the KF

Newsletter 2026
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THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR POLISH CULTURE



250 *Years of America*

CELEBRATING
A SHARED
POLISH - AMERICAN
LEGACY

Kosciuszko Monument at West Point

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CELEBRATE THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH

We are excited to welcome back our annual Member Appreciation Month this November! Whether you are renewing your support or joining us for the first time, now is your chance to win amazing prizes — from the newest tech gear to special items honoring Polish heritage and culture. All current members as of November 30 will be automatically entered into our exclusive prize drawing!

Getting started is quick and easy: Visit www.thekf.org, call us at (212) 734-2130, mail your check to: Kosciuszko Foundation, 15 E 65th St, New York, NY 10065, or simply scan the QR code below

Don't miss this opportunity — renew or become a member today and celebrate with us!



1. APPLE iPAD 11-inch
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2. SHOKZ - OPENRUN PRO 2
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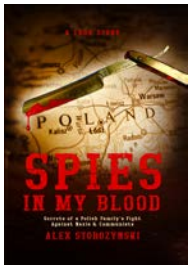
3. AMAZON KINDLE
(2024 release) 6" display, 16 GB, black



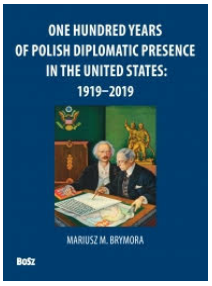
4. FITBIT INSPIRE 3
(2022), Health & Fitness Tracker, Midnight Zen,



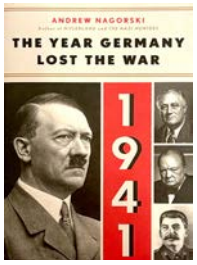
5. SPIES IN MY BLOOD: *A Polish Family's Secret Fight Against Nazis & Communists*
The latest book by Alex Storozynski, hardcover, signed by the author



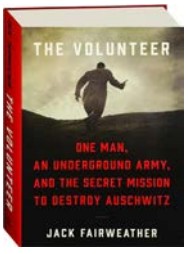
8. ELIZABETH MUNK CLARK
Robert Reis, hardcover



6. ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF POLISH DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES: 1919–2019, *hardcover*



7. 1941: THE YEAR GERMANY LOST THE WAR
Andrew Nagorski, hardcover

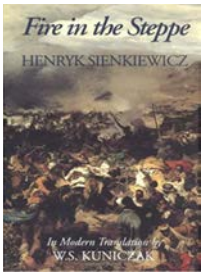


14. THE VOLUNTEER: *One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz,*
Jack Fairweather, hardcover



9. POLISH MASTERS
From the Kosciuszko Foundation Collection
album, hardcover

10. FIRE IN THE STEPPE
Henryk Sienkiewicz, in modern translation by W. S. Kuniczak, hardcover





11. THE BEST OF WALK AWAY music *CD*



12. KF BRANDED TOTE BAG



13. KF BRANDED WATER BOTTLE

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

By **Alex Storozynski,**
President Emeritus
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
of The Kosciuszko Foundation



"There is a Polish saying, "Polak potrafi," meaning "a Pole can do it" The Kosciuszko Foundation proves that, changing the world one scholar at a time. (...)That's why we must help our best and brightest lead us into the future"

Give someone a fish, you feed them for a day. Teach them to fish, you feed them for a lifetime. But it sure helps if people are willing to chip in to provide bait and fishing poles.

When you donate to THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION, you're not helping someone because they're hungry or handsome. You're supporting scholars and artists with thoughtful ideas for academic research that will change their lives and make the world a better place.

In this age of Artificial Intelligence, funding human intelligence is more important than ever. The Kosciuszko Foundation has supported real scholarly research, learning, and natural problem-solving for more than a century. We use a rigorous process in which renowned professors and experts scrutinize applications and select the best ideas based on merit. Applicants have to earn their scholarships and grants. Our track record speaks for itself.

We funded history and political science students who told the truth and helped overturn communism. We funded economists who transformed Poland from a nation occupied by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia into the fastest-growing capitalist country in Europe. We funded painters, sculptors, opera singers, and movie directors who made films that preserved and advanced Polish culture. We funded journalism students, like me, who went on to win Pulitzer Prizes.

A scholarship from the Kosciuszko Foundation made my career as a writer possible. That's why for the past two decades I have set aside part of my annual income to give back to the foundation that changed my life. I'll tell you a little secret. Altruism makes you feel good inside.

Seeing how my contributions and others' donations have changed the lives of ambitious scholars has given me great joy. That's something AI robots will never feel.

Our COLLEGIUM OF EMINENT SCIENTISTS includes brilliant minds who use empirical research to search for cures for cancer, solve the energy crisis, and study ways to ensure people aren't overtaken by AI computers that are beginning to run amok. This KF network of luminaries includes professors at Ivy League universities and major research labs. Some have even won NOBEL PRIZES. That is what we are striving for.

There is a Polish saying, Polak Protrafi, *"a Pole can do it."* The Kosciuszko Foundation proves that, changing the world one scholar at a time. We're asking you to be part of that. Poles and Polish-Americans have known for centuries, as a country in Central Europe, surrounded by hostile powers, that no one will help us. That's why we must help our best and brightest lead us into the future.

But we need your help to buy fishing poles and fund scholarships, research grants, and more. Competition in the marketplace of ideas and human intelligence is more fierce than ever. We are working to prepare Poles and Polish Americans for this contest that is deciding the world's future.

As we enter our second century, we have launched a CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN asking donors to support our mission to pay all this good fortune forward. By supporting this endeavor, you invest in your community's future. The Kosciuszko Foundation has been funding human intelligence and innovation for more than a century. If you'd like to support this reality, join us as a member, donor, or volunteer. ■

ALEX STOROZYNSKI AWARDED ONE OF POLAND'S TOP STATE HONORS

By Anna Tarnawska, *KF Development Manager*



Alex Storozynski, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation and KF President Emeritus, was awarded the COMMANDER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, one of the nation's top state honors, in recognition of his outstanding service to Polish-American relations. The medal was bestowed upon him at the Kosciuszko Foundation Gala at the Palace of the Commonwealth in Warsaw, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our organization.

Alex Storozynski is a journalist, PULITZER PRIZE laureate, and author of the award-winning biography of *Kosciuszko, The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution*. Storozynski was a member of the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS editorial board, founding editor of amNEWYORK, and city editor of the NEW YORK SUN. His latest book is a family memoir titled *Spies In My Blood: Secrets of a Polish Family's Fight Against Nazis & Communists*. This true story is a quest to uncover the nitty-gritty of three generations of spies in Storozynski's blood. It examines the untold atrocities of WWII and the Cold War, providing a guiding principle for avoiding the doom of repeating history.

Storozynski received a scholarship from the Kosciuszko Foundation to graduate from the COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. This inspired him to work for the organization that helped start his career. The son and grandson of decorated World War II soldiers, Storozynski honored Polish veterans at the Kosciuszko Foundation with films, author's evenings, and photo exhibits about their struggle to free Poland. Storozynski invited the President of the National Bank of Poland, SŁAWOMIR SKRZYPEK, for a networking session at the Foundation with Polish bankers from Wall Street to discuss Poland's economy. In 2010, he spearheaded the acquisition of the NATIONAL POLISH CENTER, which provided the foundation with a historic building near Dupont Circle in Washington, DC. With a new office in our nation's capital, the Kosciuszko Foundation organized an international conference about the Katyn massacre at the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS in Washington, attracting speakers such as DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, U.S. Senators, members of the United States Congress, and persuading the U.S. Senate to show an exhibit about Katyn and Polish history in the rotunda of the Senate office building.

Storozynski modernized the foundation's website and wrote a petition asking newspapers to stop using the phrase *"Polish concentration camps."* It was signed by more than 300,000 people, leading The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and the Associated Press to revise their stylebooks to ban the historically erroneous phrase. Under Storozynski's tenure, the Kosciuszko Foundation was legally registered in Poland as FUNDACJA KOŚCIUSZKOWSKA POLSKA, allowing Polish citizens to receive tax deductions for donating money for scholarships and promoting Polish culture. He established the Kosciuszko Foundation alumni network.

In 2013, Storozynski organized an economic conference called *"The Polish Phenomenon: What's Next For Europe's New Powerhouse?"* The President of the National Bank of Poland, MAREK BELKA, was the keynote speaker, and panels included the President of Standard & Poor's, the Polish Stock Exchange, the Polish Foreign Ministry, Citibank, The Wall Street Journal, the International Monetary Fund, and the Treasury of Poland. Poland's credit rating was raised after the conference. ■



From left: *Alex Storozynski, Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director, and Stephen Mizwa's family (the Zarembski Family from Lubaczow, Poland)*

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We Are the Community, Celebrating 250 Years of Polish Contributions to America

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence and honor 250 years of Polish contributions to America's achievements, we are proud to recognize the community that continues to bring our shared history, values, and aspirations to life.

The Kosciuszko Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors and advertisers whose generosity and participation support the publication of the 2026 KF Annual Newsletter. Your support reflects the enduring spirit of community, the power of collaboration, and a shared commitment to preserving our heritage while inspiring future generations.

Thank you for being part of our story and helping us celebrate the remarkable contributions of Polish Americans to the nation we proudly call home.

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Together, we honor our heritage, celebrate our achievements, and build a future rooted in friendship, service, and shared purpose.

Thank you for being our community.

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A CENTURY OF FRIENDSHIP

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION HONORED AT JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

Marek Skulimowski,
KF President and Executive Director

"For prospective supporters of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the story told in Kraków's Collegium Maius is more than a commemorative anecdote — it is evidence of what a century of sustained investment in scholarship, language, and friendship between two nations can build, and an invitation to help carry that work into its second century."

On October 27, 2025, in the sixteenth-century Libraria of Collegium Maius — the oldest building of JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY and the heart of Polish academic tradition — the Rector of Poland's oldest university, PROF. PIOTR JEDYNAK, placed the *Silver Medal Plus Ratio Quam Vis* into the hands of MAREK SKULIMOWSKI, President and CEO of the Kosciuszko Foundation. The gesture closed out a year in which the Foundation celebrated its 100th anniversary and symbolically opened a new chapter in one of the most enduring partnerships between Poland and the United States.



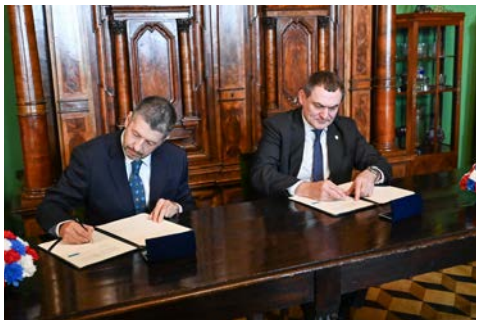
From left: *Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director; Prof. Piotr Jedynak, Rector of the Jagiellonian University; Prof. Paweł Laidler, Vice Rector*

Plus Ratio Quam Vis — "Reason Matters More than Force" — is the motto Jagiellonian University has carried for centuries, borrowed from the sixth-century poet Maximianus, and it is a distinction the University confers on very few institutions. Previous recipients of the University's Silver Medal have included Queen Elizabeth II, President Jacques Chirac, and Nobel laureate Wisława Szymborska. That the Kosciuszko Foundation now stands among them is a testament to how deeply its century of work has shaped one of Europe's oldest universities.

Founded in 1364, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY is Poland's oldest university and, after Prague's Charles University, one of the oldest in Central Europe — a place where Copernicus once studied and where the pursuit of reason has endured partitions, two world wars, and four decades of communist rule. The Kosciuszko Foundation's bond with this institution dates back almost to the Foundation's founding. In 1923, Stephen Mizwa, the Polish immigrant who had built the Polish-American Scholarship Committee that would become the Kosciuszko Foundation two years later, wrote to the rectors of Poland's universities, asking them to help select the first generation of exchange scholars. Jagiellonian's rector at the time, the physicist WŁADYSŁAW NATANSON, responded enthusiastically — even though, by his own account, only a handful of professors on campus spoke English. Within a year, PROF. ERIC P. KELLY of Dartmouth College arrived in Kraków to teach American literature, the first exchange scholar sent under the Foundation's auspices. He later wrote "*The Trumpeter of Kraków*", which won the 1929 Newbery Medal, introducing generations of American children to the city that had become his second home. Soon after, the Jagiellonian anglicist Prof. Roman Dyboski became the Foundation's first Polish exchange scholar and, in time, its first official representative in Poland.







Top right: A delegation of KF Board of Trustees members was received at the Jagiellonian University's Collegium Maius

Bottom: Marek Skulimowski and Prof. Piotr Jedynak signed a new cooperation agreement between the KF and Jagiellonian University.

The relationship did not merely survive the twentieth century's catastrophes — it was tested and deepened by them. During the Second World War, the Foundation helped Jagiellonian professors escape occupied Europe and secure positions at American universities; after the war, it shipped parcels of books and medicine to a university, that was cut off from the West. Even as the Cold War closed off formal academic exchange for much of the 1950s, the friendship endured through smaller gestures, waiting for the political opening that came in the 1960s and 1970s. That opening produced one of the partnership's most lasting achievements: in 1972, thanks to the shared vision of Jagiellonian RECTOR MIECZYSŁAW KLIMASZEWSKI and Kosciuszko Foundation President EUGENE KUSIELEWICZ, the University's School of Polish Language and Culture was established. Since 1970, it has run each summer as an intensive Summer Studies program, drawing American students of Polish heritage and Slavic scholarship alike to live and study in Kraków. By the late 1990s, it had become the largest single cohort of foreign students at the University in any given year; today it remains one of the most visible symbols of the two institutions' shared commitment to keeping Polish language and culture alive for new generations of Americans.

Alongside Summer Studies, the Foundation has, for a century, funded Year Abroad fellowships that support scholars traveling in both directions — Polish researchers and doctoral students to American universities and Americans to study and teach at Jagiellonian. More than 200 Jagiellonian scholars, across nearly every discipline, have held Kosciuszko Foundation fellowships, including the University Museum's longtime director, KAROL ESTREICHER; former Vice-Rectors WŁADYSŁAW MIODUNKA and ANDRZEJ MANIA; the current director of the Wawel Royal Castle Museum, ANDRZEJ BETLEJ; and the former director of the Institute of Polish Language and Culture Teaching Methodology, PIOTR HORBATOWSKI. In recent years, the partnership has expanded: in 2019, the University and the Foundation jointly established the PROFESSOR FRANK WILCZEK AWARD, honoring young physicists and astronomers for landmark discoveries. The Foundation has also facilitated major gifts from the late philanthropist TAD TAUBE and TAUBE PHILANTHROPIES in support of the TAUBE CENTER FOR ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES, now a leading hub for research on democracy and social change within the Faculty of International and Political Studies.

This was not the first time Jagiellonian University had honored the Foundation's leadership. In 1997, Rector PROF. ALEKSANDER KOJ awarded the University's Medal of the 600th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Kraków Academy to JOSEPH E. GORE, the Foundation's President and Executive Director, in recognition of more than seventy years of cooperation. Twenty-eight years later, the 2025 Silver Medal ceremony, Vice-Rector PROF. PAWEŁ LAIDLER drew a direct line between the two ceremonies, calling the relationship an *"everlasting friendship"* built not on the calculations of historians — who might note that it spans only about fifteen percent of the University's 662-year history — but on the quality and consequences of what it has produced. *"One hundred years is a beautiful age,"* Skulimowski told the gathered rectors, trustees, and faculty. *"If it were not for Jagiellonian University, we probably would not exist."*

Before the medal ceremony, Rector Jedynak and President Skulimowski signed a new cooperation agreement extending the partnership into fresh joint research, educational, and outreach projects. For prospective supporters of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the story told in Kraków's Collegium Maius is more than a commemorative anecdote — it is evidence of what a century of sustained investment in scholarship, language, and friendship between two nations can build, and an invitation to help carry that work into its second century. ■

KF TRUSTEE

DR. EWA RADWANSKA HONORED WITH THE MEDAL OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

By Anna Tarnawska, *KF Development Manager*

"Throughout her many years of service to the Foundation, Dr. Radwańska has demonstrated that, in addition to her extraordinary contributions to medicine, she is a dedicated fundraiser, a gifted connector of people, and an exceptionally creative mentor to younger generations."

Dr. Ewa Radwanska, M.D., Ph.D., a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation Board of Trustees, our friend and supporter, was honored with the MEDAL OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND. The ceremony took place on September 2, 2026, at the Senate of the Republic of Poland in Warsaw.



This prestigious distinction, awarded by the Polish Senate in recognition of outstanding service to the Polish nation, was presented to Dr. Radwanska by Marshal of the Senate Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska. The ceremony brought together distinguished guests, including Dr. Radwanska's daughter, Joanna Radwanska-Williams, as well as representatives of the academic and medical communities and the Kosciuszko Foundation, who gathered to celebrate this remarkable achievement. Marek Skulimowski, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, delivered a tribute honoring Dr. Radwanska.

"Today, we honor not only an outstanding scientist, but also someone who has spent decades building bridges between Poland and America. Dear Ewa, although America has been your home for many decades, the Republic of Poland remains your first homeland, a place you have never ceased to serve with your heart, your knowledge, and your time." — Marek Skulimowski, President and Executive Director of the KF.

LIFE DEDICATED TO MEDICINE AND THE POLISH COMMUNITY

Born in Vilnius just before the outbreak of World War II, Dr. Ewa Radwańska has devoted her life and professional career to helping others. Despite the hardships she experienced during the war, she pursued her dream of becoming a physician, studying medicine at the Medical Academy in Warsaw. Her talent and dedication eventually led her to the United States, where she achieved remarkable success as a pioneer in infertility treatment. During more than 40 years at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, she established one of the first in vitro fertilization (IVF) programs in the United States, giving countless couples around the world renewed hope of becoming parents.



Her scientific and professional achievements have been recognized with numerous



From left: *Małgorzata KidawaBłońska, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, presented a medal to Dr. Ewa Radwanska*

DR. EWA RADWANSKA HONORED



honors, including an honorary doctorate from the Medical University of Warsaw and the **KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**. Dr. Radwańska is also the author of the autobiography ***Helping Women and Mother Nature***, in which she shares her personal journey and lifelong passion for medicine.

PHILANTHROPIST AND MENTOR

To the Kosciuszko Foundation, Dr. Ewa Radwańska is much more than an outstanding physician. She is our longest-serving Trustee, having served on the Board for 30 years. She previously also served as President of the Foundation's Chicago Chapter. Throughout her many years of service to the Foundation, Dr. Radwańska has demonstrated that, in addition to her extraordinary contributions to medicine, she is a dedicated fundraiser, a gifted connector of people, and an exceptionally creative mentor to younger generations. As an active member of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, she personally takes part in interviews with scholarship recipients traveling to the United States through the Exchange to the U.S. program. Thanks to her initiative and collaboration with the Polish-American Medical Society in Chicago, two scholarship funds were established to support the education and development of promising young medical researchers.

A ROLE MODEL FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

The ceremony at the Polish Senate was a deeply moving occasion, allowing Dr. Radwańska to personally accept this extraordinary recognition of her lifelong work and her dedication to serving Poland. Her story is an inspiration to us all, demonstrating how passion, commitment, and love for one's homeland can transcend borders and build bridges between nations.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Ewa Radwanska on this well-deserved honor! We are immensely proud that you are part of the Kosciuszko Foundation family. Thank you for your many years of dedication and for the extraordinary heart you have devoted to advancing Polish science and culture. Your example continues to inspire generations to come. ■



From left: *From left: Robert Tyszkiewicz, Dr. Kornelia Król, Marek Skulimowski, Małgorzata KidawaBłońska, Dr. Ewa Radwańska, Dr. Grażyna Czetwertyńska, Dr. Anna Nyk, Renata Pasternak, Dr. Joanna Radwańska Williams*



A CENTURY OF PARTNERSHIP

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION AND POLAND'S UNIVERSITIES

Marek Skulimowski,
KF President and Executive Director

"That exchange of letters in 1923, opened what is now more than a century of unbroken collaboration between the Kosciuszko Foundation and Poland's great universities, a partnership that today spans Kraków, Lublin, Poznań, Warsaw, and Rzeszów."

In July 1923, a young Polish immigrant named Stephen Mizwa sat down in New York and wrote to the rectors of Poland's universities. He had just raised the first funds for what would become the Kosciuszko Foundation, and he wanted Polish scholars themselves to choose the students America would welcome. On July 23, 1923, Jagiellonian University's rector, the physicist Władysław Natanson, wrote back that his faculty — where perhaps eight professors spoke English — welcomed the new partnership all the same. That exchange of letters opened what is now more than a century of unbroken collaboration between the Kosciuszko Foundation and Poland's great universities, a partnership that today spans Kraków, Lublin, Poznań, Warsaw, and Rzeszów, and that donors make possible one scholarship at a time.

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY:
Where It All Began

UNIVERSITAS JAGELLONICA CRACOVIENSIS

The bond with **JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY** runs deeper than any other. In 1924/25, Dartmouth professor **ERIC P. KELLY** arrived in Kraków to teach English — he returned home to write ***"The Trumpeter of Kraków"***, winner of the 1929 Newbery Medal — and the first wave of Polish students, several from Jagiellonian, sailed for American campuses that same year. In 1928/29, Kraków English scholar **ROMAN DYBOSKI** toured American universities under the Foundation's banner and became its first official representative in Poland. The Foundation helped build Kraków's first academic dormitory and, through the 1930s, sent American students to Schools of Polish Language and Culture in Kraków, Warsaw, and Poznań — Kraków, even then, drew the largest number.

The Second World War could not break the tie: the Foundation shipped food and medicine to Kraków professors under occupation and helped scholars escape to new lives at Berkeley and Columbia. Communist-era politics forced a pause in the early 1950s, but Mizwa made one last pilgrimage to Kraków in 1963, timed to Jagiellonian's 600th-anniversary preparations, and after his death his successor, **EUGENE KUSIELEWICZ,** rebuilt the relationship — reviving student exchange and founding a **SUMMER SCHOOL OF POLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT JAGIELLONIAN.**

EXCHANGE TO POLAND:
Year Abroad and Summer Study

That 1970s revival grew into the two programs that anchor the partnership today. Since 1971, the Kosciuszko Foundation has sponsored **SUMMER STUDY PROGRAMS AT JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY** and the **CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN** — *"I know of no other program,"* former KF Vice Chairman Dr. Thaddeus Gromada has written, *"that has made as powerful an impact on young Polish Americans."* Alongside it runs the Foundation's **YEAR ABROAD PROGRAM,** which sends American students for a full academic year at Jagiellonian's


SILVER MEDAL AWARDED

President and Executive Director, Joseph E. Gore, was awarded the Silver Medal of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow on October 1st. The medal was conferred by Professor dr hab. Aleksander J. Koj, Rector of the Jagiellonian University, on the occasion of the inauguration of the University's 624th academic year in the Collegium Novum of the University. In announcing the award, Rector Koj cited Mr. Gore's "enormous efforts and energy, devoted to the activities of the Kosciuszko Foundation for the benefit of the Jagiellonian University." Previous recipients of the Silver Medal include Queen Elizabeth of England, President Jacques Chirac of France, and Wislawa Szymborska, the 1996 Nobel Prize Laureate for Poetry. Members of the Board of Trustees, who were meeting in Poland at this time, joined Mr. Gore and his wife, Eugenia, for the award ceremony, part of a colorful day of medieval pageantry.

The Jagiellonian University, established in 1364, is one of the oldest centers of higher learning in Central Europe, second only to Prague's Charles University. Ties between the Jagiellonian University and the Kosciuszko Foundation go back to the very beginnings of the Foundation in 1925. Among the first Polish students brought to America by the Foundation, two were from the Jagiellonian University. The first Kosciuszko Foundation Exchange Scholar from Poland was Dr. Roman Dyboski, Professor of English at the Jagiellonian University. Professor Dyboski lectured throughout the United States and Canada and, upon his return to Poland, he served as the Foundation's first Polish representative in selecting other exchange students and scholars. And at the same time, among the first American sent to Poland under the Foundation's Exchange Program was Professor Eric P. Kelly of Dartmouth College, who both studied and taught at the Jagiellonian University. Members will surely remember Professor Kelly's stirring adventure stories about Poland, among them *The Trumpeter of Krakow* and *The Blacksmith of Vilno*.

Since those early beginnings more than 200 Polish scholars from the Jagiellonian University have received Kosciuszko Foundation fellowships and grants for study, research and teaching at various American universities, because Yearly programs at the Jagiellonian University, continuously supported by the Foundation, were established more than 35 years ago. The very first pre-Second World War group of Americans to study Polish language and culture at the Jagiellonian University under the Foundation's auspices was during the summer of 1937. During the summer of 1997, some 125 American students, the largest group of foreign students at the University, studied Polish language and culture through the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Pictured in their ceremonial academic robes, President Joseph E. Gore and Trustee Irene Pyszkowski with Professor Aleksander Koj, Rector of the Jagiellonian University.

Center for Polish Language and Culture in the World, in partnership with Poland's Ministry of National Education. In recent years that collaboration has grown to include Poland's National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), which matches Kosciuszko Foundation scholarships for Exchange to Poland participants — extending the reach of every donor dollar.

Six decades of alumni testify to what those months abroad can do: 1974 Kraków student Carl Bucki went on to become a U.S. federal bankruptcy judge; Katarzyna Brzeski, a 2004 summer scholar, wrote that Kraków *"changed me as a person... I feel completely full of fulfillment and satisfaction."* Others met their spouses, found their vocations, or simply, as one alumnus put it, came home "with enthusiasm and pride" for Polish culture.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN:

Decades of Shared Classrooms

For more than fifty years, the CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN (KUL) has stood alongside Jagiellonian as the Foundation's second home for summer language study, welcoming American students — most of Polish descent, many the first in their families to see Poland — for three- and four-week immersion courses each summer. *"I studied Polish for one year at Michigan and then returned to Poland to study in Lublin,"* one alumnus recalled of his KF-funded summer there. The partnership continues to evolve: in 2023, the Foundation extended a special scholarship to a Ukrainian student pursuing Polish-language study at KUL, a reminder that this is a living relationship, not an archival one.

POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES:

Training Tomorrow's Doctors

At POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, the Foundation supports Polish American students pursuing full medical degrees through the university's English Language Medical Program, with tuition scholarships that have run as high as $6,000 a year for students in their final years of study. The relationship has since grown to include a hands-on pre-medical summer program, where KF-sponsored American students train in surgical suturing, medical simulation, and ultrasound technique alongside Polish medical faculty — a pipeline of future physicians who begin their careers in a Polish operating theater.

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW:

A Visiting Professorship, and Scholars Sent Both Ways

Since 2013, the Kosciuszko Foundation has held a cooperation agreement with the UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW establishing a Kosciuszko Foundation Visiting Professorship there. Under that agreement, the Foundation has brought a number of distinguished American professors to Warsaw to lecture for a semester at a time, teaching and mentoring Polish students in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. It is the mirror image of the Foundation's oldest work: rather than sending Poles to America, this Exchange to Poland initiative sends American scholars — and students alongside them — to Poland for a semester, deepening a two-way exchange that has quietly reshaped both academic communities.

THE KF AND POLAND'S UNIVERSITIES

NEW CHAPTERS:

Four Partnerships in Three Years



Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director, and Prof. Adam Reich, Rector of the University of Rzeszów, signed a cooperation agreement

The partnership keeps expanding. In September 2024, the Foundation signed a formal cooperation agreement with the WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (SGH), building on years of joint economic conferences the two institutions convene each year to bring together American and Polish business and academic leaders. *"It marks a milestone in our mission to build bridges through education and business,"* the Foundation noted at the signing. And in May 2025, KF President Marek Skulimowski signed a new agreement with the UNIVERSITY OF RZESZÓW, establishing joint research, academic exchange, scholarships, and a partnership on human rights conferences — a homecoming of sorts, since founder Stephen Mizwa was born near Rzeszów.

The Foundation's ties to Warsaw run wider still, including a new cooperation agreement with the MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW. And in the arts, the Foundation has opened a doorway between Poland's most storied film school and one of America's most storied acting studios: under a new cooperation agreement between the ŁÓDŹ FILM SCHOOL and the LEE STRASBERG THEATRE & FILM INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK, the Foundation awarded its first grant to Julia Jaroszewska, a fourth-year acting student from Łódź, to help cover her costs in Strasberg's Summer Method Acting Program — one scholarship, and the promise of many more young Polish actors and filmmakers to follow.

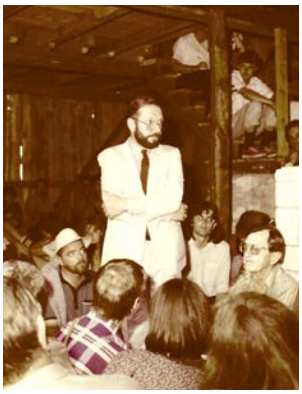


The Kosciuszko Foundation's President and Executive Director presenting a scholarship award during the inauguration of the academic year at Poznań University of Medical Sciences

A BRIDGE BUILT ONE SCHOLARSHIP AT A TIME

From a single letter in 1923 to eight university partnerships spanning Poland today, the throughline never changes: Polish rectors and deans choosing promising students, and American donors making sure those students can go. Every scholarship the Kosciuszko Foundation awards — to a Year Abroad student in Kraków, a medical student in Poznań, a visiting professor in Warsaw — extends a bridge that has now carried a century of scholars in both directions. Your support keeps that bridge open for the next one. ■





Above left: *Stephen Mizwa at Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)*

Above right: *Students of the Summer Schoolof the Catholic University of Lublin visiting Krzysztof Zanussi, film director, at his country home in Bochotnica*

American Council for Polish Culture

Connecting Polish cultural organizations in America since 1948

On the 250th Birthday of the United States we join

The Kosciuszko Foundation

and other Polish American organizations in celebrating Poles in the American Revolution and scores of those who made remarkable contributions to America, from winning our country's freedom to its achievements in the arts, academia, sciences, industry and the overall mosaic of American culture.

www.polishcultureacpc.org

A NEW HOME FOR TRANSATLANTIC EXCHANGE

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION IN WARSAW

By Anna Tarnawska,
KF Development Manager



"Sharing the story of the KF Warsaw office would offer our members, donors, friends, and collaborators a glimpse of how the Foundation's more than 100-year history in the United States connects with the work of our relatively young office in Warsaw."

This summer, I visited the new **WARSAW OFFICE OF THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION POLAND.** More than simply a new workplace, the office represents an important new hub for the Foundation's activities in Poland, a place where educational programs, international partnerships, and transatlantic exchange can come together.



The Warsaw office was established in the 1990s by the then-president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, **JOSEPH GORE, Esq.** Today, it operates thanks to the generous support of KF Trustee Piotr Chomczyński, Ph.D.. It plays a particularly important role in supporting the Foundation's programs in Poland, including Teaching English in Poland, Exchange Program to the United States, and a growing range of international academic and cultural collaborations. Its location is therefore more than a matter of convenience. Situated at **SZPITALNA 5**, in the very heart of Warsaw, the office places the Foundation within one of the city's most historically significant and vibrant areas.



"By establishing our office here, we have become part of a much longer story: the history of Warsaw's civic life, social movements, nongovernmental organizations, and the generations of people who have worked to shape Poland's future," says **GRAŻYNA CZETWERTYŃSKA**, President of KF Poland.

ADDRESS WITH HISTORY

The building at Szpitalna 5 reflects many layers of Warsaw's history. Constructed in the late nineteenth century, when Warsaw was part of the Russian Empire, it originally served as a residential and commercial townhouse, bringing together apartments, shops, workshops, and businesses. The twentieth century transformed both the building and the city around it.

"For us, the new office is therefore more than an administrative space. It is a bridge between people who believe that education and cultural exchange can bring societies closer together."

Grażyna Czetwertyńska, President of KF Poland

During World War II, Szpitalna Street and the surrounding area suffered heavy destruction, particularly during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. The building was damaged but survived. In the postwar period, like many Warsaw properties, it was affected by nationalization and housing policies before undergoing the complex process of reprivatization and renovation after 1989.

FROM CIVIC ACTIVISM TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Szpitalna 5 also has a history of civic engagement. During the 1980s, the building was associated with the Mazowsze structures of Solidarność, one of the defining social movements of modern Polish history.

Today, the Kosciuszko Foundation occupies this same address, supporting education, academic exchange, cultural understanding, and connections between Poland and the United States. The circumstances and goals are different, but there is a meaningful continuity: a commitment to connecting people and strengthening communities.

"By establishing our office here, we have become part of a much longer story: the history of Warsaw's civic life, social movements, nongovernmental organizations, and the generations of people who have worked to shape Poland's future."

Grażyna Czetwertyńska

BUILDING RESTORED, CITY REMEMBERED

The building's restored façade tells another part of its story. Much of its nineteenth-century ornamentation was removed in the 1970s, but photographs taken during the Warsaw Uprising by SYLWESTER BRAUN, known as "Kris," preserved detailed images of the original façade. These photographs later became an important source for its restoration, completed in 2019. There is something especially meaningful about this history: photographs documenting one of Warsaw's darkest moments eventually helped restore a fragment of the city's architectural identity. In this way, preserving the past became part of rebuilding the city.



Przemysław Balcerzyk, Program Director, in his office

A NEW CHAPTER FOR TRANSATLANTIC MISSION

Today, Szpitalna 5 embodies several layers of the city's past: its nineteenth-century origins, wartime destruction, postwar reconstruction, the communist period, and the revival of the historic center in contemporary Warsaw. *"For us, the new office is therefore more than an administrative space. It is a bridge between people who believe that education and cultural exchange can bring societies closer together,"* says Grażyna Czetwertyńska

Standing in the new office this summer, surrounded by a building whose walls carry so many layers of the city's history, I hoped that sharing the story of the KF Warsaw office would offer our members, donors, friends, and collaborators a glimpse of how the Foundation's more than 100-year history in the United States connects with the work of our relatively young office in Warsaw—an office that is nevertheless deeply rooted in the history, civic traditions, and character of the city around it. That, ultimately, is what the Kosciuszko Foundation has always sought to do: build connections between Poland and the United States, between institutions and communities, and between the past and the present. ■

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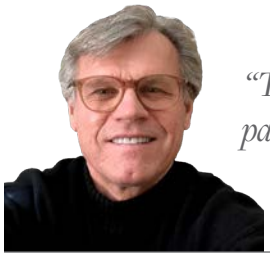
A NATION REMEMBERS
POLAND'S 1926 GIFT TO AMERICA

By **Zbigniew Kantorosiński,**
Chief of the Germanic & Slavic Division (Retired)
Library of Congress



"The idea for the volumes was inspired by the Polish tradition of the księga pamiątkowa, a commemorative album presented to a friend, colleague, or teacher. In 1926, that tradition was transformed on a national scale — Poland created a księga pamiątkowa from an entire nation to another nation."

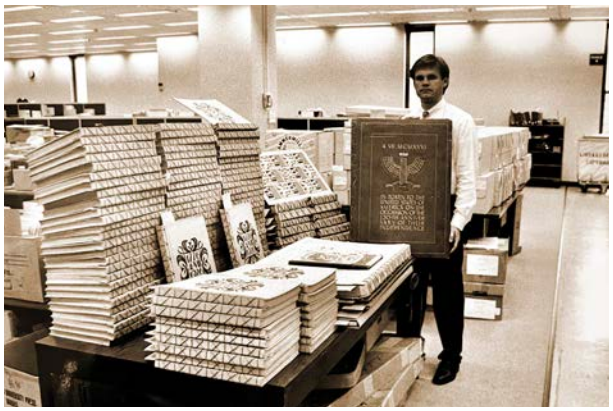
The **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** is a vast institution occupying three buildings on Capitol Hill plus numerous off-site storage facilities housing its massive collection of some 180 million items in more than 470 languages. The collection is arranged by 21 subject classes for books and by special non-book formats. Polish non-book holdings are scattered throughout the Library's many divisions – Music, Manuscript, Prints and Photographs, Newspaper and Serial, Geography and Map, and other areas. I cannot tell you how many requests I received in my 35-year career at the Library to view **"THE POLISH COLLECTION."** I wouldn't know where to begin.



