On the Cover: Warsaw: the Palace on the Isle at Royal Lazienki
In 2017 The Kosciuszko Foundation acquired three remarkable items for its Polish archives and art collection, one of the most extensive and valuable outside Poland. Ms. Ann Petelka Picard donated a splendid oil painting, “A Wounded Legionist,” by renowned Polish artist Wojciech Kossak. Our newly elected trustee Ms. Adriana Wos-Mysiwiec Esq. purchased and donated Władysław Benda’s painting of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, which was used to recruit soldiers to the Polish Army in WWI. Dr. Piotr Chomczynski, a Foundation trustee, funded the purchase of a letter handwritten by Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

For the first time in the Foundation’s history, items from our art collection traveled to Poland. Three outstanding paintings—“Kosciuszko in West Point” by Bolesław Jan Czedekowski, “Light Cavalry Lisowczycy” by Józef Brandt and “Gamrat and Stanczyk” by Jan Matejko—are on display at the Palace on the Isle at the Royal Lazienki in Warsaw. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Foundation and the Royal Lazienki Museum celebrating the 200th anniversary of Tadeusz Kosciuszko’s passing. The paintings will be on view until April 15 and are accompanied by a thought provoking educational program. We are very thankful to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Polish Committee for UNESCO and the American Chamber of Commerce for their patronage.

The 83rd Annual Dinner and Ball will be held on Saturday, April 28, with the theme, “Sto Lat! 100 years of Poland Rising.” Please save the date! We will be celebrating Poland’s centennial of independence after 123 years of being wiped off the world map.

In honor of the holiday season and the New Year, I sincerely thank you for all your support and partnership in 2017. Wishing you good health, happiness, and success in the coming year and always.

Happy New Year!
Rafal Olbinski immigrated to the United States in 1981, where he soon established himself as a prominent painter, illustrator and designer. He has received more than 150 awards, including the Gloria Artis, Poland’s highest honor for contributions to Polish culture, and the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta for outstanding achievement.

In 1994 he received the Prix Savignac in Paris for the world’s most memorable poster and the Creative Review Award in London for his illustrations. In 1995 a jury led by New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani selected Olbinski’s poster to represent New York City as the capital of the world. From 2002 to 2010 a selection of Olbinski’s paintings was projected on the ceiling of Grand Central Station as part of New York’s Earth Day celebrations alongside works by Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg and Andy Warhol. In 2001 the Wily-Brandt House in Berlin presented an Olbinski retrospective titled, “Art at the Turn of the Century.”

The following year Olbinski made his set-design debut for the Opera Company of Philadelphia’s production of Mozart’s Don Giovanni and was lauded by The New York Times and The Philadelphia Inquirer. That same year, the Goethe Institute in Hamburg exhibited his work in the exhibit, “Art with Moral Purpose.”

Olbinski was commissioned to create several paintings illustrating articles and essays on moral values for the German magazine Stern, which led to a traveling exhibition of these paintings first hosted by the German First Lady Eva Luise Köhler. In 2014 Olbinski presented at Art Expo China in Beijing. He has completed many large murals for installations in public space in Europe.

Olbinski’s illustrations have appeared in and on the covers of Newsweek, Time, Businessweek, Atlantic Monthly, Playboy, Omni, The New York Times, The New Yorker and Der Spiegel. His paintings are included in the collections of The National Arts Club in New York, the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, the Suntory Museum in Japan, and others throughout Europe and the US. He has also taught at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia and the School of Visual Arts in New York City.
On September 20, 2017, the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, visited The Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City. He was invited by the Foundation to meet with members of the scientific community who are of Polish origin and are members of the Kosciuszko Foundation Collegium of Eminent Scientists.

At the meeting were delegates from the Polish government: Polish Ambassador to the United States, Piotr Wilczek; Chief of the Cabinet at the President’s Chancellery, Krzysztof Szczerski; Secretary of State, Adam Kwiatkowski; Chief of the National Security Bureau, Pawel Soloch; Consul General to the Republic of Poland in New York, Maciej Golubiewski; and members of the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Board of Trustees/scientists—Dr. Hanna Chroboczek Kelker, Dr. Wlodzimierz Mandecki, Dr. Waldemar Priebe, Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, and Christopher Kolasa, MD.

The President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Marek Skulimowski, welcomed President Duda and his delegation with a brief history of the Foundation and its founding, and its core mission to continue to serve the Polish and Polish-American communities in the States. President Duda, on behalf of Poland, thanked the Kosciuszko Foundation for inviting him and his delegation, as he is the first Polish president to have visited the Foundation. President Duda remarked on the achievements of the Foundation, and for continuing to promote and support a culture of learning, especially among the Polish youth, for the last 92 years.

Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, a founding member of the Collegium and the Director of the Brander Cancer Research Institute at the New York Medical College, addressed the distinguished guests, stating that one of the foundations of the Collegium is to showcase the immense achievements of Polish scientists, and their work and research and technological advancements. Notable members of the Collegium include Nobel laureates in medicine, physics, and chemistry, and other industry leaders. Professor Darzynkiewicz observed that it is fitting the Collegium was established at the Kosciuszko Foundation, as the Foundation’s namesake itself a military engineer and architect. These deep Polish roots...
of the Foundation and the Collegium only further strengthen the mission to advocate for more Poles, and Polish-Americans, in the fields of science and technology.

The meeting was not only a chance to present to the President the current leaders and thinkers in these fields, but also to find ways to help further the education of the students in Poland who wish to study and learn abroad, as was brought up by Dr. Celina Imielińska, an electrical engineer and computer scientist and founder of Vesalius Technologies. President Duda recommended that the Kosciuszko Foundation serves as the link between the Polish government, and those students seeking studies abroad to receive the information they need.

This recent and important meeting with President Duda, the Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Collegium will increase the dialogue between the Polish governments and the Foundation in order to raise awareness of Polish scientific achievements in the United States and encourage the younger generation of Polish ancestry to seek support from this rich Polish scientific community.
On October 28, the Kosciuscko Foundation Collegium of Eminent Scientists of Polish Origin and Ancestry recognized Professor Waclaw Szybalski of the University of Wisconsin-Madison for his lifetime of accomplishments in the biological sciences and his devotion to his native city of Lwów. The meeting at the Foundation building in New York featured tributes to Professor Szybalski, now in his 97th year, a documentary film of his life by film-maker Anna Ferens, an all-Chopin concert by the pianist, Małgorzata Goroszewska, and remarks and reminiscences by friends and colleagues, including Nobelist James D. Watson (read by Dr. Norman Kelker).

As among Professor Szybalski’s first group of American doctoral students in the early 1960s, I was honored to have had the opportunity to acknowledge my gratitude, respect, and friendship toward this outstanding Polish-American. I was a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, where I was also studying medicine in the 1960s, an era in science, it seems in retrospect, when everything was going right: public support for science was unquestioned which translated into adequate funds for research. Researchers were trusted to formulate their own goals and research questions with minimal top-down constraints. The guiding principle from NIH was simply “to do good science.”

Into this atmosphere I joined Professor Szybalski’s research group in the fall of 1963. By then he was already famous for his pioneering work on antibiotic resistance, mammalian cell genetics, and radiation biophysics. Rather than describing his many scientific achievements, however, I will try to give you a student’s view of Professor Szybalski’s “style” and its influence.

For some reason, from day one, I developed a casual and open relationship with the faculty of the McArdle Laboratories, on a first name basis with even the most senior professors, even the director, Harold Rusch, whom most of the faculty called, deferentially, Dr. Rusch. Waclaw, I think, wanted it this way... one of the many little sayings that have stuck in my mind for over half a century was “take your work seriously, but not yourself.”

In the 1960s the group was fortunate to have a steady stream of visiting research scholars from Poland and elsewhere who enriched my scientific and social life as an insular midwestern, small-town boy. Among these visitors were Karol Taylor, a fine phage geneticist, who later became rector of Gdansk University, a good friend and a Polish patriot, as well as Georgii F. Gause, the famous director of the New Antibiotics Institute in Moscow. One night after working late in the lab, I invited Gause to join us to see a new movie playing in Madison, only to be met with stony silence: the movie was that new Peter Sellars film “Doctor Strangelove.” These experiences and friendships and learning about places far-away from my insular Midwest upbringing were an important part of my education with Dr. Szybalski. A ramble in the Tatry mountains is still on my “to do list.”

Waclaw has an engineer’s heart and mind, both by education and family tradition. His mother had a doctorate in chemistry and his father was an engineer. His brother was an engineer who helped New Brunswick Scientific evolve from a tool and die company into a major developer of biomedical lab equipment. Waclaw, the engineer, is a problem solver. It seemed so natural in his laboratory to find his engineering approach on display: gradient plates, important improvements in ultracentrifuge technology, “home made” colony counters, and devices for controlled empyting of centrifuge tubes are some that have stuck in my memory. He once proudly announced, right after a visit from the centrifuge company service person, that he had just re-aligned the optics far better than the service expert. When he was considering the application of a Catholic nun, Sister Veronica Mary Maher (who later became Dean of Research at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine), to join us as a graduate student, he asked me if I though her religious veil would get in the way of her need to stick her head inside the equipment to make the necessary adjustments and modifications. Always thinking of practical problems. Again, another saying about practical lab management comes to mind: “if it breaks once, it will break again, so order two replacement parts.” And I can attest that his office was (and probably still is) a treasure trove of such backup stuff.

For me, Szybalski’s laboratory was an ideal place to be a student. I have always had a theoretical and philosophical bent, after all I was a mathematics major as an undergraduate. I was the opposite of the engineering ideal that was closer to Waclaw’s scientific viewpoint. I think that scientists come in two basic flavors: those who ask “how does the world work?” and those who ask “how can I solve this problem?” It is the intersection of these two world views that often leads to the best science. I think Waclaw made me better appreciate this point. Both the freedom of the 1960s and our complementary tastes worked to make my time as his student a happy and productive time.

Waclaw seemed careful to pair the foreign visitors with the local students in the lab as a way to stimulate the visitors to speak English. It may seem strange, but I credit Waclaw with some of my best instruction in the use of English: like another famous son of Poland, Joseph Conrad, Professor Szybalski has an abiding affection for good English. As the founder and editor of the prestigious journal GENE, he is famous for his copy-editing
of the manuscripts of native English speakers... more than one colleague has told me that he has kept one of these, almost bloody, extensively red-inked edited manuscripts as a memento of what he did not know of his own language. Because of his influence, I am wary of mixing Greek and Latin roots and of using “due to” when I mean “as a result of.”

Previous generations had given us the outlines of answers to two of what I call the “big four” questions in biology: first is the question of how things got to be the way they are? with Darwin’s principles of natural selection; the second is the question of the difference between living and dead, unraveled with understanding of molecular organization, energy and thermodynamics. The generation of Professor Watson and Professor Szybalski tackled one of the big four questions in biology, namely, “how does like beget like” and effectively solved it. We still marvel at the mystery of the last big question, “how are we aware of our own existence?”

One way of approaching the nature and function of the gene, an approach that seems quaint to some these days, was an approach that linked three of us represented at this event, Jim Watson, Waclaw, and myself: radiation biology... x-ray and ultraviolet radiation effects were ways to probe the mysteries of the cell, of heredity, and, of course, of DNA. This approach, in its direct aims, has been superseded by the vast array of new tools, still aimed at these same questions, but the central importance of preserving the DNA code and gene stability, have re-emerged recently as central to the understanding of cancer, evolution, and environmental science, recognized last year with two Nobel Prizes.

Professor Szybalski’s curiosity, energy, and enthusiasm for novel science was, and still is, a hallmark of his mentorship. Upon joining his research group in the summer of 1963, the senior graduate student in the lab, Ray Erickson, now Professor Emeritus at Harvard, told me that every morning I would find a few small notes on my desk from Waclaw based on his overnight musings. Ray advised me to read them carefully, then prudently set them aside to avoid being overwhelmed with the flow of suggestions from Waclaw’s fertile mind. Even now, when I have the opportunity to visit him in Madison, I continue to feel his excitement and engagement with new ideas, new technologies and new ways to attack the question on the essence of life.

There is an old Chinese proverb that says that the great teacher is a stepping stone not a stumbling block, and, Professor Szybalski, I can say thank you for being my stepping stone. Dziękuję Ci.
The Collegium of Eminent Scientists was established by the Kosciuszko Foundation in 2014 to honor scientists of Polish origin and ancestry who have made important contributions to the natural sciences. Over the last year we pursued our founding mission with great intensity.

Frank Wilczek, recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics, accepted an invitation to serve as an honorary member of the Collegium’s Board of Advisors. Other notable honorary advisors are Roald Hoffmann, recipient of the Nobel Prize in chemistry; Maria Siemionow, the surgeon and transplant specialist who led a team of eight surgeons through the world’s first near-total face transplant at the Cleveland Clinic in 2008, and Waclaw Szybalski, a pioneer in developing the tools of modern genetics.

