

ACPC Youth Leadership Conference

By: *Jo Louise Winters*

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) is scheduling its 12th Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), June 20-26, 2010 in Washington, DC according to Committee Chair Mrs. Irena Mirecki. The Conference seeks to assist and inspire high school graduates and college students of Polish background, ages 17-26, who are interested in civic and political activism to realize their full potential and assume leadership roles in various fields at all levels of society.

It is an up close and intensive opportunity for young Polish Americans, chosen from all over the U.S., to explore the political processes and interact with national and international leaders in the realms of foreign policy, business, science, education, journalism, culture, and Polish American and East Central European affairs. The general format of the Conference is as follows: mornings – meetings with government and other leaders in their working environments. Afternoons – lectures on related historical, political and leadership topics/processes. Evenings – selected working evenings are spent in informal seminars or dinners with individuals who exemplify leadership qualities in their fields. These sessions are held at such sites as the Library of Congress, U.S. Congress, think tanks, local universities, etc.

In the past, the Youth Leadership Conference has given the students opportunities to meet with U.S. Senators and Representatives, government officials in the departments of State, Commerce, Treasury, Defense, and in Intelligence, nationally known journalists and authors, political scientists, officials of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and prominent figures of Polonia, business, and the professions. Past Conferences have included the participation of distinguished personages such as, to name just a few, U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski of MD; Ohio's U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur; former head of National Security Zbigniew Brzezinski; Jim Miklaszewski, Chief Pentagon Correspondent for NBC News; Radek Sikorski, Exec. Dir. American Enterprise Institute's New Atlantic Initiative and former Polish deputy minister of Defense and of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Michael Waller, political scientist Institute of World Politics faculty; staff members of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland; sculptor Gordon S. Kray who conducted guided bus tour of DC's Polish art; and many other prominent figures. Students in past conferences visited the White House, Polish Embassy, Library of Congress, U.S. Commerce Department's Office of Eastern Europe, International Spy Museum, War Department headquarters, and other significant sites.

The Youth Leadership Conference may offer a wonderful opportunity for a parent/grandparent/relative to offer the registration fee of \$500 as a meaningful Christmas present to a student in the family. Polonia organizations may also want to consider supporting a bright and ambitious student in their community.

Detailed instructions for applying may be obtained from ACPC website, www.polishcultureacpc.org or by contacting YLC Chair Irena Mirecki, (703) 241-1149, or irena@mirecki.us. □

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Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies 2010 - \$5,000 Award

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies Program, which was initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas family, is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture. Qualified applicants must send all of the material described in the two pages attached to this notice so that it is received on or before March 15, 2010 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the Chairman and duplicate copies to the other four ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee members:

Mr. Marion V. Winters, MA, Chairman
51 Camile Rd.
Webster MA 01570-3148

Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS
812 Lombard St. #12
Philadelphia PA 19147-1308

Mr. Peter J. Obst, MA
67 Lower Orchard Dr.
Levittown P A 19056-2722

Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, MS ED
35 Fernridge Rd.
West Hartford CT 06107-1425

Mrs. Carolyn L. Meleski, MS
10020 Reese Rd.
Clarkston MI 48348-1856

At least one scholarship grant of \$5,000 is available for the 2010 competition. If a copy of the application requirements is not published with this news announcement, a copy may be obtained by visiting the ACPC website:

www.polishcultureacpc.org or contacting Mr. Winters at e-mail mvwinters@charter.net or tel. (508) 949-0160. Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the American Council for Polish Culture and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned applications will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review. □

Quantum Physics Center Planned in Toruń

The Nicholas Copernicus University (UMK) in Toruń has a contract with The Project Management (PM) Group, an international engineering and architectural firm, for the design of the Centrum Fizyki Kwantowej (Quantum Physics Center). The center will conduct research in the field of quantum optics and applications in natural and biomedical sciences. The building will be located on the premises of the UMK Institute of Physics and will have nearly 2,000 square meters of space. The project will cost about 25 million zł. including EU Operational Program co-financing of 22 million zł.

Prof. Włodzimierz Jaskólski of the UMK Institute of Physics said, "The center will serve to raise research in the field of quantum optics to European standards. The work will be conducted in one of the center's five laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment which will help improve methods of data storage in optical systems and foster the development of cryptography, or information encryption aimed at secure data transfer. In the future, the research is expected to achieve world standards and help eliminate the present barriers to building a quantum computer."