A dedication sheet from the Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States

In 1996, a colleague in the **MANUSCRIPT DIVISION** asked me to look at what he called a "pile of books" recently transferred from an off-site storage facility. When I arrived, the volumes were spread across a table, all filled with handwritten names, signatures, photographs, seals, and artwork. I did not yet know their full story, but I knew at once that I was looking at something extraordinary.

The inscription in the first volume, dated July 4, 1926, read **"From the Polish Nation to the American Nation on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Independence of the United States."** It was followed by a declaration signed by more than five million Polish citizens. The signatories represented every level of Polish society: the President of the Republic and government officials, civic and regional organizations, university students, and students and pupils from more than 21,000 secondary and elementary schools. Poles living in Austria also participated. The signatures were accompanied by works of art by leading Polish artists, drawings by schoolchildren, more than 2,500 official and institutional seals, and photographs of students, teachers, and schools.



The entire 111-volume collection as it first arrived in the Manuscript Division

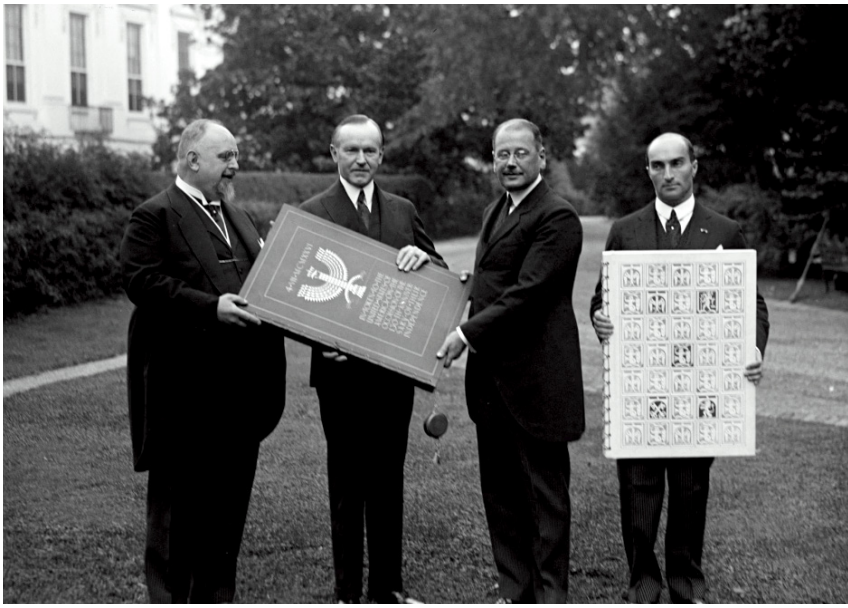
The Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year 1927 described this collection as an interagency transfer from the White House. It states *"The President of the United States has transferred to the Library of Congress for exhibition a 'Declaration of admiration and friendship for the United States,'* signed by the President of Poland, various officials, and 5,000,000 Polish school children. The 112 volumes are illustrated with representative Polish scenes."

I had worked at the Library for more than a decade by then but had never heard of the POLISH DECLARATIONS OF ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED STATES, as the collection is now known. It had never appeared in any bibliography listing Polish holdings at the Library. It was identified in the catalog by the handwritten declarations, one in Polish and the other in English, but they represented only two sheets of a collection of more than 30,000 sheets.



Left: *Sheet with signatures and seals*
Right: *Drawing and signatures from an elementary school volume*

The volumes provide an extraordinary portrait of Poland during the brief period between the restoration of independence in 1918 and the German and Soviet invasions of 1939. Poland, which had once been one of Europe's earliest constitutional democracies, had disappeared from the map of Europe after the partitions of 1772, 1793, and 1795 and remained under foreign rule for 123 years. The volumes capture the country as it emerged from that long period of subjugation.



From left: *Leopold Kotnowski, Jerzy Iwanowski and Jan Ciechanowski presenting Volumes One and Two to President Coolidge on October 14, 1926*

Their value is both historical and deeply personal. They preserve names, signatures, photographs, artwork, and institutional seals that might otherwise have disappeared. They document communities and territories that were later destroyed or transferred after WWII. They also preserve evidence of the SECOND POLISH REPUBLIC that the postwar communist government sought to minimize or erase. For historians and genealogists, they are an unparalleled resource. For millions of people of Polish descent, they provide a tangible connection to their ancestors and to communities that no longer exist.

The volumes also tell an important story about the relationship between Poland and the United States. When the American colonies declared independence, many Poles sympathized with their struggle even as Poland faced its own fight for survival. Two Polish heroes, TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO and KAZIMIERZ PUŁASKI, crossed the Atlantic to help the American cause. Kościuszko played a crucial role in fortifying West Point, while Pułaski helped create the American cavalry. Both contributed significantly to American independence.

A NATION REMEMBERS

Poland assisted in the birth of our nation, and America insisted on the rebirth of Poland. When Poland regained independence in 1918, the United States played an important role. PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON'S FOURTEEN POINTS explicitly called for the establishment of an independent Polish state with access to the sea, and Wilson worked to ensure that this objective was reflected in the postwar settlement.

The newly independent Poland, however, faced enormous hardship. Years of occupation and warfare had devastated the country, and its people faced hunger and poverty. A whole generation of Polish children was in jeopardy. In 1919, the United States established the AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION, which supplied food and distributed it through soup kitchens created, usually in schools, across the land. There were 6,000 such kitchens by 1920, preparing millions of meals and feeding thousands upon thousands of children.

In 1919, Soviet Russia invaded invaded the new Polish republic. Eleven American aviators, called the KOŚCIUSZKO SQUADRON, came to the country's aid. To repay Poland for its participation in America's war of independence, they flew constant missions in support of the Polish ground troops. The Americans provided the air force needed to stop the Russian advance and helped Poland win the war.






From left: *Secondary school volume binding; Declaration sheet in English; Declaration sheet in Polish*

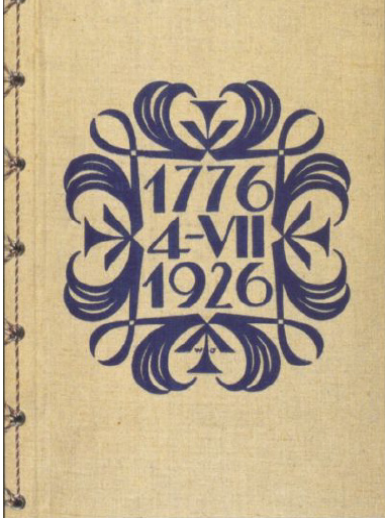


Photograph and message from an elementary school volume

Poles in America and Americans in Poland had fought for one another in struggles for independence and democracy. The 1926 volumes commemorate that shared history and express the enduring bond between the two nations.

The idea for the volumes was inspired by the Polish tradition of the księga pamiątkowa, a commemorative album presented to a friend, colleague, or teacher. Such albums might contain photographs, poems, memorable phrases, and the signatures of those honoring the recipient. In 1926, that tradition was transformed on a national scale — Poland created a księga pamiątkowa from an entire nation to another nation.

The volumes have an interesting history. Because Poland could not afford to participate fully in the official SESQUICENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION in Philadelphia, a national commemorative project was proposed instead. A committee composed the declaration, commissioned artwork, distributed sheets for signatures, gathered them from across Poland, and arranged their transportation and binding.



Left: *Elementary school volume binding*

The completed volumes were presented to PRESIDENT COOLIDGE at the White House on October 14, 1926. He called them an *"emblem of goodwill between nations."* After their exhibition at the Library of Congress, however, they were placed in storage. Poland became communist, the Cold War began, and the collection gradually disappeared from public awareness.

Seventy years later, in 1996, I encountered the volumes while organizing an official visit to the Library by POLAND'S FIRST LADY, JOLANTA KWAŚNIEWSKA. Their existence soon became known to the Polish government, Polish Americans, historians and genealogists. In 2024, they were included in the exhibition, "COLLECTING MEMORIES: TREASURES FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS."

The historic value of these volumes is indisputable. They preserve a remarkable image of Poland—a nation newly restored to independence, confident in its future, and grateful for its relationship with the United States. Their pages preserve the names of people who would soon perish in WWII, institutions that would disappear, territories



From Left: *Polish Ambassador Jerzy Koźmiński, Polish First Lady Jolanta Kwaśniewska, Librarian of Congress James Billington, Zbigniew Kantorosiński and Irena Koźmińska viewing one of the volumes on August 23, 1996 (Courtesy of Jim Higgins)*



Above: *Patriotic-inspired bindings for Volumes One, Two and Three (1) Artwork from the collection (2)*

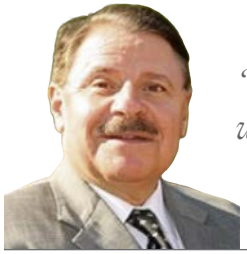
that would be lost, and artwork that might otherwise have been forgotten. Most importantly, they preserve a declaration of friendship between two nations whose histories became intertwined through shared struggles for freedom. As expressed in these volumes, *"The blood then mutually shed has forever united us by bonds of common feelings for the same ideal of the Free Man and the Free Nation."* ■

**This text is adapted from the author's foreword to Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States, Volume I, reprinted by The Kosciuszko Foundation in commemoration of the Declaration's centennial year, with the generous sponsorship of Krystyna Piórkowska, KF Trustee.*

THE MIZWA SOCIETY

GIVING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION THAT ENDURES

By **Henry Sikorski, Ph.D.**,
KF Trustee and Chairman of the Development Committee; Executive Committee Member



"By joining the Mizwa Society, members become part of a circle of visionaries who understand that lasting impact extends beyond a lifetime (...) and the profound satisfaction of knowing that one's values and commitment to education will continue to make a difference for generations to come!"

After graduating from the UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI in 1970, I earned my master's degree at HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY and a Ph.D. in English Literature at the UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO. During my graduate studies, I spent 1979-1980 in Warsaw on a Fulbright grant researching the work of JOSEPH CONRAD. Upon my return to the United States, I married my fiancée, Francine, who had just completed her doctorate in education at Hofstra University. We settled in Garden City, N.Y. and began our lifelong careers in education: Francine taught at public and private elementary schools and as a professor of Reading at NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE, while I taught English at FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE (SUNY), eventually becoming a full professor and later serving as vice president and chief development officer.

My wife and I have been members of the KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION for over 25 years. During this time, I have served as a Foundation TRUSTEE and was elected CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. As lifelong academics, Francine and I have witnessed the power of higher education to transform lives and provide individuals the opportunity for successful professional careers in all disciplines, including medicine, law, science, education, music, and art. For over 100 years, the mission of the Kosciuszko Foundation, in addition to promoting Polish culture and strengthening the bonds between Poland and the United States, has also been to provide young students seeking to advance their academic careers with the means to complete their education. As the first generation in our respective families to complete a college degree, Francine and I feel that supporting higher education for the most needy and best-qualified students is a concept dear to our hearts.

Since its inception in 1925, the Foundation's scholarship and cultural exchange programs have given thousands of undergraduate and graduate students the chance to complete their degrees and advance the Foundation's mission. However, as we all know, the costs of a higher education today are many times more than they were in 1925! Therefore, as the Foundation enters its next century of service, the Foundation is proud to announce the launch of the MIZWA SOCIETY, a distinguished community of supporters whose generosity will help secure the Foundation's future for generations to come.

The Mizwa Society, named in honor of STEPHEN MIZWA, the founder of the Kosciuszko Foundation, is an opportunity for Foundation members and friends to include the organization in their long-term philanthropic plans through a planned or legacy gift. The Mizwa Society will recognize and honor those individuals who have made provisions for the Foundation through a bequest, retirement plan designation, life insurance beneficiary designation, charitable trust, or other planned gift arrangement. These gifts are among the most profound expressions of support; they ensure that future generations of students, scholars, artists, and cultural leaders will continue to benefit from the Foundation's programs and mission.

Planned giving provides the Foundation with the resources to strengthen its endowment, expand educational opportunities, support cultural initiatives, and foster meaningful exchange between Poland and the United States for decades to come. By joining the Mizwa Society, members become part of a circle of visionaries who understand that lasting impact extends beyond a lifetime. Most importantly, membership in the Mizwa Society offers the profound satisfaction of knowing that one's values and commitment to education, culture, and transatlantic understanding will continue to make a difference for generations to come!

Therefore, as lifelong educators with a commitment to scholarship and learning, and as long-standing members of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Francine and I would like to participate in the launch of the Mizwa Society with a six-figure legacy gift, the interest of which could provide two annual scholarships of $10,000.00 each, in perpetuity, to assist Polish American graduate students with travel and housing costs for doctoral studies in Poland.

We are committed to the Foundation's mission and vision and trust that our gift will enable students to have the life-changing opportunities we have experienced through higher education!

The future of the Kosciuszko Foundation begins with those who choose to shape it today! ■

Drs. Henry and Francine Sikorski



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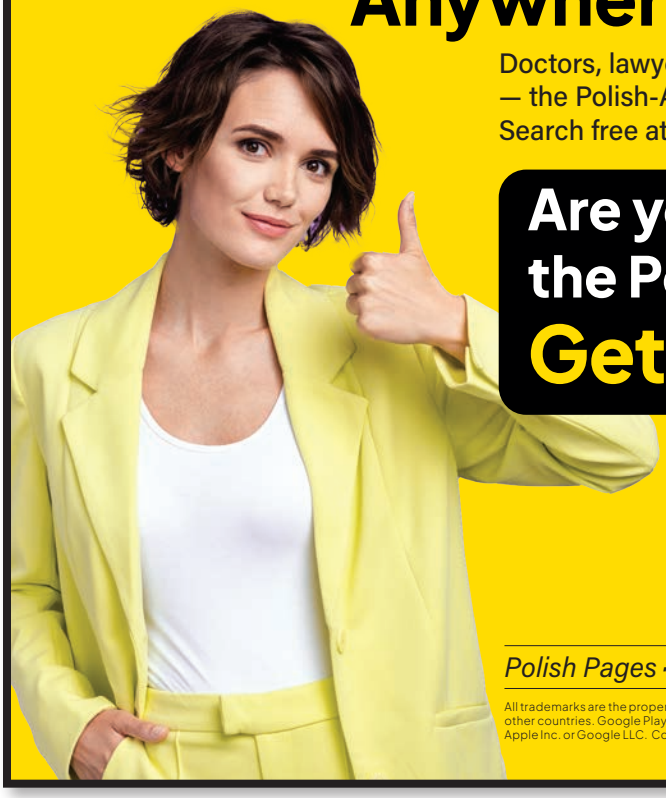

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YOUR LEGACY, THEIR FUTURE

INTRODUCING THE MIZWA SOCIETY

By *Anna Tarnawska, KF Development Manager*

MIZWA SOCIETY
A Lasting Legacy for a Brighter Future

"More than a century ago, Stephen Mizwa created an institution dedicated to advancing education, promoting Polish culture, and strengthening the bonds between Poland and the United States. Today, Mizwa Society members carry that vision forward."

Named in honor of STEPHEN MIZWA, the visionary founder of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the MIZWA SOCIETY recognizes individuals who have made a planned or legacy gift to help ensure that the Foundation's mission continues for generations to come.

CONTINUING MIZWA'S VISION

More than a century ago, Stephen Mizwa created an institution dedicated to advancing education, promoting Polish culture, and strengthening the bonds between Poland and the United States. Today, Mizwa Society members carry that vision forward.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

A legacy gift can take many forms, including a bequest in a will, a retirement plan or life insurance beneficiary designation, a charitable trust, or another planned gift arrangement. These gifts strengthen the Foundation's endowment and long-term future, helping expand opportunities for students, scholars, artists, and cultural leaders while supporting cultural initiatives and exchange between Poland and the United States. By including the Kosciuszko Foundation in your estate plans, you can help ensure its mission continues for generations to come.

THE BENEFITS OF MIZWA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Mizwa Society members are recognized for their commitment to the Foundation's future and become part of a community of supporters who share a long-term vision.

Members receive:

- Invitations to special gatherings, including luncheons, salons, and conversations with Foundation leadership.
- Opportunities to engage with Foundation leaders and learn about its long-term vision and priorities.
- Recognition through a commemorative piece celebrating the Foundation's heritage and mission.
- The opportunity to share their personal philanthropy stories through Foundation publications and digital platforms, inspiring future generations of supporters.

Depending on the type of gift and your individual circumstances, planned giving may also offer financial or tax benefits.

To learn more about the Mizwa Society and planned giving opportunities, please contact Anna Tarnawska, Development Manager, at development@thekf.org.

USA–POLAND A HISTORY OF SOLIDARITY

TVN24 AND THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

By *Anna Tarnawska,*
KF Development Manager

"The event commemorated the 250th anniversary of the signing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence of the United States and celebrated the longstanding ties between Poland and the United States."



From the left: *Amb. Bogusław Winid and Marcin Wrona (TVN). Alex Storozynski, KF Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Piotr Kraśko (TVN)*

In June, THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION partnered with TVN, POLAND'S leading privately owned television channel, to present a discussion titled ***"USA–Poland: A History of Solidarity."*** The event commemorated the 250th anniversary of the signing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence of the United States and celebrated the longstanding ties between Poland and the United States. It was hosted and recorded at the KF House in New York and broadcast on TVN24.

The discussion featured ALEX STOROZYNSKI, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation, and AMBASSADOR BOGUSŁAW WINID, a Polish diplomat and international relations expert who has served as Poland's ambassador to NATO and the United Nations. They were joined by PIOTR KRAŚKO, one of TVN24's main anchors, and MARCIN WRONA, the network's U.S. correspondent. Polish-American history, the contributions of TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO and KAZIMIERZ PUŁASKI to America's founding, the strength of the U.S.–Poland alliance within NATO, and the role of millions of Americans of Polish heritage in communities across the United States were central themes of the program.

The event was hosted by MAREK SKULIMOWSKI, President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation, and KASIA KIELI, CEO of TVN. We thank TVN24 for partnering with us to share this important conversation and celebrate the enduring friendship between Poland and the United States. ■



From the left: *Kasia Kieli, TVN CEO, and Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director*

Marek Skulimowski,
KF President and Executive Director

EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE, PRESERVING THE PAST

KF'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO UKRAINE



As we look ahead, KF remains grateful to every donor whose generosity makes this possible, and we invite our community to continue standing with Ukraine through education, culture, and the simple, powerful act of showing up for one another.

Since the end of February 2022, when Russia launched its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, the Kosciuszko Foundation (KF) has stood beside Poland's neighbor in need, and that commitment has never wavered. Guided by our mission as a cultural and educational foundation, KF continues to channel every dollar raised through the **HELP UKRAINE FUND** into programs that offer Ukrainian children, students, and families something precious: the chance to learn, create, and imagine a future beyond the headlines. Since the invasion began, KF has raised and distributed well over a million dollars in support of thousands of Ukrainians, prompting KF President **MAREK SKULIMOWSKI** to observe that the Foundation has *"done more to unite and bring Ukrainians and Poles together than in decades prior."*



The largest share of this support continues to flow to KF's flagship **TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND (TEIP)** program, and this summer's camps were no exception. Across the 2025 and 2026 seasons, more than 200 Ukrainian children participated in TEIP camps throughout Poland, including the camp in **BASZNIA, PODKARPACKIE**, which once again welcomed Ukrainian students from Vorokhta to learn English through games, teamwork, and friendship alongside American volunteers.

Language learning continues year-round at the **CROSS-BORDER EDUCATION CENTER IN NAHACHIV (Ukraine)**, run by the **FOLKOWISKO FOUNDATION**, KF's key partner in the region. This summer, six American volunteers traveled there to teach English to nearly 100 children from Nahachiv and neighboring villages, a program made possible by the generosity of the local community and the enthusiastic support of the authorities in Yavoriv. The center did more than teach vocabulary this year: Academy Award-nominated actor **JESSE EISENBERG** visited to lead acting workshops, giving talented young students a rare chance to step into a story of their own choosing and, if only for an afternoon, a welcome escape



Actor Jesse Eisenberg (wearing a blue shirt) leads acting workshops







from the everyday worries of wartime life. Nearby, KF and Folkowisko also supported a rehabilitation camp, now in its third consecutive year, offering mothers and children who have lost or been separated from loved ones a gentle stretch of ordinary childhood joy.

The Kosciuszko Foundation's support has also extended to preserving Ukraine's history and culture. Over the past four years, the Foundation has helped more than 50 cultural and museum institutions across Ukraine safeguard collections threatened by war. At the STATE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE IN LVIV, home to documents nearly a thousand years old, a close call with a drone underscored how vulnerable this heritage is. KF-supported grants funded professional shelving to better protect these irreplaceable records and servers to digitize the collection. *"These documents survived empires, wars, and occupations long before this one,"* said OLESYA STEFANYK, Director of the State Historical Archive in Lviv. *"Thanks to the Kosciuszko Foundation's support, we can finally give them the protection and the future they deserve."*

Beyond these efforts, KF continues to support a wide range of grassroots causes. In the summer of 2026, KF equipped ST. MARY MAGDALENE SCHOOL IN LVIV, where Polish is the language of instruction, with printing and photocopying equipment and 28 sets of classroom furniture, helping ensure that students there learn in well-supplied classrooms. Other support includes solar-powered emergency power banks that keep medical units and schools running during blackouts, an educational and cultural center for families displaced from Kharkiv and now living in Paniutyne, and academic exchange scholarships that bring promising Ukrainian students to study in the United States.

Since July 1, 2025, the Kosciuszko Foundation has directed nearly $200,000 toward this work, support that reaches classrooms, archives, museums, and community centers on both sides of the Polish-Ukrainian border. It is a reminder that helping Ukraine is not only a matter of geopolitical importance for Poland and the rest of Europe but also a deeply human response rooted in mutual understanding, reconciliation, and a shared history that stretches back centuries. As we look ahead, KF remains grateful to every donor whose generosity makes this possible, and we invite our community to continue standing with Ukraine through education, culture, and the simple, powerful act of showing up for one another. ■



Solarpowered emergency power unit delivered to the Unbroken Rehabilitation Center in Lviv

THE KF SUPPORTERS GATHERED FOR

THE 89TH ANNUAL DINNER & BALL

By KF Team

It was a true celebration of friendship between the Polish and American people, and of the enduring mission of the Kosciuszko Foundation. On SATURDAY, APRIL 25, we gathered at the splendid PLAZA HOTEL IN NEW YORK CITY for the 89th Annual KF Dinner & Ball—an evening filled with elegance, tradition, and shared purpose.

The program featured remarks by Chairman of the Board of Trustees ALEX STOROZYNSKI, President and Executive Director MAREK SKULIMOWSKI, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York MATEUSZ SAKOWICZ, and Professor ZBIGNIEW KRASIŃSKI of Poznań University of Medical Sciences. Guests were welcomed with a Fanfare Trumpet performance by the USMMA Fanfare Trumpet Squadron, followed by the Presentation of Colors by USMMA Midshipmen and the national anthems performed by soprano Magdalena Kuźma.

The evening also celebrated this year's distinguished honorees, recognizing individuals whose commitment, generosity, and service reflect the mission and spirit of The Kosciuszko Foundation. JAMIE AND STEPHEN KUSMIERCZAK were presented with the KF MEDAL OF RECOGNITION, while KRISTIN MILLER received the KF SPIRIT AWARD.

The evening continued with a special performance by the COPERNICUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR, presenting *"Kosciuszko's Compass"* under the direction of BOŻENA KONKIEL, and a beautiful recital by MAGDALENA KUŹMA, winner of the KF Sembrich Competition, accompanied by MICHAŁ SKOWRONEK on piano. THE POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY presented a vibrant program of traditional Polish dances and led guests in a festive Grand Polonaise, setting the tone for a joyful celebration. We danced the night away to the music of the GERARD CARELLI ORCHESTRA.

Thank you to our sponsors, media partners, and all our distinguished guests for keeping this remarkable tradition alive for nearly 90 years. ■

Members of the KF Board of Trustees





Left: *Piotr Chomczyński, Ph.D., KF Trustee (center), with his wife, Dr. Judith Heiny, and friends*





Far Left: *Joanna Radwanska-Williams, Ph.D., and Dr. Ewa Radwanska, M.D.., KF Trustee*

Left: *Dr. Marek Pienkowski, KF Trustee with his wife Edyta*

Right: *Wojciech "Voytek" Jackowski, KF Trustee with his wife Agnieszka and their daughters*





Left: *Julia Owerko, KF volunteer with her father Marian Owerko*

Right: *Prof. Waldemar Priebe, KF Trustee, with his wife, Teresa Szwarocka Priebe, Ph.D*

Far right: *Dr. Norman Kelker, Dr. Hanna Chroboczek Kelker, KF Trustee, their daughter Christina, her husband, and two daughters.*





Below right: *Consul Ewa Pietrasieńska; Teresa Lyson, KFDC Chapter Vice President, and her husband, Krzysztof Lyson, KF Trustee; and Barbara Bernhardt, KF VP and Washington, DC Center Director*

Right: *Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director, with Kristin Miller, KF Spirit Award Recipient*





Below: *Dr. Jack Pinkowski with his wife*











Above: *KF Trustees Zbigniew Inglot and Wojciech "Voytek" Jackowski*

Above: Right: *Mateusz Sakowicz, Consul General of Poland in NY*

Above: *Prof. Dorota Niedziółka, Vice Rector of the SGH Warsaw School of Economics, with Consul Ewa Pietrasieńska*

Left: *Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director*

Below: *Alex Storozynski, Chairman of the KF Board of Trustees, with Agnieszka, Nicholas, and Bella*

Below: *Left: KF Team: Ewa Zadworna and Anna Tarnawska (left), Iza Eisemann and Margaret Kozlowska (right)*







Above: *Marek Skulimowski with Prof. Zbigniew Krasiński, Rector of Poznań University of Medical Sciences*



Above: *Russ Skibicki, KF Florida Chapter President, with his wife.*



Above right from left: *Bogdan Chmielewski, President and CEO, PSFCU, Alex Storozynski, KF Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Krzysztof Matyszczyk, Director, PSFCU, Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director*



Above: *Polish American Folk Dance Company*



Above: *Marek Skulimowski with KF Medal of Recognition recipients Stephen and Jamie Kusmierczak and their daughters, Liliana and Genevieve*



Right: *Guests on the dance floor at the 89th Annual KF Dinner & Ball at The Plaza Hotel in New York City*

the KF 100 YEARS

CENTENNIAL IN POLAND

CELEBRATED WITH HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

By KF Team

"The centennial celebrations in Poland highlighted the Foundation's profound impact over the past 100 years: supporting scholars and artists, fostering educational exchange, and strengthening ties between Poland and the United States."

The Kosciuszko Foundation marked its 100th anniversary with a series of major events in Warsaw and Kraków. A large delegation of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, led by President and Executive Director Marek Skulimowski and Chairman of the Board Alex Storozynski, traveled to Poland to participate in centennial ceremonies, academic conferences, strategic meetings, and cultural commemorations. The visit underscored the Foundation's century-long mission to strengthen Polish-American educational, cultural, and scientific cooperation, reaffirming its role as one of the oldest and most active Polish-American organizations in the United States.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE:

POLAND–USA: ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP IN THE ERA OF TRADE TENSIONS AND GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR BUSINESS AND SOCIETIES



Above: *Michał Mrozek, KF Trustee and ING Bank Sląski Executive Vice President, speaking at the conference*



Above: *Prof. Jerzy Buzek, former Poland's Prime Minister*

The centennial week began on **OCTOBER 21**, 2025, with the international conference **"POLAND–USA: ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP IN AN ERA OF TRADE TENSIONS AND GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS,"** held at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics. Organized in partnership with the SGH Warsaw School of Economics and ING Bank Śląski, the conference brought together academic, business, and nonprofit leaders. Panel discussions examined the future of transatlantic cooperation, global economic trends, Poland's long-term growth prospects, and new areas of U.S.–Polish collaboration, including innovation and artificial intelligence.

LECTURES, BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT, AND BOARD MEETINGS

On **OCTOBER 22**, Chairman **ALEX STOROZYNSKI** delivered a public lecture at the **UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW** to students, faculty, and members of the academic community. His talk, ***"You Can't Outsmart Your Genes: A Polish Family's Fight Against the Nazis and Communists and the Future of Polish-American Relations,"*** connected personal family

history with the broader events of twentieth-century Poland and reflected on the evolving future of Polish-American relations. The delegation then attended a luncheon with the Polish Business Roundtable, where Foundation leadership met with executives from major Polish companies to explore future cooperation. Later that day, the Foundation held its Finance Committee Meeting and the annual Board of Trustees Meeting at the historic Palace of the Commonwealth, where several individuals were recognized for their service to the Foundation's mission in Poland.

CENTENNIAL GALA IN WARSAW: NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND HISTORIC PRESENTATION

The centerpiece of the centennial celebrations was the Kosciuszko Foundation **CENTENNIAL GALA** at the Palace of the Commonwealth. Distinguished guests included the Marshal of the Senate, **MAŁGORZATA KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA**, former Presidents of the Republic of Poland **ALEKSANDER KWAŚNIEWSKI** and **BRONISŁAW KOMOROWSKI,** as well as representatives of academia, culture, and the media.

During the ceremony, several of Poland's highest honors were presented to the Foundation and its leadership.

- **ALEX STOROZYNSKI**, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was awarded the **COMMANDER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND,** one of the nation's top state honors, recognizing his outstanding service to Polish-American relations.
- **THE MEDAL OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**, presented by Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, honored **THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION**'s century-long contributions to building mutual understanding and cultural exchange.
- **THE GOLD MEDAL FOR MERIT TO CULTURE – GLORIA ARTIS**, presented by Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage Marek Krawczyk, recognized the Foundation's extraordinary role in promoting Polish culture abroad.
- The Foundation was also awarded the **UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW MEDAL** for exceptional contributions to the academic community.

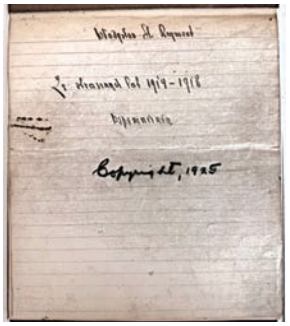




The Kosciuszko Foundation received the Medal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Gold Gloria Artis from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

KAROL NAWROCKI, President of the Republic of Poland, extended his congratulations to the Kosciuszko Foundation: *"On the occasion of the Kosciuszko Foundation's centennial, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to its past and present staff, benefactors, and grantees. Your initiatives continue to build bridges between two nations — separated by an ocean but united by shared values and a centuries-long friendship."*

"Poland today would be a different country without the Kosciuszko Foundation — and I dare say, a much poorer one," said Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska. *"The Foundation's history shows how the Polish diaspora can support the homeland while building lasting relationships in their new home."*



A rare manuscript by Władysław Reymont donated by the KF to the National Library of Poland.

A major highlight was the presentation of a rare manuscript by Nobel laureate **WŁADYSŁAW REYMONT.** As part of the Foundation's centennial and the **YEAR OF WŁADYSŁAW REYMONT,** President Marek Skulimowski formally transferred the manuscript ***"From the Terrible Years 1914–1918. Memoirs"*** to National Library Director Tomasz Makowski. The manuscript, preserved in the Foundation's New York archives, documents Reymont's 1919 visit to the United States and his lectures to Polish-American communities.

A standout moment was the presentation of the new **PRO ARTE, SCIENTIA ET COMMUNI BONO AWARDS** to the Foundation's devoted supporters and friends: **DR. MARK BRZEZINSKI, DR. PIOTR CHOMCZYŃSKI, DR. JUDITH HEINY, JERZY KOŹMIŃSKI, PROF. MIROSŁAW WIELGOŚ, PROF. PIOTR WILCZEK,** and **DR. MATEUSZ ZAWISTOWSKI.**



Above: *Marek Skulimowski with the recipients of the KF Pro Arte, Scientia et Communi Bono Awards (clockwise from the top left corner): Ambassador Jerzy Koźmiński (President, PAFF), Ambassador Mark Brzezinski, Dr., Judith Heiny and Dr. Piotr Chomczyński (KF Trustee), and Prof. Mirosław Wielgoś, M.D.*

CELEBRATIONS IN KRAKÓW: ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The centennial program continued in Kraków on OCTOBER 27, when a ceremony was held at the COLLEGIUM MAIUS LIBRARIA, during which JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY awarded the Kosciuszko Foundation the SILVER MEDAL PLUS RATIO QUAM VIS. The motto, *"Plus ratio quam vis" (Latin for "Reason over force")*, is inscribed above the portal leading from the Aula to the Copernicus Hall in Collegium Maius and is taken from the Elegies of the 6th-century poet Maximianus.

The award recognized the Foundation's more than a century of work in fostering academic, cultural, and educational exchange between the United States and Poland. The Foundation has had a significant impact on research and education and has served as an ambassador of Polish science and culture in the U.S., contributing to the global recognition of Jagiellonian University. Prior to the ceremony, UJ Rector PROF. PIOTR JEDYNAK and the Kosciuszko Foundation's President and Executive Director, MAREK SKULIMOWSKI, signed an agreement to further develop cooperation between the two institutions. The delegation also visited the SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Center and attended a cultural program at WAWEL ROYAL CASTLE, where DR. ANDRZEJ BETLEJ, Director of the Wawel Royal Castle National Art Collection and a KF scholarship alumnus, led a private tour. The visit concluded with a tribute at the CRYPT OF TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO IN WAWEL CATHEDRAL.

A CENTURY OF SERVICE — A FUTURE OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The centennial celebrations in Poland highlighted the Foundation's profound impact over the past 100 years: supporting scholars and artists, fostering educational exchange, and strengthening ties between Poland and the United States. Under the leadership of President Marek Skulimowski and Chairman Alex Storozynski, the Foundation continues to expand its mission and deepen partnerships on both sides of the Atlantic.

Extensive media coverage further amplified the Foundation's achievements and legacy. As the Kosciuszko Foundation enters its second century, the events in Poland serve as both a celebration of its historic accomplishments and a commitment to future opportunities for the next generation of Polish and American scholars. One of the largest news television channels, TVN24, extensively covered the Centennial Gala featuring the President and Executive Director, MAREK SKULIMOWSKI. KF Vice President and Director of Cultural Affairs EWA ZADWORNA was a guest on the DZIENNIK GAZETA PRAWNA podcast in an episode titled *"A Hundred Years of Building Bridges Between Poland and America – The Kosciuszko Foundation."* Trustee WOJCIECH "VOYTEK" JACKOWSKI was a guest of the legal portal INFOR in the feature *"Startups, AI, and Business: Poland Is Becoming a Stronger Player in the U.S. Market."* ■



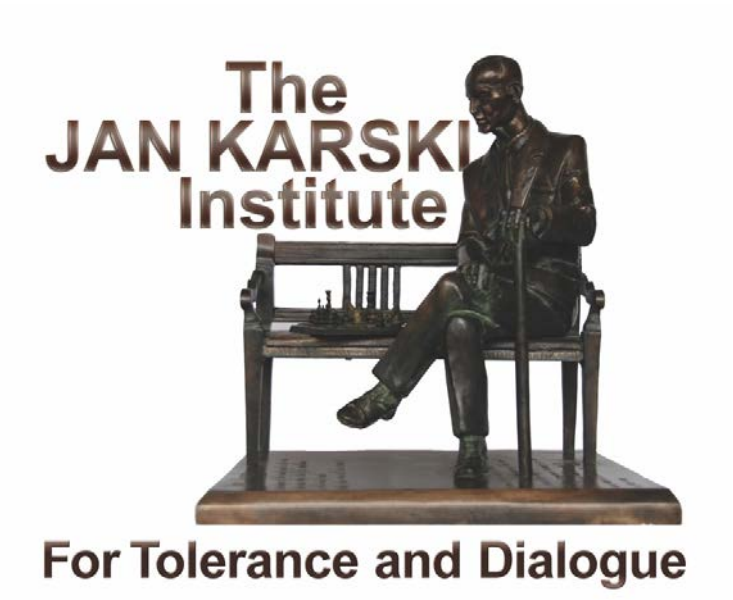
Jan Kasprzyk, Advisor to the President of Poland, reading a congratulatory letter from President Karol Nawrocki

Join us in celebrating

the 250th anniversary of the United States of America

and the enduring friendship between the Polish and American people

Together, we honor our shared values of freedom, courage, democracy, and human dignity— principles that continue to unite our two nations and inspire generations to come



Margaret Izdebska & Waldemar Izdebski

Przemyslaw Balcerzyk,
Program Director,
The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland

POLONIA CAMP 2026 BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF YOUNG POLES



"The goal is not simply to bring young Poles to Poland once a year, but to help them build lasting networks and become active participants in the life of Polish communities worldwide."