We believe the work of eminent Polish-born scientists and scientists of Polish descent residing in the US would be of interest to historians, and thus we have assumed the task of publishing a directory. At present the Collegium has compiled biographies of 400 scientists from various fields. Among them are four Nobel Prize recipients and numerous members of the U.S. Academy of Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences and Polish Academy of Learning.

Nearly a year ago Roald Hoffmann honored the Collegium with a lecture entitled, “Protochemistry,” the first of a series of talks given by our most accomplished members. The subject of this enchanting lecture was the beginnings of chemistry in ancient times, when then-unknown elements and chemical compounds were used to prepare and preserve foods, make cosmetics, medicines, ceramics, and dyes, tan leather, and clean and embalm bodies. These fascinating stories, some of which Prof. Hoffman related to the present day, formed a natural connection between chemists and non-chemists, or between chemistry and culture. As Prof. Hoffman stressed, “Protochemistries also connect our world, in time and in substance; their stories normalize science. And they plant science firmly in the context of world culture—chemistry in culture, culture in chemistry.” Also an accomplished poet and playwright, Prof. Hoffmann also presented his poetry, recited by actor Olek Krupa. A Chopin recital by Magdalena Baczewska followed the presentation.
Professor Waclaw Szybalski was our second member invited to speak at the Foundation. Despite his 96 years he flew in from the University of Wisconsin, where he is Professor Emeritus, to take part in an evening in his honor. A documentary on Prof. Szybalski by Anna Ferens entitled, “The Essence of Life,” was screened, giving attendees a glimpse into our guest of honor’s childhood and strong attachment to Lwow, where he was born. In one scene, an 11-year-old Waclaw meets Maria Skłodowska Curie, and she encourages him to be a scientist. How prophetic was this encounter, and how moving this scene!

The film shows how, during the Second World War, Lwow was invaded and destroyed by Germans and Soviets and nearly the entire Polish scientific elite exterminated.

During his post-war research in the US, Prof. Szybalski developed a foundation of molecular genetics, a new discipline that revolutionized biology and medicine. He also promoted a multidrug treatment of disease and advocated the use of multiple antibiotics for tuberculosis to prevent drug resistance.

Today, multidrug therapy is a standard treatment for tuberculosis, AIDS, leukemia and other diseases. In 1974 Szybalski heralded the next stage of biological innovation, which he termed “synthetic biology.” The actual progress in this field is occurring only now, thanks to tools that can fully synthesize new genes and incorporate them into live cells. By initiating the development of such tools, Prof. Szybalski prompted a new era of research in biology and medicine.

The film screening was followed by remarks by Prof. William Summers of Yale University and a Chopin recital by pianist Małgorzata Goroszewska. During the informal part of this evening, numerous attendees approached Prof. Szybalski with questions, comments and requests for a joint photograph. The evening provided an opportunity for at least three generations of scientists to meet and learn from Prof. Szybalski and each other.

These events could not have transpired without the intense preparation and organization of our member Hanna Kelker, with the help of Urszula Urban and Ewa Zadworna, the Foundation’s Director of Cultural Affairs. We thank them wholeheartedly.

We also recently welcomed President of Poland Andrzej Duda and his delegation, including Polish Ambassador to the United States, Piotr Wilczek; Chief of the Cabinet of the President’s Chancellery, Krzysztof Szczerbowski; Chief of the National Security Bureau, Paweł Soloch; Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Maciej Golubiewski; and several scientists and members of the Collegium including Zbigniew Darzyńkiewicz, Waldemar Priebe, Andrzej Pawlak, and Marek Rudnicki. The meeting provided an opening for a new role for the Foundation, namely, to assist students in Poland who wish to study and abroad. President Duda suggested that the Kosciuszko Foundation serve as a link between the Polish government and students who wish to study in the US.

The Collegium has grown significantly over the past year. Since November 2016 we have accepted 43 new members. They primarily represent the second generation: scholars born in the U.S. to Polish parents. Since their parents’ place of birth—and thus their ancestry—is difficult to confirm, we selected a subgroup of these scholars based on their remarkably high h-index: the objective marker of scientific excellence revealed by evidence of how many times their publications have been cited in the worldwide literature. The leaders among them are: John Trojanowski, University of Pennsylvania, h=197; Terrence Sejnowski, h=145; Martin Novak, Harvard University, h=133; Paul Falkowski, Rutgers University, h=117; and Daniel Klionsky, University of Michigan, h=112. It should be stressed that fewer than one per 5,000 researchers have an h index above 100. Thus based on this marker of excellence, we hold our new fellow members in the highest esteem.
Three outstanding paintings from the collection of the Kościuszko Foundation in New York—"Kościuszko in West Point" by Bolesław Jan Czedekowski, "Light Cavalry Lisowczycy" by Józef Brandt as well as "Gamrat and Stańczyk" by Jan Matejko—are presented at the Royal Łazienki—the Palace on the Isle till April 15th 2018.

The opening on October 19th, 2017 attracted a number of the Polish government officials, diplomats, KF trustees, former scholarship recipients, luminaries of the Polish art and academia as well as media. The program of the event included a piano recital by a KF grantee Kamil Pacholec and a reception at the Old Orangery.

The works from the collections of the Kościuszko Foundation are displayed at the exhibition of one painting in the Dining Room in The Palace on the Isle. From October 20, to December 15, 2017, the audience will be able to contemplate the first painting, "Kościuszko in West Point" by Bolesław Jan Czedekowski. Later, the following paintings will be presented, in the respective order: "Light Cavalry Lisowczycy" by Józef Brandt (from December 15, 2017 to February 15, 2018) and "Gamrat and Stańczyk" by Jan Matejko (from February 15, to April 15, 2018).

It is organized by the Royal Łazienki Museum in cooperation with the Kościuszko Foundation. The exhibition, which is part of the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of death of Tadeusz Kościuszko, is under the honorary patronage of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, the Polish Committee for UNESCO and the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland. The partners of the exhibition “Paintings from the Collections of the Kościuszko Foundation in New York” are: PZU Foundation, VRP Foundation, HSBC Bank Polska S.A., Inglot Sp. zo.o., KGHM Polska Miedź S.A., Zygmunt Rolat.

"Kościuszko in West Point" is permanently on display above the mantelpiece in the Gallery of Polish Masters in the Kościuszko Foundation in New York. Bolesław Jan Czedekowski created the painting at the request of the Chairman of the Foundation, Stefan Mierzwa. The human-size figure of Tadeusz Kościuszko is presented in the uniform of the Brigadier of the American Continental Army from the American Revolutionary War. The chest of the commander-in-chief is decorated with the order of the Society of Cincinnati, to which he belonged. In the background, one can see Fort Clinton by the Hudson River. Czedekowski visited West Point several times to learn about...
Exhibition of One Painting
continued from page 9

the topography of the terrain and see the personal belongings of Kościuszko, which had been preserved at the location. The volute in the top left corner of the portrait contains the following quote from George Washington: “Kościuszko is a man of science and merit.”

The painting by Józef Brandt, “Light Cavalry Lisowczycy” became part of the collection of the Kościuszko Foundation in 1958 and is regarded as its most valuable item. The dynamic scene depicts riders of the light horse cavalry, who were conscripted in the 17th century by Colonel Aleksander Lisowski and lived off with plunder. The target of the Bowman—the turban—alludes to the battles against Turks in the south-east of Poland. Genre scenes from the 17th century wars—Cossack rebellions, Tatar invasions, or the Swedish Deluge—are characteristic elements of Brandt’s paintings. However, his paintings do not depict specific historical events. What the artist intended instead was to present historical costumes and weapons with perfect accuracy. The painter’s favourite theme was a moving horse—in gallop or charging the enemy—and mounted by a colourful figure of a rider: a Cossack, a Tatar, or Lisowczyk—depicted in the frenzy of battle. Canvases by Brandt hang in almost all Polish museums, and his works also appear in private and museum collections in America and Europe.

The painting “Gamrat and Stańczyk” is the work of Jan Matejko, who is regarded as the greatest Polish history painter; it is a dynamic composition, presenting multiple figures. It depicts a procession entering a square through a gate (the scene takes place at night). The procession is led by Bishop Piotr Gamrat, custodian of Queen Bona Sforza, and Stańczyk, jester of King Sigmund the Old. In the background is a man carrying a litter, and other figures. Also in the background, a part of the Wawel Royal Castle is seen alongside two town houses. The painting dates from 1873-1878. It was entrusted to the Kościuszko Foundation in 1950 by Joseph F. Lester, on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation. It has not yet been displayed to a Polish audience.

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Descriptions of the paintings provided by Elizabeth Koszarski-Skarbonja
Professor Emil Chroboczek was born in Upper Silesia to a coal miner’s family. He completed his university training in Poland, and then, with the aid of a Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship and financial support from the Polish National Fund completed his Ph.D. studies in Horticulture at Cornell University in 1932. His doctoral thesis on the relationship of temperature and flowering of beets is to this day recognized as a classic study in this field. He returned to Poland in 1932 and, based on his outstanding success at Cornell, he was awarded a professorship at the College of Agriculture in Warsaw (SGGW) where he was later appointed Dean of the Department of Vegetable Crops. He later organized and directed the development of the Institute of Vegetable Crops in Skierniewice.

During his long and productive career, Professor Chroboczek made numerous contributions to Polish Horticulture. Under his direction, numerous new vegetable varieties were developed and advances in greenhouse technology were made. Significant studies on mechanization and on vegetable storage physiology were performed. The institute is recognized as one of the principal centers of horticultural research in Central Europe. For his contributions, Professor Chroboczek received many honors, including membership in the Polish Academy of Sciences, honorary doctorates from Polish and foreign universities and the Komandorski Krzyz Odrodzenia Polski. He was a remarkable man with a strong moral judgement, free from influence by the wartime honor or by political pressure.

Professor Chroboczek was supported immeasurably throughout his career by his wife Zofia Gabryl Chroboczek, graduate of the Jagiellonian University’s Agriculture Department. She was a vital force at her husband’s Institute where her efforts resulted in many improvements to the Institute’s culture and vitality. Zofia Chroboczek was a loyal wife, mother and citizen who along with her husband spread good deeds to many.
The Frank and Barbara Kosak Scholarship Fund

The Frank and Barbara Kosak Scholarship Fund was established in the summer of 2017 by their son Peter Kosak and his wife Sylvia Kosak of Vernon, Connecticut. The mission of the scholarship is to help Polish nationals and Americans of Polish descent pursue academic studies specifically in the fields of engineering and medical sciences. The scholarship will be available to students at the graduate and post-graduate level of study.

Frank (Franciszek) Kosak was from the village of Górno near the regional capital city of Rzeszów in southeastern Poland. He came to the United States in 1904 entering the country through the Ellis Island immigration facility in New York along with many immigrants of that era. He first worked in a bicycle manufacturing plant in Passaic, New Jersey before traveling to Minnesota to become a lumberjack. Finally, he settled down to start a family in Worcester, Massachusetts taking up a factory job in one the many new manufacturing plants of the time.

Barbara Kosak (Koza) was from the village of Brzyska Wola in the same southeastern region of Poland. Frank and Barbara married in 1916 in Worcester and had 8 children there before moving to New Britain, Connecticut. Both cities had a large Polish community and still do to this day. Frank and Barbara died in 1975 and 1979 respectively.

Their youngest child, Peter, pursued a career in engineering with the aid of the G.I. Bill at the University of Connecticut. Through decades of careful dividends-focused stock investing, he and his wife want to give back to the Polish community. The scholarship is in memory of Peter’s parents, who were never able to return to Poland after making the journey and commitment to settle in the United States over 100 years ago. Recently, Peter and Sylvia and their two sons traveled to Poland to visit both ancestral villages and even found the house where Frank Kosak was born and lived.

The Kosak family chose to work with the Kosciuszko Foundation to assist with this part of their philanthropic giving. There is good alignment between the family’s goals and The Foundation’s mission to foster culture and scholarship between the United States and Poland. On a practical level, the director and staff at the Kosciuszko Foundation proved to be good partners in this effort. Working with the Foundation has made for a greater awareness of Polish culture for the entire Kosak family.

Volunteer at The Kosciuszko Foundation

The Kosciuszko Foundation is eager to hear from college, graduate students and community members. There are several ways for volunteers to help the Foundation. Please see descriptions of our volunteer opportunities below:

**KF ANNUAL DINNER & BALL AND OTHER FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**
Help with preparations for the Ball and/or other fundraising events hosted throughout the year. Responsibilities include helping with promotional activities, identifying and reaching out to donors, setting up events, greeting and assisting guests, selling raffle tickets, providing general event monitoring, and more.

**CULTURAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS:**
The Foundation holds many cultural and special events each year. Volunteer job responsibilities include event set-up, registration, greeting and directing guests and other miscellaneous tasks.

**OFFICE HELP:**
The Foundation needs volunteers to answer phones, help with archive digitalization, mailings, data entry and other administrative tasks to assist full-time staff members.

**CREATIVE SUPPORT:**
The Foundation could use any of your special skills and talents, such as photography, graphic design, writing, etc. for a variety of organizational activities.

