danced for 8 years with a Polish folk dance group and is currently serving with the Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle as a Board Member and Co-Chair of the Cultural Committee.



**Sabina Bis** of Brooklyn NY, a second-year medical student at Cornell-Weill Medical College, obtained her BS in 2005, Magna Cum Laude.

Soon after she was accepted at the medical school, Ms. Bis was drawn to serving the local community of the hospital. She became the head coordinator of the Grand Central Shelter Clinic as well as Scheduling/Labs Chair of the Weill Cornell Community Clinic – free clinics that provide high quality and equitable health care to uninsured individuals in NYC. In addition to her extensive work as a volunteer, Ms. Bis has already achieved a remarkable record in biological research that includes completing a research thesis for which she received Honors with Distinction and last summer she was a participant in the prestigious American Federation for Aging Research Medical Training Program. In the latter activity, she partook in a study with the director of the Parkinson's Institute in the Dept. of Neurology at Cornell investigating Parkinson's disease using magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging. Ms. Bis is currently writing a literature review for publication regarding the use of such

technology and detection of Parkinson's disease and she presented all of her research results this past April at the annual American Geriatrics Society conference in Seattle, WA. Her goal is a job at a teaching hospital and with her clinics experience she would eventually seek to open a clinic in a Polish neighborhood such as Greenpoint! A member of Polish clubs in high school and at the university, she also writes articles for the Education section of the Nowy Dziennik.



**Angelica V. Brożyna** of Gainesville FL is a PhD candidate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Florida (UF), having earned a Masters at UF

last year and a BS in Psychology at University of Illinois (UI). Ms. Brożyna's honors and awards include a Grinter Fellowship, Recognition of Excellence at Shands Health Care, and three scholarships including the Polish National Alliance. Her primary research and professional interests lie within health psychology and a wide variety of related areas and immigrant issues, specifically for Polish Americans. Her current role as a Research Director of Writing SubTeam at the University follows on the heels of several years of extensive experience as a Research Assistant/Associate as well as clinical experience at the university level and as a Counselor at a group home for abused children. Since last year she has served as a Graduate Instructor in a Psychology of Personality Course at UF. Last year, Ms. Brożyna somehow found time to assist in facilitating support and crisis care for victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and in prior years helped out in a Crisis Nursery at Univ. of IL and also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, helping to design and build homes for homeless families. Her professional memberships include American Psychological Assoc. of Graduate Students, Polish Clubs at UF and UI, Polish National Alliance, and American Council for Polish Culture. The Pulaski Committee was most impressed by the lengthy letter (3-1/2 pages, single-spaced) that her mentor, a Distinguished Alumni Professor, wrote describing her as "...an outstanding student scholar 'with an ear for the beat of different hearts' – who represents Polish Americans extraordinarily well and does so with much cultural pride "...a student who professors pray to have as a mentee because she has a 'big brain' and a 'big heart', and is committed to excellence in all that she does."



**Matthew J. Konieczny** is working toward a PhD in History at the University of Minnesota. He earned a Masters degree in Public Policy at the

University of Michigan and a Masters in History at Indiana University. Mr. Konieczny's professional experiences include serving as a History Course Asst., Research Asst/Intern, Writing 7 Economics Tutor at several universities over the past few years. He has also served as an ESL tutor in Poland, the VITAL Program, and the Catholic Social Services Refugee Center. Six Fellowships (two in 2007) were earned by Konieczny along with three internship awards and five scholarships/grants. The latter included two from The Kościuszko Foundation, and the Rotary Intl. Ambassadorial Scholarship to Poland from Rotary Intl. The Rotary award provided for a year of study in Poland during which he was invited to Rotary clubs in major cities to speak about his academic work and his perspective on Polish culture. His dissertation "The Role of Polish National Science in the Development of a Modern European Scientific Discourse: 1880-1937" examines scientists working at Polish universities

during the scientific revolutions of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. UM History Prof. Gary B. Cohen believes that the project has enormous potential for advancing understanding of early 20<sup>th</sup> century intellectual life in Central and East-Central Europe and that Konieczny conceived it to extend well beyond the normal work of historians of science.