The Kosciuszko Foundation and The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland joined forces with leading Polish organizations to bring young members of the global Polish diaspora together in Warsaw.

In July 2026, Warsaw became the meeting place for a new generation of Polonia leaders. More than 1,500 young people of Polish heritage from approximately 50 countries gathered at the campus of the WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES (SGGW) for Polonia Camp 2026, the second edition of the WORLD MEETING OF YOUNG POLONIA.

For THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION and THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION POLAND, the event represented a natural extension of our long-standing mission: creating opportunities for young people to build international connections, deepen their understanding of Poland, and develop the knowledge and confidence to become leaders in their communities.

POLONIA CAMP 2026 was held under the honorary patronage of MAŁGORZATA KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA,



Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, and was strategically co-financed by the Chancellery of the Senate of the Republic of Poland within the "SENAT – POLONIA 2026" program. The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland and The Kosciuszko Foundation served as primary co-organizers alongside the "WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA" ASSOCIATION, THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, and BRANDFEED.

FROM HERITAGE TO FUTURE

Polonia Camp was founded on a simple yet powerful idea: Polish identity can serve as a foundation for building new relationships, professional networks, and international cooperation. The 2026 edition brought together participants aged 18–30 who live outside Poland and identify with Polish heritage. They came from many different backgrounds and continents—students, young professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, community activists, and representatives of Polish organizations abroad.

The diversity of the participants was one of the event's greatest strengths. Some grew up speaking Polish at home; others had only recently rediscovered their Polish roots. Some were already active in Polish community organizations, while others were taking part in a Polish diaspora event for the first time. What united them was a shared interest in Poland—and a desire to shape the future of the communities in which they live. The program therefore went beyond celebrating heritage. It encouraged participants to ask what it means to be Polish in the 21st century and how young Poles abroad can contribute to both their local communities and Poland.



A FOUR-DAY PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE AND CONNECTION

Held from July 23–26 on the **WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES (SGGW)** campus in Warsaw, Polonia Camp combined substantive discussions with workshops, cultural activities, sports, and networking. The program was organized around three principal thematic tracks:

- **CULTURE, IDENTITY, AND POLONIA** – explored Polish language, heritage, identity, and the role of Polish diaspora organizations.
- **CONTEMPORARY POLAND: SOCIETY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMY** – offered participants an opportunity to learn about Poland's development and discuss its place in Europe and the world.
- **MY FUTURE IN POLAND** – focused on education, employment, entrepreneurship, and the possibility of building professional or personal connections with Poland.

Participants met prominent representatives of Polish public life, including Marshal of the Senate **MAŁGORZATA KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA**, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister **RADOSŁAW SIKORSKI,** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense **WŁADYSŁAW KOSINIAK-KAMYSZ**, journalist and recently freed political prisoner **ANDRZEJ POCZOBUT**, literary scholar **MICHAŁ RUSINEK,** linguist **JERZY BRALCZYK**, and actress **GRAŻYNA SZAPOŁOWSKA**, to name just a few. The program also included discussions on such practical issues as studying in Poland, recognition of qualifications obtained abroad, establishing a business, and opportunities available to young professionals. The result was a format that combined intellectual engagement with informal interaction. Conversations that began in a panel or workshop frequently continued over meals, during sporting activities, or in the evenings.

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION'S ROLE

For The Kosciuszko Foundation, participation in Polonia Camp was particularly meaningful on both sides of the Atlantic. Working in tandem, The Kosciuszko Foundation and The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland took on two key strategic tasks. The first was reaching as many young members of the Polish diaspora in the United States and Canada as possible, and encouraging them to travel to Poland to take an active part in the camp. Thanks to these efforts, participation from America nearly doubled compared to the previous edition. The second task was ensuring the strongest possible substantive preparation of two of the event's key thematic tracks:

- **THE BUSINESS TRACK** — focused on innovation, startup growth, the modern economy, and building business bridges between Poland and international markets.
- **THE POLISH LANGUAGE TRACK** — dedicated to a modern, engaging approach to learning and nurturing the Polish mother tongue.

The immense success of the panels and workshops prepared with the Foundations' involvement would not have been possible without the engagement of outstanding guests. Warm thanks go to all the experts, researchers, entrepreneurs, and practitioners who accepted the invitation to share their knowledge and





experience with camp participants. Their expertise, passion, and openness to discussion gave the young Polish diaspora a remarkable spark to take action. What is particularly striking is that the Foundation was able to rely on its vast pool of former Fellows to fulfill that task.

POLISH-AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

For the Kosciuszko Foundation, the presence of young Polish Americans was especially significant. The KF has for a century served as a bridge between Poland and the United States, supporting scholarships, academic exchanges, cultural initiatives, and Polish Studies. Polonia Camp offered another kind of bridge: one built by young people themselves. Participants from the United States and Canada met peers from Europe, South America, Australia, and other parts of the world. They exchanged experiences of growing up with Polish heritage in different cultural environments. They discovered that many of the challenges they faced—maintaining language, finding community, balancing multiple identities, or engaging younger generations—were shared across continents. These connections are perhaps among the most valuable outcomes of the project. A four-day gathering can end, but the relationships created there can continue through professional cooperation, community initiatives, friendships, and future projects.

FROM MEETING TO MOVEMENT

The organizers deliberately designed Polonia Camp as more than a one-time gathering. The 2026 edition placed particular emphasis on giving young participants practical tools for future engagement. Workshops encouraged teamwork, exchange of good practices, and the development of ideas that could be implemented after participants returned to their countries of residence.

One of the ideas emerging from the event was POLONIA CAMP LOKALNIE—a proposal to take the spirit of the global gathering into local communities around the world. The initiative envisions smaller meetings organized by young Polonia activists in their countries and regions of residence, creating opportunities for people who may not have been able to attend the Warsaw event to become involved. This is precisely the kind of long-term impact that makes an initiative such as Polonia Camp particularly promising. The goal is not simply to bring young Poles to Poland once a year, but to help them build lasting networks and become active participants in the life of Polish communities worldwide.

LOOKING AHEAD

The second edition of Polonia Camp demonstrated the enormous potential of young Polonia as a global community. For The Kosciuszko Foundation and The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland, supporting young generations is a natural continuation of a century-long commitment to education, exchange, and international cooperation.

The conversations, friendships, and ideas created in Warsaw can become the foundation for a new generation of Polish community leaders: confident in their heritage, connected to one another, and ready to contribute to the future of Poland and the countries they call home. ■



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2026/2027
KF EXCHANGE TO
THE U.S. PROGRAM

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD CEREMONY IN WARSAW

By KF Team

"Congratulations to our fellows. We are proud of your achievements and confident that, like so many before you, you will return from the United States with new ideas, valuable international connections, and fresh energy to help strengthen Polish science, scholarship, and higher education."



Recipients of the 2026/2027 Exchange to the U.S. grants with Ambassador Tom Rose at his residence in Warsaw

On June 2, 2026, recipients of this year's edition of the Kosciuszko Foundation's flagship educational program EXCHANGE TO THE U.S. gathered at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to Poland TOM ROSE in Warsaw for a special scholarship certificate ceremony. The event brought together this year's fellows, distinguished members of the academic community, and friends of the Foundation to celebrate an important milestone in strengthening transatlantic academic ties between Poland and the United States.

The Exchange to the US program has been at the heart of the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission almost since its founding in New York in 1925. For more than a century, the program has supported Polish scholars as they pursue research, academic projects, and professional development at leading universities and research institutions across the United States. The program has made a long-term impact on Polish and global academia. Many alumni of the program now hold prominent positions at universities and research institutes worldwide, continuing to build meaningful international partnerships.

Congratulations to our fellows. We are proud of your achievements and confident that, like so many before you, you will return from the United States with new ideas, valuable international connections, and fresh energy to help strengthen Polish science, scholarship, and higher education. ■

Good luck in the United States — and safe travels!

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WITOLD LIPSKI PRIZE 2026

TWO EX AEQUO AWARDS FOR CUTTING-EDGE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

By KF Team

"The Witold Lipski Prize honors the memory of one of the pioneers of Polish computer science. It recognizes young researchers for significant achievements in computer science and aims to support the next generation of researchers."

In October 2026, the **WITOLD LIPSKI PRIZE** was awarded to two young scientists for their achievements in computer science. This year, two equal first prizes of PLN 25,000 were awarded in the applied computer science category to **HUBERT BANIECKI** and **MICHAŁ NAUMAN**. An honorable mention, without a monetary award, was given to **DR. ENG. KAMIL DEJA**. No prize was awarded in the theoretical computer science category. The competition is organized by the **IDEAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**, which focuses on artificial intelligence and digital security, and is funded by the Kosciuszko Foundation.

"This year, the Witold Lipski Prize was awarded for the twenty-second time. The candidates demonstrated a very high level of research, making the selection process a real challenge for both the prize council and the jury. Notably, most of the submitted candidates worked in applied computer science, reflecting the current direction of cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence," said **DR. GRAŻYNA ŻEBROWSKA**, coordinator of the Witold Lipski Prize since 2024 and Director for International Cooperation at IDEAS.

The awards were presented on October 9 during the MLinPL conference at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, with **KRZYSZTOF GAWKOWSKI**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Affairs, as the guest of honor.

2026 LIPSKI AWARD LAUREATES

HUBERT BANIECKI is a Ph.D. student in the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics at the **UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW** and a research assistant at the Centre for Credible Artificial Intelligence at the Warsaw University of Technology. He has completed research internships at **META** in New York and at **LMU MUNICH** in Germany.

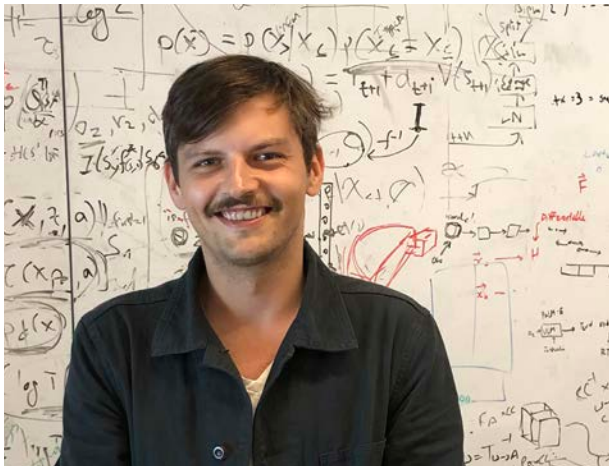


His research focuses on interpretable machine learning, also known as explainable artificial intelligence. He develops algorithms and tools that help researchers better understand how predictive models, including deep neural networks, work. In particular, he studies efficient methods for generating explanations and their use in medicine. The research has been published at **NEURIPS**, **ICML**, and **ICLR**, as well as in the **JOURNAL OF MACHINE LEARNING RESEARCH (JMLR)** and **PNAS**. He has received the FNP START scholarship, a scholarship from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Pearls of Science grant, and the John M. Chambers Statistical Software Award.

"My research focuses on explainable artificial intelligence. I develop methods that help us understand how machine learning models work. In medicine, these explanations can help assess whether a model connects a patient's test results with disease risk in a way that is consistent with medical knowledge. They can also reveal previously unknown patterns in data and support scientific research. Our methods for interactive model analysis show how individual patient test results affect a model's assessment of disease risk and how the model responds when those results change. We have made these methods available as open-source software through DALEX, which is used to study models in fields ranging from medicine and ecology to computer network security.

Recently, I have been particularly interested in explaining multimodal models based on the transformer architecture. These models combine visual and language information and are used in many modern AI systems. We study how groups of input tokens — small pieces of text or images — jointly affect a model's output, and how their meaning changes depending on context. To analyze these interactions, we use Shapley values and other tools from game theory, which provide a mathematical basis for the explanations. Our algorithms can, for example, connect concepts describing objects and their features with the corresponding parts of a generated image. In the future, I would like to use these methods to improve the training of language models."

MICHAŁ NAUMAN is an AI researcher specializing in reinforcement learning. He studied at the **UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW** and the **UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM** and completed a research internship at the **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**. His work has been published



and recognized at major AI conferences, including **ICML**, **NEURIPS**, and **ICLR**. His research focuses on methods that allow AI systems to learn through experience and by making decisions on their own. Reinforcement learning is an area of AI in which a system learns through its own actions. Instead of simply learning patterns from a fixed training dataset, the system makes decisions, observes what happens as a result, and gradually improves its behavior.

Michał's research focuses in particular on scaling reinforcement learning. Scaling means training larger models with more data and computing power. This approach has contributed to major advances in AI in recent years, including systems such as ChatGPT and Claude. Applying the same approach to reinforcement learning is more difficult because the data is not available as a ready-made dataset. The system has to generate its own data by interacting with its environment and learning from its mistakes. Michał's work looks at how to design algorithms that can make use of large models and experience collected across many different tasks. The longer-term goal is to develop more general AI systems that can learn not only from examples provided by people, but also from their own actions and experience.

ABOUT THE WITOLD LIPSKI PRIZE

WITOLD LIPSKI (1949-1985) was an outstanding Polish computer scientist. In his short research career, he published several significant works in database theory and algorithm analysis. He also published two books: *''Combinatorics for Programmers''* and *''Combinatorial Analysis''*. He collaborated, among others, with outstanding computer scientists such as **CHRISTOS PAPADIMITRIOU** and **FRANK PREPARATA**, an exceptional feat during the communist era. He was also the Ph.D. advisor of **TOMASZ IMIELIŃSKI** (Rutgers University, USA) and **ZBIGNIEW MICHALEWICZ** (Adelaide University, Australia).

The Witold Lipski Prize honors the memory of one of the pioneers of Polish computer science. It recognizes young researchers for significant achievements in computer science and aims to support the next generation of researchers. *"As the coordinator of the competition, I could not imagine better partners for such an important and prestigious initiative for Polish computer science. The achievements of the prize winners speak for themselves: thanks to researchers like them, Polish computer science continues to have a strong presence among the leading research communities worldwide,"* said **DR. GRAŻYNA ŻEBROWSKA**. ■

2026 TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND SUMMER LANGUAGE CAMPS

Joanna Zalewska, *Program Coordinator, KF Poland*

"We would like to sincerely thank all of our students, volunteers, educators, and partners for the enthusiasm, commitment, and support they brought to this year's program. Your involvement helped create an atmosphere filled with learning, friendship, and unforgettable moments."



We are delighted to look back on another inspiring and successful season of the TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND (TEIP) program! Once again, the camps brought together young people and American volunteers for a unique combination of language learning, cultural exchange, creativity, and shared experiences. Throughout the program, passionate volunteers, dedicated students, and committed organizers worked together to create an engaging environment where participants could learn, explore, and connect with one another.

This year, TEIP organized a total of nine camps, eight of which took place in different parts of Poland and one in Ukraine. The Polish camps were held in BASZNIA DOLNA, NAROL, and DUBIECKO in the Podkarpackie region; MIŁAKOWO and RUCIANE-NIDA in Warmia and Masuria; SERWY in the Suwałki region; CHMIELNO in Kashubia; and OLSZTYN in the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland. The ninth camp took place in NAHACHIV, Ukraine.

The second edition of the Nahachiv camp was once again an especially meaningful part of the program. This Polish-Ukrainian-American educational initiative goes well beyond traditional language education. For children and young people living with the realities of armed conflict, the camp offers a safe and supportive environment where they can spend time with their peers, develop new skills, and strengthen their resilience. Ukrainian participants were also welcomed at the camp in BASZNIA DOLNA, creating further opportunities for connection and cultural exchange.

English learning at TEIP is closely connected with the everyday camp experience. Instead of focusing solely on textbooks and traditional lessons, participants have plenty of opportunities to practice the language while working on projects, joining workshops, playing sports, creating art, and spending time with their peers. This approach encourages them to communicate naturally and use English in a variety of situations, while gradually building their confidence and becoming more willing to speak, share ideas, and engage with others.

None of this would be possible without the people who make TEIP what it is. We would like to sincerely thank all of our students, volunteers, educators, and partners for the enthusiasm, commitment, and support they brought to this year's program. Your involvement helped



TEIP Camp in Miłakowo



TEIP Camp in Basznia Dolna

create an atmosphere filled with learning, friendship, and unforgettable moments. As we look ahead to the next edition, we are excited to welcome back returning participants and meet new members of the TEIP community as we begin another chapter of this shared adventure.

To learn more about the 2026 TEIP edition, visit **https://kfpoland.org.** ■



American teachers at the TEIP Camp in Chmielno



TEIP Camp in Ruciane-Nida

PTI

POLISH THEATRE INSTITUTE IN THE USA

The Polish Theatre Institute in the USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Polish theater, literature, and culture in the United States. Through theater programs, educational projects, literary initiatives, and community events, we share Polish culture with audiences from diverse backgrounds.

EDUCATION THROUGH THEATER

Since 2014, our program has introduced Polish-speaking youth to theater. We work with schools to support Polish-language education and use theater to engage students and make language learning more interesting and enjoyable.

Our YouTube literary platform brings Polish literature to life. Bobkowski Project is a collaborative audio series based on Andrzej Bobkowski's Wartime Notebooks, with readers recording individual chapters from their homes. The recordings are shared on YouTube and on our website.

PROJECT BOBKOWSKI

CULTURE BLOG

All the world's a stage!

Dedicated to the idea that "All the world's a stage!", our blog explores Polish and American cultural heritage, theater, literature, and the stories of Polish artists. It is a place to share articles, ideas, and perspectives on culture and the connections between Polish and American cultural life.

The PTI Book Club brings together readers interested in Polish literature. The club organizes book discussions, meetings with authors, and book launches, creating an opportunity to discover both classic and contemporary Polish writers.

PTI BOOK CLUB

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IT IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

VOLUNTEERING AT KF TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND PROGRAM

Interview with Ryan Gartland and Maya E.A. Geml

"I will always cherish the opportunity to participate in an initiative where kids from rural Poland, who don't have the same opportunities as kids in Kraków, Warsaw, or Gdansk, have access to native speakers, and likewise native speakers have access to parts of Poland not traditionally experienced."

Anna Tarnawska: *You both volunteered last summer teaching at our language camp in Basznia Dolna as part of the KF Teaching English in Poland program. Thank you for your contributions! What first sparked your interest in Poland, and what inspired you to participate in the language camps?*

Ryan: Some of my earliest memories relate to the changes happening in Central Europe during the 1980s. I was born in 1981 and remember people at school talking about the BERLIN WALL, SOLIDARITY, the waning of communism, and the Soviet Union dissolving. My family was attentive towards international events, but growing up in Michigan, I also had friends of Lithuanian and Polish backgrounds, so I heard about Poland repeatedly. But more powerful and influential was my thesis advisor and history professor at Michigan State University, DR. KEELY STAUTER-HALSTEAD (now at the University of Illinois at Chicago). She instilled an even greater enthusiasm and interest not only for Central Europe but specifically for Poland. I remain in debt to the Kosciuszko Foundation for helping me get to Poland to study Polish, but I will always be in debt to Keely for getting me to want to go there in the first place.

Maya: Poland is a very interesting and beautiful country to me, not just because of its rich history and culture, but also because of its current efforts in supporting Ukraine against the Russian invasion. As someone with Hungarian heritage, I am very grateful for the leadership Poland has shown towards increasing safety in Central and Eastern Europe and for the mutual sympathy and respect between Polish and Hungarian people.

AT: *How did you first learn about the TEIP program?*

RG: I have studied Polish twice at JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY through the Kosciuszko Foundation (2003 and 2005). That's where I was really introduced firsthand to Polish culture and history. And I most definitely received a thorough education through those experiences. And it changed my life. So, in a small way, I'm paying it back in 2026. I learned about the TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND program from a former student who volunteered in 2015. He spoke very highly of his two weeks there, particularly about how student-oriented the experience was, and ever since hearing his praise, I have wanted to volunteer.

MG: Ryan was my advisor for the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) Certificate Program at the UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH last year, and he talked to me about a volunteering opportunity in Poland he had been looking forward to for years. It would be a great opportunity to meet Polish and Ukrainian people and to learn more about their lives and culture.



Maya Geml, a volunteer from the United States, engaging with students at a language camp in Basznia Dolna, Poland

AT: *What motivated you to apply for the program and become a volunteer teacher?*

RG: I'm a longtime history teacher and genuinely enjoy working with kids. I like volunteering and believe very strongly in community service, and the opportunity to work with rural Polish kids and Ukrainians affected by the war seemed like a great way not only to return to Poland but also to engage in a unique service-based experience.

MG: The new perspectives this program would give me were my main motivation to become a TEIP volunteer. I really like the idea of helping others and making a difference, even in a small way. Seeing someone learn, become more confident, or realize that they can do something they were struggling with is really motivating for me.

AT: *How did your backgrounds prepare you for the experience, and what were your first impressions of the camp?*

RG: Absolutely. I have been to Poland at least eight times. My educational background is in history and Central and East European studies. I've studied Polish in the United States and Poland and took history classes on Poland at Michigan State and the University of Michigan.

At the start of the program, I was very nervous, not quite knowing what exactly to expect or how to best prepare (the curse of any perfectionist!) After the students arrived, we quickly learned that they all had very different levels of English proficiency. Obviously, some of us were nervous about how exactly this was going to work, but by the end of the camp I realized, better than I did at the beginning, that while the camp is about learning English, it was also about genuine and enduring social bonding through meaningful interactions.

MG: Yes, I felt more confident in applying because I had volunteered at a summer camp in Hungary a few times before. I have always liked working with children, and this program made me want to experience summer camp all over again but in a new environment. We were instantly greeted very warmly by our Polish hosts in BASZNIA DOLNA. All the teachers were kind, hospitable, and chatty – I could tell that this program meant a lot to them. The students were also eager to be there – the Polish students were more confident, and the Ukrainians were still a bit shy and soft-spoken.

By the end of the summer camp, both Polish and Ukrainian students had become very close to us Americans. They had increased their vocabulary and fluency in basic conversations with us. It was great to see how their confidence in speaking English grew significantly—many friendships developed among the students and with the teachers.

AT: *What was the most challenging part of your experience as a volunteer teacher?*

RG: Putting students together who had vastly different levels of English. We had several unique students who I would consider native speakers. That's not an exaggeration. They didn't need to learn, but they understood everything we said. They were very well-versed in American and popular culture. And then we had some students, particularly from Ukraine, who still confused certain Latin letters, so it was extremely challenging having a group of, let's say, 15 to 16 students, and a quarter of them might not understand anything I'm saying, whereas a handful of them are bored, because everything we were doing was so below what they needed.

MG: My experience was similar. Sometimes it was difficult to explain something in a way everyone could understand, especially when cultural differences were involved. I had to be patient, creative, and think of different ways to keep the children interested and engaged. In the end, the experience helped me become more flexible, adaptable, and confident as a teaching assistant.

AT: *What was the most rewarding or memorable moment for you during the program?*

RG: Without question, the afternoon activities. On the soccer pitch, we organized various Capture the Flag competitions and a Tug-of-War contest between students and staff. Many of these sporting and outdoor activities with the students were the moments of true bonding. That is when we really got to know the students as people, rather than just as students. We learned about their life stories, their aspirations and challenges, took questions about life back in the USA, and from the

IT IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Ukrainian children learned some of what they have experienced over the last four years.

MG: On the last day of camp, I saw how sad everyone was to leave us. In just two weeks, the students had opened up so much to us, and it was truly rewarding and memorable for me to see how much we meant to them. I even received handmade gifts and cards from some of the kids. I am glad to have been part of their English-learning experience; they were very bright and motivated children.

AT: *What did the experience give you in return?*

RG: The biggest takeaway I got was a reminder, as an educator, that education is about the people. Too often, we get stuck in statistics, in objectives, in measurable results, as they call them. This reminded me that ultimately, we are there, they are there, all of this exists for these children. This experience strongly highlighted that and recentered that for me.

MG: I learned that it is extremely rewarding to exchange cultures with one another. On our Cultures' Day, we decorated an American room, Polish room, and Ukrainian room. These rooms represented parts of our cultures, where we had planned interactive activities. We made PBJ sandwiches with the students, and the Polish and Ukrainians showed us some traditional dances. I was happy to see that our participation in their activities really meant something to them. I could tell everyone was extremely proud of their heritage. I also learned that, despite the challenges, we should always try to make a positive impact, even if it is something as small as teaching a new idiom that day. The students may not remember the exact idiom later, but they may remember how we made them feel — that we were kind, respectful, patient, and compassionate. For me, that was one of the most valuable lessons of the experience.

AT: *Why do you think programs like this make a difference in the lives of students and their communities?*

RG: I thought this was invaluable because some of the Polish students from rural areas said they had not met a native English speaker until they came to the camp. And that while their English is okay, they really craved that experience. And I absolutely loved being able for them to ask questions about life in the US or for me to ask questions about what's going on with them. Up until this experience, my interactions with Polish people were largely with those from major cities who had grown up with urban lifestyles, but this was my first truly authentic exposure to rural Poland since first coming to the country in 2003.

Above all, to the donors who are offering money to make all these great things happen: please know that lives and minds are being changed. I will always cherish the opportunity to participate in an initiative where kids from rural Poland, who don't have the same opportunities as kids in Kraków, Warsaw, or Gdansk, have access to native speakers, and likewise native speakers have access to parts of Poland not traditionally experienced.

MG: It is important on two fronts: confidence in English and making new friends. The children get to work on their English through fun, interactive games that make them think and speak in English. Additionally, the students strengthen international relationships through friendships with one another and with teachers, transcending language barriers. Continuing support for this organization is necessary to maintain this opportunity for Polish and Ukrainian students, who might not have the resources to learn English and gain an international perspective in this way. ■

Ryan Gartland is Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) at the University of Pittsburgh

Maya E.A. Geml is a student at the University of Pittsburgh and holds an REEES and Transatlantic Studies Certificate. She is an Air Force ROTC Cadet and Arnold Air Society Member



Maya E.A. Geml (third from left) and Ryan Gartland (first from right) in Zamość, Poland

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF CHICAGO CHAPTER

by Lidia Filus,
President of the Chicago Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation

Once again this year, the range of activities of our Chapter reflected the vibrancy of the Chicago community and its engagement with the rest of the world.

CELEBRATIONS

The annual event commemorating Tadeusz Kosciuszko's name day was held at the Polish Museum of America on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025. We honored the eminent Polish-American historian, Professor John Kulczycki. Prof. Kulczycki gave a lecture titled *"The Polish National Identity in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Its Legacy"*. This was followed by a joyful musical performance by the saxophonist Michał Niedźwiadek and singer Anita Czupta and a raffle expertly run by Tadeusz Makarewicz, Esq.

On SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, Ewa Radwańska and Joanna Radwańska-Williams attended the annual ball of the Polish-American Medical Society (PAMS) in Chicago, and on SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 the Polish-American Youth Academic Summit (PAYAS) . Prof. Ewa Radwańska served on the committee of judges for the best papers presented at the Summit.



Prof. John Kulczycki honored at the annual "Kosciuszko's Name Day" celebration at the Polish Museum of America

On DECEMBER 15, 2025 Maria Zakrzewska, Andrew Pawlusiewicz and Margaret Pawlusiewicz participated in festive Christmas "Opłatek" celebrations held by the Polish American Congress – Illinois Division and on DECEMBER 17, 2025 by the Polish Teachers Association in America. On FEBRUARY 15, 2026 they were guests at a banquet celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish Saturday School.

On FEBRUARY 28, 2026 Kinga Pawlikowska-Tamulis, granddaughter of former KF Chicago Chapter Treasurer Witold Pawlikowski and his late wife Jolanta Pawlikowska (formerly KF Chicago Chapter Secretary), daughter of Beata Pawlikowska and Andrius Tamulis, was a debutante at the 86th annual White & Red Ball of the Legion of Young Polish Women.

The annual gala of the Polish Museum of America was held on JUNE 12, 2026. Several members attended, including Ewa Radwańska, Joanna Radwańska-Williams, Maria Zakrzewska, Hal Trychta, Andrew Pawlusiewicz and Margaret Pawlusiewicz, as well as KF Trustee Stephen Kusmierczak with his family.

On JULY 11, 2026, Andrew Pawlusiewicz attended the celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, designed by renowned Polish-American engineer Ralph Modjeski, the son of Polish actress Helena Modrzejewska. Also in attendance were Jan Płachta, author of "*Artist in Concrete and Steel*", a book about Ralph Modjeski, and Andrzej Nowak, President of the Council of Polish Engineers in North America.



From left: *Agnieszka Malicka, Elżbieta WałkuskaChojnowska, and Maria Zakrzewska at the "Arka" poetry club meeting on October 2, 2025*

CULTURAL EVENTS

On **OCTOBER 2, 2025** at the meeting of Poetry club "Arka", Maria Zakrzewska gave a lecture on the specific characteristics of poetic language in contrast to colloquial language.

On **NOVEMBER 11, 2025**, the Polish Studies Program of Loyola University held a commemoration of Kristallnacht, featuring George Otto, Professor Emeritus of Economics and Management at the Harry S. Truman College in Chicago, a WWII survivor. Professor Otto presented a lecture, *"The Traumas of Childhood in a Time of War: Reflections of a Polish Christian Survivor*".

On **MARCH 2, 2026**, Maria Zakrzewska and Margaret Pawlusiewicz served as the jurors for the Essay Contest organized by the Polish National Alliance. The subject of this contest was *"Casimir Pulaski – Hero of Two Countries – Poland and the USA"*.

On **APRIL 21, 2026**, the KF Chicago Chapter invited Izabella Kimak, assistant professor at the Department of British and American Studies at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, to present a lecture on *"Sweet Home Chicago? Polish American Authors on the Windy City"*. The event was held at the Niles-Maine Public Library. Dr. Kimak was introduced by Prof. John Merchant from Loyola University and discussed her research on Polish-American writers, including both well-established and recently-debuting writers; the former including Stuart Dybek and John Guzlowski and the latter – Marcia Cebulska and Patrycja Humienik. Prof. Merchant informed the audience about the Center for the Study of the Polish Diaspora in Loyola's College of Arts and Sciences, recently established with a $1 million gift from Dr. Jack and Mrs. Monica Pinkowski and The Poles in America Foundation.

On **APRIL 28, 2026** the Church of the Cross Presbyterian in Hoffman Estates, Illinois hold the concert of Polish pianist Filip Kauch, who was invited by KF scholarship holder in 2001 Dr. Robert Kania, Dean of the Music Department at Judson University in Elgin, Illinois.



Maria Zakrzewska with Dr. Robert Kania, Dean of the Music Dept. at Judson University in Elgin, Illinois.



Participants in the program on April 21st, 2026 at Niles-Maine Public Library in Niles, Illinois. Seated first on the left is Dr. Izabella Kimak.



***Above:** Agata Zborowska presenting her research on the visual history of Polish Chicago, as captured in home movies*



***Above from left:** Organizers of the PALA meeting at the Harold Washington Library Center, from left: Iwona Bożek, Ewa Barczyk, Isabella Nowak Osika, Prof. John Merchant, Maria Zakrzewska, and Dr. Izabella Kimak*

THE KF CHICAGO CHAPTER REPORT

On **APRIL 29, 2026** the Polish American Congress – Illinois Division held the Polonia Impact Day in Springfield, Illinois. Andrew Pawlusiewicz and Margaret Pawlusiewicz attended this event with a group led by Jack Kochowicz. It was hosted by the office of State Senator from the 10th district, Robert Martwick. The group toured the State Capitol and State Treasurer Building. The event commemorated Polish-American contributions to US history.

On **JUNE 3, 2026** the KF Chicago Chapter partnered with Dwell Studio to organize a lecture and screening titled *"The Visual History of Polish Chicago"*, presented by Agata Zborowska, who is a specialist in cultural studies and is researching the visual history of Chicago Polonia as captured by home videos. The collected videos are being digitized and deposited at the Chicago Film Archive.

On **JUNE 26, 2026,** Maria Zakrzewska co-organized the meeting of the Polish American Librarians Association (PALA), held at the Chicago Authors Room of the Harold Washington Library. Prof. John Merchant gave a lecture on *"American writers of Polish heritage"*

ACADEMIC CONVENTIONS

On **JUNE 21 – 24, 2026**, Joanna Radwańska-Williams co-organized the 31st annual conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies, held at the University of Toledo, Ohio.

On **SEPTEMBER 8–12, 2026**, Ewa Radwańska and Joanna Radwańska-Williams, as well as many others including Joanna i Marek Rudnicki, attended the 13th International Congress of the Federation of Medical Polonia (Kongres Polonii Medycznej), held in Wrocław under the patronage of the Senate of the Republic of Poland. The theme of the Congress and its many fruitful sessions was *"Innowacje medyczne a dobro pacjenta" ("Medical innovations and the good of the patient")*. Ewa Radwańska was honored with the "Tree of Life" award for her many years of service to the Federation. The event was also attended by Marek Skulimowski, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

On **SEPTEMBER 19, 2026,** Chicago Chapter President Prof. Lidia Filus took part in a panel at *"Mentoring Espresso Chicago: Academia-Industry Transition"* held by the Polonium Foundation at the University of Chicago. Przemek Grygiel and Jakub Orłowski presented the mission of the Foundation to connect business startups with academia, promote networking, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and set up mentorships. The event was attended by about 50 people and featured 5 speakers and included a panel, round-table and informal discussions. Several associations were present, including "Women in Bio", "Portal Innovations", "Nuclei", "Polska Agencja Inwestycji i Handlu" (Polish Investment and Trade Agency), and "BioHub".

CONGRATULATIONS TO KF CHICAGO CHAPTER MEMBERS!

On **JANUARY 10, 2026**, Chicago Chapter Vice President Maria Zakrzewska was honored with the Mieczysław Haiman award by the Polish-American Historical Association (PAHA), in recognition for her "sustained contributions to the study of Polish American experience", especially the article, *"The History of the Polish Collection and Programming at the Chicago Public Library",* published in The Polish Review (2024, vol. 69 issue 2, pp. 68-88.) She worked as a Reference Librarian at the Harold Washington Library Center, the main branch of the Chicago Public Library from 1993 to 2013. The the Awards Ceremony and Banquet took place at the Polish Museum of America. The award is named in honor of Mieczysław (Miecislaus) Haiman (1888 – 1949), a pioneer of Polish-American historiography.

On **SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2026**, Prof. Ewa Radwańska, a longtime trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation and a pioneer in infertility treatment, was honored with the Medal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland. The prestigious award, presented by Senate Marshal Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, recognizes outstanding service to the Polish nation. KF President Marek Skulimowski delivered a tribute praising Dr. Radwańska's decades of service to academic and cultural exchange between Poland and the United States. ■

Join the Kosciuszko Foundation Chicago Chapter!
Contact us at ChicagoChapter@TheKF.org

In celebration

of

250 years of Polish contributions to the United States

the Chicago Chapter is proud to congratulate

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

for its outstanding support of the Polish American community



THE CHICAGO CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lidia Filus, *President*
Anna Kordylewska, *Vice President*
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Andrew Pawlusiewicz, *Treasurer*
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Bozena Nowicka McLees, *KF Trustee*
Ewa Radwańska, *KF Trustee and Past President*
and all the members of the KF Chicago Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF FLORIDA CHAPTER

Russ Skibicki,
Chapter President

As the Florida Chapter enters its fifth year year, we are filled with excitement for how far we've come. Each year, our number of events, awareness amongst the local Polonia, and our membership have continued to grow.