**RESEARCH:**
Help us and prospective foundation, corporate & individual donors.

*If you are interested in volunteering at the Kosciuszko Foundation, please contact us via email development@thekf.org or by phone 212-734-2130.*

Thank you for your interest in volunteer opportunities with the Kosciuszko Foundation!
In 2015, the “Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Scholarship” was created at the Kościuszko Foundation. The donors both come from immigrant backgrounds, (Czech and Polish), and say that they could not have attended college without receiving scholarships. They wanted to “pay it forward.” Dr. James Trefil is Clarence J. Robinson Professor of Physics at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, and an author of over 50 books about various areas of science. Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil spent 42 years teaching Music, Theater, and English in public schools. They had a hard time deciding what kind of scholarship to set up. Should it be a Science Scholarship for a student of Czech background to honor Jim? Or, should it be a Music Scholarship for a student of Polish background to honor Wanda? Thus, the “Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Scholarship” is the result of a happy compromise between their ethnic backgrounds and professional interests: a Science Scholarship for a student of Polish-American background.

Upon researching the kinds of scholarships administered by the Kościuszko Foundation, they noticed a gap in undergraduate scholarships in science. What was needed was a scholarship for undergraduates, US citizens of Polish descent, with a minimum GPA of 3.5, who show exceptional promise in the natural sciences: physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, earth science, etc. The scholarship is for studies in the United States, and one $5,000 scholarship is available each year.

The donors have been delighted by the first two recipients of the scholarship, Caroline Cwalina in 2016 and Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski in 2017. They have set the bar high, and represent exactly the kind of hard-working, well-rounded, high-achieving students that the Trefils envisioned. Caroline Cwalina of Pittsburgh, PA studies Biochemistry at Duquesne University. Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski of Lindenhurst, NY studies pre-med and anthropology at Harvard University. In addition to being outstanding science students, both young ladies work to contribute financially to their own education, and are active in the arts and their Polish communities.

Generally, it takes a number of years before a fund accumulates enough interest to make an annual award. We are lucky that, not only have Drs. James and Wanda Trefil made a very generous donation of $50,000 to endow the scholarship fund, they are also contributing $5,000 each year so that we can make annual awards now, before the fund matures. In congratulations to each scholarship recipient, Dr. James Trefil sends one of his latest publications. This year there were two: Exoplanets, published by Smithsonian, and The Story of Innovation, published by National Geographic. Jim’s immigrant Czech grandparents came to Chicago, and Jim started his career at the University of Illinois, later studying at Oxford, and obtaining a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He has held appointments at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), the Laboratory for Nuclear Sciences at MIT, and others. Dr. James Trefil is the recipient of numerous lifetime achievement awards, including the American Institute of Physics Science Writing Awards, the AAAS Westinghouse Science Journalism Award, the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Andrew W. Gement Award for linking physics to the arts and humanities.

Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil’s first language was Polish. She was born in England, the daughter of soldiers who escaped Siberia and served in the Polish Second Corps under General Anders. While growing up in Cleveland, there was no TV or car in the family, but there was a piano. Wanda is a pianist who is active in the Polish community around Washington DC. She frequently performs at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and at the Kościuszko Foundation in Washington DC. Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil has chaired the ACPC Sembrich Competition for singers of Polish descent. She served as 1st Vice-President of the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA), chairing their scholarship program, and organizing fund raisers at the Polish Embassy to raise scholarship money. For years, she was Secretary of the Polish American Congress, Washington DC chapter. Her music performance degrees are from Case-Western University, and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.
During its Semi-Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation approves funding for the Foundation’s Exchange Program to the U.S. In May 2017, the Board allocated $430,000 for 40 gifted individuals from Poland as recipients of the Foundation’s Fellowships and Grants for the 2017/18 academic year. Due to personal affairs 5 recipients gave up their scholarships.

Between March 21st and March 30th 2017 members of the U.S. Advisory Committee (listed on Page 3) together with members of the Polish Academic Commission (listed on Page 4) participated in personal interview sessions held at the University of Warsaw’s Kolegium Artes Liberales in Warsaw, Poland.

Members of the Academic Advisory Committee for the 2017/18 Advanced Research/Study Program for Polish Citizens:

- Hanna Chroboczek Kelter, Ph.D.: Former research Assistant Professor, Departments of Microbiology and Medicine, New York University School of Medicine (retired), Member of Center for AIDS Research at NYU, Member of the Board of Directors of PIASA
- Grazyna Czetwertynska, Ph.D: Professor, Kollegium Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw, and President, Fundacja Kosciuszkowska Polska.
- Marian Kornilowicz, Esq.: Attorney at Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC
- Wlodek Mandecki, Ph.D.: Chairman & President, PharmaSeq Inc., Adjunct Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the New Jersey Medical School of Rutgers University at Newark, NJ.
- Ewa Radwanska, M.D. Ph.D.: Director of the Section of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL
- Marek Skulimowski: President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation
- Andrzej Kondratowicz, Ph.D: Department of Economics, University of Social Science and Humanities in Warsaw Poland
- Prof. Zbigniew Lasocik: Department of Criminology and Criminal Policy, University of Warsaw, Poland
- Adam Lipsyc, Ph.D.: Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw, Poland
- Lukasz Tymiecki, Ph.D.: Department of Chemistry at University of Warsaw, Poland
- Andrzej Waskiewicz, Ph.D.: Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw, Poland
- Marek Wecowski, Ph.D.: Institute of History, University of Warsaw, Poland

All interviews were conducted in the English language, thereby evaluating the English proficiency of the candidates. Each interview lasted approximately 30 minutes, including Committee discussions prior to and after each session. Following the interviews, the candidates were ranked from the highest score down (10-0). Discussions at the end of each interview created a basis for evaluating the overall excellence taking into consideration the following factors: candidate’s qualifications and accomplishments, importance of the project, written proposal, site of acceptance and overall impression of an applicant’s presentation. The Committee had an opportunity to review the files of all candidates beforehand in order to evaluate the merit of the candidates’ research proposals, their clarity and seriousness of purpose, and the persuasiveness of their arguments for conducting research in the United States.

**HUMANITIES:**

- Batog, Wlodzimierz, Professor, Jan Kochanowski University Kielce, Ph.D.: 3-month fellowship to conduct a research on the Polish language federation of the Communist Party USA and Polish American communists in the United States at New York University with Dr. John Earl Haynes.
- Biernacka-Ligieza, Ilona Professor, University of Maria Curie Sklodowska, Poznan, Ph.D. Habilitation in Comparative Linguistics and Communication, University of Wroclaw - 4-month fellowship to analyze democratic challenges and problems associated with new information and communications technology (ICT) being implemented by a local communication system in different political and media systems, at University of North Caroline at Chapell Hill, with Professor Richard Cole - Dean Emeritus.
- Kulesza, Marek Professor Emeritus, Arts Institute PAN, Warsaw: 5-month fellowship to conduct a research of two remaining, never examined, US archives of Richard Boleslawski/Ryszard Boleslawski, a most prominent Polish director of the Hollywood Golden Era, to prepare publications—both in Polish and in English—the crucial findings of these collections (undisclosed so far details of Boleslawski’s life and global career), with Mary K. Huelsbeck at University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin Historical Society, Center for Film and Theatre Research, and Ginny Kilander, University of Wyoming, Laramie, American Heritage Center.
investigate the archives located in the region
Professor Stephen Yablo at MIT.
Agustin Rayo, Professor Robert Stalnaker and
the notion of content should play an explanatory role
in terms of truth-conditions and the other that the
mental contents ought to be individuated in
important philosophical intuitions: one that
mental contents, which accommodates two
authors succumbed to or resisted the "paradigm
dominance over life—biopower—can
contemporary power over life—biopower—can
be understood as an endeavor to establish control
over corporeal boundaries, and specifically
over body fluids, as they pose a threat to the
stability of individual and political bodies, con-
stantly and chaotically flowing between indi-
viduals and populations, with Elzbieta Matynia,
Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies and
Director of the Transregional Center for Dem-
ocratic Studies and Dominic Pettman, Chair of the
Committee on Liberal Studies, an advisor.

projects (personal-book project and one for
the team working on edition of primary sources)
with John P. Dunn, David Williams, Chris
Meyers at Valdosta State University, Georgia.

ph.D. in American literature,
University of Łódź, Poland,
Assistant Professor, University of Łódź - 3-month fellowship to conduct a research to complete
the book-length study on the
work of prominent American avant-garde author
Leslie Scalapino “Upping the Ante: Speculative Materialism of Leslie Scalapino,” framed in
the context of the philosophies of Catherine
Malabou and Quentin Meillassouix; to work on
Scalapino papers, archived at the San Diego Uni-
versity library, California with Professor Michael.

Makowski, Piotr
Ph.D. in philosophy, ethics,
Adam Mickiewicz University,
Poznan, Assistant Professor,
Adam Mickiewicz University,
Poznan - 3-month fellowship to conduct a research focused on
the action theory proposed by Polish philosopher,
Tadeusz Kotarbinski. It will help to explore the
extent to which Kotarbinski’s theory can be devel-
oped with the aid of the newest views, proposed
especially in the American academic environment.
by Professor Luca Ferrero at Department of
Philosophy, College of Humanities, Arts & Social
Sciences, University of California Riverside.

Marciniak, Przemysław
Professor, Uniwersytet Slaski,
Katowice, Ph.D. Habilitation in
Literature, Byzantine Studies,
Uniwersytet Slaski, 3-month fellowship to conduct a research to analyze how Byzantine
Constantinople was imagined in English literature
between the seventeenth and the nineteenth
centuries, and, to what extent writers such as Mark
Twain, Herman Melville and many less well known
authors succumbed to or resisted the “paradigm
dominance over life—biopower—can
contemporary power over life—biopower—can
be understood as an endeavor to establish control
over corporeal boundaries, and specifically
over body fluids, as they pose a threat to the
stability of individual and political bodies, con-
stantly and chaotically flowing between indi-
viduals and populations, with Elzbieta Matynia,
Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies and
Director of the Transregional Center for Dem-
ocratic Studies and Dominic Pettman, Chair of the
Committee on Liberal Studies, an advisor.

of the relationship opposite, and it is leaders who
are formed by the conflict cultures of their organi-
zations, in co-operation with the Culture Lab at the
University of Maryland with Prof. Michele Gelfand.

Myk, Małgorzata
Ph.D. in American literature,
University of Łódź, Poland,
Assistant Professor, University of Łódź - 3-month fellowship to conduct a research to complete
the book-length study on the
work of prominent American avant-garde author
Leslie Scalapino “Upping the Ante: Speculative Materialism of Leslie Scalapino,” framed in
the context of the philosophies of Catherine
Malabou and Quentin Meillassouix; to work on
Scalapino papers, archived at the San Diego Uni-
versity library, California with Professor Michael.

Matuszkiewicz, Maria
Ph.D. in philosophy, University
of Warsaw, Warsaw: 4-month
fellowship to conduct research
on singular contents and their
role in psychological expla-
nation to propose a theory of
mental contents, which accommodates two
important philosophical intuitions: one that
mental contents ought to be individuated in
terms of truth-conditions and the other that the
notion of content should play an explanatory role
in psychology with the support of Professor
Agustin Rayo, Professor Robert Stalnaker and
Professor Stephen Yablo at MIT.

Mazurkiewicz, Anna
Ph.D. in History, University of
Gdansk, Academic Teacher
(Adiunkt), University of
Gdansk, Gdansk: 4 month
fellowship to teach two courses
on Polish history and on the
Polish-American experience at the VSU and to
investigate the archives located in the region
by conducting preliminary queries for two

Pudlocki, Tomasz
Ph.D. Habilitation in History,
Jagiellonian University, Krakow,
Professor, Jagiellonian Universi-
ty, Krakow: 3-month fellowship to investigate the paths of co-
operation between Polish and
American scholars as well as journalists: to show
the network of their contacts, to examine how
this network was built, who it included and why,
to find out why people even from very distant academia milieus, not connected with regions
typically inhabited by the Polish Americans, were
inhabitants of the “good atmosphere” for
Poland and Polish studies in the US, and to exam-
ine the importance of personal contacts as key
factors of intellectual growth of interest in Poland
among American scholars and journalists, with
Dr. Kumru Toktamis at Pratt Institute, Department
of Social Science and Cultural Science, School of
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Brooklyn, NY.

Radziwinowicz, Agnieszka
Ph.D. Habilitation in History,
Jagiellonian University, Krakow,
Professor, Jagiellonian University,
Krakow: 3-month fellowship to investigate the paths of cooperation between
Polish and American scholars as well as jour-
nalists: to show the network of their contacts,
to examine how this network was built, who it included and why, to find out why people
even from very distant academia milieus, not connected with regions typically inhabited by the Polish Americans, were
inhabitants of the “good atmosphere” for
Poland and Polish studies in the US, and to exam-
ine the importance of personal contacts as key
factors of intellectual growth of interest in Poland
among American scholars and journalists, with
Dr. Kumru Toktamis at Pratt Institute, Department
of Social Science and Cultural Science, School of
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Brooklyn, NY.

