



COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS FOR THE SUPPORT
OF POLISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

KOMITET KONGRESU POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ WSPIERANIA POLSKICH
STUDIÓW NA UNIWERSYTECIE TORONTOŃSKIM

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HONORARY
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Teresa Berezowska,
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November, 2011

Your donations have made a very significant difference! Even though many language courses at the University of Toronto have been cancelled over the last three years, the Polish Language and Literature program has been preserved because of the support it has received from the Polish community. As we wrote to you in May, our last fiscal year has been very successful. Your donations reached close to \$50,000, bringing the endowment fund to about \$110,000.

FOUNDER

Stanisław Orłowski
(1920 - 2003)

“When we speak of Canada’s many blessings, most people point to our abundant natural resources; however, I believe that it’s our deep reservoir of human resources that represents our greatest asset,” says Mr. Wrzesnewskij whose \$35,000 gift in honour of his father established the *Roman Wrzesnewskij Polish Endowment Fund* that now supports the program. “The family motto was, ‘Look to the future in your adopted country, and yet never forget where you came from, your ancestral roots.’”

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Our Council continues to work to ensure that the Polish Language and Literature program will never again be threatened. In supporting the program we honour our heritage and make it possible for the present and future generations of students to learn about their ancestral roots. Thanks to your generosity we have exceeded our interim goal of \$100,000. In the current economic conditions we will need about \$350,000 to generate enough income to fund the third-level language course indefinitely; we are one third of the way toward that goal.

Once again we appeal for your support. Your donation can be made by cheque or credit card; it could also be a gift-in-kind or a bequest in your will. Any amount is welcome! More information about different ways of giving is available on our website, www.csps.kpk.org.

The highlights of Professor Trojanowska's activities during the past academic year are summarized on the following page. Do not hesitate to contact any of our members if we can be of any assistance.

Thanking Mr. Wrzesnewskij for his generous and significant contribution to our community and to the University of Toronto, the Ambassador of Poland to Canada, His Excellency Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz said:

STUDENT MEMBERS:

Nadia Hosseinzadeh

Agata Mycek

“I do hope that other representatives of Polonia will follow Mr. Wrzesnewskij’s steps in order to guarantee instructional stability and the assurance of an excellent teaching and learning environment.”

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2012!

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Activities in the Polish Language and Literature Program at the University of Toronto

This past year the Program continued its mission of promoting Polish culture, particularly newly published books, to the university and Toronto communities. In November 2011, it hosted a highly esteemed writer, Olga Tokarczuk, in connection with the recent publication of the English translation of her novel. In March, it presented Professor Mieczysław B. Biskupski, holder of the Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University and author of the recently published *Hollywood's War with Poland, 1939–1945*. Professor Trojanowska initiated the new academic year with four events: an International Symposium: *Czesław Miłosz: Many Worlds, Game of Forms*, a poetry evening with Piotr Sommer, his lecture on Polish and American Poetry, and a lecture by Professor Alfred Marek Wierzbicki, Director of the John Paul II Institute at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, who spoke on *The Philosophy of the Human Person and Human Rights in the Thought of Karol Wojtyła / John Paul II*. It is important to notice that all these events were organized in collaboration with other academic and cultural institutions in Canada, USA, and Poland.

The Program also continued to organize the extra-curricular activities for its students. They included, for example, the lectures on the history of coffee houses in Kraków and on Polish animation, trips to the openings of art exhibits, movie nights (e.g. at Peter Weir's *The Way Back*), and concerts of Polish music. A separate collaboration with the Association of Polish Students also produced film screenings and a lecture with Professor Maria Kornatowska.

The major successes of Professor Trojanowska's doctoral students should also be mentioned. Two of them won prestigious awards and scholarships. Agnieszka Polakowska became a Fellow in the Centre for Ethics at the University of Toronto and Łukasz Siciński won the provincial OGS and the Canadian SSHRC grants, as well as the Vivienne Poy Chancellor's Fellowship at the University of Toronto.

In addition to six works published by Professor Trojanowska last year, the achievements in research include the acceptance for publication of a volume of essays, *Personal Encounters, Public Accounts: Essays on Polish Culture*, co-edited by Professor Trojanowska and her past and current graduate students. Work on a major international research project initiated by the program is also on-going. *A History of Polish Literature and Culture: New Perspectives on Twentieth and Twenty First Centuries* is being co-edited by three scholars: Przemysław Czapliński (UAM, Poznań), Joanna Niżyńska (Harvard) and Tamara Trojanowska with the participation of over fifty other international scholars in Polish culture, including graduates of our own Program.

The University of Toronto is Canada's largest and most distinguished university, offering teaching programs in seventeen academic divisions located on three campuses and in ten fully affiliated teaching hospitals. In 2010, University of Toronto placed seventeenth overall, and twelfth in the arts and humanities, in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. University of Toronto's Faculty of Arts and Science is home to Canada's largest and strongest clusters of expertise in world languages and literatures. It hosts one of the largest Polish language and literature programs in North America. The University continues to fundraise for Polish language support through the Council of the Canadian Polish Congress for the Support of Polish Studies at University of Toronto.