JANUARY 2026



A TRIBUTE TO TADEUSZ NALEPA. The Florida chapter hosted a poetic and musical evening celebrating the Polish bluesman and frontman, Tadeusz Nalepa of BLACKOUT and BREAKOUT. AGATA PILITOWSKA narrated the story of his career, while HENRYK MRACHACZ performed Nalepa's music.

MARCH 2026





ANNUAL SOIREE. The Florida chapter's signature fundraiser took place for the third consecutive year at the New College of Florida. The program had three parts: a talk by Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist ALEX STOROZYNSKI, a concert, and a cocktail reception. Storozynski, the Foundation's President Emeritus and Chairman of the Board, spoke on "SPIES IN MY BLOOD," about his Polish family's resistance to the Nazis and Communists. Violinist KAROLINA MIKOŁAJCZYK and accordionist IWO JEDYNECKI performed.

SEPTEMBER 2026



AGA ZARYAN CONCERT. Widely regarded as one of Poland's finest jazz vocalists, Aga Zaryan returned to the United States for her first American tour in a decade, which included several events in partnership with the Kosciuszko Foundation. Aga Zaryan played a carefully selected repertoire featuring her original compositions from some of her most acclaimed albums, alongside timeless jazz standards and songs that have inspired her throughout her musical journey.

OCTOBER 2026

SCREENING OF THE MOVIE "KOS". The Florida Chapter screened the movie "Kos," which was the 2023 BEST FILM AWARD WINNER at the GDYNIA FILM FESTIVAL and winner of the ZŁOTA TAŚMA for BEST POLISH FILM OF 2024. The movie unfolded in 1794 Poland, where GENERAL TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO returned from abroad to spark an uprising against Russian and Prussian forces.

"CHOPIN, CHAMPAGNE & CHOCOLATE." As it began to expand its events throughout the state, the chapter co-presented a candlelight concert with the American Institute of Polish Culture in Tampa Bay. MARGOT ZARZYCKA (violinist) and AGNIESZKA ZICK (pianist) presented a program featuring highlights of Polish classical music by CHOPIN, PADEREWSKI, WIENIAWSKI, and BACEWICZ, offering an evening of rich cultural celebration and unity.

As it enters its fifth year, the Florida Chapter looks forward to building on the momentum of its first four years — deepening its presence across the state, expanding its membership base, and creating even more opportunities for connection, growth, and collaboration among its members. The Chapter remains committed to serving the Florida community and is excited for what this next chapter holds. ■


250 years
of America.
One enduring
friendship.
We are the community.
From local businesses, cultural organizations, and longtime institutions to community and business leaders, Polish Americans are part of the story of America.
As one of the Foundation's oldest chapters, the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter salutes our community: the people, institutions, and businesses that keep Polish-American heritage alive and growing.
The story continues. Let's write the next chapter together.
the KF
THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Elżbieta Swiercz, *Chapter President,* **Scott Hartblay,** *Co-president*

The KF New England Chapter extends its sincere gratitude to Elms College for its continued support and partnership. Elms College has been an important home for our programs and a valued partner in helping us bring Polish history, culture, and community events to audiences throughout Western Massachusetts.

The 2025–2026 year was a vibrant and rewarding one for the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter. Through cultural programs, educational partnerships, artistic performances, and community gatherings, the Chapter continued its mission of promoting Polish history, heritage, and culture while strengthening connections among Polish Americans, scholars, artists, and friends of Poland throughout New England.

SEPTEMBER 2025

The Kosciuszko Foundation (KF) New England welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author ALEX STOROZYNSKI and KF Chairman to Elms College on September 28, 2025, for a presentation based on his acclaimed memoir, *Spies in My Blood: Secrets of a Polish Family's Fight Against Nazis and Communists.* The event drew an enthusiastic and well-attended audience, reflecting community interest in Polish history, World War II, and the personal stories behind the broader history of the 20th century.



ALEX STOROZYNSKI shared the story of his family's experiences under both Nazi and Communist regimes, drawing on years of research, archival discoveries, interviews, and previously hidden family secrets. His presentation explored his father's wartime service, his mother's imprisonment in a Nazi slave labor camp, his grandfather's anti-Soviet intelligence activities, and remarkable revelations involving Communist secret police files and Cold War espionage.

The program also received valuable pre-event media coverage from New England Public Media (NEPM). ALEX STOROZYNSKI was interviewed for NEPM's popular The 413 series, helping introduce the event and his story to audiences throughout Western Massachusetts and beyond. The coverage provided an important opportunity to raise the visibility of the Kosciuszko Foundation New England.

OCTOBER 2025

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS APPRECIATION EVENT

The KF New England Chapter held its second annual MEMBERS & FRIENDS APPRECIATION DAY on October 19, 2025, welcoming nearly 50 members and friends to the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Guests traveled from far and wide, making the gathering a wonderful celebration.

The afternoon provided an opportunity to express our appreciation to members, supporters, and friends while




Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA

celebrating the work of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Guests enjoyed Polish food and desserts, while having the opportunity to connect with fellow supporters.

The Chapter was especially honored to welcome MAŁGORZATA CHAŁUPOWSKI, HONORARY CONSUL OF MASSACHUSETTS and a former Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship recipient, whose participation added special significance to the occasion.

A highlight of the afternoon was a special guided tour of the POLISH CENTER OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING, offering guests an opportunity to learn more about its exhibits and the Polish American experience. We are grateful to the Center's staff for their generous hospitality, assistance, and support in making the tours and the afternoon such a success.

Our Chapter is already making plans for the next Members & Friends Appreciation Day!

POLISH FILM FESTIVAL / POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

For many years, the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter has made its annual Polish Film Festival an October tradition, bringing Polish cinema and culture to audiences throughout Western Massachusetts. The festival provides an opportunity to introduce both longtime supporters and new audiences to outstanding films that reflect Poland's rich history, culture, and contemporary experience.

As part of the 2025 festival, the Chapter presented the Oscar-submitted Polish film THE PEASANTS (*Chłopi*) at Elms College on Sunday, October 26. The film was Poland's official submission for the 2024 Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film and was shown free of charge to the public.

MARCH 2026

ANNUAL LUNCHEON & AWARDS CEREMONY

On Sunday, March 29, the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter welcomed more than 150 guests to its 2026 ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON & CONCERT, held at the Willits-Hallowell Conference Center on the Mount Holyoke College campus. The event brought together members of the community, scholars, artists, and supporters of Polish culture for a day of recognition, music, and celebration.

The afternoon honored two distinguished individuals whose lifelong contributions have strengthened and elevated Polish heritage in the United States.

DR. PATRICE M. DABROWSKI, an internationally respected historian and Associate at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, was recognized for her extraordinary scholarship and dedication to advancing the understanding of Poland's history. Through acclaimed works such as



Recipients of KF scholarships at the KF New England Chapter's 2026 Annual Awards Luncheon & Concert



From left: Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director; Elżbieta Swiercz, KF New England Chapter President; Dr. Patrice M. Dabrowski; Frederick S. Zimnoch; and Mateusz Sakowicz, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York

Poland: The First Thousand Years and The Carpathians: Discovering the Highlands of Poland and Ukraine, she has brought Poland's rich cultural and historical legacy to global audiences. Her contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Also honored was FREDERICK S. ZIMNOCH, founder of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts. A dedicated community leader, Zimnoch has spent decades helping individuals rediscover their Polish roots and preserving the stories of Polish American families. His leadership, scholarship, and service have had a lasting impact across Western Massachusetts and beyond.

The program also highlighted the next generation of leaders and scholars. MAREK SKULIMOWSKI, President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation, presented certificates to undergraduate, graduate, fellowship, and grant recipients who received scholarships from the Foundation—underscoring its enduring commitment to education and cultural exchange.

Closing remarks were delivered by MATEUSZ SAKOWICZ, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, who reflected on the importance of sustaining Polish culture and strengthening transatlantic ties. Massachusetts State Senator Jacob Oliveira also offered remarks and presented official citations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to both honorees.

The celebration concluded with a concert at the Abbey Chapel, featuring a captivating performance by mezzo-soprano MAGDALENA WOR and pianist AGNIESZKA ZICK. Their program provided a fitting artistic finale, showcasing the beauty and depth of Polish musical tradition.

APRIL 2026

ALEX STOROZYNSKI: SPIES IN MY BLOOD

KF New England co-sponsored a presentation by author Alex Storozynski on his recent book, *Spies in My Blood*. The program was organized by the HARVARD GRIFFIN GSAS POLISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HPSA) and provided an opportunity for students and the broader community to learn Polish history.

MAY 2026

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY / POLISH SPRINGTIME CONCERT

KF New England co-sponsored a special concert celebrating POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY (MAY 3). THE POLISH SPRINGTIME CONCERT, organized by the Harvard Griffin GSAS Polish Student Association, celebrated Poland's rich musical heritage.

ULYSSES STRING QUARTET AT THE DRAKE

KF New England sponsored a performance by the ULYSSES STRING QUARTET at The Drake musical venue in Amherst, Massachusetts. The event was especially meaningful to the Foundation because violinist Peter Dudek, one of the quartet's members, is a former Kosciuszko Foundation scholar, highlighting the lasting impact of KF's scholarship programs and their contribution to the arts. ■

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF MICHIGAN CHAPTER

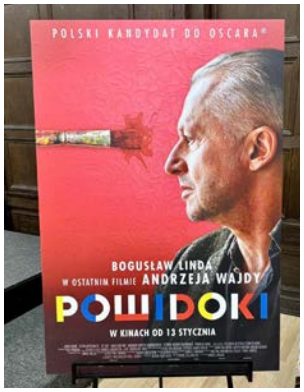
By **Barbara Wisniewski** and **Annette Raczkowski**, *Michigan Chapter Co-Presidents*

The KF Michigan Chapter proudly launched its 2026 cultural season with two exceptional cultural events celebrating the richness and vitality of Polish art and cinema.

APRIL 2026

In April, we celebrated an exceptional afternoon at our sold-out *"Painting with a Polish Twist"* event, bringing together art enthusiasts and community members for a memorable cultural experience. In an intimate and welcoming setting, internationally renowned artist **ANNA KOZLOWSKI** guided guests through an inspiring creative experience, accompanied by flowing wine and the gentle sounds of traditional Polish music. She demonstrated how everyday unconventional tools could be used to add unique artistic elements to each creation. We were especially pleased that Anna selected poppy fields as the central motif, as they evoke cherished memories of springtime and Poland's beauty. The red poppy (czerwony mak) also holds profound significance in Polish culture, symbolizing remembrance, sacrifice, and resilience.

We honored **ANDRZEJ WAJDA**. Poland officially designated 2026 as the **YEAR OF ANDRZEJ WAJDA** in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the renowned filmmaker's birth. To commemorate Wajda's extraordinary cultural legacy and mark the centenary of his birth, *"Movie Night with Andrzej Wajda"* was held at the American Polish Cultural Center. The evening opened with a special screening of his final film, *Afterimage (Powidoki)*, honoring the lasting influence of the Oscar-winning director on Polish and international cinema. **GEORGE KURZATKOWSKI**, President of the American Polish Cultural Society, welcomed guests to the American Polish Cultural Center and expressed his appreciation for their participation. Co-Presidents of the Kosciuszko Foundation Michigan Chapter, **BARBARA WISNIEWSKI** and **ANNETTE RACZKOWSKI,** provided attendees with an overview of the evening's featured film, along with insights into Andrzej Wajda's distinguished filmmaking career and artistic legacy. **RICHARD WALAWENDER,** Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Detroit, offered additional perspective on Wajda's distinctive cinematic style.







Barbara Wisniewski and Annette Raczkowski, Co-Presidents of the KF Michigan Chapter

OCTOBER 2026

The KF Michigan Chapter will co-sponsor the **POLISH AMERICAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE** with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, which will focus on doing business across the Atlantic and strengthening economic connections between Poland and the United States. The Polish American Business Roundtable will bring together Polish American professionals, entrepreneurs, and business leaders for a conversation about opportunities between Poland and the United States. The event is also a soft launch for the new professional organization for Polonia in Michigan.

Also in October, the KF Michigan Chapter will partner with the **NATIONAL POLISH AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME (NPASHF)** for a screening of the film *"Jonnie"*. A film about NPASHF inductee **LYNN (JONNIE) JONCKOWSKI**, one of the most accomplished female bull riders in the history of the sport. Her pursuit of bull riding glory in the 1980s defied gender stereotypes and resulted in a life-threatening injury.

In addition to working with other groups in Polonia and concentrating on attracting young people, the KF Michigan Chapter continues to foster an understanding of Polish ancestry, customs, and culture. ■

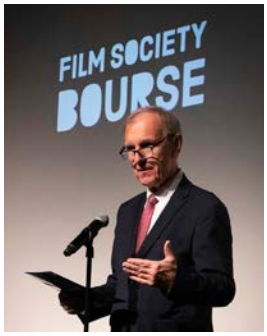
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

Andre Zlotnicki, AIA, AICP, *President of the Philadelphia Chapter*

The Philadelphia Chapter's main **ANNUAL EVENT** took place on **JANUARY 17, 2026**, at the Philadelphia Film Society's newly renovated facility in Center City, located across the street from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. The venue was a renovated former nineteenth-century vaudeville and opera house, now in its third life as a movie center with the largest screen in downtown Philadelphia.



The event was organized as a private affair by invitation only. Invitations were sent to over 300 people of the Polish community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. The event, which received a citation and proclamation





Top: *Andre Zlotnicki, KF Philadelphia Chapter President; left: Bogdan Klich, Charge d'affaires a.i.; right: Barbara Bernhardt, KF VP and Director of the KF Center in Washington, DC*

from the president of the Philadelphia City Council, was attended by over 110 people during an unexpected early-winter blizzard. The notables included **BOGDAN KLICH** Chargé d'affaires a.i.; **HONORARY CONSUL OF POLAND, DEBBIE MAJKA**; **GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATED POLISH HOME, JOHN WISNIEWSKI,** and prominent physicians and scientists from the Polish community.

The program spanning from 5 PM to 10 PM included a sumptuous reception, slide presentation from previous events of the KF Philadelphia Chapter, opening remarks by **ANDRE ZLOTNICKI**, which included acknowledgment of previous leaders of the chapter, address by **BARBARA BERNHARDT**, VP of the Kosciuszko Foundation – DC Center, remarks by **HON. BOGDAN KLICH, AMBASSADOR OF POLAND**, and a brief lecture and slide presentation by **DR. ELIZABETH ZECHENTER** about political, social and economic context of the film and finally feature film KOS, multi award winning feature movie focusing on General Tadeusz "Kos" Kosciuszko's attempt to mobilize both the elite nobility and the impoverished peasantry against Russian rule. Post-film viewing party at the bar followed.

In **MARCH 2026**, President of the KF Philadelphia Chapter Andre Zlotnicki attended the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Associated Polish Home, of which Kosciuszko Foundation is a resident member organization. He delivered a presentation to the members and Board of Directors about the KF scholarship programs and grants available every year to the local Polish community.

Later in spring 2026, **DR. ELIZABETH ZECHENTER**, a member of the Board of the KF Philadelphia Chapter, was invited by Barbara Bernhardt to deliver a lecture and slide presentation at the Washington KF DC Center, similar to the one she presented in Philadelphia earlier. ■



Welcome sign for the screening of the multi award winning feature film KOS at the Philadelphia Film Society during the KF Philadelphia Chapter's Annual Event on January 17, 2026



FREEDOM KNOWS NO BORDERS.

TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO

250 YEARS

OF POLISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

1776 — 2026

For 250 years, Poland and the United States have been united by a shared belief in freedom, courage and opportunity. From Tadeusz Kościuszko's role in America's fight for independence to the generations who have strengthened this bond ever since, we celebrate a legacy of friendship that continues to inspire the future.

Celebrating our shared heritage.
Investing in future generations.

Proud to join The Kosciuszko Foundation in commemorating 250 years of Polish-American friendship.



the KF THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Malgorzata Schwab, *KF Rocky Mountain President*

If one word could describe 2026, perhaps it would be precarious. We live at a time when assumptions once considered dependable suddenly seem less certain—about peace in Europe, the strength of alliances, the future of the transatlantic relationship, and the world we will leave to the next generation. Against this backdrop, the mission of the Kosciuszko Foundation—to build bridges between Poland and the United States through culture, education, and intellectual exchange—feels particularly meaningful.

Throughout the year, the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER has continued to strengthen its presence in Colorado and to create opportunities for the Polish-American community to engage with Polish culture, history, and contemporary issues. This fall, those efforts culminate in two very different, but complementary, programs.

NOVEMBER 2026



In NOVEMBER, the Chapter will present the 3RD ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLISH FILM FESTIVAL, an initiative that has grown significantly since its launch in 2024. This year, the festival has expanded to four days and will welcome PIOTR DOMALEWSKI, director of *Ministranci (The Altar Boys)*, as a special guest in Denver. In another important milestone, LILIANA KOMOROWSKA, Chair of the Festival Jury, received accreditation to represent the Rocky Mountain Polish Film Festival at the POLISH FILM FESTIVAL IN GDYNIA, strengthening our connection with Poland's foremost celebration of Polish cinema. The festival continues to bring outstanding contemporary Polish film to Colorado while creating a forum for dialogue among filmmakers, actors, critics, and American audiences.

DECEMBER 2026



In DECEMBER, the Chapter plans to welcome PROFESSOR ANDREW A. MICHTA to the UNIVERSITY CLUB OF DENVER. A distinguished scholar of international security and expert on NATO and Central and Eastern Europe, Professor Michta will address some of the geopolitical questions that have become increasingly urgent, including the future of NATO, European security, and the changing transatlantic relationship.

For Polish Americans, these questions are hardly abstract. Poland's history reminds us how quickly geopolitical certainties can disappear—and how important cultural ties, intellectual exchange, and enduring relationships between nations can become in uncertain times.

In this YEAR OF PRECARIOUS, the Rocky Mountain Chapter continues to pursue the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission here in the American West: bringing people together through culture, education, ideas, and conversation. ■

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KF OHIO CHAPTER

Chris Hariasz, *Chapter President*

In the Spring of 2026, the Ohio Chapter offered three lectures for its members. First, on **MARCH 22**, DR. RICHARD ROMANIUK from CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY in Cleveland presented a talk entitled *"Addiction Treatment in Poland and the United States."* Focusing mainly on alcoholism and drug addiction, Dr. Romaniuk briefly covered the history of addiction treatment and listed current issues facing the field.

On **MAY 6,** in collaboration with CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, the Chapter presented DR. NATASZA DOICZMAN-ŁOBODA from ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY in Poznań for a talk on challenges faced by young people graduating from foster care. Dr. Doiczman-Łoboda's research compares how this issue is addressed in Poland, the U.S., and Canada.

On **MAY 10**, DR. ALEKSANDRA URZĘDOWSKA, a Fulbright scholar from the PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY in Kraków, shared her thoughts on *"Media Landscape in Poland."* It turned out to be a very thorough and interesting presentation on one of the most important issues affecting politics and the political situation three decades after the transition to democracy in Poland began



For the Fall, Chapter is planning a lecture on American Polonia by DR. DOMINIK STECUŁA from the OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, and a talk by DR. CHRISTOPHER HARIASZ about Tadeusz Kosciuszko's life, with emphasis of his participation in the American Revolution. ■

JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Be part of our story — and connect with a KF chapter near you

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KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR POLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES

Marek Skulimowski,
KF President and Executive Director



"With support from the Kosciuszko Foundation, Rutgers will be able to sustain its two-year Polish language sequence and lay the groundwork for further growth."

The Kosciuszko Foundation is expanding its commitment to Polish language and culture education at American universities, announcing new support for the Polish language program at RUTGERS UNIVERSITY effective for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Housed within Rutgers' Department of Russian and East European Languages and Literatures (REELL), the Polish track has quietly built one of the region's strongest enrollment records, even as language programs nationwide have contracted. Since 2022, instructor AGNIESZKA MAKLES has drawn some of the highest Polish enrollments the department has seen in two decades. Last year, Rutgers enrolled more students in Polish than any other university in the New York metropolitan area.

That momentum has recently come under threat. Amid budget pressures across the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers has begun imposing minimum-enrollment thresholds that disproportionately affect lesser-taught languages, leading to the cancellation of a Polish course despite strong student interest. With support from the Kosciuszko Foundation, Rutgers will be able to sustain its two-year Polish language sequence and lay the groundwork for further growth, including additional cultural programming such as invited lectures and a Polish cinema course.

The Rutgers partnership joins a growing roster of Kosciuszko Foundation–supported Polish programs at BROWN UNIVERSITY, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, HUNTER COLLEGE, and CANISIUS UNIVERSITY. Together, these partnerships reflect the Foundation's ongoing effort to keep Polish language and culture part of the American higher education landscape. By investing directly in language instruction and the faculty who teach it, the Kosciuszko Foundation continues to send a clear message to university administrators: Polish belongs in the classroom, and studying its language and culture equips a new generation of scholars, diplomats, and citizens to understand a vital part of the world.

The Foundation's commitment to Polish studies extends well beyond the Northeast. This past summer, a $12,000 grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation enabled INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S POLISH STUDIES CENTER to partner with the university's SUMMER LANGUAGE WORKSHOP to offer its First-Year Polish Intensive tuition-free. The eight-week course compressed a full year of university-level Polish instruction into an intensive schedule of four hours of daily synchronous class time and three to four hours of daily homework, complemented by weekly cultural programming on Polish cinema, history, and traditions such as Topienie Marzanny and pisanki. The tuition-free model drew twelve participants, including undergraduate and graduate students from universities across the country, as well as adult learners studying Polish for personal, family, or professional reasons. By the end of the course, all but one participant reached at least Intermediate Low proficiency under ACTFL guidelines, with five exceeding that benchmark. *"I had no idea that I could achieve this level of Polish proficiency in just eight weeks,"* said participant Lindsey Grutchfield. *"It was a wonderful introduction to a language and culture, and I'm so excited to be able to engage more deeply with all things Polish."* ■

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BEYOND THE SCRIPT

POLISH LANGUAGE MASTERCLASSES AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

Interview with **Jolanta Lion**, *Kosciuszko Foundation and NAWA scholar*

"Once you master the core framework of declension and verb aspects, the language stops throwing major surprises at you. That is why having a good teacher and a good textbook at the start is so vital."

Anna Tarnawska: ***Your Polish-language classes at Brown University go beyond traditional teaching methods, integrating linguistics, pedagogy, and cinema. Where does this interdisciplinary approach come from?***



Jolanta Lion: It has been a journey that began after defending my master's thesis in Polish Philology at the University of Łódź. My research focused on the linguistic errors made by radio and TV broadcasters. I was fascinated by how media professionals can inadvertently popularize errors until they become accepted as standard language. This deep dive into the evolution of language convinced me that teaching Polish as a foreign language was my true calling. At the time, the SCHOOL OF POLISH LANGUAGE FOR FOREIGNERS at the UNIVERSITY OF ŁÓDŹ was a vibrant, nationally renowned hub, and I was thrilled to join their faculty. I also taught Polish and the history of Polish cinema at the ŁÓDŹ FILM SCHOOL. It was during this formative time that I had the privilege of meeting and collaborating directly with KRZYSZTOF KIEŚLOWSKI. Working alongside him to help young filmmakers communicate their artistic visions was a masterclass in both cinema and human connection—most of the time.

AT: ***How did those experiences shape your work in the United States?***

JL: I came to the UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH to teach Polish language as a KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION FELLOW. I created the first large-scale Polish film festival in the region, THROUGH POLISH EYES. Drawing from my firsthand experience in Łódź, I also developed and taught academic courses on contemporary Polish cinema. That success laid the groundwork for founding the CARNEGIE MELLON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, Faces. For 18 years, I served as its founder and director, shaping it into a vital cultural institution in which Polish films and filmmakers remained a significant presence.

AT: ***Who are the students drawn to Polish at Brown?***

JL: It's a wonderfully diverse group, usually falling into three distinct types. First are the enthusiasts, who have



Jolanta and her "Polish Culture Through Film" class posing on the Slavic Studies Department steps with Krzysztof Kieślowski's Decalogue screenplay and DVD.



Right: *Jolanta with Professor of Slavic Studies Michał Okłot, who founded the Polish Program at Brown, attending the "Erupcja" event.*

no Polish roots but became interested through a partner or roommate. They often speak multiple languages and discovered Poland via social media trends about its booming economy. The creatives are those interested in language because of Polish culture, inspired by icons such as WITOLD GOMBROWICZ, OLGA TOKARCZUK, and the POLISH FILM SCHOOL. The third group are heritage speakers—second- or third-generation descendants who want to perfect their Polish to connect with family and peers in Poland. Balancing these distinct motivations is a massive challenge but incredibly rewarding when we take a huge step forward by the end of the semester.

AT: ***Beyond cinema, how do you bring other elements of Polish culture to life for young Americans?***

JL: Since the very beginning of my stay in the U.S., I have consciously avoided promotional strategies centered around pierogi or folk dancing. While those traditions are beautiful, they generally interest almost no one except the local Polish diaspora. When I offer a course like POLISH HISTORY THROUGH FILM, CINEMA OF KRZYSZTOF KIEŚLOWSKI, or BEST POLISH FILMS, it immediately attracts a broad audience. Even though these courses are taught in English, I use them as a bridge to encourage students to enroll in our language courses. Typically, about four to five of twenty students in the cinema class show genuine interest in learning the language.

In my advanced Polish language groups, my self-designed curriculum uses contemporary songs such as ***"Zakochałem się pod apteką"*** by the rapper TACO HEMINGWAY, which we analyze in depth as a multilayered cultural text. We dive into the film ***"The Last Family" ("Ostatnia rodzina")*** to explore the lives of the BEKSIŃSKI family, read STANISŁAW LEM'S ***"The Cyberiad" ("Cyberiada")***, and ultimately analyze the raw portrait of Polish society through documentary filmmaking. A favorite exercise of mine is contrasting PAWEŁ ŁOZIŃSKI'S contemporary ***"The Balcony Movie" ("Film balkonowy")*** with KRZYSZTOF KIEŚLOWSKI'S classic ***"Talking Heads" ("Gadające głowy").***

Last semester, I decided to screen the Polish-American independent film ***"Erupcja"***. I chose it specifically because it stars the famous pop artist CHARLI XCX, knowing her



Students taking in the screening of "Erupcja."



Students queue for the authentic Polish food reception following the "Erupcja" film screening.

involvement would draw people far beyond our usual circle of Polish students.

AT: ***What makes Polish language particularly challenging for English-speaking students, and does it eventually become easier?***

JL: I don't know if this is a challenge unique to my approach, but because Polish relies so heavily on declension, it is crucial from the very first days of beginner classes to familiarize students with noun and adjective endings. Pronouns and numerals follow later. I often explain noun and adjective endings to my students in a funny way. I tell them, *"Look, your mom gave you just one name, but in Polish, you have five to seven different versions of your own name!"* For example, a name like Oscar changes completely depending on the sentence structure: you have "Oscar", "Oscara", "Oscarowi", "Oscarem", and "Oscarze". But that's only half the battle; the verb system is another challenge entirely. Polish features aspectual pairs—perfective and imperfective verbs—which have no exact structural equivalent in English. To make matters more confusing, the two words in a single aspectual pair often look and sound completely different from one another. For instance, ***"mówić"*** and ***"powiedzieć"***. In English, they both essentially map onto a single concept: to tell, to speak, or to say.

Once you master the core framework of declension and verb aspects, the language stops throwing major surprises at you. That is why having a good teacher and a good textbook at the start is so vital.

AT: *You are currently working on a new textbook, "W rok po polsku." What sets it apart from other books for learning Polish?*

JL: It is the culmination of over 20 years of close collaboration with the brilliant PROFESSOR OSCAR E. SWAN at the UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, and we are so excited to finally share it with everyone by the end of this year.

What sets it apart from standard textbooks on the market is our unique approach to grammar. A lot of modern textbooks treat Polish grammar superficially. They assume that American students will just intuitively pick up these complex rules through examples alone. But we have seen that without clear, straightforward explanations, English speakers hit a linguistic wall pretty fast. To make learning an immersive experience, we incorporate multimedia materials into the book, including video versions of the dialogues. We want to capture the nonverbal elements of communication that make a real conversation feel natural and authentic.

AT: *How has rapid technological progress changed language teaching, and does it ultimately enhance the language-learning experience—or take something away from it?*

JL: In recent years, technology, artificial intelligence, and online courses have completely revolutionized the way we learn foreign languages. Without a doubt, their main advantage is flexibility. Students can learn from anywhere in the world, at any time. Various language apps allow for instant translations, material review through interactive games, and even real-time conversations with ChatGPT.

However, we must keep one crucial point in mind: language is not just a collection of words and grammar rules. Above all, it is culture, emotion, gestures, and irony. AI tools and mobile apps often fail to catch these subtleties, let alone the nuances of Polish humor. Technology, no matter how advanced, cannot replace the human factor. A student needs to feel that the instructor —and, following their example, the entire group—is genuinely interested in them as a person.

AT: *How do you balance traditional teaching methods and new technologies?*

JL: Students need to feel a desire to be known in this new context and through new language as their linguistic skills grow. For example, when we introduce the Accusative case and discuss family, I avoid standard, predictable questions like *"What is your family like?"* Instead, I design the lesson so that all the students, along with me, ask questions, answer questions, memorize, and take notes about the family of a specific classmate. By doing this, we engage a multitude of parallel skills, while seamlessly integrating extra context through illustrations, photographs, or short video clips. Is technology necessary for this process? Yes, of course, but strictly in a supplementary role as a supporting tool. After an initial infatuation with apps like Duolingo, artificial intelligence, and ready-made digital content, there is a distinct return to traditional methods. And this doesn't just apply to language learning.



Jolanta and her students sharing Polish language programs with the Brown University community on the campus green.

My students bring a traditional notebook and pen to class. They write down new vocabulary or Genitive case endings by hand, simultaneously as I write them on the board. From a neurobiological standpoint, it has been proven that this physical process engages the brain much more effectively. It dramatically accelerates memorization and naturally teaches correct spelling. ■

Jolanta Lion *is a Kosciuszko Foundation and NAWA scholar. She teaches Polish language and the cinema of Krzysztof Kieślowski at Brown University.*



Photo by Cliff from "I now live in Arlington, VA" (Outside Washington DC), USA - Tadeusz Kosciuszko Uploaded by Szczebrzeszynski, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/

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Charles River Associates and Eric Nierenberg join the Kosciuszko Foundation in celebrating 250 years of America and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Poland.

We recognize the important role of the Kosciuszko Foundation in strengthening Polish-American relations and building bridges between our two countries through educational and cultural programs for more than 100 years.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

As our Summer Volunteer Program comes to an end, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the six remarkable young people who spent July and August supporting the work of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Throughout the summer, they contributed to a wide range of projects, including archive digitization, the Scholarship Recipients Gallery and database, library organization, office support, and many other important initiatives. Their enthusiasm, diligence, and positive attitude made them an invaluable part of our team.

We were especially impressed by their excellent command of the Polish language. It was truly inspiring to see how confidently and naturally they used Polish in their daily work, demonstrating not only strong language skills but also a deep connection to Polish culture and heritage.

What touched us most was their willingness to dedicate a portion of their summer vacation to advancing the Foundation's mission. Their commitment, maturity, and generosity of spirit exceeded all expectations and left a lasting impression on everyone who had the pleasure of working with them.

To our volunteers: thank you for your hard work, energy, and dedication. We are incredibly grateful for all that you accomplished and proud to have had you as part of the Kosciuszko Foundation family. We wish you every success in your academic and professional journeys and hope that your connection with the Foundation will continue for many years to come. ■



The Kosciuszko Foundation team with 2026 summer volunteers.



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FROM ONE DREAM TO THE NEXT

By **Julia Owerko**, *KF Intern*

"I continued learning about the work of sustaining Polish-American ties while interning at the Kościuszko Foundation. There, I came to appreciate the legacy of a relationship carried forward not only by governments, but also by institutions and communities committed to preserving traditions."

Before my siblings and I were born, my mom told my dad that she wanted to raise bilingual children. All our names – Damian, Julia, and Sofia – barely require an accent change to pronounce in English, because my mom didn't want us to change that part of who we were if we ever moved to the United States. By enrolling us in an American school, she gave us an international upbringing shaped by friends and teachers from around the world.

After high school, we moved on, many of us abroad, but we found ways back to each other's lives. In fact, a lot of my friends from high school ended up being my roommates, neighbors, or friends that I reconnected with during my time living in Boston and New York. However, what first brought me to the U.S. was my dream of becoming a Division I athlete.



Competing for Boston University

Being an athlete taught me that once I commit to a goal, pursuing it becomes an instinct rather than a plan. Balancing academics with competitive swimming, whether it was in high school or during my undergraduate studies at BOSTON UNIVERSITY, required discipline, focus, and a clear sense of purpose. Writing essays on my iPhone in my cap and goggles while waiting for my heat to be announced became a standard practice by which I was able to do my schoolwork in high school. And I recall with fondness to the solemn moments in the BU locker room where I sat before practice contemplating how I would balance my next assignments with our swim meet schedule.

Although it involved many sacrifices, handling pressure, and dealing with self-doubt, I learned to remain grounded in the goals that had set me on this path.

My ambitions at Boston University extended beyond the pool. As a staff writer for the university's academic journal, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REVIEW, I examined democratic backsliding, memory politics, identity, and media polarization through published research now preserved by the Library of Congress. Contributing to the journal became a defining part of my undergraduate experience, solidifying my passion for analysis-driven writing and its power to bring complex political questions to a broader audience.

However, because swim practices coincided with staff meetings, I worked with my editors one-on-one and rarely had the opportunity to meet the journal's other writers. In an absurd turn of events, the only fellow staff writer I ever met was the person seated beside me at my master's program orientation at COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY in a cohort of just nine students.

At times, the weight of those sacrifices made the twenty hours spent weekly at training impossible to justify. That perspective shifted one afternoon as I stood on a platform at Penn Station, waiting to board a train to Lawrenceville to visit my sister at her school. My parents called to tell me that I had been selected as one of the first three inductees into my high school's Wall of Honor, alongside my high school history teacher and our former athletics director.

I was later interviewed for a school newsletter and asked, *"What does it mean to you to see your legacy cemented at the school?"* Until that moment at Penn Station, I had never considered that I might have left a "legacy" behind. I knew how profoundly the school had shaped me, but I had not realized that I had, in turn, made an impact meaningful enough to be remembered, let alone honored. The recognition did not erase the sacrifices, but it gave them a meaning I had not been able to see while making them. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW will always hold a special place in my heart, and knowing that I remain part of its story means more to me than I can express.



Julia Owerko at her induction into her high school's Wall of Honor, with her history teacher and former athletics director

I graduated from BOSTON UNIVERSITY with a bachelor's degree in INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS and a minor in JOURNALISM, and then moved to New York and interned at the CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND. There, I discovered diplomacy as a profession built on continual learning: one in which knowledge of international affairs and history must be deep enough not merely to recall events, but to interpret their present significance.

I became drawn to the level of regional expertise diplomacy demands – the ability to understand foreign relations so intimately that one can recognize the historical experiences shaping its interests, translate those complexities across cultural and political contexts, and use that understanding to forge meaningful connections with others.

I continued learning about the work of sustaining Polish-American ties while interning at the KOŚCIUSZKO FOUNDATION. There, I came to appreciate the legacy of a relationship carried forward not only by governments, but also by institutions and communities committed to preserving shared traditions.

I experienced this most personally at the Foundation's annual ball, where I danced the Polonaise – a traditional dance performed by generations of Polish students at their studniówka, the formal ball held one hundred days before final examinations. I had missed the opportunity to perform it in high school because I could not take time away from swim training. Years later, the tradition I had missed found its way back to me in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in New York, where I was able to dance the Polonaise alongside my father.