Sawczuk, Tomasz
Ph.D. candidate, University of
Warsaw, Institute of Philoso-
phy, Warsaw 3-month grant
to write three chapters of a
Ph.D. thesis, out of ten total,
dedicated to the methodology
of Richard Rorty’s pragmatist liberalism, with
supervision of Prof. Robert Brandom, Univer-
sity of Pittsburgh and Prof. Eduardo Mendieta,
The Pennsylvania State University.
by minority members aimed at enhancing majority members for collective action taken on behalf of outgroups, with Professor Robyn Mallett at Loyola University Chicago.

Kowalski, Karol, Ph.D. Habilitation in Civil Engineering, Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw: 4-month fellowship to check if the sustainability in road construction can be achieved by works in the scope of materials and technology, since road construction requires application of huge amounts of material and work interfering with natural environment, to determine most suitable protocols to limit environmental impact of road construction by: increment of range of application of material from recycling and from natural resources, use of biodegradable materials, reduction of technological temperature, higher durability of road structure and limitation of traffic noise, with Jan Olek, Professor of Civil Engineering.

Kulakowski, Konrad, Ph.D. in Computer Science, AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków, Assistant Professor, AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków: 4-month research on the resistance of methods and decision-making systems to manipulation (e.g. bribery, control, etc.) by analyzing the known methods relating to the social choice models like Llull voting systems, with Michael Soltys, Professor and Chair of Computer Science California State University Channel Islands.

Mrukiewicz, Mateusz, Ph.D. in Materials science, Military University of Technology, Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Military University of Technology, Warsaw: 3-month fellowship to explore the mechanisms of electro-optic effects in liquid crystals, such as nanosecond modification of the order parameter and electrically controlled structures of the newly discovered twist-bend nematic structures, with Oleg D. Lavrentovich, Trustees Research Professor, Liquid Crystal Institute & Chemical Physics Interdisciplinary Program, Kent State University, Ohio.

Przybek, Joanna, Ph.D. student, Pharmacology, The Medical University of Warsaw: 3-month grant to investigate what causes scars on cornea which are one of the leading causes of blindness and impaired visual acuity nowadays. Currently available procedures are insufficient in the treatment of some cornea inflammation (keratitis) especially caused by multi-resistant bacteria what is why some novel agents should be investigated, with Leejee H Suh, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Harkness Eye Institute at Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

Roman, Maciej, Ph.D. in chemistry, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Assistant Professor, Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN, Kraków: 3-month fellowship to test the selective recognition of prostate cancer cells expressing different levels of prostate-specific membrane antigen in in vitro tumor models with ultrahigh affinity surface-enhanced Raman scattering nanoprobes. To achieve this, three types of models will be engineered (2D co-culture system, 3D spheroid monoculture system, 3D spheroid co-culture system) and imaged using Raman microscopy at the single cell level; with Prof. Ishan Barman at Johns Hopkins University.

Skwarska, Anna, Ph.D. in Biotechnology, Faculty of Chemistry, Gdańsk University of Technology, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Technology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Gdańsk University of Technology: 8-month fellowship to design more efficient treatment strategies to overcome low efficacy of inhibitors of receptor tyrosine kinase FLT3 and help to maintain their activity against acute myeloid leukemia cells residing in hypoxic bone marrow niches; with Professor Marina Konopleva, M.D., Ph.D. Department of Leukemia at University of Texas.

Stefaniak, Elżbieta, Ph.D. in chemistry, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland, Professor, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin: 3-month fellowship to conduct a research to deliver unambiguous tracers of airborne carbonaceous particles as the evidence leading to their emitters, which is a first step of any preventive actions to avoid many premature deaths; with Professor Mark P. Fischer, Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Northern Illinois University.

SCIENCES:

Wielecki, Kamil, Ph.D. in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw, Warszawa: 3 month fellowship to re-construct the roots and fruits of a post-socialist economic culture: to examine how individual entrepreneurs anticipated, lived and shaped the course of systemic transformations in Central and Eastern Europe, including analyzing Russian, Polish and East-German cases, with Professor Alexander Cooley at Harriman Institute of Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (Columbia University, NY).

Wojdon, Joanna, Ph.D. Habilitation in history, University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Associate Professor, Universytet Wrocławski, Wroclaw: 3-month fellowship to prepare a history of the Polish American Congress under presidency of Edward Moskal with Dr. Maciej Siekierski at Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

Wielecki, Kamil, Ph.D. in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw, Warszawa: 3 month fellowship to re-construct the roots and fruits of a post-socialist economic culture: to examine how individual entrepreneurs anticipated, lived and shaped the course of systemic transformations in Central and Eastern Europe, including analyzing Russian, Polish and East-German cases, with Professor Alexander Cooley at Harriman Institute of Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (Columbia University, NY).
Stefaniak, Ewelina, Ph.D. student, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw: 3-month grant to investigate potential function of β-amyloid peptides in copper delivery to the hCtr1 receptor and to elucidate their role in physiology. This research could be crucial for molecular mechanisms in Alzheimer’s Disease, with Assistant Professor Kathryn L. Haas, Ph.D. at Saint Mary’s College Notre Dame, IN.

Stepniowski, Wojciech, Ph.D. in Materials Science / Nanotechnology, Military University of Technology, Assistant Professor, Military University of Technology, Warsaw: 3-month fellowship to investigate and understand anodization of copper. Formed copper oxides will serve then as a material for photo-electrochemical water splitting into hydrogen and oxygen, contributing in renewable energy harvesting; with Professor Wojciech Z. Misiolek, Loewy Institute at Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Lehigh University.

Sterczewski, Lukasz, PhD Student, Wrocław University of Technology, Wrocław: 6-month grant for research on how to use dual comb terahertz spectroscopy to monitor the drug degradation level and detect its counterfeit in original packaging with Prof. Gerard Wysocki at Princeton, Dr. Jonas Westberg—post-doc researcher at Princeton and Prof. Edward Plinski—professor at Wrocław University of Science and Technology (remote collaboration).

Suma, Martyna, Ph.D. in Environmental Planning and Protection, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Wrocław, Lecturer, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Wrocław: 4-month fellowship for research on how to integrate the GI related sciences interdisciplinary (urban planning, civil engineering, urban hydrology, data science, environmental governance) to better manage our natural resources for a future, adapt the urban districts to effective mitigation of climate change and better cope with sustainability issues, with Professor Patricia J. Culligan at Columbia University.

Toma Monika, Ph.D. Student: Department of Molecular Genetics, Institute of Biochemistry, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Łódź, 3-month internship in Department of Microbiology and Immunology to learn the innovative methods of gene expression and mutation analysis that may later be used in my PhD research on response of solid tumors to inhibitors of DNA repair proteins with Dr. T. Skorski MD at Temple University in his lab with samples derived from solid tumors cell lines (subject of my PhD research).

Tomaszek, Tomasz, Ph.D. in History and Conservation of Monuments of Architecture and Urbanism, Krakow University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture, Department of the History of Architecture and Conservation of Monuments, Krakow, Assistant Professor, Rzeszow University of Technology, Rzeszow: 3-month fellowship for a research to identify the problems of preservation of cross-cultural vernacular wooden architecture from the southern United States in the perspective of maintaining its authenticity as a necessary factor for developing the proper preservation methodology with Dr. Carroll Van West, Director of the Center for Historic Preservation MTSU, Tennessee State Historian, Professor of the Department of History and Dr. Stacey Graham, Research Professor of the Center for Historic Preservation MTSU.

Urbaniai, Magdalena, Ph.D. Habilitation in Ecohydrology, University of Lodz, Łódź - 2016 Ph.D. in ecology, University of Lodz, Researcher, European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Łódź: 3-month fellowship’s research to assess and compare the pollution status, with a special emphasis on emerging contaminants and endocrine disruptors, of two rivers with different anthropogenic impacts using an Ecohydrology approach, with Prof. Kurunthachalam Kannan at Department of Environmental Health Sciences, SUNY at Alabany.

Ziolkowski, Patryk, Research & Teaching Assistant, Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, MSc in Civil Engineering, Gdańsk University of Technology: 4-month fellowship to introduce a new way of looking at designing and decision-making processes in the context of constantly growing and changing modern cities: an automatic and self-regulating system, which will be used to calibrate, e.g., construction safety coefficients, expenditure on infrastructure maintenance, decision-making processes of investment planning, for the city of Gdańsk; with Professor Andrzej S. Nowak, Elton & Lois G. Huff Eminent Scholar Chair, Department of Civil Engineering, Auburn University.

**ARTS:**

Uchman, Agata, Ph.D. Student, Researcher, Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw: 3-month grant for her PhD research concerning textiles and technologies in view of costume design in a wide context of Art and Science, including conduct series of workshops according textile design for performing arts (theater, ballet, opera) at University as a part of my art based research with Sigrídur Johanessdottir, Professor of Costume Design and Technology and Sofia Pantouvaki, Professor of Costume at the George Washington University.
Brodowicz, Monika, Ph.D. in Built Environment, Real Estate, Dublin Institute of Technology, Warsaw, Ph.D. in Economics, Warsaw School of Economics, Assistant Professor, Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw: 4-month fellowship to identify, analyze and compare cases of selected US East Coast cities implementing green strategies, with a particular focus on biophilia and to develop quantitative metrics and quantitative characteristics describing such cities, with Professor Timothy Beatley, Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture at University of Virginia.

Mania, Karolina, Ph.D. in Law (Internet law), Jagiellonian University, Assistant Professor, Pedagogical University of Cracow, Cracow: 3-month fellowship to conduct a research on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), an out-of-court form of resolving present and future disputes helping take the burden off the civil justice system and reduce the costs and length of the proceedings to develop a comprehensive analysis of ADR and its electronic version (Online Dispute Resolution), with Professor of Law Jacqueline Nolan-Haley (School of Law, Fordham University), Professor Sarah E. Burns (School of Law, NYU), Professor of Law Franco Ferrari (School of Law, NYU).

Tworowska, Katarzyna, M.A. in Economics and International Relations, Krakow University of Economics: 10-month grant for a study as a Central European American Business Leader Scholar at Quinnipiac University (cont. from 2016/2017 –agreement with Aquarius Management for MBA studies at Quinnipac University).

Uhma, Piotr, Ph.D. in Public International Law, Jagiellonian University, Assistant Professor, Krakow University, Krakow: 3-month fellowship to explore the interaction and reciprocity between cultural differences in sovereign states, international law, by placing a special emphasis upon the effects made by the cultural discrepancies on norms of international public law in the domains of human rights and security, with Harlan Grant Cohen, Associate Professor of Law, University of Georgia School of Law, Tom Ginsburg, Leo Spitz, Professor of International Law, Ludwig and Hilde Wolf Research Scholar, Chicago, Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School and David Kennedy, Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law, Director, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School.

Zybala, Dominika, Ph.D. Student, John Paul II Catholic University, Lublin: 3-month grant to conduct a research on the legal aspects of the 9/11 attacks that led to the creation of various compensation programs for victims and their families. These programs will be set in the context of the development of compensatory damages in the American legal system, with Leah Wortham, Professor Emerita of Law at The Catholic University of America.

Kasperek, Anna, MA in Polish Studies, Jagiellonian University, Krakow: 3-month grant for a research (from July 2017 to September 2017) to facilitate filling the gaps in knowledge about Wierzyński’s literary, journalistic and political activity in the United States from 1941 to 1946, with Prof. Bożena Shallcross and Prof. Michał Paweł Markowski at The Pilsudski Institute of America.

Kowzon-Switalska, Monika, Branch Manager, The State Archive in Warsaw, Postgraduate Studies in Archives Sciences, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, 6-month grant for research regarding activities of Polish Christian Labor Party after World War II by using Karol Popiel Political Papers collected by the Polish Institute of Arts and Science of America in New York with Ms. Bozena Leven, Executive Director at The College of New Jersey.
Each April, the Foundation’s Board of Trustees selects the recipients of the domestic scholarships for the following academic year. These scholarships are awarded to American students of Polish descent at US colleges and universities; American undergraduate and graduate students at the Jagiellonian University’s Center for Polish Language and Culture in Cracow; and American scholars engaged in research projects at Polish universities and institutions.

The majority of the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Tuition Scholarships are awarded for graduate study in the US. A few awards are also granted to students attending English-language medical schools in Poland. Still others are given to undergraduates of Polish heritage studying in the US. Those include the Jeannette Nieciecka Scholarship Fund, the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women’s Clubs Scholarship Fund, the Polish American Club of North Jersey Fund, the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn USA Fund and the Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Fund. This year $265,275 will be awarded to help cover graduate and undergraduate tuition expenses.

The Foundation’s exchange programs to Poland for American citizens include the Year Abroad program at the Jagiellonian University, and the Graduate/Postgraduate Studies and Research program, which can be conducted at various public universities in Poland. These programs are funded by the Kosciuszko Foundation in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which provides tuition waivers and grants for living expenses to Year Abroad scholarship winners and grants for living expenses to the Studies and Research scholars. Students and scholars in these programs receive 1,350 zloty per month from the Ministry. The Foundation’s support totals $6,900 for four students/scholars.

