Spring Activities of the IU Polish Studies Center

Spring 1995 has been an active semester for IU’s Polish Studies Center. In late February, Wlodimierz Siwinski, Rector of Warsaw University, came to the Bloomington campus to discuss the long-standing exchange program between IU’s Polish Studies Center and Warsaw University’s American Studies Center with Office of International Programs administrators. A 1984-86 exchange professor at IU Bloomington, Siwinski was honored by a special reception. Pictured to the right, Siwinski is shown (left) exchanging gifts with IU Vice-President and Chancellor for Academic Affairs Kenneth Gros Louis.

During the same week, Leonard J. Baldyga, a senior consultant at IREX and former USIA Director of European Affairs, also visited IU Bloomington. Baldyga, a long-time friend of IU’s East European area studies, particularly the Warsaw University exchange program, delivered a February 28 lecture, “American Cultural Diplomacy and the New World Order.” At the reception following the talk Baldyga (second from left) and Siwinski visited with Bloomington physician Dr. Brad Bomba and his wife, Rita, who are prominent community supporters of the Polish Studies Center.

From March 24-April 1, the Polish Studies Center, REEI, and IUB’s Theater and Drama Department jointly sponsored a visit by theater historian Danuta Kuznicka of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Professor Kuznicka visited theater and Shakespeare classes, and presented a slide lecture on the intensely visual, highly symbolic scenography so distinctive to Poland’s national theater.

During the month of April, the Polish Studies Center hosted a number of other cultural events. On April 17, Dr. Nina Gladziuk, a Polish political theorist who is currently a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley and at George Washington University, presented a lecture titled “Post-communism and its Discontents,” in which she focused on the “everyday contradictions” of the transition from communism.

On April 21, the Center joined with the Department of English and the Horizons of Knowledge to sponsor a poetry reading by Robert Hass, translator of the poetry of Poland’s Nobel Laureate, Czeslaw Milosz.

Three Polish films were also presented in April. The showing of Red, the third part of Krzysztof Kieslowski’s acclaimed Three Colors trilogy, was co-sponsored by the Polish Studies Center and the Russian and East European Institute. Two films by Andrzej Wajda, Ashes and Diamonds and Korczak, were shown April 24 and 26 in commemoration of the fifty years since the end of World War II in Poland.

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