While gaining professional experience in New York, I was also preparing graduate school applications with a clear vision for my future work, one centered on developing the regional expertise to produce research and analysis that could inform public understanding and international engagement. Whether through diplomacy, journalism, or another form of public engagement, I want to work at the intersection of knowledge and human connection, translating a deep understanding of Central and Eastern Europe into writing, dialogue, and relationships that reach beyond academia.

That ambition brought me to COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S HARRIMAN INSTITUTE, the first academic center in the United States devoted to the interdisciplinary study of Russia and the Soviet Union. Founded in 1946 as the Russian Institute with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, Harriman has since expanded its reach across Russia, Eurasia, and East Central Europe while becoming one of the world's leading institutions in the field. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary studies allows me to approach the region through history, political science, sociology, culture, and language rather than from within the limits of a single discipline.

At Harriman, I am deepening my understanding of the political and social forces shaping Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the intersections of historical memory, national and political identity, and generational change in post-transition societies. Every chapter I write in the United States is a story of a dream coming true. It took having to understand the weight of commitment as a young teenager, but pursuing collegiate athletics led me on a path of new opportunities and dreams I am still imagining.

My mother gave me the language to feel at home here, and swimming gave me the courage to make a life here. Now, at Harriman, I am pursuing work that brings my Polish upbringing and my years in the United States into the same story. I do not yet know where it will lead, but I know how much became possible because of the dreams that brought me this far. ■



Julia Owerko in Times Square, New York City

A CONVERSATION WITH KF FELLOW DR. MAGDALENA MARCZEWSKA

GROWING RESPONSIBLY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

During her Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship in the United States, DR. MAGDALENA MARCZEWSKA studied how internationalization, digitalization, and sustainability together shape the growth of young firms. She spoke to us about how the project evolved over time, what emerged from her collaboration with Professor David Audretsch, and what she would tell future fellows.



KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION: *What did you set out to study?*

MAGDALENA MARCZEWSKA: My project was titled EXPLORING TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES TO VENTURE GROWTH: A STUDY ON THE INTERSECTION OF INTERNATIONAL AND DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP. It began with the observation that young firms increasingly grow across borders not only through traditional internationalization pathways, but also through digital technologies, platforms, data-driven business models and other digital capabilities.

KF: *The project changed during the fellowship. In what way?*

MM: As it developed, I realized that sustainability could not be treated as a secondary issue. Responsible growth has become central to how contemporary ventures scale, compete and create value. So, I expanded the research beyond how firms grow internationally and digitally to include how they can do so responsibly.

Internationalization, digitalization and sustainability are usually studied separately, but entrepreneurs experience them as interconnected. The project allowed a broader understanding of responsible firm growth, treating these dimensions as interdependent rather than as separate paths.

KF: *What was the main challenge in doing that?*

MM: Integrating three large research areas: international entrepreneurship, digital entrepreneurship and sustainable entrepreneurship. Each has its own concepts, assumptions, theoretical foundations and publication outlets, and they often use different language to describe related processes. Bringing them together required more than reviewing separate literature; it required identifying how they connect.

I addressed this by focusing on leading academic journals, refining the coding approach used in the literature review, and shifting the analysis away from separate domains toward shared mechanisms of responsible firm growth. In the end, this made the project stronger than it would otherwise have been.

KF: *What was the most significant research achievement of the fellowship?*

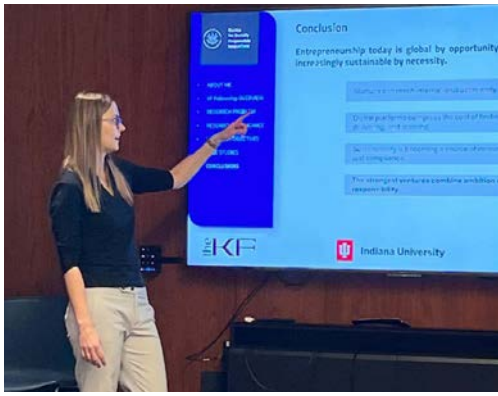
MM: The preparation and submission of a manuscript presenting the results of the project to a top-tier journal. The paper sets out the key findings and examines several mechanisms of responsible venture growth: entrepreneurial identity and agency, opportunity formation, resource mobilization and capability building, business model innovation, ecosystem and platform dynamics, and institutional conditions, governance and policy.

KF: *You worked closely with Professor David Audretsch. How did that influence the research?*

MM: It was one of the most valuable aspects of the fellowship. His expertise in entrepreneurship, innovation, regional development and firm growth encouraged me to think more deeply about the broader contribution of the work.

Our discussions helped me position the project not as a review of separate entrepreneurship streams, but as an attempt to understand how contemporary firms grow under new global, digital and sustainability-related conditions.





Right: Dr. Magdalena Marczewska at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, where she presented her research

Below: presenting at the 2026 Entrepreneurship Research Incubator at the University of Mississippi



KF: *Where did you present the work?*

MM: At the 2026 ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH INCUBATOR at the UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, hosted by the Southern Entrepreneurship Research Consortium, which was a valuable opportunity to receive feedback from entrepreneurship scholars. I also presented at INDIANA UNIVERSITY in a seminar titled *"Global, Sustainable, Digital: How Entrepreneurs Change the World?"*, where I could discuss a more developed version of the project.

Beyond that, I attended a range of events that enriched the context of the research, including the ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE IN LEXINGTON, leadership training at the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE CENTER FOR POSITIVE LEADERSHIP, a seminar on academic leadership among foreign-born faculty, and the SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2026 at the UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, which focused on sustainability and social responsibility in supply chains. I also completed a generative AI course at INDIANA UNIVERSITy.

KF: *Teaching was part of the fellowship as well?*

MM: I co-taught the METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT course, contributing to classes on team building, project work, and entrepreneurship, and supported students in preparing their final projects. It complemented the research by connecting entrepreneurship theory with practical, project-based learning.

KF: *Did you have the chance to see the country?*

MM: Yes. Apart from conference travel, I used weekends and the grace period to explore. Among the places I visited were Bloomington and Indianapolis in Indiana; Louisville and the Kentucky Derby in Kentucky; the Everglades, the Florida Keys and Key West in Florida; the Smoky Mountains and state parks in Tennessee; Savannah, Georgia; and Fripp Island in South Carolina. These experiences helped me understand American culture, history and regional diversity, and were an important complement to the academic side of the fellowship.

KF: *What advice would you give to future Kosciuszko Foundation fellows?*

MM: Treat the fellowship not only as a research stay, but also as an opportunity for academic growth, networking and personal development. Arrive with a clear research plan while remaining open to how the project may evolve through conversations with scholars and colleagues.

Attend seminars, conferences and informal research discussions whenever possible; they often help clarify a project's contribution and open new directions. Make full use of the host institution's resources, including activities that seem only indirectly related to your project. The more actively you take part in the intellectual life of the institution, the more productive the fellowship becomes.

KF: *How would you summarize the experience?*

MM: My impression of the program is overwhelmingly positive. It offered a rare combination of research freedom and strong institutional support, and allowed me to advance my project, build international collaborations, take part in teaching and academic events, and experience a different scholarly environment.

I would like to thank the Kosciuszko Foundation and the donors who make the program possible. Their generosity gave me the opportunity to spend an important period of my academic life in the United States, develop my research in an inspiring environment and learn from outstanding scholars. It helped me grow as a researcher and as a person, and it will continue to influence my work for many years to come. ■

Dr. Magdalena Marczewska, *Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw*
Exchange Program to the US Fellow 2025/2026

BROADENING THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE

By **Joanna Mazur,**
2025–2026 Exchange to the U.S. fellowship recipient



"Academically, I expanded my research perspectives, got to know many inspiring scholars, and became familiar with an entirely different system of teaching and studying law. Especially with regard to studying internet law and enforcement of law in digital markets."

It is a good day to start preparing the input to Kosciuszko Foundation's newsletter: in the morning I got a message from a friend – a law professor at Tulane University – whom I met while I was in the US. If everything goes well, I will meet another friend from Tulane at a conference next week. The links that still connect me to that community are welcome reminders of the beautiful time I have spent there.

I arrived in New Orleans in February and spent three months there at TULANE UNIVERSITY, participating in activities at the Law School and the Murphy Institute. The project which I was working on concerned the use of expertise in competition law enforcement. My analysis focused on the interplay between the economic authority of the enforcers and the epistemic power of the platforms. The dogmatic part of the analysis demonstrates how recent case law developments at the Court of Justice of the European Union have resulted in standards concerning expert evidence aligning with Rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which is an issue that has not yet been scrutinized in the literature. The most important part of the analysis is an empirical study of the use of expert evidence in the Federal Trade Commission v. Meta Platforms, Inc. case and the European Commission's decision in the Facebook/WhatsApp merger. I examine the references made in these cases to show how the epistemic power held by the platform and the economic authority held by the court and the European Commission shape the approach to the company's behavior. The findings demonstrate that in cases where the epistemic power of the platform is of high importance, exercising the economic authority of the court or of the enforcer depends heavily on the expertise provided by the platform. The article discusses two solutions to this challenge: the regulatory response and the measures that could be developed within an antitrust framework, such as expanding the understanding of expertise, including other stakeholders in proceedings, and developing the enforcers' in-house expertise.

During my stay, I also participated in events taking place at TULANE UNIVERSITY: the seminars organized every week at the LAW SCHOOL, the weekly seminars organized around work-in-progress articles, where I had an opportunity to present my research, the monthly seminars organized by the MURPHY INSTITUTE, and the bi-weekly seminars organized in cooperation between the Murphy Institute and the Law School. This provided me with an opportunity to become familiar with both the work of researchers at Tulane and that of many scholars visiting Tulane to present their studies to the Tulane community. This aspect of my stay was essential for broadening my perspectives on research in the American legal system, comparative studies, and international economic law. Additionally, I participated in the 26TH ANNUAL LOYOLA ANTITRUST COLLOQUIUM. This annual event is one of the most important in the area of antitrust law, so – since I happened to be in the US for the first time in April – I took the opportunity to attend the conference.

I am the first person in my family to visit the US, and the prospect of going there had long been classified in my head as unrealistic. The fact that I had the privilege of this experience, thanks to the Kosciuszko Foundation in many

different ways, allowed me to expand the boundaries of what I believed was possible. Firstly, in terms of the stay itself, during which I had an opportunity to experience so many new things and hear so many views and analyses, growing from perspectives very different from those grounded in my own experience. Secondly, in the long-term, by reminding me how important it is to engage in debates and relationships with academics all over the world in order to broaden the circle of the exchange of thought, independent of the discipline in which one works.

All these lessons would not have been learned – or at least not in such an impactful manner – if it were not for the grant I was awarded. The experience I had was remarkable in many ways. Academically, I expanded my research perspectives, got to know many inspiring scholars, and became familiar with an entirely different system of teaching and studying law. Especially with regard to studying internet law and enforcement of law in digital markets, having this broader, comparative perspective constitutes an important added value to the approach I have been taking so far in my studies. In this context, being in Louisiana, one of the few mixed jurisdictions in the world, where civil law and common law intersect, has also been a significant choice: it seemed to me that for the scholars educated in this system, a broad approach to research is somehow a given.





Above: *Joanna Mazur at Tulane University Law School*

Left: *a Mardi Gras flag in New Orleans*

Culturally, being in the US allowed me to experience both local traditions and world-famous art. As it was my first time in the US, I wanted to see as much as I could during my stay. Thus, I ended up using every day off to explore New Orleans, the cultural richness of which would require a stay much longer than mine to get sufficiently familiar with. The music scene, the history, the traditions – it truly is a unique city. I also went for a trip to New York, Chicago, and Boston, where I explored the museums, especially art galleries, with truly breathtaking collections. Last but not least, although it is trivial to say – but it is nevertheless true – my stay influenced my understanding of the world: the places I have seen, the conversations I had, will stay with me, and the connections with the people I met became – and I hope will remain – an integral part of my life. ■



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122 YEARS APART
FOLLOWING MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER TO AMERICA

By **Łukasz Kożuchowski,** *Exchange to the U.S. Fellowship Recipient*



"Thanks to the generosity of the Kościuszko Foundation, I was able to travel to New York last year (...) and had a great opportunity to engage in the academic life of Columbia University, conduct archival research in the records of the U.S. Consulate in Warsaw from 1904 to 1912, and explore the city's sights."

122 years ago, on March 8, 1904, a landless peasant from near Mława, Poland, named JAN TARTAS, arrived in New York. The journey was probably anything but comfortable (crowded, chaotic conditions on the ship, and before that, the train to the port in Bremen) or peaceful (he likely did not cross the border of the Russian Empire legally). His goal, like so many others at the time, was economic: to earn enough money to buy land and return to his family. The ELLIS ISLAND registry, where newcomers were processed, still records that Jan was already married—so he was likely trying to secure a better life for his wife. The log also confirmed that he was neither an anarchist nor a bigamist. According to the documents, he was 34 years old (born in 1870), had come from the village of Krosznice, carried just ten dollars, and was heading to his brother's place on FISHERS ISLAND, NY, who had also paid for his passage. A relative, Staszek, traveled with him. In the grand hall, they inspected him to decide whether he was fit to enter the country. He was. Jan had a son, Józef. Józef had a daughter, Hanna. Hanna has a daughter, Iwona. Iwona has a son, Łukasz. I am Łukasz. You can call me Luke.

A family tradition—just a few years ago, I still had the chance to talk to Jan's youngest daughter, Gienia—adds color to the story beyond what the American records show. Jan did go to earn money, but it was not some pleasant adventure. We do not know exactly what he did in the States, but he genuinely hated the place, refused to go back, and never spoke to his children about what he experienced there (some of them were already born by 1904, which makes his transatlantic separation even more heartbreaking). The working conditions for migrants back then were brutal, and being a Slavic Catholic did not exactly win him favor with America's middle and upper classes. He probably worked for them—FISHERS ISLAND had no factories, just some fancy estates of the Rockefellers and Roosevelts, which needed staff. Still, at least financially, it seems to have been worth it. After returning home, Jan bought his first plot of land, instantly becoming one of the wealthier farmers in the area. He died in 1941, just a month or two after his granddaughter Hanna was born.

Thanks to the generosity of the Kosciuszko Foundation, I was able to travel to New York last year. There, I had a great opportunity to engage in the academic life of COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, conduct archival research in the records of the U.S. Consulate in Warsaw from 1904 to 1912, and—last but not least—explore the city's sights.

Like my great-great-grandfather Jan, I came to the US to work. However, my work was academic and intellectually stimulating, not physically grueling. Columbia University provided splendid academic opportunities, and I met fascinating people from around the world. I had time to work, explore, and immerse myself in the history and culture of the city. Thanks to the Kosciuszko Foundation, my budget was also more substantial than Jan's ten dollars—even if the dollar was stronger back then.

What I discovered in the archives during my research was just as compelling as Jan's story. The period leading up to World War I was tumultuous. In 1904, the Russian Empire, including the Kingdom of Poland, entered a disastrous war with Japan and, just a year later, was forced to sign a humiliating peace treaty brokered by Theodore Roosevelt in Portsmouth. Even during the conflict, the empire's people revolted in the 1905 Revolution, protesting the lack of

religious, civil, and national freedoms under St. Petersburg's rule. Although the revolution ended in 1907, the changes it set in motion were irreversible. The empire's subjects, increasingly seeing themselves as citizens, expanded their political awareness, embraced newly granted social liberties, and grew more critical of their rulers. On the other hand, the revolution's end allowed for economic recovery. U.S. companies like Ingersoll, Goodyear, Columbia Records, and The New York Times inquired at the Warsaw consulate about opportunities to enter the local market. For the American government at the time, the Kingdom of Poland was primarily seen as a chance to do business.

But among various formal letters and dispatches, one may find such a fascinating description of Warsaw. It was offered by ALBERT LEFFINGWELL in 1905, during his brief service as consul. Among other remarks, he stated: *"The popular impression of Warsaw widely prevailed in America, is quite contrary to the fact. We have judged the fountain by the stream; and because there pours into America from Western Russia, a mass of ignorance, poverty and wretchedness which seems to have no counterpart in the totality of our immigration, we have therefore pictured Warsaw as a poverty-stricken city, little advanced in the arts which pertain to Civilization, with neither beauty nor enterprise nor civic pride (...)."*

He continued: *"In many respects it is a striking and picturesque and handsome city. The side-pavements of leading arteries are wider than those of Broadway, New York. In point of cleanliness, the principal streets of Warsaw are much superior to these of the majority of American cities and would compare not unfavorably with those of Paris. (...) As to public gardens and parks, adorned with statuary, fountains and flowers, are appreciated as much here as at home. In shop windows, every part of manufactured articles pertaining to comfort or adornment of utility is set forth with exquisite tact. Nowhere, even in Paris or Berlin, are evidences of a growing and vivid appreciation of the beautiful in art and nature more striking than here. There is great poverty, dense ignorance and distress among the poorest class: no one can fail to see it, and yet, probably it is no more than exists in the East End of London at the present time."* He also described natural discontent with the imperial government's efforts to "Russianize" a population proud of its history. There were occasional strikes, labor disputes, and outbreaks, the news of which was promptly telegraphed. However, Leffingwell argued that these disturbances did not permanently hinder the development of a great city inhabited by a *"vigorous and enthusiastic race."* He viewed the numerous construction works across Warsaw as evidence of progress and vitality—*"evolution from poorer conditions to better ones, which strikes the observer".*

I must say that I somehow see myself in these descriptions—not in a sense that I think Poles should ask Americans for permission to regard themselves as advanced in various fields, but I simply do agree that Poles should be free from complexes in their dealings with other nations. As a native of Warsaw, I deeply admire my hometown, and I find it truly enjoyable. At the same time, visiting New York was a thrilling adventure—immersing myself in its academic life and participating in its vibrant cultural scene. Yet, I never felt out of place or inferior as a Polish visitor. I'm convinced that Warsaw is not only a wonderful city to live in but also a fantastic destination for tourists. What's more, the shared history of Polish Americans—connecting Poles in Europe and those in the U.S.—still holds many fascinating stories waiting to be uncovered. ■



Łukasz at Ellis Island Museum with the photo of his great-great- grandfather



On Liberty Island at the Statue of Liberty

A FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Gabriela Maksymiuk,
Kosciuszko Foundation Fellow,
University of Pennsylvania



"The research substantially expanded my understanding of how NbSs and green infrastructure are incorporated into U.S. planning and policy frameworks and provided a strong basis for comparison with Polish planning practices."

As cities around the world face increasing threats from extreme heat, flooding, storms, and other climate-related risks, the role of nature in strengthening urban resilience has become more important than ever. During my Kosciuszko Foundation fellowship at the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, I explored how NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NbSs) can support climate adaptation at the neighborhood scale and help create more resilient communities.

The project, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CLIMATE ADAPTATION, examined how NbSs are implemented in selected American cities, with a particular focus on Philadelphia. Nature-based Solutions were understood as an umbrella concept that includes approaches such as green infrastructure and ecosystem-based adaptation. The research focused on neighborhood-scale interventions, including trees, diverse vegetation, community gardens, rain gardens, bioswales, and other forms of green infrastructure that can improve both climate resilience and the quality of urban life.

A central goal of the study was to understand how different approaches to implementation interact. On one hand, NbSs are often advanced through top-down mechanisms such as public policies, planning frameworks, and municipal programs. On the other, they can emerge through bottom-up initiatives led by residents and community organizations. The project sought to examine how these two pathways complement one another, what factors support successful implementation, and what barriers limit progress. An additional objective was to compare American experiences with the situation in Poland, where interest in NbSs is growing but where implementation has often focused on individual projects rather than comprehensive neighborhood-scale climate adaptation strategies.

PHILADELPHIA AS A LIVING LABORATORY

Philadelphia proved to be an especially valuable case study due to its extensive planning framework and large number of municipal and community initiatives related to climate resilience and green infrastructure. An important component of the research involved an extensive review of planning documents, policy frameworks, strategic plans, and reports concerning green infrastructure, urban forestry, climate adaptation, and community engagement. However, documents alone could not reveal how policies function in practice. To gain deeper insight, I conducted



Landscape Design Studio at University of Pennsylvania





Right: Gabriela Maksymiuk at the University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman School of Design, where she was a visiting scholar

a series of interviews and professional discussions with practitioners and stakeholders working on climate adaptation and green infrastructure in urban neighborhoods.

Interviewees included representatives of the CITY OF PHILADELPHIA responsible for planning, urban forestry, and sustainability, as well as nonprofit organizations and institutions engaged in community outreach, often in vulnerable neighborhoods. These conversations provided valuable insights into how policies are interpreted and implemented, how responsibilities are distributed across city departments, and how municipal programs interact with grassroots initiatives. The discussions also shed light on practical challenges, including expanding urban greenery, maintaining green infrastructure, coordinating across departments, securing resources, and supporting long-term care. They revealed the importance of incentives, community capacity, maintenance responsibilities, and interdepartmental cooperation in determining the success of Nature-based Solutions.

LEARNING FROM COMMUNITIES

A particularly rewarding aspect of the project involved working directly with local communities. Through participation in resilience workshops organized by the CITY OF PHILADELPHIA'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY, I was able to engage with residents and observe how people perceive climate risks in their neighborhoods. I also volunteered in several local environmental initiatives, including tree planting and green space maintenance activities organized by nonprofit organizations such as PHILLY TREE PEOPLE, THE PHILLY TREE COALITION, HINGE COLLECTIVE, FRIENDS OF LINWOOD PARK, and the PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

These experiences offered a firsthand perspective on local priorities and concerns. Residents consistently expressed interest in additional trees, improved public spaces, and greater access to educational opportunities related to climate change and adaptation. Public spaces, both indoors and outdoors, were frequently identified as important community resources for responding to climate-related challenges. At the same time, the workshops revealed an important lesson. While many residents supported climate adaptation initiatives and expressed interest in learning more, encouraging active participation proved considerably more difficult. This highlighted a significant distinction between general support for environmental improvements and sustained engagement in community-based action.

Participation in neighborhood meetings and events, including the annual meeting of Friends of Linwood Park, further demonstrated the diversity of local organizations and varying levels of organizational capacity. These experiences showed that grassroots participation can take many forms, ranging from environmental advocacy and activism to hands-on stewardship activities such as park maintenance and tree planting. They also underscored the importance of local leadership, community networks, knowledge, and access to resources in determining whether communities can successfully implement environmental initiatives.

ACADEMIC GROWTH AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

As a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, I benefited greatly from being part of the WEITZMAN SCHOOL OF DESIGN community. During my fellowship, I attended lectures, symposia, and conferences focused on urban resilience, climate adaptation, green infrastructure, and landscape planning. I also participated in two academic courses, Environmental Readings and a Ph.D. seminar, which allowed me to engage with current debates and emerging research in the field. These experiences provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas with scholars from a wide range of disciplines and to place my research within a broader international context.

Beyond Philadelphia, I participated as a speaker at the COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (CELA) conference in Cincinnati and collaborated with the URBAN GREEN LAB in Nashville, further expanding my professional network and research perspectives.



Right: A community event in Philadelphia; the project brought Gabriela Maksymiuk together with local residents and organizations

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES THROUGH CONNECTIONS

My research relied heavily on consultations, conversations, and relationship-building with academics, practitioners, and residents. In this regard, being a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellow and conducting research at a prestigious institution proved invaluable. One potential challenge involved establishing connections with informal community groups that are often difficult to identify and reach. To overcome this obstacle, I relied on a combination of publicly available information, social media, and introductions from researchers and practitioners familiar with local initiatives.

These efforts led to collaborations with a range of organizations, including Friends of Linwood Park, Philly Tree People, the Philly Tree Coalition, Hinge Collective, PennPraxis, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. These collaborations provided valuable support throughout the research process, allowing me to complete the research activities outlined in my original proposal without encountering any major barriers.

RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Overall, the project successfully achieved its objectives. The combination of document analysis, interviews, observations, volunteer activities, and academic engagement enabled me to examine Nature-based Solutions from multiple perspectives. The research substantially expanded my understanding of how NbSs and green infrastructure are incorporated into U.S. planning and policy frameworks and provided a strong basis for comparison with Polish planning practices. It also identified important barriers to implementation, including fragmented responsibilities, regulatory complexity, limited resources, maintenance challenges, and difficulties in engaging residents.

At the same time, the project generated valuable insights into public perceptions of climate adaptation and the factors that encourage or discourage community participation. Several research outputs have emerged from this work. During my fellowship, I delivered a lecture on pioneers of Polish landscape architecture as part of the Environmental Readings course. The materials gathered for that lecture formed the basis of the article *"Alina Scholtz: the Founding Father of Polish Landscape Architecture in a Skirt,"* which was submitted to LANDSCAPE JOURNAL. The manuscript successfully passed the initial editorial assessment and is currently under revision following peer review.

The fellowship research will also contribute to two future publications: *"How to Plan for Neighborhood-Scale Climate Resilience? The Case of Philadelphia"* and *"Bottom-Up Climate Adaptation and Urban Stewardship: A Case Study of Philadelphia"* Partial findings were presented at the CELA Conference in Cincinnati in the presentation: *"From Urban Labs to Global Standards: Assessing Locally Selected NbS Through the IUCN Lens"*

A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

The Kosciuszko Foundation fellowship provided far more than an opportunity to conduct research. It opened doors to new academic collaborations, meaningful community engagement, and valuable international perspectives. Through direct interaction with residents, practitioners, nonprofit organizations, and scholars, I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with neighborhood-scale climate adaptation. Most importantly, the fellowship provided a strong foundation for future comparative research on Nature-based Solutions in Poland and the United States, strengthening both my academic work and my commitment to creating more resilient communities through nature-based approaches. ■





Gabriela Maksymiuk at the University of Pennsylvania

Congratulations to the Kościuszko Foundation for over 100 years of connecting America and Poland through education and culture.

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EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE UNITED STATES

2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Malgorzata Szymanska, *Director of Administration & Scholarship Programs*

The Kosciuszko Foundation is proud to award **$408,000** in scholarships and research grants through its 2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE UNITED STATES, supporting outstanding Polish scholars, researchers, artists, and professionals pursuing academic collaboration at leading American institutions.

This year, the Foundation received **71 applications** from candidates representing a broad range of disciplines across the humanities, sciences, medicine, law, arts, and technology.

Following a rigorous multi-stage review process, applications were assessed on academic excellence, the significance of the proposed research, and acceptance by a host institution in the United States. Finalists were subsequently interviewed in Warsaw by the Foundation's U.S. ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLISH ACADEMIC COMMISSION, whose members generously contributed their expertise and time to the selection process.

As a result of this highly competitive evaluation, 30 candidates received scholarship offers. Of those selected, 25 candidates accepted their awards, and together with one scholar who deferred participation from the previous year, a total of **26 scholars** will undertake research, academic, and creative projects at prestigious U.S. universities, research centers, museums, and cultural institutions during the 2026/2027 academic year.

Their projects reflect the breadth and strength of contemporary Polish scholarship, addressing topics that range from artificial intelligence, cancer research, neuroscience, and climate resilience to art history, philosophy, cultural heritage, democracy, and international law. Through these exchanges, the Kosciuszko Foundation continues its mission of fostering intellectual cooperation and strengthening academic ties between Poland and the United States.

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President and Executive Director of The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. in New York, NY

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The POLONIKA National Institute of Polish
Cultural Heritage Abroad

21. MARCIN TACIAK, PH.D.
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22. JERZY TYSZKIEWICZ, Ph.D.
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Professor, University of Warsaw, Institute of North American Culture and Literature

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29. JOANNA ZIARKOWSKA-CIECHANOWSKA, PH.D.
Professor, University of Warsaw, Faculty of English Studies, Department of North American Cultures and Literatures

We would like to thank all Members of the selection Committees who volunteered their time and expertise. Your discerning evaluations, careful deliberations, and commitment to fairness have ensured that our Fellows are not just academically accomplished, but also embody the values and aspirations we hold dear.

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

FOR

EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE US

CANDIDATES SELECTED DURING **2026/2027** INTERVIEWS

*PLEASE NOTE: *Amount and fund allocation is subject to change.*

F Fellowships for candidates with doctoral degrees

G Grants for candidates without doctoral degrees

TF Teaching Fellowships in Polish Studies

M Month

HUMANITIES

PROF. JOANNA GETKA

Professor, University of Warsaw

3MF | PACE UNIVERSITY, DYSON COLLEGE OF ART AND SCIENCES

$12,000 – IRENE FREES FUND

LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES | Deconstruction of Russian colonial myths as a tool for building conscious cultural cooperation in the Central and Eastern European region

The aim of the project is to learn and understand the mechanisms of the impact of Russian colonization myths by deconstructing the official Russian narrative, which will help to counteract Russia's disinformation activities.

MS. ALICJA GZOWSKA

Assistant Professor,
National Museum in Warsaw

3MG | THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

$12,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

ART HISTORY | Polish Women Sculptors in the United States in the 20th Century

The project's primary objective is to document the career trajectories, networking activities, and cultural exchange experiences of Polish women sculptors in the United States. It aims to acknowledge their role in art history and their foundational impact on subsequent generations of women. A further aim is to illuminate their struggles against stereotypes, prejudices, and the resulting inequalities and adversities.

MR. WITOLD JANAS

Ph.D. candidate, University of Warsaw

5MG | GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

$2,000 – FRANCIS PUSLOWSKI FUND

$7,000 – WACLAW AND IRENA SZYSZKOWSKI FUND

$11,000 – THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND

LAW AND POLITICS | Sustainability in Trade: Lessons from U.S. Enforcement Models for the EU–Latin America Free Trade Agreements

The project seeks to evaluate the efficacy of legal mechanisms within EU–Latin America trade agreements in fostering sustainable development. Furthermore, it will investigate potential enhancements by drawing comparisons with U.S. trade enforcement models, aiming to bolster accountability, monitoring, and the practical impact of sustainability provisions in international trade law.

MS. MARTA KOWALEWSKA-PIWOWARCZYK

Chief Curator,
The Central Museum of Textiles

5MG | MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NEW YORK

$18,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

$2,000 – JAN PAUL ZALESKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ART | The avant-garde art of the 1960s – the Polish school of textiles and Magdalena Abakanowicz in the United States

This project aims to produce a publication concerning Abakanowicz's activities in the United States, drawing upon research conducted in public institution archives. The publication will offer a novel research perspective on the artist's work, encompassing her Tatar heritage, her role as an Eastern European artist and woman sculptor, and the variety of themes she addressed, including ecology, a humanistic view of humanity as part of the ecosystem, among others.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE US

DR. KAROLINA MANIA
Assistant Professor,
Jagiellonian University

3MF FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

$12,000 – THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND

LAW AND POLITICS Deepfakes, AI Governance, and the Future of Online Dispute Resolution in the United States
The project examines how deepfake technologies challenge fairness and evidentiary reliability in U.S. Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). It evaluates current regulatory practices, the role and risks of AI detection tools, and develops a governance framework proposing ethical and procedural safeguards for responsible integration of AI in digital justice.

MR. RADOSŁAW MIŚKIEWICZ
Ph.D. Student, University of Warsaw

3MG BROWN UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

$12,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

HISTORY Inventing the Lawgivers – Imaginaries, Values, and Legal Discourse in Fifth Century BCE Athens
This project's objective is to analyze how appeals to archaic Athenian lawgivers influenced legal discourse, imaginaries, and shared values in fifth-century BCE Athens. Furthermore, it will investigate how American debates surrounding the 'Founding Fathers' can provide a comparative framework for this inquiry. By integrating classical research with comparative perspectives on U.S. constitutional debates and modern democracy, the study anticipates yielding novel insights, especially in 2026, during the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

DR. PAULINA NIECHCIAŁ
Assistant Professor,
Jagiellonian University

3MF UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

$12,000 – STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

POLISH STUDIES Gendered Identity-Shaping Practices of Polish American Women in Buffalo, NY
The study investigates the reproduction of Polish American identity through women's gendered practices associated with urban spaces and material culture. It further analyzes the diminishing role of parish-centered spaces and the increasing prominence of festivals and secular events, using the Buffalo community as a case study, where Polish heritage endures despite urban and generational changes.

MS. ALEKSANDRA SOCHA
Ph.D. student, University of Warsaw

4MG UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, THE HORROR STUDIES CENTER

$16,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

LITERATURE Reading Horror Against Psychoanalysis: Psychopolitics in 21st-Century-Horror Cinema
The project involves archival research at the Horror Studies Collection to establish a genealogy of psychopolitics. It will focus on the intersection of psychology, mental illness, and political, structural, and medical power relations within horror cinema.

DR. WOJCIECH STĘPIEŃ
Assistant Professor,
The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice

3MF USC POLISH MUSIC CENTER

$6,000 – WANDA ROEHR SCHOLARSHIP

$6,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

MUSICOLOGY Rediscovering Roman Ryterband's Life and Music
The project involves examining Roman Ryterband's unpublished manuscripts, correspondence, and archival materials at the USC Polish Music Center, conducting interviews with his family, and reconstructing his biography. The resultant findings will then serve as the foundation for scholarly publications aimed at restoring his legacy in both Polish and international music history.

PROF. ADAM SZYMAŃSKI
Assistant Professor,
University of Warsaw

5MF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

$20,000 – THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND

LAW AND POLITICS Democratic Backsliding in Subnational Democracies. Poland and the US in Comparative Perspective
This project aims to compare subnational democracy in Poland and the US, investigating the reasons for similarities in democratic backsliding at subnational levels within these two distinct countries, and identifying the role played by the national/federal level in this process.

PROF. MONIKA TALARCZYK

Assistant Professor, The Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School

3MF UCLA UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, SCHOOL OF THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION, DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TV AND DIGITAL MEDIA

$11,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

$1,000 – HENRY S. ZWOLINSKI FUND

ART Following Toeplitz as a visiting professor in the USA

This project aims to examine the activities of Jerzy Toeplitz, a film historian and founding director of film schools in Poland and Australia. The focus will be on his professional stays in the United States during 1961 and 1967, specifically his observations of the American film education model.

MS. IZABELLA TYBOROWICZ

Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, University of Warsaw

3MG COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

$2,000 – WALTER JARZEMBSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

$10,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

CULTURAL STUDIES Performing Identity: Ballroom Culture in Historical and Contemporary Perspective in the Context of its Transfer to the Polish Club Scene

By analyzing the development of ballroom culture in Poland, including its local specificities and comparisons with the U.S. scene, this project aims to understand a twofold process: how a practice rooted in resistance is translated into a culturally and racially different context, and subsequently, how it functions as both community-building and activism.

DR. JERZY ZIEMACKI

Researcher, Polish Academy of Sciences

3M YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

$7,000 – HENRY AND LUDMILLE WOJTKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

$5,000 – ALFRED TARSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PHILOSOPHY Philosophers of the Self: Wincenty Lutosławski and William James in Dialogue

This project aims to reconstruct and interpret the intellectual friendship between Wincenty Lutosławski and William James, drawing upon their correspondence, manuscripts, and other archival materials. This research will highlight the friendship's role in shaping modern concepts of the self and consciousness through a transatlantic exchange between Polish and American philosophy.

DR. EWA BOBROWSKA

Assistant Professor, Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw

3MF DEPARTMENT OF STUDIO ART, CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

$8,000 – DR. JOHN A. CETNAROWSKI-CETNER FUND

$4,000 – IRENE FREES FUND

ART Art and Philosophy: An Artistic Examination of Catherine Malabou's Philosophical Concept of Plasticity in Light of Contemporary California Landscape

The project investigates the American approach to the relationship between art and philosophy, a theme pivotal to Malabou's concept of brain plasticity and memory. The research's objective is to manifest this theoretical inquiry through artistic creations, including video, photographs, painting, and an installation, which will be presented during a solo exhibition at the University Art Gallery, UCI.

MS. IWONA FLIS

Lecturer, University of Gdansk

3MG CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

$12,000 – STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

HISTORY Unveiling History: The Polish Émigré Community in Postwar USA through the Archives of Ewa Gierat

The project aims to arrange, digitize, and promote Ewa Gierat's archival collection, thereby providing scholars with access to extensive materials on her broad network of friends and organizations. Making these sources widely available will facilitate original research and contribute to scholarship on Polish-American émigré networks.