Lastly, through the generosity of the Tomaszkiewicz-Florio Fund, the Kosciuszko Foundation has been awarding scholarships to Polish-American students for summer language and culture experiences at the Jagiellonian University since 1995. This past summer the Tomaszkiewicz-Florio Scholarship was awarded to 20 students and totaled $30,400.

A total of $302,575 has been awarded for the Foundation’s domestic scholarship programs this academic year. We are pleased to present to you with the names and short biographical details of the winners.

Addy Tymczyszyn
Scholarship and Grant Officer for Americans

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS 2017-2018

KAZIMIERA ADRIAN ADRIANOWSKA SCHOLARSHIP

Allegra, Kelly of Randolph, NJ for second year of graduate level studies in Marketing, Fordham University, New York, NY. $3,000

MARY B. CALKA SCHOLARSHIP

Wright, Nora of West Chester, PA for second year of graduate studies in Social Work, West Chester University, West Chester, PA. $2,000

SOFIA DEMBIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Avins, Jeremy of Kentfield, CA for third year of studies in Public Administration and Business Administration, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA and Stanford University, Stanford, CA. $5,000

Chrusciel, Michael of Riverview, MI for second year of studies in Library Information Science, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. $3,000

Hogge, William Paul of Cambridge, MA for second year of studies in Public Administration, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA. $5,000

McConnell, Kristin of Paoli, PA for first year of graduate studies in Theological Studies, Harvard Divinity School Cambridge, MA. $4,000

Piszczatowski, Richard of Rutherford, NJ for fourth year of studies in Medicine and Cell Biology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY. $3,000

DR. DZIEJMA SCHOLARSHIP

Jagielska, Marika of Copiague, NY for first year studies in Dentistry, University at Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine, Buffalo, NY. $5,000

SOPHIA GRODZICKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fiedorczuk, Kinga of Jersey City, NJ for first year of studies in the International Dentist Program at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, Newark, NJ. $7,000

EDWIN L. HARASIMOWICZ SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Walonski, Natalie of Southwick, MA for first year of studies in Physicians Assistant, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT. $6,000
WALTER JARZEMBSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Gasiorek, Monika of Arlington, VA for third year of studies in Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. $6,000

Karmilowicz, Piotr of Depew, NY for second year of studies in Medicine, University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo, NY. $4,000

Lech, Filip of Clifton, NJ for first year of graduate level studies in Information Technology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. $2,000

DR. CASMIR V. KIERZKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Helmcke, William of Alsip, IL for final year of doctoral studies in Music Theory, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. $1,000

van Doren, Alexandra of Albuquerque, NM for fourth year of doctoral studies in Comparative Literature, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. $1,500

JOHN C. KIERZKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dobek, Peter of Lakemoor, IL for fifth year of doctoral studies in History, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. $2,000

WITOLD KAWECKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kaczkowski, Wojciech of Atlanta, GA for third year of doctoral studies in Community Psychology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. $2,000

KF GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Kucharski, Katherine of Cromwell, CT for second year of graduate studies in Security Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. $3,000

VICTORIA KOKERNACK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Bradley, Agnieszka of Fort Collins, CO for first year of graduate level studies in Speech Language Pathology, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO. $2,000

Dechnik, Andzelika of Middle Village, NY for second year of studies in Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY. $5,000

Garbowski, Magda of Boulder, CO for second year of doctoral studies in Ecology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. $1,000

STAN LESNY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fudala, Nicolette of Orlando, FL for first year of doctoral studies in Optical Sciences and Engineering, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL. $3,000

Golaszewski, Michael of Maspeth, NY for first year of graduate level studies in Electrical Engineering, Columbia University, New York, New York. $3,000

Iwanicki, Martin of Philadelphia, PA for fourth year of doctoral studies in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. $2,000

Latallo, Małgorzata of Baltimore, MD for second year of graduate studies in Molecular Biophysics, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. $3,000

Swiderski, Natalia of Andover, NJ for second year of doctoral studies in Pharmacy, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham Park, NJ. $4,000

FLOYD AND IRENE MCKAIN/JOHN AND HELEN GENZA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fedorchak, Lauren of Fair Lawn, NJ for first year of graduate studies in Studio Art, Maine College of Art, Portland, ME. $3,000

Malek, Weronika of Chicago, IL for first year of graduate level studies in Art History, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. $5,000

Styk, Alexander of Pittsford, NY for first year of studies in Law as part of a joint Law-Business Administration program, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA. $5,000

Wos, Carson of New York, NY for second year of studies in Art History, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY. $2,000

REV. PAUL J. MISKOWICZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Atkins, Allison of Litchfield Park, AZ for second year doctoral studies in Education, Leadership and Innovation, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. $1,000

Atkins, Allison of Litchfield Park, AZ for second year doctoral studies in Education, Leadership and Innovation, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. $1,000

THE JOSEPH NOWAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Josefiak, Kylie of Chicopee, MA for third year of studies in Pharmacy, Western New England University, Springfield, MA. $4,000
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Kucharski, Kimberly of Orchard Park, NY for second year of studies in Medicine, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. $5,000

Moyseowicz, Andrew of Alexandria, VA for first year of graduate level studies in Public Policy, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. $5,000

Radomski, Shannon of Moorestown, NJ for third year of studies in Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. $5,000

Zecca, Christina of New York, NY for second year of studies in Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY. $5,000

Goodman Davis, Rachel of Croton-on-Hudson, NY for first year of studies in Veterinary Medicine, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Warsaw, Poland. $1,500

Janusz, Peter of Garfield, NJ for second year of studies in Medicine, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland. $2,000

Poniatowski, Adrian of Brewster, NY for third year of studies in Medicine, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland. $2,000

Roman, Peter of Philadelphia, PA for fourth year of studies in Medicine, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland. $2,000

Skital, Veronica of Chicago, IL for second year of studies in Medicine, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland. $2,500

Lenczowski, Emily of Chicago, IL for fourth year of studies in Medicine, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, IL. $6,000

Mastalerz, Magdalena of Chicago, IL for second year of studies in Pharmacy, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL. $3,000

Sulzinski, Michelle of Clarks Summit, PA for second year of studies in Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. $5,000

Tyminski, Camila of Boston, MA for third year of studies in Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA. $3,500.
Nowak, Aneta of Saddle Brook, NJ for senior year of undergraduate studies in Nursing, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ. $2,000.

Proszowski, Anna of Clifton, NJ for third year of undergraduate studies in Psychology, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ. $2,000.

**POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF NORTH JERSEY FUND**


Gardinier, David of Winter Springs, FL for sophomore year of undergraduate studies in Dietetics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. $585.

Kaczor, Maya of Boston, MA for third year of undergraduate studies in Writing Literature and Publishing, Emerson College, Boston, MA. $635.

Kozlowski, Eric of Garfield, NJ for third year of undergraduate studies in Aerospace Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. $400.

McCormack, Patrick of Newark, NJ for second year of undergraduate studies in Mechanical Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ. $625.

Plucinski, Philip of Fort Lee, NJ for third year of undergraduate studies in Information Technology and Informatics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. $640.

Sokolski, Adam of Kinnelon, NJ for fourth year of undergraduate studies in Business Administration, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. $610.

Zachwieja, Zaneta of Elmwood Park, NJ for junior year of undergraduate studies in Biology, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. $485.

**DRS. JAMES AND WANDA TREFIL SCHOLARSHIP**

Rakus-Wojciechowski, Caroline of Lindenhurst, NY for senior year of undergraduate studies in Pre-Medicine and Anthro-Archaeology, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA. $5,000.

**GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH IN POLAND SCHOLARSHIP**

Van Zee, Benjamin of Chicago, IL B.A. in History, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, May 2011. M.A. in History of the 19th and 20th centuries, Freie Universitaet, Berlin, Germany, October 2014. Ph.D. in Modern European History, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, expected July 2021. To research Polish Colonialism in the Second Republic by examining the convergence of ideas, actors and institutions on the domestic and international plane of Polish influence. Research will be conducted with Dr. hab Piotr Szlanta, History Department, University of Warsaw and Dr. Joanna Nestorowicz, Center of Migration Research, University of Warsaw. $2,700 – 9 months.

Watson, Michael of South Barrington, IL: B.A. in Economics and Polish Literature, Indiana University, Bloomington, December 2012. Ph.D. in Economics, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, expected August 2018. To research the economic and social conditions of the Paradisus Judaerum, the Paradise of the Jews, of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1300-1795) in order to determine why and if private towns and villages were better practitioners of religious toleration than their royal equivalents. Studies will be conducted with Dr. Malgorzata Pakier, at Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw and Dr. Michal T. Galas at the Institute of Jewish Studies, Jagiellonian University, Krakow. $600 – 2 months.

**THE YEAR ABROAD PROGRAM**

**JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR POLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN THE WORLD 2017/2018**

Lewicki, Katherine of Cleveland, OH undergraduate student majoring in International Relations at Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH. $1,800 full academic year.

Paul, Mackenzie of Lakewood, OH Bachelor of Arts in History, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, December 2016. $1,800 full academic year.

**EXCHANGE PROGRAMS TO POLAND 2017-2018**

Paul, Mackenzie of Lake-wood, OH Bachelor of Arts in History, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, December 2016. $1,800 full academic year.
TOMASZKIEWICZ-FLORIO SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR SUMMER STUDIES IN POLISH
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE JAGIELLONIAN
UNIVERSITY, CRACOW

Scholarship funding for all candidates: $1,520

Argasinski, Robert of Cranford, NJ: high school senior at Union County Magnet High School, Scotch Plains, NJ. Session A

Armstrong, William of Granville, MA: undergraduate freshman majoring in Biology, Assumption College, Worcester, MA. Session A

Bieganowska, Anna of Columbia, MD: undergraduate sophomore majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Session A

Borys, Nell of Mokena, IL: undergraduate freshman majoring in Biology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Session C


Chodak, Noelle of Simi Valley, CA: undergraduate junior majoring in History, University of California, Los Angeles, CA. Session D

Chorzepa, Christopher of Berlin, CT: undergraduate senior majoring in Political Economy and History, Williams College, Williamstown, MA. Session A

Deitsch, Rebecca of Irving, TX: undergraduate senior majoring in Classical Philology (Greek and Latin), University of Dallas, Irving, TX. Session C

Dzimira, Paula of Blakeslee, PA: undergraduate freshman majoring in Biology and Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. Session C

Franaszczuk, Monika of Superior, CO: undergraduate junior majoring in Musical Studies and Russian and Eastern European Studies, Oberlin College and Conservatory, Oberlin, OH. Session B

Gromadzki, Alexander of Charlottesville, VA: undergraduate sophomore majoring in Economics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. Session C

Gubala, Filip of Maynard, MA: undergraduate freshman majoring in Civil Engineering, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. Session C

Jasinska, Maya of New York, NY: high school senior at Trinity School, New York, NY. Session C

Moneymaker, Louis of San Juan Capistrano, CA: undergraduate junior majoring in Broadcast Journalism & Documentary, Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA. Session A

Nosowitz, Jonathon of Franklin Square, NY: undergraduate junior majoring in Computer Science, Iona College, New Rochelle, NY. Session C

Parsons, Andrew of Bloomfield Hills, MI: undergraduate sophomore majoring in Computer Science and Economics, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI. Session A

Plukis, Alexandra of Brentwood, TN: high school senior at Ravenwood High School, Brentwood, TN. Session C

Simon, Tekla of Elkins Park, PA: undergraduate sophomore majoring in French and Anthropology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. Session B


Zukowski, Natalia of Mt Prospect, IL: undergraduate sophomore majoring in International Studies, DePaul University, Chicago, IL. Session A
Secure Your Legacy

Much of the financial strength of the Kosciuszko Foundation has come through the years from its members and friends who provided for the Foundation in their wills. It is easy to insert a charitable bequest into your will when it is written or as a revision. You may also add a bequest through a codicil—a separate document that provides an amendment to your existing will. Regardless of the size of your estate or of your bequest, the full value of your gift may be deductible for federal estate tax purposes.

Here are ways you can support the Kosciuszko Foundation through your will:

**A SPECIFIC BEQUEST** is a gift of a specific dollar amount or a particular piece of property. For example, “I bequeath [dollar amount or description of property] to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.”

**A RESIDUARY BEQUEST** is a gift of all or part of the property remaining in your estate after debts, expenses and specific bequests have been paid. For example, “I give, bequeath and devise [all, or ___% of] the rest, residue and remainder of the property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.” The Kosciuszko Foundation encourages gifts by residuary bequest. If your gift is stated as a percentage, this method automatically adjusts the size of your bequest according to your current financial position. This gives you flexibility and peace of mind that your bequest will not be larger or smaller than you had intended, in the event of unexpected changes in the size of your estate. Residuary bequests are also beneficial for the Foundation. People are often surprised by how much their assets can grow over time—and by how large an ultimate gift they are able to make to support the Foundation’s mission.