**Marek Kozek** of Columbia, SC is a candidate for a PhD degree in Mathematics at the University of South Carolina. Mr. Kozek earned a Masters degree in

Mathematics at Wake Forest University in 2002 as well as a EdM in Mathematics Teaching & Curriculum at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1997. The 23 awards and fellowships that he has reaped over the past several years include two scholarships from both The Kościuszko Foundation (KF) and the Jan Adolf Górecki Scholarship. His considerable teaching experiences include KF Teaching English in Poland. A team research report in a mathematical field in which Kozek participated was submitted to the Journal of Number Theory and another team report was published in the NC State CRSC Technical Reports. He will also be submitting a report on his own research dealing with Monica Polynomials to the American Mathematical Monthly shortly. Mr. Kozek has served as an invited lecturer at colleges and universities in six states over the past few years and his institutional mathematical services have had him serving on various committees and frequently playing key roles in various university and school events going back to 1994 when he served as the Dunster House Representative to Undergraduate Council at Harvard University. Remarkably, all this intensive academic work and serious study have not deterred Kozek from participating in soccer, a sport he has passionately pursued over the past 20 years as a volunteer coach, referee, team manager and/or league administrator for youth, school, university and adult leagues. We are pleased to note that he is also active in the Polonia community and is a member of the ACPC and The Kościuszko Foundation.

Application information on the Pulaski Scholarships for the year 2008 may be obtained after Nov. 1, 2007 by visiting [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) or by contacting Mr. Winters at [mwinters@charter.net](mailto:mwinters@charter.net) or (508) 949-0160. □

## Book Review

### Children of the Katyn Massacre: Accounts of Life after the 1940 Soviet Murder of Polish POWs

Edited by Teresa Kaczorowska (2006). McFarland and Company, North Carolina and London.

Reviewer: *Mr. Jan Peczkis*

#### The Katyn Massacre in Broad Historical Context

*In the massacre at Katyn and surrounding locations, some 22,000 members of the cream of Polish society were systematically murdered - all to prevent the Polish nation from possessing the necessary leadership to ever rise again. It was a cold-blooded act of genocide done by the Soviet Union against Poland, and its effects continue today: "Poland would today be a different country if the Soviets together with the Germans had not deprived it of its most enlightened citizens. Their extermination resulted in the next generation being taught and raised by opportunists, traitors, and betrayers. The liquidation of Poland's elite is permanent and irreversible." (Ewa Gruner, p. 49).*

The content of this volume goes far beyond the authors' childhood experiences of losing their fathers. In fact, the authors present a good deal of information of historical value. One of the most enduring themes mentioned is the fact that NO ONE has ever been punished for the crime of Katyn (p. 4, 46, 90, 104, 161, etc.). (Then again, this must be contextualized. The ends of the Earth are, to this day, searched for geriatric Nazi criminals, but no comparable effort is ever made to find and punish Communist criminals. Why?)

Wes Adamczyk, who wrote the Foreword of this book, provides more historical detail than just about any other author in this book. (Adamczyk has subsequently expanded his essay into an excellent book: WHEN GOD LOOKED THE OTHER WAY.)

A number of the children of Katyn live (or lived) in Wilno (Vilnius). Witold Świaniewicz personally remembers how the local Jews warmly welcomed the Soviet invaders (p. 203), and how he was nearly betrayed to the Soviets by a Jewish acquaintance who had evidently become an NKVD agent (trying unsuccessfully to learn exactly where the Świaniewicz's were living at the time.) (p. 204). Józef Wasilewski describes the subsequent murders of several tens of thousands of Jews, and a few tens of thousands of Poles, in the nearby wooded area of Ponary (pp. 140-142). The murderers were mostly German-serving Lithuanian collaborators, notably the "Ypatingas Burys". Halina Kalwajt (p. 130) provides excellent detail on the seizure of Wilno from

*Katyn book review to page 15*

## The Polish University Club

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