SCIENCE

DR. BOGNA BADYRA

Researcher, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology PAS

6MF | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO, DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY, WEILL INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCES

$19,000 – WILLIAM AND MILDRED ZELOSKY SCHOLARSHIP

$5,000 – THE CHETKOWSKI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

BIOLOGY | Investigating neurodevelopmental consequences of Autism-linked mutations using stem cell-derived models.

This project aims to gain hands-on expertise in human assembloid and multi-omics technologies within the Nowakowski Lab. This expertise is crucial for establishing human organoid platforms for neurodevelopmental research in Poland.

MS. ANNA BĘTKOWSKA

Research Assistant, Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education

3MG | UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

$10,000 – DRS. RICHARD AND CATHERINE PASKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

$2,000 – THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONIATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES | Targeting WASF3 with stapled peptides to suppress invasion and metastasis in breast cancer

The main objective of the project is to develop stapled peptides (SPs) effectively targeting protein-protein interactions critical for WASF3 function.

MS. NATALIA CHARCZUK

Ph.D. student, Institute of Low Temperature and Structure Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences

6MG | CORNELL UNIVERSITY

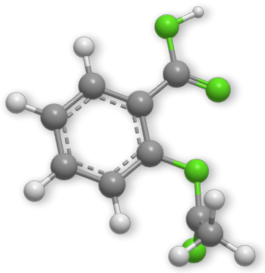
$15,000 – THE EUGENIA AND JERZY PIÓRKOWSKI POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

$5,000 – STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

$4,000 – M. SKLODOWSKA-CURIE SCHOLARSHIP

CHEMISTRY | Biocompatible bone regeneration platform – BioBone platform

This project aims to develop a biocompatible bone regeneration platform utilizing apatite-based materials functionalized with polymers (PGS) and bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs). The platform is designed to support localized drug delivery and bone healing by leveraging a core-shell structure for controlled protein release, thereby stimulating bone regeneration.



MR. WOJCIECH DEPA

Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences

3MG | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

$12,000 – THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONIATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND

CHEMISTRY | Red-Light Activated Hydroxyl Radical Precursors

This project aims to develop red-light-activated hydroxyl radical precursors by modifying N-hydroxypyridine-2-thiones through π-expansion or chromophore conjugation. This will involve the synthesis of N-hydroxypyridine-2-thione derivatives using established protocols, along with the development of novel π-expansion and chromophore conjugation strategies to achieve red-light absorption. The resulting compounds will then be evaluated for oxygen-independent radical generation under red light, and successful candidates will be advanced to biological studies for targeted cell destruction.

DR. MARCIN JANUSZEWSKI

Assistant Professor, National Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior and Administration

5MF | STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

$12,000 – VICTORIA KOKERNAK FUND

$6,000 – WANDA ROEHR SCHOLARSHIP

$2,000 – JAN PAUL ZALESKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES | Identification and Functional Characterization of ABI1/WAVE Complex-Based Prognostic Signatures in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

The project aims to identify a high-confidence and reproducible multigene prognostic signature comprising ABI1 and WAVE complex components, and to analyze their expression in ovarian tumor cell lines.

DR. ADRIAN JARZYNA

Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw

6MF | MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

$24,000 – WLADYSLAW SURMACKI INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND

GEOLOGY | Morphodynamics and Sediment Processes in Tidal Coasts in the Gulf of Maine

The project seeks to delineate the influence of tidal amplitude and sediment properties on intertidal hydrodynamics, bedform migration, and coastal morphology within the Gulf of Maine. Furthermore, it will evaluate their ecological significance and capacity to buffer against coastal hazards, ultimately supporting coastal management, geoheritage protection, and informing responses to climate-induced coastal changes.

DR. NATALIA OSIECKA-DREWNIAK

Researcher, The Henryk Niewodniczański Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences

3MF | DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AT UC SANTA BARBARA

$12,000 – THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONIATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND

PHYSICS | Generative AI for Structure Determination of Confined Molecular Crystals via Pair Distribution Function Analysis

To develop and validate a diffusion-based generative AI framework capable of reconstructing atomic-scale structures of molecular crystals confined in nanoporous materials using Pair Distribution Function (PDF) data, thereby overcoming disorder-related limitations and advancing structure determination in nanoscale and low-symmetry systems.

MS. ALICJA TERELAK

Ph.D. Student, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology PAS

5MG | FALK CENTER FOR MOLECULAR THERAPEUTICS; NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

$14,000 – THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONIATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND

$6,000 – HENRY AND LUDMILLE WOJTKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

BIOLOGY | Cross-modal triangulation of rat ultrasonic vocalizations: mechanistic coupling between cortical state and source-level ultrasound

The project aims to integrate EEG, ultrasonic audio, and Schlieren visualization to quantify millisecond-scale coupling between alpha oscillations and ultrasonic vocalizations in rats. This integration will establish a non-invasive, time-resolved, phase-specific biomarker of affective and cortical states, relevant to translational neuropharmacology.

DR. LAURA ZIUZIA-JANUSZEWSKA,

Assistant Professor, National Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior and Administration

5MF | STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

$14,000 – TADEUSZ SENDZIMIR FUND

$6,000 – ANTONI S. AND IRENA REPECZEKO SCHOLARSHIP

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES | Defining the role of ABI1 in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

The project seeks to define the ABI1-dependent signaling mode(s) in HNSCC through an integrated approach of bioinformatic analyses, gene-editing experiments, and RNA/protein-level validation. Concurrently, HNSCC genomic and transcriptomic datasets will be analyzed to ascertain associations between ABI1 expression or copy-number changes and signaling pathways, tumor subsite, stage, metastasis, and outcomes, thus informing model selection.

DR. TOMASZ MACIAG
Researcher,
The National Institute of Horticultural Research

3MF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

$12,000– THE RANDALL J. KAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

AGRICULTURE HyFire Investigation of the hypothetical proteins' role in fire blight disease of apple trees
The main objective of this study is to discover the function of novel short hypothetical proteins of the economically important plant pathogen Erwinia amylovora.

AWARDEES THAT DEFERRED THEIR RESEARCH TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

MS. ALICJA KAMINSKA
Ph.D. student,
University Research Hospital in Poznań

5MG PÉPIN LABORATORY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

$14,000 – THE STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

$6,000 – THE WILLIAM AND MILDRED ZELOSKY SCHOLARSHIP

BIOLOGY Targeting FSTL3: A Novel Approach to Immunotherapy in Advanced Ovarian Cancer
This study evaluates the efficacy of FSTL3-neutralizing antibodies when used as an adjunct to immune checkpoint blockade therapy in high-grade serous ovarian cancer. Its primary objective is to enhance response rates and survival outcomes in stage IV chemo-resistant patients by targeting FSTL3 overexpression, thereby re-sensitizing tumors to immunotherapy.

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For ten years, I have been assisting buyers, sellers and renters through the process of helping people to achieve their needs in the complex Manhattan market. Before that, I was an architect working at Morgan Stanley in their Real Estate group.

Manhattan offers a variety of housing options, amenities and prices. With great transportation access it is easy to enjoy Manhattan in various neighborhoods.

Please email or call me if you have any questions regarding buying, selling or renting a place in Manhattan. I speak Polish and English, and I would be glad to assist you in your real estate needs.



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Mark Peszko, Esq., Vice Chairperson

Suzanne Mazurczyk, Recording Secretary

By **Isabelle Wolpert,**
KF Year Abroad Program Participant

A YEAR OF LANGUAGE, HERITAGE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

"This past year of intensive language study at Jagiellonian University was life-changing. Not only did my Polish improve significantly, but I was able to take courses that furthered my understanding of specialized language, Polish politics, history, and culture."

During the past academic year, I took a B1 Polish language course at JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, supplemented by courses in Polish history and culture, as well as specialized language courses focused on politics, law, and economics. What began as a year of intensive language study became an invaluable experience that deepened my connection to my Polish heritage and shaped my plans for the future.

FINDING MY VOICE IN POLISH

I would say the most difficult part of my studies was becoming comfortable with Polish grammar. At the same time, my grammar improved significantly since the beginning of my studies. Over the course of the year, my knowledge of the Polish language grew to the point where I can now discuss complex subjects in Polish, including politics—something I could not do at the beginning of the year.



Palace of Culture and Science, Warsaw

I also integrated into Kraków's daily life and culture, and I loved every bit of it. Outside of the classroom, I attended the CHOPIN COMPETITION IN WARSAW, which was the best night of my life and something I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I also attended celebrations for Chopin's birthday. Living and studying in Poland allowed me to connect more deeply with my Polish heritage by learning from my peers, friends, and neighbors. My time here was invaluable and will contribute to my career.

LOOKING TOWARD DIPLOMACY

This experience has inspired me to become more involved in Poland's diplomatic relations. I have applied to volunteer at this year's WARSAW SECURITY FORUM, and I hope this experience will allow me to learn from the region's most influential leaders and meet like-minded people.

This fall, I will pursue a master's degree in Eastern European and Russian Studies at VILNIUS UNIVERSITY as a full scholarship recipient. My time in Kraków has taught me so much, and I am ready to use my language skills for the future of diplomacy. There is also so much Polish history in Vilnius that I am looking forward to exploring more and understanding the relationship between Poland and Lithuania. Without my studies this year, I would not have applied to this program, as it was recommended to me by one of my professors.



Students at a ceremony at Jagiellonian University in Kraków

After my master's, I plan to complete a doctoral degree in a related field so that I can work at the intersection between scholarship and policy to create positive change. My education this past year is crucial to my studies and career because it enables me to have complex political conversations with others and gives me a fuller perspective on Polish media without needing a translation. I expect my knowledge of Polish to continue to grow.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

I would advise future students to prepare for how dark Polish winters are and to take Vitamin D supplements or have a happy light. I would also tell them to set up their Polish bank account as soon as possible, because it can be stressful if you do not have all the documents you need right away. ■



Isabelle Wolpert with fellow students in Kraków

A MESSAGE TO DONORS

Szanowni darczyńcy,

Trudno mi uwierzyć, że jeszcze rok temu nie byłabym w stanie napisać tego tekstu po polsku. Miniony rok intensywnej nauki języka na Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim całkowicie zmienił moje życie. Nie tylko znacznie poprawiłam swoją znajomość języka polskiego, ale miałam również okazję uczestniczyć w takich kursach jak "Język prawno-polityczny" i "Wstęp do historii Polski", które pogłębiły moją wiedzę na temat języka specjalistycznego, polskiej polityki, historii i kultury.

W sali wykładowej nauczyłam się bardzo wiele, stworzyłam wspaniałe wspomnienia z nowymi przyjaciółmi na całe życie i kolegami oraz jeszcze bardziej zbliżyłam się do mojego polskiego dziedzictwa. Nie potrafię wyrazić słowami, jak bardzo jestem wdzięczna za to doświadczenie i nie mogę się doczekać, aby zobaczyć, co przyniesie mi przyszłość w Polsce.

Dziękuję za wszystko

Dear donors,

It is crazy for me to think that a year ago I would not have been able to write this in Polish. This past year of intensive language study at Jagiellonian University was life-changing. Not only did my Polish improve significantly, but I was able to take courses such as "Język prawo-polityczny" and "Wstęp do historii Polski" that furthered my understanding of specialized language, Polish politics, history, and culture.

I was able to learn so much in the classroom, make memories with new lifelong friends and peers, and further connect with my Polish heritage. Words cannot express how thankful I am for this experience, and I cannot wait to see what my future holds in Poland.

Thank you for everything

EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO POLAND 2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Malgorzata Dymkowska,
Program Officer, Scholarships and Grants for Americans

The Kosciuszko Foundation EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO POLAND provides U.S. citizens with opportunities to conduct research or study at various universities in Poland and to study Polish at the Jagiellonian University.

Candidates in these programs receive joint funding from the NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE (NAWA) and from the Kosciuszko Foundation. In the academic year 2026/2027, NAWA provided a monthly stipend of **1,800** PLN for housing and living expenses for both programs. Students in the Year Abroad Program also received a tuition waiver at the discretion of the Rector of the Jagiellonian University. In addition to funding from NAWA, the Kosciuszko Foundation awarded grants to each Studies and Research candidate for **$750** per month for the approved period of studies/research not to exceed nine months. Year Abroad candidates received grants of **$3,375** per semester from the Kosciuszko Foundation; awards were made for one semester or a full academic year.

The Kosciuszko Foundation awarded a **$17,250** scholarship for the Studies and Research Program for the academic year from Fall 2026 to Spring 2027. In addition, funding for the Year Abroad Program during the same period amounted to **$30,375**. This brings the total funding available for both programs to **$47,625,** which was provided through the WYSOCKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Please note that this year, the Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarships have been increased from $500 to $750 per month for the Studies and Research program, and from $2,000 to $3,375 per semester for the Year Abroad program.

All applications for Exchange Programs to Poland were screened for completeness and eligibility by the Kosciuszko Foundation's Grants Department and approved by the President and Executive Director, Marek Skulimowski. Studies/Research candidates must provide a clear, well-defined proposal for their studies and research projects and submit an invitation from the Polish educational institution where their studies and research projects will be conducted. Year Abroad applicants must demonstrate motivation for pursuing studies in Poland as related to their educational and professional goals. ■

THE YEAR ABROAD PROGRAM 2026/2027

THE TED AND WALTER WYSOCKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

JOSEPHINE DESMARAIS
Glastonbury, C.T.
Junior in Russian, French, and Political Science studies, ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
Spring 2027
$3,375

MICHALINA KULESZA
Silver Spring, M.D..
M.A. in Public Administration, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Fall 2026/Spring 2027
$6,750

MARIA LUKOWIAK
Rochester, NY.
Junior in Applied Statistics and Data Analytics studies, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Fall 2026/Spring 2027
$6,750

MARIA WERONIKA WRONA
McLean, VA.
B.A. in Politics,
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Fall 2026/Spring 2027
$6,750

JORDAN DANIEL ZOUCHA
Columbus, NE.
B.A. in Graphic Design,
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.

Fall 2026/Spring 2027
$6,750

STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN POLAND 2026/2027

THE TED AND WALTER WYSOCKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

JOSHUA BUCZKOWSKI
Millen, GA
Graduate student in European Studies at JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW,
to pursue a master's degree in European Studies at Jagiellonian University. His career goal is to earn a doctorate and enter academia as a professor.

$6,000
8-month

MARGARET LOWREY HIRE
New York, NY
Ph.D. student in Art and Archaeology at PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
to pursue research at WARSAW UNIVERSITY on the Polish conceptual artist Natalia Lach-Lachowicz, known as Natalia LL who was the Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship recipient.

$2,250
3-month

KATARZYNA A. MAJCHROWICZ-WOLNY
Orland Park, IL
Ph.D. student in Polish studies at the UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
to pursue research on speculative literature authored by Stanisław Lem, Olga Tokarczuk, and Jacek Dukaj, specifically works written between 1980 and 2010. This research will include a reconstruction of the historical, cultural, and political context surrounding these authors and their literature.

$3,000
4-month

TURNER RIMA
Ithaca, NY
Ph.D. student in history at the UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.
to pursue research at WROCŁAW UNIVERSITY on the confrontation between Western and Central/ Eastern European Jewish political philosophies in the 20th century.

$2,250
3-month

WIKTOR WYSZOGRODZKI
Falls Church, VA
Medical student at POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
to pursue a medical degree at the Poznań University of Medical Sciences, with the intention of obtaining a license to practice medicine in the United States and pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery.

$3,750
5-month

By **Anna Kokoszynski**,
Auburn University Sophomore,
KF Summer Studies Program Participant

A JOURNEY TO MY POLISH ROOTS

LEARNING, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION IN KRAKÓW

"The Tomaszkiewicz-Florio Scholarship provided me with an opportunity to grow academically and personally in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. I am deeply grateful to the Kosciuszko Foundation for supporting programs that help students strengthen their ties to Poland."

Although my Polish heritage has always been an important part of my life, I had never had the opportunity to fully immerse myself in the language and culture. Through the KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION'S TOMASZKIEWICZ-FLORIO SCHOLARSHIP, I was able to take a meaningful step toward strengthening that connection and discovering a deeper appreciation for my roots.

When I arrived in Poland, my Polish vocabulary was limited, and I had little familiarity with the language's grammar. Because Polish had not been spoken consistently at home, learning the language was a new challenge. However, after just one day of class, I had already learned useful phrases that I could practice with locals during my lunch break in Kraków's Old Town. What began as an intimidating experience quickly became a rewarding opportunity to learn, grow, and build confidence. My A1.1 course consisted of daily three-hour classes that provided ample time to ask questions, practice through repetition, and build upon each lesson. I especially appreciated the balance between our course textbook and the engaging instruction of my teacher, Natalia Lason. Although some grammar concepts were challenging, establishing a strong foundation helped me better understand the language.

One of the most valuable aspects of the program was the opportunity to apply what I learned outside the classroom. Being immersed in a Polish city allowed me to see how classroom lessons translated into everyday life. Whether ordering food, asking for directions, or greeting people throughout the city, I was encouraged to put my new skills into practice. The opportunity to use Polish in real-world situations made the learning process especially meaningful. Returning home, I was excited to share what I had learned with my friends and family. The experience gave me the motivation and confidence to continue studying Polish. Fluency now feels like an achievable goal rather than a distant aspiration. Beyond the classroom, the scholarship experience offered opportunities to build friendships and create lasting memories. The housing and meal arrangements allowed us to focus on our studies while fostering a strong sense of community among scholarship recipients. These friendships, grounded in both our shared experiences as Americans and our appreciation for Poland, became just as meaningful as the lessons we learned in class.

Leaving Poland was bittersweet. I was sad to leave a beautiful city that had quickly begun to feel like a second home, but I returned with lasting friendships, unforgettable memories, and skills I will carry with me for years to come. Most importantly, I left with a stronger connection to my Polish heritage and a renewed commitment to exploring the language and culture.

The Tomaszkiewicz-Florio Scholarship provided me with an opportunity to grow academically, culturally, and personally in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. I am deeply grateful to the Kosciuszko Foundation for supporting programs that help students strengthen their ties to Poland and develop a greater understanding of their heritage. This experience has inspired me to continue learning, share my appreciation for Polish culture with others, and find meaningful ways to give back to the program in the future. My time in Kraków was much more than a language course. It was an opportunity to reconnect with my roots, challenge myself in a new environment, and discover how language can create a deeper sense of belonging. I look forward to continuing this journey and building upon the foundation I gained through this unforgettable experience. ■





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MIKHAELA ACKERMAN
Published Author
Attorney
Guardian ad Litem
Speaker

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MARY LYNN ACKERMAN
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Autism Parent
Medical Field Professional

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A SPARK THAT BEGAN IN KRAKOW

MY KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION JOURNEY

By Suzanne Saramak,
KF member and donor,
1974 KF Summer Studies Program



"I may not remember all the wonderful people I met or all the places I visited, but what I learned is the strength of character of Polish people: 'niezłomny polski duch'."

I was delighted when I was asked to write a short article about my experiences in Kraków at the 1974 KF SUMMER LANGUAGE & CULTURE PROGRAM. After all these years, how much would I remember, I thought. As I reflected and viewed photos, a flood of wonderful memories came back to me.

This is my opportunity to formally honor the Kosciuszko Foundation and all the dedicated people who have made and continue to make these educational and cultural Programs possible, with heartfelt thanks for your vision and determination despite political and economic hardships in Poland over the years. You made a big difference in my life.

The love of Poland and its people came from my grandfather, who, along with my great-grandfather, fought in Armia Polska we Francji (Haller's Blue Army). Our parents were both born in the USA, and we spoke English at home. Because our grandparents lived nearby and I heard them speak Polish, I developed a love of the language.

1974 was during the Cold War, and Poland was behind the Iron Curtain. Studying Polish in the KF Summer Study Program was a highlight for me. Even in the midst of economic hardships in Poland and amid the Workers' Strikes of the 1970s, we were guided and safeguarded by a well-structured Program of study and excursions (wycieczki).

Kraków is one of the most stunning cities in all of Europe. The cafés (kawiarenki) on Florianska were a great stop-off place after walking and exploring all day. I went to St Mary's Basilica as much as I could to hear the Hejnal trumpet call. The KF made sure we visited the Wawel Royal Castle and Cathedral. I stood in awe at the magnificent tapestries and the history & wealth behind the castle walls.

The KF, still to this day, offers Summer Study students a raft trip down the Dunajec River. The mountains of Zakopane and the quaint villages we visited were unforgettable. We toured Wieliczka and I remember walking down the many steps and seeing all the exquisite



Above: *Hand crafted salt sculpture in the Wieliczka salt mine*

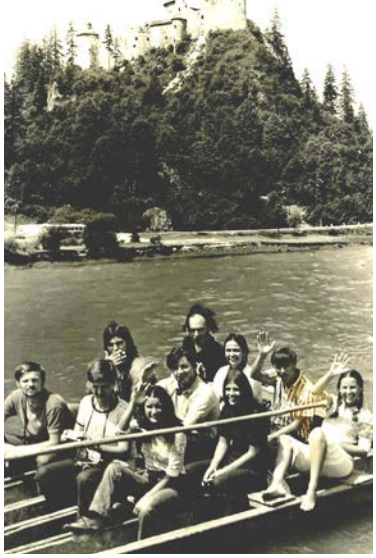
salt sculpture hand crafted by skilled artisans with beautiful altars and chandeliers all made of salt. One weekend, I traveled by bus to Łęczna to visit family and went mushroom picking with them. My cousins prepared the most memorable mushroom dinner.

Another weekend, I traveled by train to visit my ciocia Petronela in Milicz. She was my grandfather's sister who was arrested, torn from her home and deported to Siberia in a boxcar. Eventually she was released from the gulag and was resettled in the western part of Poland in Milicz.

Meeting with my family in Poland at that time and hearing of their hardships and tragedies was difficult but an opportunity of a lifetime, as most of them are no longer living. The KF gave me the opportunity to meet my Family, which I might never have had on my own. In addition, these 2 months in Kraków gave me the initiative and courage to complete my master's degree in education in Wrocław in 1976-1977, the USA Bicentennial. It is fitting that in 2026, as I write my story, we also celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, thanks to the help of two of Poland's heroes, Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Kazimierz Pulaski.

I may not remember all the wonderful people I met or all the places I visited, but what I learned is the strength of character of Polish people: niezłomny polski duch. Hearing their individual stories of resilience and perseverance in the face of Poland's history of occupation, war, unspeakable atrocities, and insurmountable obstacles shows why Poland of today is one of the leading economic powerhouses of Europe and the World. It is because of its people. Today, as the world knows more about Poland, it is evident that the USA and Poland have common shared values of freedom and self-determination, among others.

There is no doubt that because the Poles were anchored in faith, with God at the center of their lives and a strong family structure, they not only survived but also catapulted to their current position on the world stage. Poland's remarkable economic transformation and success in





Above left: *Raft trip down the Dunajec river*

Above right: *visit to Zakopane*



Left: *With aunt Petronela*

medicine, science, the arts, and the business world cannot be overstated. Knowing conversational Polish helped me with customers during my years in the insurance business. All of these things about Poland I learned over the years, but the spark began with my wonderful opportunity to participate in the KF Summer Study in Kraków in 1974. ■



Kraków's Main Market Square with St. Mary's Basilica

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

SUMMER STUDIES ABROAD

2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

Malgorzata Dymkowska,
Program Officer, Scholarships and Grants for Americans

Established in 1970, the KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM has awarded scholarships to nearly 2,000 students, enabling them to participate in Polish Language programs offered by Polish universities.

This program offers summer language and culture courses at JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY in Kraków and the JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY of Lublin. Successful candidates of Polish descent receive TOMASZKIEWICZ-FLORIO or WISCONSIN STUDY IN POLAND SCHOLARSHIPS. Candidates must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 and be 18 by the first day of the program. Students submit an essay, letters of recommendation, and transcripts.

This year, the Kosciuszko Foundation provided scholarships totaling **$36,386.00** to **15 students**.

For detailed information regarding the Kosciuszko Foundation Summer Studies Abroad Scholarships, please visit our website at: www.thekf.org

SUMMER STUDIES ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS 2026

TOMASZKIEWICZ-FLORIO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW

NATALIA DERYLO
of Palm Harbor, FL
Sophomore in Studio Art,
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA,
GAINESVILLE, FL
4-week Language Program
$2,730

KINGA ELZBIETA GUL
of Newark, DE
Freshman in Finance,
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA, PA
6-week Language Program
$3,600

ELIZA HAINES, SESSION
of Charlotte, NC
Senior in Biomedical Engineering,
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY,
CLEMSON, SC
3-week Language Program
$2,137

ANNA KOKOSZYNSKI
of Venetia, PA
Freshman in Finance,
AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AUBURN, AL
2-week Language Program
$1,758

MAKSYMILIAN ALLEN KOZIEL
of Ames, IA
Senior, GILBERT COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL, AMES, IA
6-week Language Program
$3,600

ISABEL A. MULHALL
of Fairfield, CT
Sophomore in Accounting
and Spanish,
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME,
NOTRE DAME, IN
4-week Language Program
$2,730

ANIA PETROSKY
of Bloomfield, MI
Senior in Chemical Engineering, MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, HOUGHTON, MI
4-week Language Program
$2,730

JULIA PODGORSKI
of Fox Lake, IL
Sophomore in Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, CT
3-week Language Program
$ 2,137

SUSAN EMMA SMOLAGA
of Brooklyn, NY
Freshman in Biology, CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK, NY
4-week Language Program
$2,730

NOLAN TOPOR
of Loudon, TN
Sophomore in Science. PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, KNOXVILLE, TN
2-week Language Program
$1,758

LUKE VELASCO
of Ave Maria, FL
Sophomore in Quantitative Economics, AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY, AVE MARIA, FL
2-week Language Program
$1,758

SOFIA YUFEI LI-HAREZLAK
of Carmel, IN
Senior in Mathematics, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN
3-week Language Program
$2,137

JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, LUBLIN

KAROL FRANCHESCO HENDZEL
of West Nyack, NY
Senior, CATHEDRAL PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL, ELMHURST, NY
4-week Language Program
$1,688

PETER STEC
of Sweet Valley, PA
Sophomore in Philosophical Theology, SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ
3-week Language Program
$1,293

WISCONSIN STUDY IN POLAND SCHOLARSHIP

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW

SAMUEL PAUL PETSKI
of Whitefish Bay, WI
Sophomore in Economics and History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
6-week Language Program.
$3,600

**Scholarship amounts are estimated and vary based on the USD exchange rate.*

We would like to thank Mr. Martin DeGhetto and Mr. David Rydzewski for their time and expertise during the selection process for the Summer Studies Scholarships recipients

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2027 SUMMER STUDIES ABROAD
WILL BE OPEN IN SPRING 2027

STUDYING MEDICINE IN POLAND

OPPORTUNITIES AT POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

"Choosing PUMS is not about "Poland versus the United States," but about selecting the educational route that best fits a student's goals and personality."

POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (PUMS) offers English-language medical and dental programs to students from around the world, combining a European medical education with a truly international learning environment.

We spoke with DR. ALEKSANDRA URUSKA, Director of the CENTER FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION IN ENGLISH, about PUMS's programs, the opportunities available to international students, and what the university offers to students from the United States.

Anna Tarnawska: *What makes Poznań University of Medical Sciences stand out from other medical universities in Europe?*



Aleksandra Uruska: POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (PUMS) is one of Poland's leading public medical universities, with academic roots stretching back over a century and more than 30 years of experience in international education. What sets PUMS apart is the blend of a traditional European medical school with a truly global learning environment: students study medicine or dentistry in English within a Polish public university, training in a large clinical system and gaining extensive practical experience from anatomy and lab work to simulation and direct patient care.

The University's dedicated MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER, with high-fidelity rooms, clinical and surgical skills labs, and standardized patient facilities, gives international students a strong, hands-on foundation while helping them learn to work across cultures, languages, and healthcare systems.

AT: *What opportunities does PUMS offer, especially for American students?*

AU: For American students, PUMS offers a 6-year MEDICINE PROGRAM, leading to the DOCTOR OF MEDICINE and a 5 year DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE (DM.D.) Program in English, combining basic sciences, clinical sciences, practical training, and hospital based education. The University understands the specific needs of students who plan to return to the U.S. for residency. PUMS provides assessments based on the NATIONAL BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS and preparation related to the UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION. The university also hosts an active North American Student Group that organizes workshops and provides peer support focused on National Board of Medical Examiners and United States Medical Licensing Examination preparation, electives, and the residency application process.

In addition, PUMS participates in the ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES VISITING STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES network.. At the same time, PUMS is transparent that studying outside the U.S. means becoming an international medical graduate, with a clear but demanding pathway ahead. Beyond the core programs, PUMS offers an ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL SCHOOL and an ENGLISH POSTGRADUATE INTERNSHIP; after formal recognition by the Polish Ministry of Health and passing the required final exam, this internship becomes part of a professional qualification pathway recognized under EU rules, giving graduates flexibility to pursue opportunities in their home country and across Europe. Several U.S. students also receive tuition scholarships each year through the Kosciuszko Foundation.



Right: Students at Poznań University of Medical Sciences, English including clinical training at the University's Medical Simulation Center







AT: *Why should an American student consider studying medicine in Poland rather than only in the U.S.?*

AU: Choosing PUMS is not about *"Poland versus the United States,"* but about selecting the educational route that best fits a student's goals and personality. The Polish/European model allows students to enter medicine or dentistry directly after secondary school and follow one integrated course of study, moving from foundational sciences to increasingly clinical, patient centered education within the same university. Studying medicine internationally also builds skills that are hard to replicate in a classroom: working with patients from diverse cultures, communicating across linguistic and social differences, and understanding different approaches to healthcare delivery.

Poznań's location makes Poland a comfortable home base while keeping the rest of Europe easily accessible. For academically serious, adventurous students who are ready to take responsibility for their own path, PUMS offers not just a medical degree, but a broader, globally oriented education.

AT: *How does PUMS support U.S. students in adapting to study and life in Poland?*

AU: PUMS supports U.S. students from the very start, recognizing that international students face challenges domestic students often do not, from immigration and housing to adapting to a new academic culture and everyday life. Incoming students benefit from a pre study period and a comprehensive orientation program covering the University, immigration and health insurance, student organizations and services, campus tours, and social activities. An English language administrative structure, orientation activities, student organizations, residential support, and services are specifically designed for the international community. University dormitories are located close to major teaching and hospital facilities, and the residential community is supported by English speaking Residential Advisors.

Peer support is equally important: the ENGLISH PROGRAMS' STUDENT UNION, class representatives, research organizations, and more than forty clubs and student groups help students quickly find community. Outside the classroom, students develop key life skills – establishing a home in another country, navigating a European city, communicating across cultures, and becoming more independent – while building an international network of friends and colleagues that often lasts throughout their careers. Many graduates describe their PUMS experience as much more than six years of medical school; it is also six years of personal growth.

AT: *What qualities should students have if they are considering applying to PUMS?*

AU: Students considering PUMS should bring a genuine commitment to medicine and strong preparation in the sciences, but academic ability alone is not enough. The University looks for curious, disciplined students who can take responsibility for their own learning, are adaptable, and are open to another country, culture, and people. Successful international students tend to combine independence with a willingness to ask for help – both essential qualities in a demanding program.

AT: *What advice would you give to an American student who is unsure about studying medicine in Poland?*

AU: For American students who are unsure, the advice is to investigate PUMS seriously: explore the website (pums.edu.pl), review the curriculum in detail, and understand the pathway required to return to the U.S. if that is the plan. Speak with current students and graduates, and if possible, visit Poznań to see the campus and the city firsthand. Moreover, we organize a Summer Program every year. Then ask a more personal question: *Can I imagine not only studying here, but building a life here for six years?* If the answer is yes – if you are drawn to medicine, international experience, Europe, and the challenge of becoming comfortable outside your familiar environment – then PUMS deserves your serious consideration. ■

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

Malgorzata Dymkowska, *Program Officer, Scholarships and Grants for Americans*

2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

We are pleased to announce the Kosciuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship recipients for the Fall 2026-Spring 2027 academic year.

Each year, the Foundation awards tuition scholarships to U.S. citizens and permanent residents of Polish descent for undergraduate and graduate studies in any field at colleges and universities in the United States. The Tuition Scholarship program also provides funding for studies at English-language medical schools in Poland. Scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $30,000 are awarded on a competitive basis for one academic year for full-time studies.

Additionally, the Kosciuszko Foundation awards scholarships to undergraduates on behalf of other organizations:

- **MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION OF POLISH WOMEN'S CLUBS SCHOLARSHIPS** are available to U.S. citizens of Polish descent residing in Massachusetts and to Polish citizens who are legal permanent residents of the U.S. residing in Massachusetts – scholarships are awarded for undergraduate studies in any field;
- **DR. MARIE E. ZAKRZEWSKA SCHOLARSHIP OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION OF POLISH WOMEN'S CLUBS** is awarded to a young woman from Massachusetts pursuing an M.D. degree.
- **POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF NORTH JERSEY SCHOLARSHIPS** on behalf of the Polish American Club of North Jersey. Scholarships are awarded to club members. Children and grandchildren of club members are also eligible for the scholarships.
- **THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BROOKLYN SCHOLARSHIPS** are awarded on behalf of PNA Brooklyn, Lodge #1903, to its members.
- Since the academic year 2016/2017, the Foundation has awarded the **DRS. JAMES AND WANDA TREFIL SCHOLARSHIP** each year to a college student who demonstrates exceptional talent in the Natural Sciences.
- Additionally, the **ROBERT B. KYTS & JADWIGA ROGUSKA-KYTS, M.D. SCHOLARSHIP FUND** provides scholarships for qualified graduate-level students attending schools in the United States. This scholarship is awarded for two years and is not renewable. It covers tuition expenses up to $60,000. For the 2026-2027 academic year, the scholarship was awarded for studies in Medicine; however, the field of study may change in the future.

All of the Foundation's tuition scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. Financial need is taken into consideration; documentation of Polish ancestry is required, and all students must submit an application, two letters of recommendation from teachers/professors, an essay/personal statement, official transcripts, a Curriculum Vitae, evidence of participation in Polish American activities/community, and a $40 non-refundable application fee. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for applicants, except for the Robert Kyts and Jadwiga Roguska-Kyts, M.D. Scholarship, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.7, and the Drs. Trefil Scholarship, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.5.

We are pleased to announce the names of **155 students** who will receive scholarships for tuition for their undergraduate and graduate studies in the U.S. and Poland for the academic year 2026/2027. The scholarships for Americans for the academic year 2026-2027 total **$758,500**.