**A CONTINGENT BEQUEST** is a gift that takes effect only if the primary beneficiary or beneficiaries of the bequest should predecease you. For example, “If neither my husband nor any descendant of mine survive me, then I give, bequeath and devise all the rest, residue and remainder of the property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.” Perhaps the most effective asset to bequeath is the reminder of your retirement plans, such as pension funds or IRAs. When left to someone other than your spouse, they can be subject to income and estate taxes—both of which combined could erode up to 63% of the remaining benefits! If bequeathed to the Foundation, these funds would escape both income and estate taxes, and reduce your taxable estate.

**AN UNRESTRICTED BEQUEST** is the simplest and most immediately beneficial kind of bequest to the Kosciuszko Foundation. The amount received through an unrestricted bequest can be used at the discretion of the Foundation’s Trustees and administration for its most important needs. Your will may read, “I give, bequeath and devise [dollar amount, description of property or portion of residuary estate] to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. for its general purposes”.

Whichever method you choose, remember that your gifts may take many forms and serve many purposes, including honoring the memory of someone you love and creating a lasting legacy for you and/or your family.

*For more information please contact The Foundation’s Development Office at 212-734-2130 or development@thekf.org.*
The winners of the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Essay Contest were announced at the Oct. 12 gala celebrating UNESCO’s Year of Kosciuszko at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in New York. Foundation President Marek Skulimowski awarded cash prizes and certificates to three Polish-American students for their essays honoring the bicentenary of Kosciuszko’s death. The First Prize of $500 went to Michal Ukowski, an Xaverian High School student mentored by social studies teacher Joseph Verde. Ukowski’s essay on the victory of the Battle of Saratoga states, “We can learn from his life, values, patriotism and commitment to democracy. His ideals are worth following today.”

Second Prize winner Elizabeth Ratkiewicz of the Henry Sienkiewicz Polish Supplementary School won $300 for her essay on Kosciuszko’s Polish patriotism and battle for Polish independence. “Every single human deserves to be free,” she wrote. “That is Kosciuszko’s legacy.”

Third Prize winner Katarzyna Kobeszko, also of the Henry Sienkiewicz School, won $200 for her essay on how Kosciuszko sparked pride in her heritage. “Thaddeus Kosciuszko makes it an honor to be of Polish descent and heritage,” she wrote.

Ratkiewicz and Kobeszko were both mentored by Ratkiewicz’s father and teacher, Piotr Ratkiewicz.

The contest, a collaboration between the Foundation and the Polish American Teachers Association (PATA), was judged by PATA members Christine Domingue, Janet James, Helen Lesnik Mistak and Bernadette O’Keefe.

PATA congratulates the winners, as well as all contestants who entered the contest. We are proud of our support of the Kosciuszko Foundation over the past 40 years and of our collaboration in this essay competition.

Bernadette O’Keefe
President of PATA

Sincere Thanks to Our Volunteers

Veronica Czarnik
I am a junior at the University at Buffalo, studying history and sociology with a Polish minor. I am a D1 rower and also part of the Polish students association at school. Interning this winter has allowed me to become more hands on in an office setting. I found the work I was doing interesting and impactful because it has allowed me to understand how lucky I am to be a Polish American citizen and how important not only our culture is but it’s people too.

Sarah Dancyger-Niedzwiecki
My name is Sarah Dancyger-Niedzwiecki and I am a freshman at Hunter College. I am interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. I have also been involved in political campaigns and I am currently working with a nonprofit organization whose focus is to empower young girls. Working at the Kosciuszko Foundation has allowed me to better understand my Polish heritage and I am very proud to be a part of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Daniel C. Ogulnick
I am a junior at St. John’s University, studying economics and math. I am currently helping to research and compile the history of the Van Allen building, where the New York KF is currently located.

Nicole Labno
I recently graduated with an Associate in Science and currently I am attending Hunter College where I am pursuing a Bachelors degree in creative writing. By volunteering at The Kosciuszko Foundation, I hope to expand my knowledge and interest in the vast history of Poland and its culture whilst becoming more connected to my family’s roots.

Małgorzata Kozłowska
Małgorzata Kozłowska is a graduate of School of Visual Arts. She is a graphic designer and had worked as a designer and Art Director for various advertising and publishing companies including Springer Publishing and IIR. In recent years she has been working as a co-director for annual New York Polish Film Festival and has collaborated on and produced various events with Film Art. Her passion for Polish film and art lead her to Kosciuszko Foundation where currently she has been a volunteer.
The Teaching English in Poland Program Continues to Build Bridges Between Poland and the United States

UNESCO and the Polish Parliament declared 2017 to be the “Kosciuszko Year.” In the Fall issue of the Kosciuszko Foundation Newsletter we highlighted the leadership skills and stories of those individuals who volunteer as American staff leaders at the seven summer camps in Poland. This issue focuses on the many ways that others have supported, been made aware of, experienced, and have been changed by the Teaching English in Poland Program. The value of this program — You decide.

Through the generosity of Dr. Piotr Chomczynski, each American volunteer received a free download of the new Kosciuszko Foundation English-Polish dictionary app for their phone. We greatly appreciate Dr. Chomczynski’s generosity and support of the Teaching English in Poland program. This app served as a helpful tool to assist the American staff in communicating with the Polish teachers and students and will assist them in further communication via the Internet. Dr. Hannah Kelker, another member of the KF Board of Trustees, attended the Arts Expo at the conclusion of the camp in Otwock, where her husband, Mr. Norman Kelker, served as a member of the Otwock teaching staff. The program was pleased to welcome the new Kosciuszko Foundation representative in Warsaw, Dr. Grazyna Czetwertynska, to our camp in Minsk Mazowiecki. Dr. Czetwertynska attended the Opening Ceremony and visited classes at the camp. Lastly, the American staffs of both the Elementary and Middle School camps in Krakow were invited to attend the Fourth of July celebration hosted by the US consul general in Krakow, Mr. Walter M. Braunohler and the US Ambassador to Poland, Mr. Paul W. Jones, at the Kosciuszko Mound.

Program directors Drs. Mary Kay Pieski and Teresa G. Wojcik spread the word about the TEIP program through participation in two scholarly conferences, the World Congress of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences (PIASA) in Krakow, and the “Poles in America” conference hosted by the Museum of Casimir Pulaski in Warka. In October, they travelled to Hamden, Connecticut to recruit students and faculty for the summer 2018 TEIP camps at Quinnipiac University. Thanks to another member of the KF Board of Trustees, Mr. Peter Nowak, and Teaching English in Poland Program volunteer, Sarah Bassett, many new contacts have been established as we continue to explore avenues of cooperation with the Central European Institute at the University.

The Song and Dance Group “Zespol Piesni I Tanca Salezjanie” from Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland who performed at the Polish American Festival in Doylestown, PA visited the Kosciuszko Foundation on Thursday, September 9, 2017. Several of the children attended the TEIP camp in Minsk Mazowiecki this summer. Dr. Teresa Wojcik, Assistant Director of TEIP, was instrumental in inviting the group to perform at the Festival. The group of students, parent chaperones, and Father Ryszard Wozniak, Director of the school, was greeted by the President and the Executive Director, Marek Skulimowski, who treated them to a pizza lunch at the KF.
A student from a camp, two Teaching Assistants, an American Staff leader tell their stories about their TEIP experience and its benefits on many levels.

My name is Szymon Florek. I’m 13 years old, I live in Otwock and in this article, I want to write about my great TEIP experiences. I discovered TEIP when I was 9 years old—it was the first time when the Polish-American camp has been organized in my hometown. My expectations weren’t optimistic—it was an art camp, and art isn’t the thing I ever wanted to learn. But then, in July 2013, the reality came to me as a big surprise. It didn’t turn out to be boring—it was the best time I’ve ever spent with art! Thanks to my teachers, I spotted, that it can be an extremely interesting adventure! Other subjects that we had during the camp also impressed me a lot. The music, dance and drama lessons were so great, that after two weeks I changed my point of view in many subjects.

TEIP is also a big opportunity to make friends with many people, both from USA and from Poland. It’s great, because this way you can also get to know new people and develop your speaking. I remember my first week at the camp. Meeting Americans and speaking English all the time was a big challenge for me, so my first text messages that I’ve sent to my mum were: “I don’t understand anything”, but after a day or two they became much more positive. Then I had my own part in a theater play—it was also an important thing in the whole program, that made me speak many words more fluently. At the end of the first camp, I could speak English much more fluently than at its beginning. I also met a lot of great people from the other side of the ocean—I still keep in touch with them today. Another thing that I enjoyed was sport. I learned all the baseball rules and had some solid football training. This year’s camp was my fifth, but it’s still a great deal of fun and pleasure for me! I think, that TEIP program has a huge influence on me—it gives me many opportunities to speak English, do Americans’ sports and discover the USA through their eyes. And every next camp I develop a bit about my background. I am a Programs Manager with the 52nd Fighter Wing in Spangdahlem, Germany. The work that I do augments a 6.2k flying hour program that projects American Air Power in Europe. One of our primary mission pillars is community, not just with our local German hosts, but with our partnership nations as well. In recent years the partnership between Poland and the United States has visibility strengthened. Both nations now regularly cooperate in training and join exercises designed to facilitate interoperability and friendship. When the Kosciuszko Foundation allowed active duty military members to voluntarily participate, it plugged itself that effort. When I petitioned my leadership to allow my participation, I was granted Permissive Temporary Duty to accommodate the program. During our classes with the children, I was invited to teach. I led discussions mostly about history, showing the ties and similarities between our nations. It’s one of the things I’m truly passionate about. It spurred so much wonderful dialog between the kids and the Americans. On our last day in class, Mary Lastowska, our class head teacher, revealed that both she and I spoke Polish too. You should have seen them light up! There was no more language barrier—we pushed past it! The realization was that our contact was mutually beneficial. Those young individuals represent the next generation of Poles who will look back at their experiences and form positive opinions about what we represent. Additionally, the Fighter Wing got back an Airman with sharper language capabilities and a greater understanding of why our two nations are friends. There is no greater first step to friendship, than the ability to communicate. I want to thank the Kosciuszko Foundation for this opportunity and seriously hope to do so again!

The Kosciuszko Foundation, Teaching English in Poland Program enables endless opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. Dawn Woyak from Albuquerque New Mexico, Teacher and American Staff leader, tells about her transformation and her very special student from Mexico.

Have you ever started on a journey scared, excited, and not sure where it would lead you in life? To add more excitement, plan on taking this adventure with middle school twins! I decided to volunteer as a Teacher for the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching English in Poland program and bring my daughters with me as peer tutors. I had never been out of the country and had no idea what I really signed up for. I just knew it would be a wonderful experience and professional opportunity. It turned out being a life changing experience for me and my daughters! They learned Polish and the students at the camp could not learn English fast enough to ask them questions about kids in the United States. This was back in 2007! Facebook was only 3 years old then and not well known. My daughters made lifelong friends and the communication continues to this day. Since my first experience as a teacher, I have now become an American staff leader. I love having the opportunity to bring other teachers and young people to Poland to experience what I was able to experience!

One of the most memorable students I took was a student I had from Mexico. He was a Mexican/American citizen. He struggled as a student and his parents needed to find a way to see the importance of a good education and global community. He applied and was selected to be a volunteer Teaching Assistant at my camp. It changed his life! He made friends from
After an amazing summer 2015 at Załęcze Wielkie with the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Teaching English in Poland Program (TEIP), I arrived at the University of Michigan and joined the University of Michigan Polish Student Association (PSA). This year, I am honored to announce the 11th Annual PSA Wolverine Charity Ball will donate proceeds to support TEIP.

After volunteering with TEIP, I knew this would be an impactful program to support. The summer after I graduated high school, I was on the Activities Staff for the Załęcze Wielkie Arts Enriched English Language Camp. I loved playing American games like foursquare in the courtyard, leading Zumba style workshops, and choreographing the opening number for the Arts Expo. Growing up, I attended Polish school on Saturdays, but I had never been to Poland until that summer. I reached out to Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, Director of TEIP, because the idea that I could combine my passion for dance with my Polish heritage drew me to the program, and it became an experience I would never forget. Being on the Activities Staff under Dr. Patricia Grutzmacher’s leadership gave me the opportunity to teach dance, improve my Polish, explore Poland, and make new friends from all over the world. I still keep in touch with both of my American and Polish friends I made that summer.

After sharing the news that I was going to Poland with my family, I soon learned that Załęcze Wielkie is actually my Babcia’s hometown. TEIP was especially meaningful for me because it gave me the opportunity to connect with family I had never met before. I remember going to the town’s convenience store, and every time, I would run into a new family member who would come up to me saying “rodzina!” which means family. To this day, I still keep in touch with those family members through Skype and phone calls.