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS **2026/2027**

**Please note all fund allocations are subject to change.*

GRADUATE STUDIES

RICHARD ADAMIAK SCHOLARSHIP

JULIA FILIMOWICZ,
Chicago, IL
for graduate studies in Law, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW, CHICAGO, IL
$6,000

JAKUB GOCAL
Chicago, IL
for graduate studies in Medicine, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO STRITCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MAYWOOD, IL
$6,000

VICTORIA KARPOWICZ
Washington, DC
for graduate studies in Homeland Security, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC
$6,000

GRACE LATHROP
Roxbury Crossing, MA
for graduate studies in Physician Assistant, WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE, NEW YORK, NY
$6,000

MATTHEW MARZEC
Santa Cruz, CA
for graduate studies in Philosophy, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ, CA
$2,000

NICOLE WEESE
Woodhaven, NY
for graduate studies in Biology, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, STONY BROOK, NY
$6,000

DR. EUGENIA T. BABIAK SCHOLARSHIP

AMANDA PIECHOTA
Milford, CT
for graduate studies in Clinical Psychology, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA, AL
$4,000

LEON A. AND PAT BABULA SCHOLARSHIP

MAYA CWALINA
San Antonio, TX
for graduate studies in Occupational Therapy, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, SAN ANTONIO, TX
$6,000

STEPHANIE FRANCZAK
Atlantic Beach, FL
for graduate studies in Medicine, MAYO CLINIC ALIX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, JACKSONVILLE, FL
$6,000

KEVIN MALINOWSKI
Brooklyn, NY
for graduate studies in Social Work, HUNTER COLLEGE, NY
$5,000

MARIA ROSINSKI
Audubon, PA
for graduate studies in Occupational Therapy, UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, SCRANTON, PA
$5,000

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

NICOLE SABINE
Wilmington, MA
for graduate studies in Master of Public Health, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MI
$6,000

DOMINIQUE WICIK
East Patchogue, NY
for graduate studies in Linguistics (TESOL), STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, STONY BROOK, NY
$5,000

MARY B. CALKA SCHOLARSHIP

MITCHELL WARREN
Kennett Square, PA
for graduate studies in Social Work, BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY, BOISE, ID
$5,000

DR. JOHN A. CETNAROWSKI-CETNER FUND

TADEUSZ KAPALCZYNSKI
Bay Village, OH
for graduate studies in Clinical Psychology, SPALDING UNIVERSITY, LOUISVILLE, KY
$4,000

THE EMIL AND ZOFIA CHROBOCZEK SCHOLARSHIP

KLAUDIA MALIK
Missoula, MT
for graduate studies in Clinical Psychology, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA, MT
$5,000

STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

MEREDITH CITKOWSKI
Plymouth, MI
for graduate studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, TOLEDO, OH
$4,000

DIANA DERYLO
Palm Harbor, FL
for graduate studies in Dentistry, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY, GAINESVILLE, FL
$7,000
$4,000 – Stanislas Chylinski Fund
$3,000 – Jerome and Mary Straka Scholarship

GENERAL LEO J. DULACKI FUND

CODY FREEMAN
Berkeley, CA
for graduate studies in Comparative and International Development Education, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS, MN
$6,000

SOFIA W. DEMBIA FUND

ANNA BIELANSKI
Chicago, IL
for graduate studies in Medicine, POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, POZNAŃ, POLAND
$5,000

GABRIELLE BROWN
Loganville, GA
for graduate studies in East European, and Eurasian Studies, LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CA
$4,000

PAULINA MALEC
Garfield, NJ
for graduate studies in Occupational Therapy, SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, NUTLEY, NJ
$6,000

ROZALYN MANEY
Brookfield, WI
for graduate studies in Educational Leadership & Policy, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, WI
$5,000

SAMANTHA ROSSER
Silver Spring, M.D.
for graduate studies in Psychology, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY, MALIBU, CA
$6,000

BRANDON TREMAINE
Arlington, TX
for graduate studies in International Affairs, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION, TX
$3,000

LILLIAN WALBRUN
Brookfield, WI
for graduate studies in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, WI
$4,000

JULIA WYRZUC
Linden, NJ
for graduate studies in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TX
$5,000

DR. RAYMOND S. DZIEJMA IWINSKI SCHOLARSHIP

REBEKAH DUSEAU
Conway, MA
for graduate studies in Veterinary, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OH
$6,000

JOHN GENZA AND HELEN GENZA FUND

SARAH BAUM
Arlington, VA
for graduate studies in Law, The GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, WASHINGTON, DC
$6,000

JOSEPH E. AND EUGENIA F. GORE LAW STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

OLIVIA DUL
Wallington, NJ
for graduate studies in Law, RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL, NEWARK, NJ
$5,000

SAMANTHA GAZDA
Miami, FL
for graduate studies in Law, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW, BERKELEY, CA
$5,000

ANNA GROMADZKA,
Montville, NJ
for graduate studies in Law, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW, GAINESVILLE, FL
$5,000

ALEXI KUPCZYNSKI
San Antonio, TX
for graduate studies in Law, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, SAN ANTONIO, TX
$5,000

TYMOTEUSZ O'NEILL
New York, NY
for graduate studies in Law (LL.M), NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY
$5,000

ANN MARIE RAZNY
Chesterfield, MO
for graduate studies in Law, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, ST. LOUIS, MO
$6,000
$5,000 – JOSEPH E. AND EUGENIA F. GORE LAW STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP
$1,000 – IRENA AND DAMIAN WANDYCZ SCHOLARSHIP

JULIA RUTKOWSKI
Clearwater, FL
for graduate studies in Law, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW, MIAMI, FL
$5,000

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

JULIANA TOMECKI
Lemont, IL
for graduate studies in Law, SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, BOSTON, MA
$5,000

DR. CONSTANCE K. GRAY SCHOLARSHIP

CAMILLA GAWRONSKI
Ridgewood, NY
for graduate studies in Dentistry, POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, POZNAŃ, POLAND
$4,000

JAKUB PAWLOWSKI
Lake Worth, FL
for graduate studies in Medicine, POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, POZNAN, POLAND
$4,000

GRODZICKA SOPHIA SCHOLARSHIP

VICTORIA DULINSKI
Ozone Park, NY
for graduate studies in Medicine, POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, POZNAŃ, POLAND
$4,000

DOMINIKA FRANCZYK
Prospect Heights, IL
for graduate studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, POZNAŃ, POLAND
$4,000

JAN KALINSKI
East Aurora, NY
for graduate studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, POZNAŃ, POLAND
$4,000

EDWIN L. HARASIMOWICZ SCHOLARSHIP

NATALIA OBROCHTA
Chicago, IL
for graduate studies in Medicine, GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, HANOVER, NH
$6,000

ANTHONY AND ROZALIA IRACKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ZOFIA CIESLAK
Kensington, M.D.
for graduate studies in Medicine, GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, HANOVER, NH
$5,000

WALTER JARZEMBSKI SCHOLARSHIP

KAROLINA GRODZKI
Middle Village, NY
for graduate studies in Dentistry, STONY BROOK SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE, STONY BROOK, NY
$5,000
$3,000 – WALTER JARZEMBSKI SCHOLARSHIP
$2,000 – WHITE EAGLE BRANCH 41

JULIA TLUCZEK
Livonia, MI
for graduate studies in Finance, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, DETROIT, MI
$6,000

MATEUSZ, BRONISLAW AND HENRY JAWOROWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

NICHOLE WALIGÓRA
Maspeth, NY
for graduate studies in Classical Vocal Performance, BARD CONSERVATORY, ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY
$6,000

THE FRANK AND BARBARA KOSAK SCHOLARSHIP

IZABELA PAWLINSKI
Chapel Hill, NC
for graduate studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY, ROCHESTER, NY
$6,000

JUSTYNA SWIERZ
Bellevue, WA
for graduate studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER, MA
$6,000

THE STEPHEN AND JAMIE KUSMIERCZAK FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND

ALICJA BEDNARSKA
San Francisco, CA
for graduate studies in Metabolic Biology, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY, BERKELEY, CA
$6,000

KAROLINA DAZYCKI
Howard Beach, NY
for graduate studies in Taxation, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, QUEENS, NY
$5,000

ROBERT KYTS AND JADWIGA ROGUSKA-KYTS, M.D. SCHOLARSHIP

RAFAL CHOCIEJ
Middle Village, NY
for graduate studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, TAMPA, FL
$30,000

CIARA KASIOR
New York, NY
for graduate studies in Architecture, BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, NEW YORK, NY
$30,000

STAN LESNY SCHOLARSHIP

ANNA JANCZY
Burbank, IL
for graduate studies in Nursing, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, CHICAGO, IL
$2,000

DARIA KOMEZA
Elk Grove Village, IL
postgraduate studies in Clinical Psychology, ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AT NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL
$5,000

ALEKSANDER PATOCZKA
Sarasota, FL
for graduate studies in Mechanical Engineering, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FL
$4,000

MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION OF POLISH WOMEN'S CLUBS & DR. MARIE E. ZAKRZEWSKI MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP

ANNA CZACHOR
Wallingford, CT
for graduate studies in Medicine, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY, NORTH HAVEN, CT
$6,000
$5,000 – MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION OF POLISH WOMEN'S CLUBS & DR. MARIE E. ZAKRZEWSKA MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP
$1,000 – KAZIMIERA ADRIANKOWSKA

STEPHANIE MUCHA SCHOLARSHIP

ANIELA COHIG
Nyack, NY
for graduate studies in Education, LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OR
$5,000

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

FILIP CZARKOWSKI
Houston, TX
for graduate studies in
Music Performance,
RICE UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON, TX
$5,000

NICOLE KUBIAK
Somerset, NJ
for graduate studies in Public Health,
RUTGERS SCHOOL OF NURSING
NEWARK, PISCATAWAY, NJ
$6,000

DOMINIK KUCHARSKI
Lancaster, NY
for graduate studies in Medicine,
JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES,
BUFFALO, NY
$6,000

KAMILA MILEJCZYK
Long Grove, IL
for graduate studies in Medicine,
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN,
MILWAUKEE, WI
$6,000

DOMINIKA OBLIZAJEK
Long Island City, NY
for graduate studies in
Business Analytics and AI,
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY,
NEW YORK, NY
$4,000

ALICJA PARUCH
Malverne, NY
for graduate studies in Business,
SUNY AT STONY BROOK,
STONY BROOK, NY
$4,000

JEANNETTE K. NIECIECKA FUND

MICHELLE SECH
South Amboy, NJ
for graduate studies in
Nursing Anesthesia,
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEWARK, NJ
$6,000

EDWARD & MARIA NOWICKI TRUST

NICHOLAS PRUS
Riverwoods, IL
for graduate studies in Medicine,
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE
OF MEDICINE, CHICAGO, IL
$6,000

VICTORIA SZYMKIEWICZ
Aventura, FL
for graduate studies in Medicine,
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
BALTIMORE, M.D.
$7,000

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THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION NEW YORK

HIGHLIGHTS OF CULTURAL EVENTS 2025-2026

By **Ewa Zadworna**, *KF VP, Director of Cultural Affairs, Corporate Secretary*

Over the past several months, the Kosciuszko Foundation has continued to bring its mission to life through an engaging mix of music, scholarship, history, and timely public discussion. From intimate recitals and conversations about Poland's past to programs examining its role in today's world, our events have brought together distinguished artists, scholars, experts, and members of our community.

AN AMERICAN WRITER'S POLISH STORY



In SEPTEMBER, the Foundation welcomed author and longtime travel writer THOMAS SWICK for an evening devoted to his memoir, *Falling into Place: A Story of Love, Poland, and the Making of a Travel Writer*. Swick shared memories of the years he spent in Poland after marrying his Polish wife in Warsaw in 1980—a remarkable period during which he learned the language, discovered Polish history and literature, witnessed the rise of Solidarity and the imposition of martial law, and developed an affection for Poland that would profoundly shape his life and writing.

CELEBRATING POLISH MUSIC



Music remained at the heart of the Foundation's cultural programming throughout the season. In OCTOBER, violinist KINGA AUGUSTYN and pianist JOSEPH LICCARDO presented VIRTUOSO VISIONS: MUSIC FROM POLAND AND BEYOND, an ambitious program featuring Górecki, Szymanowski, Bacewicz and Wieniawski alongside Dvořák and Sarasate. The recital celebrated the richness of Polish musical heritage while placing it in conversation with the broader European tradition.



DECEMBER brought pianist ELŻBIETA BILICKA to the Foundation for DANCES OF FREEDOM & DREAMS: KOSCIUSZKO, CHOPIN & SMETANA. Beginning with the polonaise as a symbol of Poland's national spirit, the program offered a fascinating rarity: a polonaise composed by Tadeusz Kosciuszko himself. Works by Ogiński, Krogulski and Chopin followed, before the evening expanded into chamber music with violinist JEREMIAH BLACKLOW and cellist HANNAH RUBIN joining Bilicka for Smetana's Piano Trio in G minor.

LOOKING BACK AT 100 YEARS OF THE FOUNDATION



The Foundation's centennial provided an opportunity not only to celebrate, but also to reflect. In NOVEMBER, historian Prof. TOMASZ PUDŁOCKI presented *Beyond Scholarships: 100 Years of the KF's Mission,* tracing the people, turning points, challenges, and ideas that transformed Stephen P. Mizwa's

vision into an institution that has created opportunities for generations of students and scholars while strengthening Polish-American cultural exchange. Fittingly, the lecture took place on Mizwa's birthday.

A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF POLISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



In JANUARY, the Foundation welcomed Polish-American children and youth for a heartwarming presentation of traditional CHRISTMAS CAROLS. The young performers filled the Foundation with the sounds and spirit of the Christmas season, giving wonderful performances that celebrated one of Poland's most cherished musical and cultural traditions.

A MEMORABLE NEW YORK DEBUT FOR THE BOARTE PIANO TRIO



On MARCH 2, the Foundation welcomed one of Poland's leading chamber ensembles, the BOARTE PIANO TRIO—pianist KONRAD SKOLARSKI, violinist JAROSŁAW NADRZYCKI, and cellist KAROL MARIANOWSKI—for its New York debut. Their program moved from Haydn's Piano Trio in C major through Andrzej Panufnik's youthful 1934 Piano Trio to Mendelssohn's passionate Piano Trio in C minor. The performance drew an enthusiastic response. Writing about the concert, critic Roman Markowicz praised the ensemble's technical precision, balance, energy, and exceptional commitment, noting how the musicians brought each work vividly to life. He singled out the brilliance and sensitivity of Skolarski's playing as well as the warmth and finely integrated sound of Nadrzycki and Marianowski. Particularly memorable was the breathtaking lightness of the Scherzo from Mendelssohn's trio. A large audience called the musicians back for an encore—Astor Piazzolla's Autumn from The Four Seasons—bringing a spirited conclusion to an evening that once again demonstrated the remarkable intimacy and acoustics of the Foundation's concert hall.

POLISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL LAW



The following day, the Foundation turned from music to scholarship. In collaboration with the JAGIELLONIAN LAW SOCIETY, it hosted the webinar POLISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW. Scholars PATRYCJA GRZEBYK, BARTŁOMIEJ KRZAN, and KAROLINA WIERCZYŃSKA, moderated by ELIZABETH M. ZECHENTER, explored Poland's often underrecognized role in shaping international criminal law—from early legal thought and the Versailles negotiations to the Genocide Convention, Polish judicial practice, and modern theories of individual criminal responsibility.

POLAND, SECURITY, AND NATO'S EASTERN FLANK



Later in MARCH, veteran television journalists DAVID ENSOR and JOEL SEIDMAN joined the Foundation for the POLAND SECURITY

WEBINAR: FRONTLINE LESSONS FOR NATO. Their conversation examined how Poland is responding to the continuing war in Ukraine and the security challenges facing NATO's eastern flank—from civilian preparedness and humanitarian assistance to air defense, logistics, and hybrid threats. The journalists also discussed their documentary project intended to help American audiences better understand Poland's increasingly important strategic role in European security.

A NEW MUSICAL INITIATIVE TAKES THE STAGE



APRIL marked the inaugural concert of the CLASSICAL PIANO SALON, a new initiative created and led by Polish pianists ELŻBIETA BILICKA and MATEUSZ MIKOŁAJCZAK. Inspired by the intimacy of the 19th-century salon, the series brings emerging musicians together with established artists while creating opportunities for talented students, particularly those facing disabilities or financial barriers to music education. The opening program featured Juilliard student ELSIE LU, a demonstration masterclass in which acclaimed pianist NICOLAS NAMORADZE worked with 13-year-old pianist HAOWEN DENG, and a concluding recital by Namoradze. Combining performance, mentorship, and artistic exchange, the evening introduced a promising new dimension to the Foundation's musical programming.

FROM CHOPIN AND SZYMANOWSKI TO THE OPERATIC STAGE



In MAY, Polish soprano MAGDALENA KUŹMA, winner of the Foundation's 2024 Marcella Sembrich International Voice Competition, joined pianist KATELAN TRẦN TERRELL for a recital celebrating Polish vocal music and its place within the wider international repertoire. Songs by Chopin and Szymanowski and an aria from Moniuszko's Halka highlighted the Polish portion of the program, followed by works ranging from European opera to American musical theater.

Kuźma, a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, and Terrell, a distinguished collaborative pianist and member of the Metropolitan Opera music staff, brought the season's musical programming to a fitting conclusion—connecting Polish heritage with the broader world of vocal artistry.

Together, these programs reflect the breadth of the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission: preserving and sharing Polish heritage, supporting outstanding artists and scholars, encouraging meaningful intellectual exchange, and strengthening the connections between Poland and the United States. We are grateful to our members, supporters, speakers, artists, partners, and audiences whose participation makes this vibrant community possible.

THE KOSCIUSZKO TRIAD: MUSIC OF POLAND, AMERICA, AND FRANCE

On OCTOBER 1, the Kosciuszko Foundation presented THE KOSCIUSZKO TRIAD: MUSIC OF POLAND, AMERICA, AND FRANCE, a special recital celebrating the cultural connections among the three nations that shaped the extraordinary life of Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

Held at the Foundation's historic House in New York City, the concert featured soprano PATRYCJA POSŁUSZNA, cellist BOUBACAR DIALLO, and pianist NICHOLAS ALEXANDER KAPONYAS. The program took audiences on a musical journey through works by Fryderyk Chopin,





Claude Debussy, Amy Beach, Henri Duparc, Ludomir Różycki, Moritz Moszkowski, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Highlights included Debussy's Cello Sonata, Beach's Romance, and Chopin's monumental Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65. Through an engaging blend of vocal and instrumental music, the recital celebrated the richness of Polish, French, and American musical traditions while reflecting the Foundation's mission of fostering international friendship and cultural exchange.

MARIANNA STUHR AT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION: EXHIBITION AND ARTIST TALK



On **OCTOBER 6** and **7**, 2026, the Kosciuszko Foundation welcomed acclaimed Polish visual artist and former Foundation grant recipient **MARIANNA STUHR** for two special events celebrating her artistic achievements and creative journey.

The opening reception of **"IN-BETWEENNESS: LANDSCAPES OF SUSPENSION,"** a solo exhibition curated by **LILLY WEI**, took place on **OCTOBER 6** at the Foundation's New York headquarters. Featuring new abstract paintings and an installation, the exhibition explores themes of memory, personal loss, transformation, and resilience. Through evocative compositions and an expressive visual language, Stuhr invites viewers to reflect on uncertainty, emotional experience, and the complexities of the human condition.

The following evening, **OCTOBER 7,** the Foundation hosted an artist talk featuring **MARIANNA STUHR** in conversation with **LUIZA SWIERZAWSK**A and curator **LILLY WEI**. The discussion offered insights into Stuhr's artistic evolution, from printmaking to painting, and her journey from Poland to an international career. The speakers explored the intersections of art, identity, memory, and cultural belonging, as well as the importance of artistic exchange, mentorship, and institutional support in fostering creative development.

CENTENNIAL OF THE POLISH DECLARATION OF ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED STATES

On **OCTOBER 18, 2026**, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted a special event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the **POLISH DECLARATION OF ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE UNITED STATES**, one of the most extraordinary expressions of friendship in the history of Polish-American relations. The celebration brought together distinguished historians, diplomats, scholars, and members of the Polish-American community to reflect on the Declaration's historical significance, artistic value, and enduring legacy.

Created in 1926 to mark the 150th anniversary of American independence, the Declaration consists of 111 richly illustrated volumes containing approximately 5.5 million signatures from Polish citizens, including millions of schoolchildren, teachers, government officials, and representatives of institutions across Poland. Prepared just eight years after Poland regained its independence following 123 years of foreign partition, the Declaration expressed the Polish people's admiration for American democratic ideals and gratitude for U.S. support during Poland's struggle for independence and postwar recovery.



The event featured a distinguished panel of experts:

- EWA BARCZYK, Polish-American scholar, former Associate Provost and Director of Libraries at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and editor of Footprints of Polonia: Polish Historical Sites Across North America.
- IZABELA GROCHOLSKI, independent art advisor based in New York and Warsaw, and former Vice President at Christie's auction house.
- PROFESSOR HALINA PARAFIANOWICZ, Professor Emerita at the University of Białystok and an expert on American history and Polish-American relations.
- PROFESSOR NEAL PEASE, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a distinguished historian specializing in Polish history and Polish-American relations.
- AMBASSADOR BOGUSŁAW WINID, former Polish Ambassador to NATO and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who moderated the discussion.

A special presentation was also delivered by ZBIGNIEW KANTOROSIŃSKI, retired Head of the Germanic and Slavic Division at the Library of Congress, who played a pivotal role in rediscovering the Declaration in 1996. While preparing for a visit by Poland's First Lady, Jolanta Kwaśniewska, Kantorosiński uncovered the remarkable collection, which had remained largely forgotten in storage for approximately 70 years. His efforts helped restore public awareness of this invaluable historical treasure and made it accessible to historians, genealogists, and descendants of the original signatories.

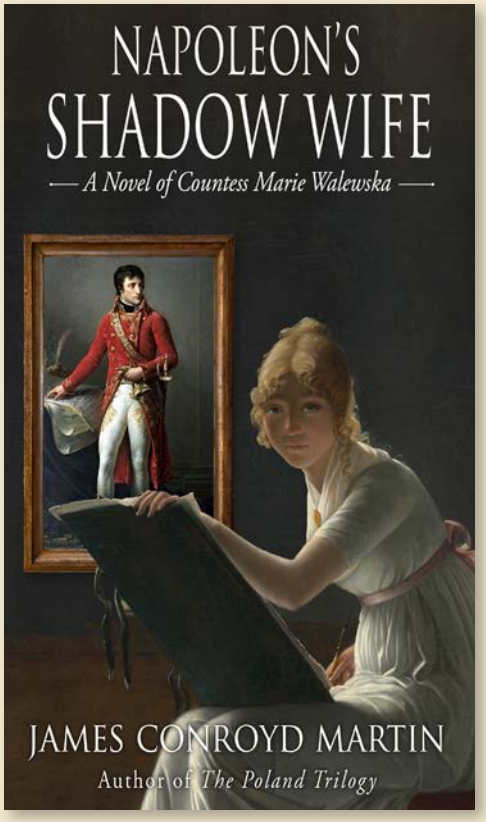


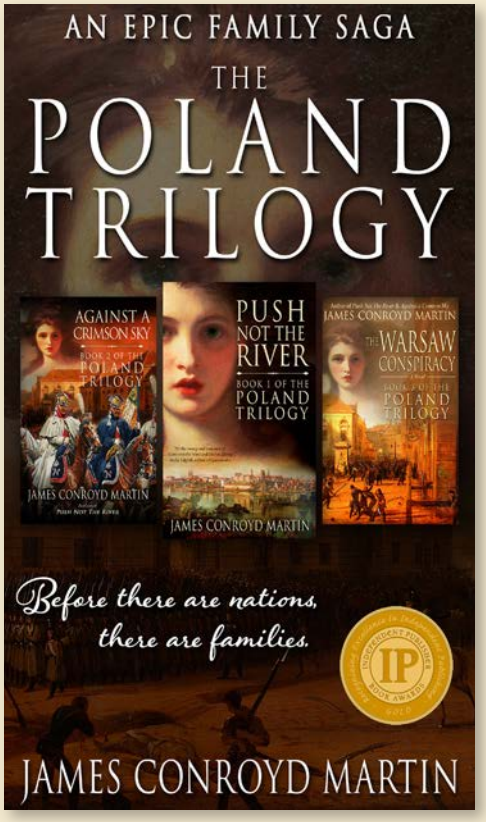
The panel discussion explored the historical circumstances surrounding the Declaration's creation, including the devastating impact of World War I on Poland and the extensive humanitarian assistance provided by the United States through the American Relief Administration, led by Herbert Hoover. American food relief programs, particularly those benefiting Polish children, inspired profound gratitude among the Polish people and contributed to the extraordinary tribute presented to the United States in 1926. The speakers also highlighted the role of LEOPOLD KOTNOWSKI, one of the principal organizers of the initiative, and recalled the ceremonial presentation of the Declaration to PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE in Washington, D.C., on October 14, 1926.

Another important theme was the Declaration's exceptional artistic and cultural value. Its elaborate illustrations, decorative calligraphy, and Art Deco influences make it not only a remarkable historical document but also an outstanding example of Polish graphic art. The millions of signatures, particularly those of schoolchildren, offer a unique glimpse into Polish society during the interwar period. The discussion also placed the Declaration within the broader history of Polish-American friendship, recalling the contributions of Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski to American independence, President Woodrow Wilson's support for Poland's sovereignty, and the long tradition of cooperation and solidarity between the two nations.

A century after its creation, the Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship for the United States remains a powerful testament to the bonds connecting the Polish and American peoples. More than a historical document, the Declaration is a lasting expression of gratitude, solidarity, and shared democratic values—a reminder that the friendship between Poland and the United States has been shaped not only by political alliances but also by the goodwill and generosity of their people. ■

The Kosciuszko Foundation expresses its gratitude to Ms. Krystyna Piórkowska for her generous support of the event and the Foundation's centennial publication dedicated to the Declaration.







Napoleon's Shadow Wife:
A Novel of Countess Marie Walewska

was published in April of 2025. Readers will embark on a voyage through unconditional love, power, and betrayal. "The emotional intelligence is what distinguishes it from other historical fiction. Marie is not a seductress or a defenseless victim. Rather, she is portrayed as a patriot who puts her nation's destiny ahead of her own happiness." The Historical Fiction Company Review. "It's a beautifully written book that's easy to read and hard to put down." Tom Tarapacki, The Am-Pol-Eagle

Push Not the River

is based on the diary of a countess who lived through the Third of May Constitution years. Critics likened it to a *Gone with the Wind* set in Poland. St. Martin's Press asked for a sequel, and released

Against a Crimson Sky

chronicling the Napoleonic Era. Concluding the award-winning family saga is

The Warsaw Conspiracy

detailing the Polish cadets' November Rising against Russia. Martin was awarded a Gold Medal from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

Becoming Modjeska
Coming in 2027!

From a childhood of hardship in Kraków to the brilliant stages of Warsaw, London, and New York, Helena Modjeska led a life nothing short of extraordinary. She found in the theater an escape—and a calling that would carry her across oceans. Against convention, scandal, and financial hardship, she transformed herself into one of the 19th century's most celebrated actresses, captivating audiences in Poland, England, and the United States.

Becoming Modjeska brings to life the woman behind the legend—the fierce ambition, vulnerability, passion, and determination that carried a young Polish actress from poverty to international fame.

To learn about novel updates, sign up for the newsletter at www.JamesCMartin.com.

These novels are available in e-book format at most online selling points. They are available in print from Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and the independent Bookshop.org. You can also order them from most bookstores or request them at your library. Within the United States, Martin offers autographed copies. Contact him at JConMartin@GMail.com.

CELEBRATING THE BALTIC OPERA FESTIVAL

A NIGHT OF WORLD-CLASS OPERA AT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

By **Ewa Zadworna**, *KF VP, Director of Cultural Affairs, Corporate Secretary*

On March 30, 2026, The Kosciuszko Foundation welcomed an extraordinary gathering of internationally acclaimed opera singers for an evening celebrating the BALTIC OPERA FESTIVAL, one of the major cultural events of the European summer season. At the heart of this remarkable evening — both in front of the audience and behind the scenes — was TOMASZ KONIECZNY, one of the most acclaimed bass-baritones of our time and the founder and artistic director of the Baltic Opera Festival. A distinguished interpreter of Wagner and other major operatic repertoire, Konieczny has performed at the Metropolitan Opera and on the stages of many of the world's foremost opera houses and festivals. He also has a special and longstanding relationship



Tomasz Konieczny, bass-baritone

with The Kosciuszko Foundation: he has appeared at the Foundation twice in recital, championing works by Polish composers, and is a laureate of the Kosciuszko Foundation Pioneer Award, presented to him during the Foundation's Annual Ball in 2019.

Konieczny's international standing — and the extraordinary artistic reach of the Baltic Opera Festival — was vividly demonstrated by the stellar group of singers who joined him that evening. In the musical centerpiece of the program, five of today's most revered operatic voices — LISE DAVIDSEN, RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, MICHAEL SPYRES, EKATERINA GUBANOVA, and TOMASZ KONIECZNY — performed RICHARD WAGNER'S WESENDONCK LIEDER, with each artist interpreting one of the cycle's five songs, accompanied by pianist LECH NAPIERAŁA.



From top left: *Ekaterina Gubanova, mezzo-soprano; Ryan Speedo Green, bass-baritone; Michael Spyres, tenor; Lise Davidsen, soprano*



Aleksandra Kurzak, soprano

Adding still greater luster to an already exceptional evening was the appearance of ALEKSANDRA KURZAK, one of world's most internationally acclaimed sopranos, who performed *Vissi d'arte*, a celebrated aria from Puccini's TOSCA. A longtime presence on the world's foremost stages, Kurzak made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2004 and has built an international career encompassing the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Teatro alla Scala, Paris Opera, Vienna State Opera, and Bavarian State Opera, among many others.

The evening also unveiled the artistic vision and repertoire of the 2026 Baltic Opera Festival, combining live performances with presentations on the Festival's history, development, and growing role in bringing Polish culture to international audiences. Central and Eastern European repertoire featured prominently, including music connected with Józef Beer's Polish Wedding, alongside performances by MONIKA RADECKA, ADRIAN DOMARECKI, PIOTR BUSZEWSKI, ANDRZEJ JAGODZIŃSKI, and other participating artists. The program further celebrated projects dedicated to preserving and promoting Poland's musical heritage, including the album *Moniuszko Songs – A Tribute to Bernard Ładysz* and the photography book *Opera in the Making....*



Monika Radecka, soprano and Piotr Buszewski, tenor

The March 30 gathering was far more than a preview of the Festival's July season. With Tomasz Konieczny at its center—as artistic visionary, cultural ambassador, and performer—the evening brought an extraordinary constellation of international opera stars to The Kosciuszko Foundation. It was a memorable expression of the Foundation's mission to champion Polish culture on the world stage and a fitting New York prelude to one of Europe's major summer opera events. ■





Ewa Zadworna, KF Vice-President, Director of Cultural Affairs and Corporate Secretary

By **Ewa Zadworna**, *KF VP, Director of Cultural Affairs, Corporate Secretary*

COMING UP NEXT TO THE KF NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 18

HOW IS POLAND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY?



Join us at the Kosciuszko Foundation in NYC for a timely conversation with **DR. KATARZYNA MANISZEWSKA**, an international security expert and Fulbright-NATO scholar. From cyberattacks and disinformation to emerging hybrid threats, discover how Poland's frontline experience is influencing NATO, European defense, and transatlantic security.

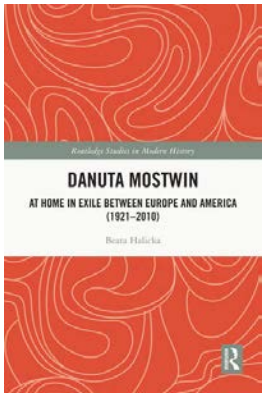
An important conversation about the challenges shaping our world. Don't miss it!

DECEMBER 2

DANUTA MOSTWIN: AT HOME IN EXILE BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA (1921–2010)

A Conversation with Author Beata Halicka





Join us on Zoom for an engaging conversation with historian **BEATA HALICKA**, Professor of Contemporary History at Adam Mickiewicz University, as she discusses her latest book exploring the extraordinary life of **DANUTA MOSTWIN**—Polish American writer, social scientist, and chronicler of the immigrant experience.

Drawing on previously unpublished archival materials and personal correspondence, Halicka illuminates Mostwin's remarkable journey from wartime Poland to America, her intellectual and literary legacy, and her reflections on exile, identity, and the search for belonging. ■

For more information and registration, visit the Kosciuszko Foundation website: www.thekf.org/event

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Wieniawski
VIOLIN COMPETITION **2026**

JOIN US FOR THE FINAL ROUND
NOVEMBER 8 AT THE KF NEW YORK

The **2026 KF WIENIAWSKI VIOLIN COMPETITION** will take place on November 7–8 at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City. The competition consists of three rounds of live performances, culminating in the Final Round on Sunday, November 8, at 5:00 PM, which is open to the public.

Three outstanding young violinists will compete in the final round for over $20,000 in cash prizes and special awards. Held under the artistic direction of **ADRIAN SYLVEEN**, the competition will be adjudicated by distinguished musicians **PHILIP SETZER** and **JOANNA KURKOWICZ**, with **EUGENE DRUCKER** and **PRZEMYSŁAW STANISŁAWSKI** serving as Honorary Jury Members.

Established in 1969, the competition celebrates emerging talent and honors the legacy of legendary Polish violinist and composer Henryk Wieniawski. It also encourages young aspiring musicians to learn more about Poland's distinctive musical heritage by studying the repertoire of Polish composers.

LOCATION:
THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION,
15 E 65th Street, New York, NY 10065.

The Kosciuszko Foundation gratefully acknowledges **MS. KRYSTYNA PIORKOWSKA** for her generous support of the Competition, as well as **MS. ANN C. ZAGOREOS, MR. PHILIP SETZER,** and **MR. ADRIAN SYLVEEN** for establishing special monetary and performance awards.


Seohyun Choi


Vilmos Csikos


Chieh-Jung (Stephanie) Ho


Desheng Huang


Wenlan Jackson


Lena Krzanowska

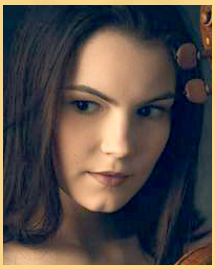

Katarzyna Lassak


Madison Lee


Yoojin Lee

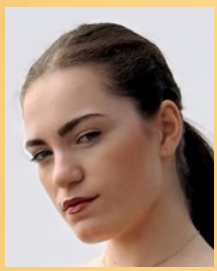

Siyi Li


Cheng Io Lo


Milena Piorunska


Daniel Rafimayeri


Wei Hun Tsao


Sendi Vartanovi


Mingnan Yue

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION WASHINGTON DC

HIGHLIGHTS OF CULTURAL EVENTS 2025-2026

By **Iza Eisemann**, *Development Officer, Assistant to the KFDC Director*

NOVEMBER 2025

The KF DC Center hosted an evening to commemorate **POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY**, featuring a historical presentation, live music, and a traditional Polish meal. Historian **DR. PATRICE DABROWSKI** delivered a thought-provoking lecture, *Crowning Achievements: On the Millennium of the First Polish Coronation*, exploring the significance of the 1025 coronation of Bolesław I the Brave and its enduring impact on Polish history, identity, and national memory. The evening also featured a special piano performance by Brian Ganz, who played two polonaises by Frédéric Chopin.



DECEMBER 2025

SPECIAL EVENT

The KFDC marked the **FOUNDATION'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** at a memorable event at the historic Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, DC. The evening brought together KF members, friends, community leaders, and partners to celebrate 100 years of promoting educational and cultural exchange between Poland and the United States.

A highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the 2025 Kosciuszko Foundation Pioneer Award to Dr.



MAREK MARIA PIEŃKOWSKI, a distinguished physician, scientist, philanthropist, cultural ambassador, and member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Dr. Pieńkowski was recognized for his visionary leadership, exceptional contributions to medicine, philanthropy, and the arts, and his longstanding commitment to advancing the Foundation's mission.

The Foundation also presented the 2025 Kosciuszko Foundation Appreciation Awards to four outstanding local leaders: **WALDEMAR IZDEBSKI, MARTIN LABAZEVITCH, EWA PIETRASIEŃSKA**, and **LESZEK STRZELECKI**, in recognition of their dedicated volunteer service, leadership, and continued support of the Foundation's work.

The sold-out event celebrated not only a historic milestone but also the spirit of Tadeusz Kosciuszko: liberty, justice, and solidarity. That spirit continues to inspire the Foundation's mission by supporting thousands of students, scholars, artists, and professionals whose lives have been enriched through the Foundation's scholarships, cultural initiatives, and community programs.

The Centennial Celebration was partially financed by the Department for Cooperation with Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.





Later in December, KF members and friends gathered for our traditional CAROLING TOGETHER event, one of the most popular and cherished holiday celebrations at the Kosciuszko Foundation Washington, DC Center. Actor Waldemar Izdebski set the holiday mood with excerpts from Polish poetry and led our traditional sing-along, creating a truly warm and festive atmosphere. Accompanied by pianist and a great friend of the KF, Martin Labazevitch, and special guest Brian Ganz, everyone joined in singing treasured Polish and American Christmas carols. Guests enjoyed beloved Polish holiday specialties such as pierogies and red borscht while experiencing a warm, festive atmosphere.

JANUARY 2026



We welcomed the New Year with a new art exhibition, *The Real Within: A New Generation of Polish Realism*, at the KF DC Center. The opening reception brought together artists and members of the KF community to celebrate the works of eight contemporary Polish painters whose paintings reflected the enduring legacy and evolving vision of Polish realism.

The curator DARIA SOLAR introduced the exhibition, which featured works by eight Polish artists whose art was also selected for the LUNAR CODEX, an international archive preserving contemporary art on the Moon.

We were also honored by the presence of Bogdan Klich, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Poland.

FEBRUARY 2026



The KFDC, in cooperation with the Polish Library in Washington, hosted a discussion featuring Professor Emeritus TOMASZ MROCZKOWSKI of American University, who presented *The Polish Miracle of Economic Growth Compared to Other Countries*. Professor Mroczkowski examined the factors behind Poland's remarkable economic transformation as well as future opportunities and challenges. MICHAŁ RUTKOWSKI, Regional Director for Human Development for Europe and Central Asia at the World Bank, moderated the discussion.

Later in February, the KFDC Center hosted an inspiring evening featuring a screening of *The KF: A Century of Impact*, the latest documentary celebrating the Foundation's 100-year legacy of strengthening educational and cultural ties between Poland and the United States.

Following the film, ELIZABETH M. ZECHENTER, PH.D., J.D., delivered a fascinating talk on the life and legacy of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, sharing lesser-known insights into his remarkable achievements and inspiring a lively audience discussion. The evening concluded with a beautiful performance by pianist Brian Ganz, who played a Polonaise composed by Tadeusz Kosciuszko, highlighting yet another facet of the Foundation's patron.





MARCH 2026

A special screening of ***Afterimages (Powidoki),*** the final film by Oscar-winning Polish director **ANDRZEJ WAJDA**, brought together hundreds of Polish cinema enthusiasts at the National Gallery of Art, the weekend before the KFDC Polish Film Festival.

Held on the occasion of Wajda's 100th birth anniversary, the event was organized through a collaboration between the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and the Wajda Institute. The screening drew a full audience and set a reflective tone for an evening dedicated to Polish film and cultural heritage.

Following the film, a panel of experts discussed both Wajda's artistic legacy and the life and work of the renowned Polish painter Władysław Strzemiński, to whom Wajda dedicated *Afterimages*. The conversation highlighted Strzemiński's influence on modern art as well as the film's exploration of artistic freedom under political pressure.

The event served as a prelude to the 2026 KF Washington DC Polish Film Festival.

SPECIAL EVENT

The Kosciuszko Foundation successfully presented the third edition of the **KF WASHINGTON DC POLISH FILM FESTIVAL,** further cementing the festival's reputation as a premier celebration of contemporary Polish cinema in the nation's capital. Praised by audiences and special guests alike as a world-class cinematic event, the 2026 edition showcased outstanding films, welcomed acclaimed artists, and celebrated the richness of Polish filmmaking.

The festival jury, chaired by actress Liliana Komorowska, recognized excellence across several categories. **PIOTR DOMALEWSKI'S** *The Altar Boys* received the Best Feature Film award, while *I Gaze at the Sky* was named Best Short Film. **AGATA TURKOT** was honored as Best Actress for her performance in *Home Sweet Home*, and the Best Actor award was shared ex aequo by **TOBIASZ WAJDA** (Altar Boys) and **FILIP WIŁKOMIRSKI** (Brother). **AGNIESZKA HOLLAND** received the Best Director award for *Franz*, while cinematographer **MICHAŁ SOBOCIŃSKI** earned a Special Jury Award for best cinematography in *Chopin, Chopin*.

Festival audiences also selected *Altar Boys* as the recipient of the Audience Award for Best Feature Film, and *I Gaze at the Sky* as the Audience Award winner for Best Short Film, reflecting the strong connection these films made with viewers.

The Foundation extends its heartfelt congratulations to this year's award winners and sincere thanks to its distinguished guests, including **DAGMARA DOMIŃCZYK,** recipient of the 2026 Kosciuszko Foundation Pioneer Award, **PATRICK WILSON, AGATA TURKOT, PIOTR DOMALEWSKI,** and **MICHAŁ SOBOCIŃSKI**.

This year's edition would not have been possible without the continuous support from the festival board members (in alphabetical order): **BARBARA BERNHARDT** (Executive Director), **ANIA SZARY BERKOWITZ, PETER CIPKOWSKI, EMILY CUNNINGHAM, IZA EISEMANN** (Assistant to the Executive Director), **WALDEMAR IZDEBSKI, MARTIN KABAT** (Chairman of the Board of Directors), **ZBIGNIEW KANTOROSINSKI, TERESA AND KRZYSZTOF LYSON, AGATA PESZKO, MAŁGORZATA SCHWAB, JOHN PAUL SCHUTTE** (Vice-Chairman of the Board), **JOANNA SIUDAK-CAMPFIELD, KRYSTYNA SZYMCZYK, ANNA TARNAWSKA** (Artistic Director), and **ANNA VANMATRE**.

We are also deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers (in alphabetical order): **JOHN FRENDAK, GABRIELA HODUR, KINGA KONIECZNA, KAMIL LUNGU, DAVE MICHNAL, GIADA ROSSO,** and **HANNAH SCHAFER,** as well as to our sponsors, media partners, and enthusiastic audiences whose support continues to make the festival a resounding success and an important platform for promoting Polish cinema in the United States.

Later in March, the KF DC Center hosted a special evening of music, *Extreme Chopin: A Finale Preview!* *, featuring acclaimed pianist **BRIAN GANZ**.

The concert offered an intimate preview of Mr. Ganz's remarkable 16-year journey performing the complete



works of Fryderyk Chopin, as he approached the final chapter of his project at the Music Center at Strathmore. The program highlighted some of Chopin's most expressive late works, including the Barcarolle and Berceuse, alongside rare treasures such as the Rondo in C major, Op. 73, written in Chopin's youth, and a recently discovered waltz found in the New York City library.

MAY 2026

THE KF NEXT-GEN ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



hosted another successful young professionals event featuring ERIC BRATTBERG and CARLO RASMUSSEN of Brzezinski Global Strategies. The conversation focused on Poland's rapid economic transformation, highlighting the opportunities and challenges shaping its continued growth and its expanding role in the global economy. Under the theme *Scaling Success: Poland's Private Sector in the Global Economy,* participants explored how Poland became one of Europe's most dynamic economies. The evening combined a panel discussion and Q&A with a networking reception, fostering dialogue, idea exchange, and new professional connections within the Polish-American community. For those interested in joining Next Gen or learning about upcoming events for young professionals in the DMV area, contact: development@thekf.org

JUNE 2026



The KFDC held a special event dedicated to its youngest audience, celebrating CHILDREN'S DAY while marking the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. Organized in partnership with the Polish School in Silver Spring, the celebration featured a delightful performance by the students, an end-of-year graduation ceremony, a fun trivia game about Poland with prizes, and refreshments enjoyed by children and their families.



Myths and Sacred Tales: An Evening of Chamber Music and Poetry * brought together music and literature in an intimate evening of chamber music at the KFDC. The program featured outstanding performances by Devree Lewis and Susanna Mendlow (cello), Agata Miklavc and Holly Nelson (violin), Ting-An Wei (viola), and Jason Solounias (piano).

The concert opened with Karol Szymanowski's *Mythes, Op. 30,* interwoven with poetry readings by Susanna Mendlow, and was followed by a moving performance of Franz Schubert's *String Quintet in C Major, D.956*.



Later in June, the KF had the great pleasure of hosting acclaimed jazz pianist MATEUSZ KOŁAKOWSKI at our FRIDAY JAZZ SOIRÉES *. The KF audience was captivated by his extraordinary performance, which featured original compositions that seamlessly blended classical virtuosity with contemporary jazz expression, as well as breathtaking interpretations of beloved Polish songs. The evening was hosted by ROBERT ŚWISTELNICKI, a lyricist, composer, and philosopher whose poetry added another dimension to the program. ■

* *The events were co-sponsored by the Sylvan and Eugenia Bobinski Fund.*

FROM EXPERIMENT TO CULTURAL LANDMARK

THE 3RD KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION WASHINGTON DC POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

Barbara Bernhardt,
Festival Executive Director, KF Vice President, Washington DC Center Director



"The Festival is not simply about bringing Polish films to Washington. It is about creating a place where Polish culture can be encountered, discussed, celebrated, and shared with the broader American community."

What began two and a half years ago as a bold experiment is quickly becoming something far more ambitious: a vibrant cultural institution with the potential to become a lasting landmark on Washington's cultural landscape.

The third edition of the Kosciuszko Foundation Polish Film Festival, held March 19–22 at Bethesda Row Cinema, marked a remarkable step forward. From the quality and range of the films to the caliber of our guests, from the enthusiastic response of audiences to the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers and Board, this year's Festival confirmed that what we are building has both momentum and meaning.

We presented nine outstanding new Polish productions, offering a rich panorama of contemporary Polish cinema—diverse in subject, style, and artistic vision. Nearly 1,200 people attended the Festival, with screenings repeatedly filling the theater to capacity. For a festival that did not exist three years ago, the response was both gratifying and deeply encouraging. But numbers tell only part of the story.



At the heart of the Festival is a remarkable group of people who have given their time, energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to make it possible. Our 15-member Festival Board has grown into a highly engaged and effective team. This year, we established specialized subcommittees, allowing members to take ownership of particular aspects of the Festival and bringing greater structure and professionalism to our work—without losing the passion and personal commitment that have been its hallmark from the beginning. And then there were our guests.

We were privileged to welcome DAGMARA DOMIŃCZYK, the acclaimed Polish-American actress, together with her husband, celebrated actor and filmmaker PATRICK WILSON; award-winning director and screenwriter PIOTR DOMALEWSKI; distinguished cinematographer MICHAŁ







Right: *Piotr Domalewski and Michal Sobociński*

Far right: *Festival Board of Directors with Agata Turkot*

Below: *KF volunteers at the festival*

SOBOCIŃSKI, a member of a remarkable cinematic family whose father and grandfather worked with such legendary filmmakers as Roman Polański and Krzysztof Kieślowski; and AGATA TURKOT, one of the most exciting young actresses in Poland, whose performance in ***Dom Dobry*** *(Home Sweet Home)* brought her sudden national recognition.

Dagmara Domińczyk was also presented with the 2026 Kosciuszko Foundation Pioneer Award, honoring her achievements and her contribution to the cultural bridge between Poland and the United States.

Our guests took part in lively panel discussions and extended Q&A sessions, allowing audiences to engage with them on a personal level. We heard stories about the creative process, the realities of filmmaking, acting and cinematography, and the challenges of bringing important stories to the screen. These encounters transformed the Festival from a sequence of screenings into a genuine exchange between artists and audiences.

Perhaps the greatest compliment came not from the number of people in the audience or the amount of media coverage, but from the reactions of the filmmakers themselves. Some of our guests had initially been hesitant about accepting an invitation from a young, relatively unknown festival thousands of miles from home. Their experience in Washington, however, seemed to change their minds. We received a stream of messages expressing gratitude and admiration.

And there was the atmosphere - something impossible to capture fully in attendance figures or press coverage. The Festival brought together a diverse and international audience: Polish Americans and longtime supporters of the Foundation alongside film enthusiasts, members of Washington's cultural community, diplomats, students, and people discovering Polish cinema for the first time. The theaters were filled not only with viewers but with conversations. People stayed after screenings to ask questions, exchange impressions, meet the filmmakers, and continue discussions in the lobby. There was a sense of curiosity, warmth, and shared discovery that remained palpable throughout the Festival.

As RMF FM aptly observed: *"Full screening rooms and lively post-screening discussions are the best proof that Polish culture has found its home in Washington."* That sentence captures something essential about what we are trying to accomplish. The Festival is not simply about bringing Polish films to Washington. It is about creating a place where Polish culture can be encountered, discussed, celebrated, and shared with the broader American community.



The Kosciuszko Foundation
WASHINGTON, DC
Polish Film Festival

The Festival's growing significance was also reflected in the extraordinary breadth of its media coverage on both sides of the Atlantic. Stories and interviews appeared in The Washington Post, Washington City Paper, WTOP, Polskie Radio, Onet, RMF FM, and TVN. This attention is an encouraging sign that the Festival is beginning to reach beyond the Polish-American community and become part of the broader cultural conversation in Washington.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and commitment of so many people. We extend our deepest gratitude to our Board members, volunteers, sponsors, partners, supporters, filmmakers, artists, and, most importantly, our audiences.

Looking back at this third edition, one thing has become clear: the Kosciuszko Foundation Polish Film Festival is no longer an experiment. It is becoming a meeting place between Poland and America, a showcase for contemporary Polish cinema, a forum for artists and audiences, and a distinctive new presence in the cultural life of Washington, DC.

What began as a small idea now has a life of its own—and, judging by the enthusiasm of our audiences and the generous words of our guests, a very promising future.

We cannot wait to see where the journey takes us next. ■

MEET BILL KRAMER

Bill Kramer, *Chief Executive Officer, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*

GUEST OF HONOR AT THE 4TH ANNUAL KF WASHINGTON, DC POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

"The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is a global organization and is deeply committed to celebrating our international film industry. I am thrilled to be joining the 4th edition of the KF Washington DC Polish Film Festival to honor and support the vital Polish filmmaking community."

Bill Kramer, *Chief Executive Officer, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*



Bill Kramer is the CEO of the ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES, the world's preeminent organization devoted to cinema. In this role, he oversees a budget of $180MM and a team of over 700. He is responsible for all of the Academy's global operations and programs, including the Oscars, the Academy Foundation, services for the organization's 11,000 global members, and the $500MM Academy100 revenue diversification campaign. Most recently, Kramer negotiated historic and forward-looking deals with Google/YouTube and AEG for the Academy.

Prior to his position as Academy CEO, Kramer was the Director and President of the Academy Museum, which he successfully opened in September 2021. In this role, Kramer oversaw all aspects of the project's management, staffing, design, curation, fundraising, and creative direction.

He previously served as the museum's Managing Director of Development and External Affairs, successfully raising $250MM to move the project into construction and managing its public approvals and planning process. In addition, Kramer has led capital and comprehensive fundraising campaigns for the Columbia University School of the Arts and the California Institute of the Arts and has served in senior external affairs and fundraising positions at the Sundance Institute, the Rhode Island School of Design and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Bill holds a Master of Urban Planning and Public Administration degree from New York University and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at Austin. ■

Join us for the annual celebration of Polish cinema!

4th Kosciuszko Foundation Washington, DC Polish Film Festival

April 1–4, 2027

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MY REFLECTIONS ON THE 51ST GDYNIA FILM FESTIVAL

By **Barbara Bernhardt**,
KF Vice President, Director, Washington DC Center, KF Washington DC Polish Film Festival Executive Director

"This year's edition showcased an impressive collection of films, featuring sharp directing, wonderful ensemble casting, and virtuosity across the board. Polish actors performed wonders on screen, demonstrating the depth, versatility, and emotional resonance of the nation's talent pool."

The 51st POLISH FILM FESTIVAL IN GDYNIA has drawn to a close, leaving audiences and critics inspired by a week filled with vibrant art, great performances, and powerful cinematic vision. Under late-summer sunshine, the coastal city delivered a dynamic, electrifying atmosphere throughout the event. With an extraordinary turnout of international guests, festival programmers, and a stellar delegation representing Polish cinema abroad, Gdynia firmly solidified its position as a vital cultural crossroads.

At the event, I was accompanied by some of the members of the KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION WASHINGTON DC POLISH FILM FESTIVAL'S board, and for our team, the trip was an extraordinary success. We made great connections with leading filmmakers, and we already have a strong lineup of new films to present at our festival in April 2027.



The red carpet rolled out for cherished household names. Renowned guests included directors PAWEŁ PAWLIKOWSKI, JAN HOLOUBEK, JAN KOMASA, and PIOTR DOMALEWSKI, who brought high-profile projects to the competition, while iconic performers—ROBERT WIĘCKIEWICZ, ANDRZEJ SEWERYN, AGATA KULESZA, and MARIA DĘBSKA—graced the festival with their talent and charisma. Attendees were also treated to insightful appearances by filmmakers such as AGNIESZKA HOLLAND and the chair of this year's jury, KRZYSZTOF ZANUSSI. This year's edition showcased an impressive collection of films, featuring sharp directing, wonderful ensemble casting, and virtuosity across the board. Polish actors performed wonders on screen, demonstrating the depth, versatility, and emotional resonance of the nation's talent pool.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAIN COMPETITION SELECTION:

- **FATHERLAND (OJCZYZNA)**
  Directed by PAWEŁ PAWLIKOWSKI, this richly textured period piece captured the profound longing and weight of history. Pawlikowski's artistic eye earned him the BEST DIRECTOR award for crafting a visually arresting and memorable work.

- **A GOOD BOY (DOBRY CHŁOPIEC)**
  JAN KOMASA'S slick, captivating psychological drama enthralled audiences and took home the Audience Award, along with honors for BEST SCREENPLAY (Bartek Bartosik and Naqqash Khalid) and BEST LEADING ACTOR for Anson Boon.

- **OUR REVOLUTION (NASZA REWOLUCJA)**
  Directed by PIOTR DOMALEWSKI, this intimate historical chronicle boasted magnificent, grounded performances—



Photos: Anna Bobrowska / Gdynia Film Festival Press Materials

Clockwise from left:
Łukasz Ronduda i Natalia Grzegorzek;
Paweł Pawlikowski;
Monika Frajczyk;
Maciej Sobieszczański and Maria Dębska

highlighted by Jacek Koman, who was awarded **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR.**

WILD, WILD EAST (DZIKI, DZIKI WSCHÓD) JAN HOLOUBEK'S ambitious wartime story, set against the chaotic backdrop of the post-WWII borderlands, cleverly weaves history with the conventions of a classic Western. Holoubek combines sweeping landscapes, high-stakes tension, and a gritty cinematic style to create an immersive cinematic experience, proving that Polish historical drama can be both deeply meaningful and wildly entertaining.

A standout highlight of the festival was **ŁUKASZ RONDUDA'S** captivating feature, **TELL ME WHAT YOU FEEL (POWIEDZ MI, CO CZUJESZ)**, which earned the prestigious **SILVER LIONS** award. Exploring themes of vulnerable masculinity, art, and modern emotional intimacy, the film deeply resonated with juries and audiences alike. Its success was further highlighted by rising star Jan Sałasiński, who earned the award for **BEST ACTING DEBUT**, solidifying the film as one of the most powerful and memorable additions to this year's competition slate.

THROUGH THE WALL (PRZEZ ŚCIANĘ): The coveted **GOLDEN LIONS** for **BEST FILM** went to **MACIEJ SOBIESZCZAŃSKI'S** remarkable feature. A moving tale of love and perseverance behind prison bars during the communist era, the film captivated viewers with its raw emotional power and striking cinematography by Jolanta Dylewska. What stood out to me most prominently was the palpable, vibrant energy of a new generation. Polish cinema is enthusiastically throwing open its doors to fresh voices, with half of the competition slate comprising debuts and young artists directing, writing, and starring in 50% of the features. This exciting evolution was reflected in the theater seats, as more than half of the festival attendees were part of a dynamic, younger demographic eager for innovative storytelling.

The **51ST GDYNIA FILM FESTIVAL** proved beyond doubt that Poland possesses a treasure trove of world-class directorial talent, extraordinary actors, and an unstoppable wave of energetic young creators. With such immense skill and creative passion driving the industry forward, the future of Polish cinema has never looked brighter. Inspired and equipped with fresh energy, we look forward to bringing selected films to Washington, DC, and presenting them on the big screen during the **KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION'S POLISH FILM FESTIVAL** on April 1-4, 2027. ■



From left:
Michał Walczak, director and screenwriter of the Closing Gala.
Michał Sikorski, Masza Wągrocka



Photos: Anna Bobrowska / Gdynia Film Festival Press Materials

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION ANNOUNCES ITS 2027 EDITION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Martin Labazevitch, *Artistic Director, KF Chopin Piano Competition Director*

"The 2027 Kosciuszko Foundation competition will celebrate not only the centenary of its celebrated Warsaw counterpart, but also the enduring musical relationship between Poland and the United States that has been central to the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission since its founding."

The KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION will return to Washington, D.C., from October 13–17, 2027, bringing together an international field of outstanding young pianists for five days of performances devoted to the music of FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN and KAROL SZYMANOWSKI.

The 2027 edition will carry particular historical significance, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the INTERNATIONAL FRYDERYK CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION in Warsaw, first held in 1927. The centenary offers a fitting moment to celebrate the remarkable connection between two institutions that, across generations, have helped identify and nurture some of the most distinguished interpreters of Chopin's music.

A HISTORIC AMERICAN CHOPIN TRADITION

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION holds a unique place in American musical history as the oldest Chopin competition in the United States.Established in 1949 to commemorate the centenary of Frédéric Chopin's death, the initiative brought together an extraordinary NATIONAL COMMITTEE headed by HOWARD HANSON, then Director of the Eastman School of Music, and including such towering musical figures as CLAUDIO ARRAU, VLADIMIR HOROWITZ, SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY, EUGENE ORMANDY, ARTUR RODZIŃSKI, GEORGE SZELL, and BRUNO WALTER. The first competition was held at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York on June 15, 1950, with the young American pianist ROY EATON becoming its first winner. In the decades that followed, the competition became an important early milestone in the careers of generations of exceptional musicians. Among its distinguished laureates are VAN CLIBURN, MURRAY PERAHIA, MYUNG-WHUN CHUNG, KEVIN KENNER, BRIAN GANZ, KIRILL GERSTEIN, and many others. Van Cliburn won the Kosciuszko Foundation competition in 1952, at the age of 17, six years before his historic victory at the inaugural INTERNATIONAL TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION in Moscow.

More than seven decades after its founding in New York, the competition entered a new chapter when it moved to Washington, D.C., where it continues its original mission: supporting gifted young pianists, advancing the music of Chopin and other Polish composers, and helping emerging artists take important steps toward international careers.

A BRIDGE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND WARSAW

That history takes on special meaning in 2027. In recent years, the connection between the Kosciuszko Foundation competition and the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw has become particularly visible. Recent Kosciuszko Foundation laureates YUYA NISHIMOTO, ATHENA DENG, and ANTONI KLECZEK have gone on to participate in the Warsaw competition, continuing a tradition in which the American competition serves as an important stage in the development of young Chopin interpreters.

The artistic connection extends to the jury as well. Distinguished pianists **PIOTR PALECZNY, KRZYSZTOF JABŁOŃSKI, EWA POBŁOCKA,** and **AKIKO EBI,** who have served as jurors of the Kosciuszko Foundation competition, have also served on the jury of the **INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN COMPETITION IN WARSAW**. At the center of this connection is the Kosciuszko Foundation competition's patron, **GARRICK OHLSSON**. Ohlsson won the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw in 1970, becoming the first—and to date only—American to win its First Prize. More than half a century later, he returned to Warsaw as President of the Jury of the 2025 competition, creating an extraordinary link between generations of Chopin interpreters.

Against this backdrop, the 2027 Kosciuszko Foundation competition will celebrate not only the centenary of its celebrated Warsaw counterpart, but also the enduring musical relationship between Poland and the United States that has been central to the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission since its founding.

THE 2027 COMPETITION

The 2027 Kosciuszko Foundation **CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION** is open to pianists of all nationalities between the ages of 17 and 30. Applicants will submit recordings for consideration by a preselection jury, which will select the semifinalists invited to compete in Washington. Selected semifinalists will receive a travel stipend and will be accommodated with host families in the Washington, D.C. area for the duration of the competition—continuing the Foundation's commitment to making participation accessible to exceptional young artists traveling from across the United States and abroad.

In Washington, each semifinalist will present a solo recital centered on the music of Frédéric Chopin, together with a work by **KAROL SZYMANOWSKI,** bringing together two of Poland's most distinctive and influential musical voices. Following the semifinal round, three pianists will advance to the Finals, where each will perform a Chopin piano concerto with orchestra. The competition will award cash prizes, together with a special prize for an outstanding performance of a work by **KAROL SZYMANOWSKI.** All rounds will be professionally recorded and subsequently broadcast by Washington's classical radio station, WETA, bringing the performances of the competition's young artists to audiences beyond the concert hall. The competition is led by **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARTIN LABAZEVITCH**, and the 2027 jury will bring together internationally renowned pianists and pedagogues. The complete jury, repertoire requirements, prizes, application deadlines, venues, and additional details will be announced separately.

As the musical world celebrates 100 years of the **INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN COMPETITION IN WARSAW,** the 2027 Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition will honor both a century-old international tradition and its own remarkable history as America's oldest Chopin competition.

For generations, these competitions have provided young pianists with something far more lasting than prizes: a stage on which an artistic voice can first be heard. In October 2027, a new generation will gather in Washington, D.C., to become part of that history. ■



Venue of the 2027 KF Chopin Piano Competition: St. Ann Catholic Church, Tenley Town, Washington, DC

IN MEMORIAM



JULIA OLGA SKOWRON CZĘSTOCHOWSKI

December 12, 1923 – September 29, 2026

Julia Olga Skowron Częstochowski was born and initially lived in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. Her parents were both of Polish descent and were very active in several organizations, including the Kosciuszko Foundation since the mid–1920s, and Our Lady of Consolation Church, among others. Her father, **Francis Skowron** (1878–1967), was the owner of Knickerbocker Pants Company (1142 Willoughby Avenue), and her mother was **Victoria Kubik** (1896–1981). Her father was a close family friend of a young priest, Alexius A. Jarka, with whom he worked to establish the Polish parish in Williamsburg, New York in 1909. They were lifelong friends.

While attending Grover Cleveland High School, she studied piano with the distinguished George F. Seuffert, who directed the Fordham University Band for 40 years, and later performed on summer weekends at the Forest Park Music Grove, started in 1905 by his father.

At the young age of 12 in 1935, she started playing the piano for Polish classes (Rada Oswiatowa) held at Washington Irving High School, and two years later started with the **Matusz Folk Dance Group**, of Brooklyn, initially organized in 1933 by Bronislaw Matusz, and succeeded by Henry



Julia Olga Skowron Częstochowski

and Władzia Jaworowski. She played at various Polish supplementary schools, often traveling with the Matusz group, performing at the 1939 New York World's Fair, the Brooklyn Museum, and numerous other venues. She also attended **New York University** for two years. Her first job was with the Bank P.K.O. working with the Polish government-in-exile following the September 1939 invasion by Germany. She was a member of the Polish-American Collegiate Association of **The Kosciuszko Foundation** during the early forties.

By the 1940s, she also was active with The Kosciuszko Foundation, played piano at the Supplementary School of Maria Konopnicka in Greenpoint, and for Mr. Matusz until 1948, when she married **Josef Stephen Czestochowski** (1920–2004), a pilot with Pan-American Airlines, a pharmacist with Parke-Davis, and a reserve officer with the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. She was his partner when he served for ten years as president of the **Polish Gift of Life** in 1988, bringing more than 140 children to this country for open heart surgery.

In recent years, she worked at the **Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America** and **The Kosciuszko Foundation**, where she remained a member, as well as with the **Polish American Congress**. As her parents and husband were, Julia was very proud of her Polish heritage. She was honored by The Kosciuszko Foundation as co–chairperson of the 55th Ball in April 1990, and the Pulaski Association in April 2001 as one of the **Women for the New Millennium**.

Julia Olga Skowron Częstochowski is survived by two children, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Joseph S. Czestochowski is a 1971 Sendzimir scholarship recipient, and past trustee (1988–1996) of The Kosciuszko Foundation, and a member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America.

IN MEMORIAM



WANDA SENKO
(1934-2025)



CYNTHIA ROSICKI, ESQ.
(1961-2026)

The Kosciuszko Foundation remembers with deep gratitude WANDA SENKO, a devoted leader and tireless advocate for Polish culture whose decades of service left an enduring mark on the Foundation and the Polish-American community.

Wanda's commitment to Polish heritage was rooted in her family. Her parents, Stanislaus and Anna Pawlik, founded the Polish American Press, the first Polish printing establishment in New York City and an important gathering place for Eastern European intellectuals and artists. Raised in this atmosphere of cultural engagement and public service, Wanda made the preservation and advancement of Polish culture a lifelong calling.

A member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees since 1986, Wanda served for many years as Vice Chair of the Board and chaired several of its committees. She also chaired the Debutante Ball and Debutante Council, co-founded the Pro Arte League, and led the National Advisory Council. Through these roles, she helped cultivate new leadership and strengthen the Foundation's national reach.

Her service extended well beyond the Foundation. Wanda championed Polish-language radio programming, helped introduce Polish cultural courses at Hofstra University, supported displaced Polish immigrants, and co-founded the Polish Gift of Life and the Polish Supplementary Schools of Long Island. Her wide-ranging public and charitable service reflected the same generosity and commitment she brought to the Foundation.

For nearly four decades as a Trustee, Wanda gave the Kosciuszko Foundation her energy, imagination, and steadfast devotion. She understood that honoring Polish heritage also meant ensuring that it would be carried forward by future generations.

Perhaps her most meaningful legacy was the tradition of service she instilled in her family, including her daughter, Cynthia Rosicki, who followed in her footsteps as a Trustee and Vice Chair of the Foundation.

We remember Wanda Senko with affection, admiration, and gratitude. Her extraordinary life of service strengthened our Foundation and our community, and her legacy will continue through the generations she inspired.

The Kosciuszko Foundation mourns the passing of CYNTHIA G. ROSICKI, Esq., former Vice Chair and longtime Trustee, whose relationship with the Foundation spanned more than five decades. Cynthia carried forward a remarkable family tradition of service while creating a distinguished legacy of her own through leadership, generosity, and devotion to the Foundation's mission.

The daughter of longtime Foundation leader Wanda Senko, Cynthia grew up with the Kosciuszko Foundation as an important part of her life. She participated in the Pro Arte League and Debutante Council, made her formal debut at the Foundation Ball in 1978, and later served as Patroness of the Diamond Jubilee Ball in 2000.

Elected to the Board of Trustees in 2001, Cynthia went on to serve for more than two decades, including as Vice Chair of the Board. She brought thoughtful leadership and unwavering commitment to the Foundation. Together with her husband, Thomas Rosicki, Esq., she generously supported numerous cultural programs and initiatives, including the Foundation's chamber music concerts on WQXR.

Cynthia was an accomplished attorney and businesswoman. After studying at Adelphi University and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, she earned her J.D. from New York Law School in 1986. With her husband, she was a founding principal of Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C. Her commitment to service also extended to numerous charitable and community organizations, earning her recognition for both professional achievement and philanthropy.

Cynthia's passing in April 2026, only months after the passing of her mother, Wanda, brings special poignancy to our remembrance. Together, mother and daughter represented an extraordinary continuity of dedication to the Kosciuszko Foundation. Both served as Trustees, both as Vice Chairs, and both gave generously of their time, talents, and leadership to the institution and heritage they cherished.

We remember Cynthia with great affection and gratitude and extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband, Thomas, and to her family and loved ones. Her warmth, generosity, and devotion will remain an enduring part of the Kosciuszko Foundation's history.



IN MEMORIAM



CAROLYN CZAJA TOPOR
(1937-2026)

The Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter mourns the loss of CAROLYN CZAJA TOPOR, a remarkable leader, devoted advocate for Polish heritage, and one of the most influential figures in the history of our Chapter. For nearly five decades, Carolyn dedicated herself to sharing Poland's history, culture, arts, and traditions with people of all backgrounds throughout New England.

A founding member of the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter, Carolyn served as its president for 25 years, retiring from that position in 2023. Under her leadership, the Chapter flourished as a center for Polish cultural and educational programming. She helped establish and strengthen traditions that continue today, including the Annual Awards Luncheon and Concert, musical programs featuring distinguished Polish artists and laureates of the Chopin Piano Competition, cultural events throughout the region, and programs connecting younger Polish Americans with their heritage through the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Carolyn's commitment extended well beyond the New England Chapter. She served for 30 years on the National Advisory Council of the Kosciuszko Foundation, contributing her wisdom, energy, and deep knowledge of Polish American cultural life to the Foundation's broader mission. Together with her husband, Joseph Topor Jr., Carolyn also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The Center stands as an enduring testament to their vision—a place where Polish Americans can explore their roots and where people of all backgrounds can discover and appreciate Poland's rich and complex history and cultural heritage.

Carolyn's contributions were recognized with numerous honors. In 2008, she received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, one of Poland's highest civilian distinctions awarded to individuals living abroad for distinguished service to Poland. In 2014, she received the Polish Medal of Merit from the Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies at Central Connecticut State University. In 2018, she was invested as a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by the Vatican.

A 1958 graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Carolyn studied piano, voice, and Italian and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. A Mary Vance Young Scholarship enabled her to study art history in Florence, Italy, an experience that nurtured her lifelong passion for the arts. She later pursued graduate studies at Harvard University.

We remember Carolyn with profound gratitude for her extraordinary service, her friendship, her leadership, and her unwavering devotion to Poland and the Kosciuszko Foundation. Her legacy will continue to inspire the Chapter for generations to come.



LYDIA ZOFIA CAMPBELL
(1931-2026)

The Kosciuszko Foundation remembers with deep affection and gratitude Mrs. LYDIA ZOFIA CAMPBELL, a devoted friend, longtime member, and generous supporter whose commitment to her Polish heritage and to the Foundation's mission spanned more than four decades.

A Cherished Friend and Supporter of The Kosciuszko Foundation Mrs. Campbell, née Obierek, joined the Kosciuszko Foundation in 1985 and remained a steadfast supporter of its educational and cultural programs throughout her life. Her generosity was particularly evident in her support of musical initiatives, concerts, and piano competitions, which held a special place in her heart. She believed in preserving and celebrating Poland's rich cultural traditions and in passing that heritage on to future generations.Her involvement extended beyond financial support. Mrs. Campbell also served on the Foundation's National Advisory Council, demonstrating her longstanding commitment to the institution and its mission of strengthening ties between Poland and the United States.

Those who had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Campbell will remember her as a woman of remarkable elegance, grace, and kindness. Always impeccably dressed, with a warm and welcoming smile, she carried herself with quiet dignity. One of her final appearances at a major Foundation celebration was at the Kosciuszko Foundation's Centennial Ball in 2025, marking the organization's 100th anniversary. It was especially meaningful to have Mrs. Campbell among the guests celebrating this historic milestone, as she had been part of the Foundation's story for forty of those hundred years.

In May 2026, her sons, Timothy and Douglas Campbell, organized a special gathering in her memory at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in New York City. Bringing together family, friends, and members of the Foundation community, the event offered an opportunity to celebrate her life, share cherished memories, and reflect on her enduring connection to an institution that had meant so much to her. As a final expression of her longstanding affection for the Kosciuszko Foundation, Mrs. Campbell remembered the institution in her will, leaving a financial bequest and a painting from her personal collection. These thoughtful gifts reflect the special place the Foundation held in her heart and stand as a meaningful testament to her enduring commitment to its mission and the preservation of Polish cultural heritage.

Mrs. Lydia Campbell will be deeply missed, and her memory will remain an enduring part of our Foundation's history.

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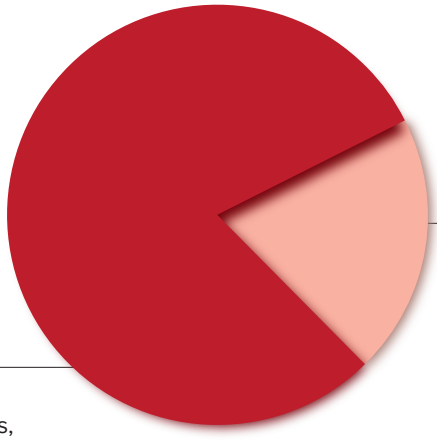

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