After reconnecting with my Polish heritage, I knew I wanted to join PSA in college. PSA is a student-run organization with the purpose of spreading Polish culture at the University of Michigan and to the greater Ann Arbor community. We bring together Polish students and those interested in Polish culture by organizing a wide variety of weekly cultural and social events throughout the year. Some of our traditional events include a Wigilia holiday celebration and Andrzejki (St. Andrew’s Day). We also host conversation nights for those interested in learning the Polish language and traditional cooking events such as my favorite, pierogi cooking night. Our largest event of the year is the Wolverine Charity Ball, where we expose members of the Michigan community to Polish culture through dance and food while raising money for a Polish or local organization.

I am honored to be able to give back through the Wolverine Charity Ball to a program that means so much to me.

The University of Michigan Polish Student Association Wolverine Charity Ball will be on February 3, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Michigan League in Ann Arbor, MI. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Monikwa Paliwoda at umpolska@umich.edu.

Cecilia Kocinski-Mulder, President of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the KF and two-time volunteer Teaching Assistant at the Otwock camp sums up the relevance of TEIP in these words.

“TEIP is highly relevant in 2018 because we live in an ever-globalizing world. This globalizing world is one where it is more important than ever before to understand one another from a shared language to history to culture. The TEIP program provides all of this not only to the students in Poland that we teach and interact with but all the American volunteers that participate in the program. TEIP continues to inspire Polish youth to think beyond the borders of their home country and know that there are opportunities out there for them not only in the United States but also in the entire world and as an added bonus they can do so with confidence.”

Monika Paliwoda, from New Jersey, shares her unique story and her willingness to give back by engaging her fellow students in raising funds to support the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Teaching English in Poland Program.

I have a colleague that still communicates with many of the Polish students she grew to know while teaching. She even sends cards and small gifts at Christmas. This being said, this adventure not only changes the American staff’s lives, but it impacts the lives of the Polish students and people. Lifelong friends are being made.

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The Kosciuszko Foundation awarded a $10,000 prize for the best medical article published during 2015-2016 in English by a Polish doctor residing in Poland. The recipient of this prize is Professor Aleksander Prejbisz from the Department of Hypertension, Institute of Cardiology, Warsaw, Poland.

The prize is named after Bohdan and Zygmunt Janczewski, brothers who were doctors in Warsaw. When Zygmunt, a well-known pioneer andrologist died in 2007, he willed his estate to the Kosciusko Foundation under the condition that a biennial award be established in his and his brother’s memory.

The title of Professor Prejbisz’s prize-winning article is “Smaller” caliber renal arteries are a novel feature of uromodulin-associated kidney disease” and is found in (Kidney International, Official Journal of the International Society of Nephrology (July 2015, Volume 88, Issue 1). Almost 30 articles were submitted for consideration of the prize by doctors throughout Poland. An Award Committee consisting of distinguished professors from various medical fields reviewed the articles and selected the winner.

They included the following:

Prof. dr hab. Mirosław Wielgoś, the chairman of the committee, Rector of Medical University of Warsaw (Warszawski Uniwersytet Medyczny),

Prof. dr Ewa Radwańska, Past President of the Chicago Association of Reproductive Endocrinology and the Trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Chicago Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL,

Prof. dr hab. Waldemar Kostewicz, President of Polish Medical Association (Polskie Towarzystwo Lekarskie, Warsaw),

Prof. dr hab. Maciej Krzakowski, the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Institute of Oncology (Centrum Onkologii—Instytut im. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie Warszawa),

Prof. dr hab. Witold Rużyło, Cardinal Wyszynski Institute of Cardiology (Instytut Kardiologii im. Prymasa Tysiąclecia Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, Anin),

Prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Szczepkowska-Trojanowska, Medical University of Lublin (Uniwersytet Medyczny, Lublin),

Prof. dr hab. Piotr Chłosta, Collegium Medicum Jagiellonian University (Uniwersytet Jagielloński).

The prize was presented to Prejbisz on, December 4, 2017 during a major medical conference in Warsaw, devoted to 2017 Nobel Prize Winners in Medicine, organized by the Faculty of Medicine Medical University of Warsaw. This annual conference is attended every year by a few hundred of the most distinguished representatives of the medical world.
As a historian of science, I’ve long been aware of the importance of Poland and the abundant contributions it has made to the intellectual history of Western culture. It is, after all, the birthplace of Copernicus, and of Maria Sklodowska-Curie, both of whom served as pioneers in their respective fields. Indeed, Copernicus dared to declare that the earth revolves around the sun and not vice versa, publishing *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres)*, the greatest intellectual work of the early modern period, thus launching the “the scientific revolution,” and lent new literal meaning to the word “revolution.” Similarly, Maria Sklodowska-Curie broke ground in her work in physics and chemistry, and became the first female scientist to receive not just one, but two Nobel Prizes, for contributions in two fields and discoveries related to radioactivity. I also knew something about the famed school of Polish mathematicians, and their many contributions, which included breaking the code of the Nazi German encryption machine called “Enigma,” in advance of their British counterparts during World War II.

I made it a point to absorb as much as I could about the history of science in Poland going into my first visit in the summer of 2015, when I attended a conference in Cracow, but I had little in the way of an appreciation of the bigger picture of Polish history, its rich and diverse cultural traditions, or its stunning and distinct natural history that is of special interest to me as a historian of the biological sciences. Indeed, a side trip to Bialowieza Forest left me both enchanted and intrigued. It wasn’t just the precious herd of European bison that I was lucky to observe that most moved me, or the oldest part of the magnificent primeval forest that I hiked; it wasn’t even the world class science done at the famed Mammal Research Station, a superb facility located there; it was all those things I came to see juxtaposed with inspiring unexpected discoveries like the historic buildings such as a small Orthodox church then under renovation, the white lacework-like wooden train platform bearing the imprint of a double-headed eagle, and the beautiful rolling lawns, small lakes, statues and arboretum that comprised the park. As I moved through the various parts of Bialowieza, I realized that I was actually following the traces of the many Polish kings, the Russian Czars and even Nazi German occupiers at the same time that I was marveling at the natural history that I had come to see. My experience actually brought into focus the rich but turbulent history of the region that both exploited and preserved its natural history; indeed, witnessed a stunning demonstration of the interplay of nature and culture... I had to return.

I was able to do that in January 2017, with the assistance of the Kosciuszko Foundation Visiting Professorship, which enabled me to hold an appointment in the innovative Kolegium Artes Liberales at the University of Warsaw. It is an interdisciplinary college within the university,
similar to Honors colleges at larger public American universities, or the many liberal arts colleges that dot the American academic landscape. Its values were clearly articulated and perfect for me as an interdisciplinarian and as a historian of science: it fostered creativity, innovation, critical inquiry, self-reflection, and all with a strong emphasis on dialogue and conversation between students, faculty and staff who all came from different areas of the sciences, humanities and the social sciences as well as the arts. With a new study program dedicated to “Anthropozologie,” or the study of animal-human relationships, and an active cluster of biologists, physicists, anthropologists (both cultural and biological) as well as art historians, philosophers, philologists, students of religion and science, as well as visual studies, it proved the perfect intellectual environment for someone with my interests especially exploring the intersection of nature and culture. In fact, a special working group of scholars assembled last spring to explore the very nature-culture relationship that interested me. It included Dr. Marek Konarzewski, a biologist from the University of Bialystock, Dr. Joanna Pijanowska a biologist from the University of Warsaw, and Dr. Sebastian Szymanski a philosopher of science from the Polish Academy of Sciences along with Dr. Jerzy Axer, a classicist and educational administrator whose vision had shaped the college.

With a group of students whose interests ranged from philosophy, to visual arts to anthropology, we engaged provocative literature, especially on the topic of evolution, genetics and what it all meant for understanding humanity. On Fridays, the same group was expanded to include even more faculty and doctoral students who met for nearly four hours to present their research or to listen to visiting seminars via a formal college-wide colloquium. I found the discussions so stimulating and provocative, that I undertook a new project of my own in the philosophy of botany, an area that I had not previously considered studying. I subsequently gave a seminar on the topic to the Friday afternoon Kolegium doctoral-student-faculty working group and received a number of helpful suggestions. I was delighted, when, in June, as the semester was drawing to a close, I signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to complete a monograph on the topic. My plans are to acknowledge the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Kolegium in that publication which promises to be an original contribution to scholarship.

The theme of nature and culture, with an eye to pressing global problems, also structured my formal teaching for the semester that included two courses: one on the history and evolution of epidemic disease and one on climate change. Both reflected my longstanding professional interests in the science of evolutionary biology and its history and philosophy and were designed to introduce students to multi-disciplinary perspectives by offering insights as well as solutions. Many of the students were from other units or departments such as physics, anthropology and economics but most were at the Kolegium. Teaching was a delight. In many respects, students in Warsaw were just like many of the diverse students I regularly teach at the University of Florida; they were ambitious, hard working, and bright, but in other respects quite different. They were
far more interactive and inquisitive, especially about the United States and American higher education in general, and seemed much more knowledgeable and mature in their thinking, especially when it came to historical geography. They were especially keen to explore interdisciplinary areas such as mine. I was delighted that by the end of the year, I was on my way to collaborating with students after the term ended, by guiding thesis research.

At the start of my visit, I also gave another research-oriented seminar to the Kolegium faculty/doctoral student working group on human evolution and biological anthropology. Its goal was to explain the historical struggles over the “nature-culture” debate and how it expressed itself in scientific circles. I was able to subsequently meet and interact with a number of doctoral students and faculty at the Kolegium, especially in anthropology, to discuss varied projects in cultural anthropology and in visual studies, particularly those related to the biological sciences. I gave yet another lecture, aimed at public audiences, to the Kolegium on the recent work on Charles Darwin and to members of the public through the Kosciuszko Foundation in late March.

In mid-May, I was invited to visit the Institute of Botany at Jagiellonian University in Cracow as well as the Cracow Botanical Garden. I gave two lectures there: one to a class of about 70 undergraduates studying botanical science, and the other a research-oriented seminar in conjunction with the Institute of Botany and the Cracow Botanical Garden. It was attended by about thirty faculty, curators, and post-docs. I met, and interacted with, a number of historians of the botanical sciences who took me on a tour of their collections, their facilities and the magnificent and historic garden.

As a final, and unexpected part of my visit to the University of Warsaw, I was able to meet and interact with a number of faculty and students at the Center for Greek Studies and with faculty in Classics. I served as a participant in one class exploring the “cultural geographies of modern Greece” and lent some insights into the “Greeks of the Diaspora,” drawing on my own background, that offered comparisons between modern Poland and modern Greece, two very different countries with notable parallels but also striking differences.

Throughout the semester, I took every opportunity to visit museums, and important historical settings in Warsaw and elsewhere in Poland. In early April, for example, I returned to Bialowieza, on a Kolegium field trip and symposium there, that included formal seminars and presentations on the complex ecology of the forest, its history and its management practices. I visited the Museum of Natural History, the Mammal Research Station and the Institute of Geobotany and learned even more about the region. I spent my time there with the students and faculty of the Kolegium and like to think that it helped me to appreciate Polish cultural history, which is rich, engaging, and exciting. In Warsaw, I visited most of the major museums, art galleries, palaces, churches and historic cemeteries, witnessing first hand, the way that newer philosophies of zoos and aquariums are being tried at the famous Warsaw Zoo and I toured the gardens associated with the palaces such as Lazienki. I completely immersed myself in various periods of Polish history, and grew to discern the varied architectural styles, as well as the cultural practices of the people that I encountered.

After classes were over, I was able to follow the trail of famous scientists such as Maria Sklodowska-Curie, but especially Copernicus and visited Torun, his place of birth, and Frombork, where he is laid to rest and where there is now a fine museum on his life and work. I also followed the trail of science in Poland to Gdansk to see Fahrenheit’s home, along with Hevelius’s gravesite and various monuments, and museums such as the clock tower in St. Catherine’s, and came to appreciate the age of exploration and how Poland was also a part of that. I subsequently toured Wroclaw, which is especially rich for the historian of science, and visited an exhibit dedicated to the Wroclaw school of physics. I was also able to tour lower Silesia where I paid a visit to the famous Skull Chapel, which I can now use to enhance my teaching of the history and evolution of infectious disease, since many of those 23,000 skulls are there because of the Black Death, or cholera. In short, I learned as much as I could about Poland, its traditions and its history, which I viewed as a crucial part of my Kosciuszko experience, and took every opportunity for cultural exchange as well to explore the intersection of nature and culture. My hope now is that I can build on this, either by returning to the University in the near future, or by working toward some study abroad program between my home institution of the University of Florida or a student exchange program.

My visit to Poland has been a resounding success, in all parts of my academic life. I have embarked on a new project, have learned a great deal about Poland’s place in the history of science (and in history) and have made new friends, colleagues and students. I hold onto the promise of continued collaborations. I am grateful to the Kosciuszko Foundation for this opportunity and would be more than happy to work with it, or its supporters for further cultural exchange.

Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis is Professor of the History of Science in the Department of Biology and the Department of History at the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida. In 2017, she served as Kosciuszko Foundation Visiting Professor in the Kolegium Artes Liberales at the University of Warsaw.
Tadeusz Kościuszko was a young Pole, Tadeusz Kościuszko, however, most American students will not be exposed to this information in their primary schooling.

After constructing waterfront fortifications at Fort Mercer in Philadelphia, ramparts in Saratoga and were thus deterred into the woods where Benedict Heights, which overlooks a portion of the river but itself is hidden in thick Hudson River, and the Pole was given the task of fortifying the American took place at Saratoga. In 1777, the Continental Army was lined up along the central minds in the turning point of the American Revolution was a young Pole, Tadeusz Kościuszko; however, most American students will not be exposed to this information in their primary schooling.

Tadeusz Kościuszko, born in Poland in 1746, attended the Cadet Academy in Warsaw after primary studies in Lubieszów. Afterward, he pursued an engineering career in Paris, while simultaneously feeding his brain with enlightened ideas by philosophers like Rousseau and Voltaire. As a result of the liberal reasoning he picked up in France, Kościuszko began to offer his knowledgeable services to the American colonies. The aid he performed was highly sought after in the British-dominated settlement, and he was thus recruited by the Continental Congress to fortify various battle sites with defensive structures. Alongside his technical work, at that point in Philadelphia, Kościuszko continued to nourish his brain with ideals of liberty and freedom, particularly exemplified in Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence. The Pole was so moved by the thoughts in the document that he expressed his emotion to Jefferson near tears, and soon thereafter, the two became close friends. Jefferson even called his new companion, “a pure son of liberty.”

After constructing waterfront fortifications at Fort Mercer in Philadelphia, Kościuszko was moved to New York, where he became the chief engineer for West Point—this fortification became known as the American Gibraltar. After this job came Kościuszko’s most important and exalted moment; this took place at Saratoga. In 1777, the Continental Army was lined up along the Hudson River, and the Pole was given the task of fortifying the American position. He did so by designing trenches, trepasses, and barriers on Bemis Heights, which overlooks a portion of the river but itself is hidden in thick brush. British General Burgoyne’s troops were unable to infiltratethe ramparts in Saratoga and were thus deterred into the woods where Benedict Arnold commanded an aggressive charge, wounding 600 enemy men. General Horatio Gates wrote of Kościuszko as being “skillful enough to select [hills and forests] for [the] encampment.” The American victory at Saratoga became an incredible turning point for the Revolution because it attracted French financial and military aid which eventually resulted in the successful acquisition of American independence.

Following his great successes in upstate New York, commander, in the Carolinas. During this time, he received much praise from George Washington, although the president could not spell the great engineers name correctly and tore through 11 different forms, ranging from Kosiusko to Cosleski. At the conclusion of the war, Kościuszko was honored by Washington with gifts of arms. Jefferson continued to revere his Polish friend—he is quoted as having said, “He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known, and of that liberty which is to go to all, and not to the few or rich alone.” And, this was indeed true, to the fullest extent possible. On writing his will, Kościuszko called upon Jefferson to release his slaves, to “give them liberty in [his] name.”

This year, 2017, marks 200 years since the Polish engineer died in Switzerland, and his life is still widely commemorated. In Poland, his body is buried in the Wawel Castle among the tombs of Polish kings. In Philadelphia, the Kościuszko House is dedicated to informing visitors about the contributions he made to American history. In other large cities, statues of Kościuszko have been erected, and this year in particular has seen a surge in commemorative events, publications, and art.

It is clear that Kościuszko made an immensely important impact on the American Revolution, and he is consequently well-celebrated, not just now for his bicentenary, but each day for the freedom he helped to achieve in the United States. Then, why is it that his name is missing from most American history textbooks? Or if it is present, it is only mentioned in one sentence and thus skimmed over by the eyes that glazed over the book. How is the youth of the American nation to understand what these celebrations and statues commemorate if they have no prior exposure to or instruction about heroes that aren’t “all-American?” America needs to recognize the foreign-born population that was vital to the creation of this free nation and give the proper acknowledgments to those who were instrumental in the achievement of this feat.

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, we gathered again—as our great Kościuszko Foundation’s family does every year—to celebrate, commemorate and remember our famous forefather and patron General Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Over 250 guests came to the splendid State Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel to celebrate our Polish-American bonds and also to promote a unique and beautiful Polish city, with a rich, fascinating past and a blooming presence—the city of Wrocław.

The bridge between Wrocław and The Kościuszko Foundation is a spectacular cycloramic painting and one of the greatest national treasures: Racławice Panorama, depicting the victorious battle at Racławice against Russian occupants, led by General Kościuszko.

We were honored to host many distinguished guests, among them: the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Piotr Wilczek, Consul Zygmunt Matynia, DC City Council Member Jack Evans (who presented a beautiful ceremonial for Tadeusz Kościuszko and proclaimed December 2nd A Kościuszko Day in Washington DC), the Mayor of the City of Wrocław Rafał Dutkiewicz, the director of the National Museum in Wrocław—Piotr Oszczanowski as well as the well-known and loved Polish-American celebrities: basketball super star Marcin Gortat, acclaimed Hollywood actress and singer Alicja Bachleda Curuś, and philanthropist and promoter of Polish culture in the US, Hollywood based Helena Kolodziej.

We heard some inspiring short remarks about the hero of both nations—General Kosciuszko, and our Polish ‘Wizard’—basketball star Marcin Gortat shared with us his experiences of being a famous Pole in the United States, expressing his pride and excitement of representing our country and contributing to building a positive image of Poland in the US. Alicja Bachleda Curuś told a touching story about her first visit to New York city (years ago) and founding an unexpected home at Hanna Kelker’s residency—one the Kościuszko Foundation trustees, also present at the Gala.

After the Gala, we received many appreciative comments and compliments and we would like to also thank again everybody who came to celebrated with us or supported our efforts in other ways!

We would not exist without the continuous engagement of the dedicated Polonia members and our wonderful American friends. We all share the same goal: to keep our traditions, customs and history alive and to pass it down to the next generations. It’s all about Poland and its culture.
Internationally acclaimed pianists: Rafal Lewandowski & Alexander Peskanov in a concert for four hands featuring works by S. Barber, C. Debussy, P. Tchaikovsky and A. Jonas.

“Rafal Olbinski at the Kosciuszko Foundation” - an opening reception of the special exhibit featuring artist’s most recent paintings.
A piano concert celebrating the Independence Day of Poland by the great virtuoso of the piano – Konrad Skolarski.

Monika Krajewska, mezzo-soprano and Yelena Kurdina, piano giving a stunning performance in the recital “Romantic Soul of Europe” featuring some of the most beautiful songs and arias sung in six languages.

Left: Celebrating the Year of Kosciuszko at the Kosciuszko Foundation. On picture from left: Arthur Szymanski, Trustee accepting the Recognition Award on behalf of Dariusz Knapik, KF President Marek Skulimowski and Tadeusz Alberski.

Top: An Author’s evening with Eva Stachniak, internationally best-selling author presenting her latest novel The Chosen Maiden. Dean Karyanis, creator and host at History Author Show lead the book discussion.
Santas... Santas – an art exhibit and Christmas Carols singing by young artists

The Cracow Duo: Jana Kalinowski, cello & Marek Szelezer, piano in a superb performance featuring: Act for Tadeusz Kosciuszko on the 200th death anniversary.

Singing traditional Christmas Carols and making Christmas ornaments with the Polish Scouting folk craft instructors. Children’s event organized by the Polish American Teachers Association.
Upcoming Events at the Kosciuszko Foundation

Winter / Spring, 2018

January 18, 7:30 pm “Pola Negri: Life of a Star” a screening of the documentary film followed by a discussion with director, Mariusz Kotowski led by Prof. Andrzej Krakowski. The film is an eye-opening and inspiring documentary about Pola Negri, the first European film star to be invited to Hollywood who achieved worldwide fame and became one of the most popular actresses in American silent film.

February 8, 7:30 pm “Paderewski and World Politics” a lecture by Marek Zebrowski, Director of USC Polish Music Center, pianist, composer, historian. The lecture focuses on Paderewski’s political activities between 1910 and 1922, his role in the “Front Morges” political formation in Switzerland in the 1930s, and on his last year of life, when Paderewski became a World War II refugee in America. Rare photographs from the Paderewski Paso Robles Collection held at the Polish Music Center, USC, will illustrate the lecture.

February 25, 5:00 pm “Donna” a concert by Metropolitan Opera singers: Edyta Kulczak, mezzo-soprano (former KF grantee) and Disella Lárusdóttir, soprano. This is a tribute concert dedicated to a legendary Polish opera singer Marcella Sembrich-Kochanska, on her 160th Birthday Anniversary. Marcella Sembrich (1858 – 1935) is recognized as the most famous Polish opera singer in the world, and one of the largest primadonnas of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries; the first star in the history of the Metropolitan Opera, a great Polish patriot, actively involved in the fight for the cause of Poland during World War I.

March 6, 7:30 pm “Master & Students” a piano recital by Prof. Mirosław Herbowski. The concert is organized in cooperation with the New York Conservatory of Music and is part of its 20th anniversary celebrations. Prof. Herbowski is a laureate and finalist of music competitions in Warsaw, Rotterdam and Rome. Since 1982 he has performed regularly in Poland, throughout Europe, Japan and USA including venues such as Mozarteum, Berlin Philharmonic, Moscow Conservatory, Columbia Artist International Hall and Steinway Hall in New York.

March 29, 7:30 pm “From a Familiar Place” a jazz concert by WM Project featuring: Marshall Gilkes, Krzysztof Medyna, Rafal Sarnecki, Andrzej Winnicki, Jeff Dingler, and Michael Winnicki. The album is a personal project for pianist Andrzej Winnicki and tenor saxophonist Krzysztof Medyna, whose surnames are ingrained in the name: WM Project. The music sums up a long life lived with jazz, but also looks forward to the future. With this album WM Project shows the boundless possibilities of a deep understanding of jazz tradition resulting in memorable grooves and melodies.

April 3, 7:30 pm an author’s evening with Monika Jablonska presenting her book: “Wind from Heaven. John Paul II: The Writer Who Became the Pope.” The book portrays the Pope as a student of Polish literature, playwright, actor, professor, philosopher, priest, and thinker, but also a leader whose religious conviction added a new and much-needed moral dimension to world politics and changed the course of history. A mini piano recital will accompany the talk.

May 19, 5:00 pm A piano concert by the winners of the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C.
Dr. Albert Juszczak died suddenly on Wednesday, October 4, in Pittsburgh, PA, where he had recently moved with his wife. The Memorial Mass was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 14 at St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church in Elmhurst. The casket with his ashes will rest in a family tomb in Poland.

Throughout his life, Dr. Juszczak worked with many Polish organizations, including the Kosciuszko Foundation, where he served as president from 1980 to 1989. During his tenure as president, he developed academic programs and student fellowships, thereby creating thriving intellectual activity at the Kosciuszko Foundation. Despite the difficulties connected with Polish martial law, he notably managed to maintain close contacts between the Kosciuszko Foundation and Polish student centers, including the Jagiellonian University and the Catholic University of Lublin. Dr. Juszczak also served as executive director of the Polish-Slavic Center in Greenpoint and director of the Glenridge Senior Center in Ridgewood.

His academic achievements are countless. Dr. Juszczak was the first person at the University of Chicago to write a doctorate on the history of Polish literature. He was a lecturer of Polish language at New York University for more than 30 years, taught Polish literature at Hunter College, and was an examiner of Language Proficiency. Dr. Juszczak was an English-Polish and Polish-English translator. The last translation he completed was “Armed Forces,” a work dedicated to the creation of the Blue Army for the Association of Veterans of the Polish Army in America.

Dr. Juszczak had a deep sense of duty to help others, was a loyal friend and a beloved and devoted father and husband. He will be deeply missed.

Thomas J. Pniewski passed away on September 7 in New York City, his home of many years. Mr. Pniewski served as Foundation’s Director of Cultural Affairs from 1995 to 2010 with great distinction and dedication.

Mr. Pniewski committed himself to exploring Polish culture by organizing a variety of exhibits, author’s evenings, movie screenings and music concerts. Gifted musician himself, he contributed largely to the Foundation’s Chamber Music Series featuring concerts and radio broadcast for nearly 20 years since 1990. The series has brought Polish music and musicians to hundreds of thousands of listeners through live concerts at the Foundation’s acoustically superb Gallery and broadcasted over WQXR, the radio station of the New York Times.

Mr. Pniewski was a graduate of Princeton University, and Cornell University’s College of Arts and Sciences, where he studied musicology. After graduation, he dedicated his life to music and music education, focusing primarily on the piano, organ, and harpsichord. Prior to assuming responsibilities of Director of Cultural Affairs at the Kosciuszko Foundation, Mr. Pniewski served as a teaching fellow at Cornell, tutor at Princeton-in-Asia in the Music Department of Chung Chi College and as a teaching assistant at Hunter College in NYC.
The New Kosciuszko Foundation Dictionary App
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