The Building project will last until the end of 2010. The laboratories will be fitted with specialized equipment in 2011. □

Piast Institute Invites Everyone to Follow the Institute on Social Networking Sites

Hamtramck, Michigan - Piast Institute, a National Institute for Polish and Polish-American Affairs, is pleased to announce its presence on the popular social networking sites Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. In accordance with its mission of "Building a New Polonia for the 21st Century" Piast constantly seeks new ways to connect and involve Polonia of all ages in hopes of bringing Polonia from different backgrounds together. A non-stop presence in the virtual world of Facebook and Twitter will help the Institute gain exposure and promote Polish and Polish American culture and issues among younger members of the Polish American community.

"The digital world around us is constantly changing, and as a community we have to be able to keep up with the technology to keep the younger generation interested in things Polish," says Dominik Stecula, the Director of Research at the Piast Institute. But social networking is not only about youth. "According to Pew Research Center the percentage of American adults who have a profile on social networking sites quadrupled in the last five years and now stands at 35%. This is the future and as a community we have to learn how to utilize Facebook, Twitter and whatever the future will bring us to our advantage."

The Institute will update its social profiles with important information, reports and events, so it will be an easy way for someone interested in the Polish American community to stay connected and informed. To follow Piast on Facebook, simply log on to facebook.com and search for the Piast Institute and for the Friends of Piast. To keep up with our tweets, connect with us at twitter.com/piastinstitute. To get the visual behind the work of the Institute, look for Piast Institute on Flickr.

If you would like to be added to the Piast Institute email list, simply email info@piastinstitute.org and request to be added to the list.

For more information about Piast on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, or YouTube, contact Virginia Skrzyński at 313.733.4535 or by email at skrzyński@piastinstitute.org. □

A Good Honest Pole !

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. – The book returned to the New Bedford Public Library in Massachusetts this week wasn't overdue by a week, a month or even a year. It was nearly a century overdue, and the fine came to \$361.35.

"Facts I Ought to Know about the Government of My Country" was supposed to have been returned by May 10, 1910.

Stanley Dudek told the Standard Times newspaper he came across the book while going through things that had belonged to his mother, who died about 10 years ago. He decided that returning the book to the city was the right thing to do.

The overdue book fine was a penny a day in 1910. But Dudek wasn't asked to pay it.

The library plans to display the book in its special collection. □

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

Frank Gąfkowski Jr.

Asto Museum hosts "KRAK" and "Emotionalists"

By: *Andrew Kołodziej*

On Oct 17, there was a formal opening of LA/NY PROJECT Exhibition, featuring the groups from both Coasts, in newly established Los Angeles, Asto Museum of Art. The West Coast has been represented by the *KrakArt Group*, active in Los Angeles for over 25 years and the East Coast, by *Emotionalists* group exhibiting in New York City for last 15 years. Both groups are presenting paintings, graphics and photography.

Seven years ago, the Asto Gallery was established in trendy Downtown Los Angeles. Initially it was promoting West Coast merging talents, then it has extended its activity to organizing an exchange exhibition between the US and Asia. Soon, Asto Gallery has become a leading promoter of American contemporary art in Asia and Oriental art in the US. They even surpassed in a scope of such activity of all local museums.

This year, Asto has moved to a new, much larger building located between Downtown LA and historic and affluent South Pasadena. There was a need for a new name, reflecting its scope of activity larger than the gallery can handle. And Asto Museum of Art was born. With its new name, it has extended promotions of art to the West and East Coast.

To test the waters in a new exchange program, Asto has selected *KrakArt* and *Emotionalists*, two Polish-American groups. It is worth remembering that the foreign artists immigrating to the US were contributing to the progress of American arts and culture since its beginning. Just to mention the American film industry, leading in the world, was pioneered by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Similarly, the foundation for American visual arts has been paved mostly by English, French, Dutch and Italian artists who found this country their new home.

Moreover, centuries long European hegemony in fine arts has been broken mostly by European avant-garde artists living in the US. They fled Europe to escape the Nazis and continued their innovative work in America. It resulted in the creation of new styles, Pop-Art and Op-Art, what eventually granted dominance in fine arts of the world to the US.

The Executive Director of Asto Museum of Art is Ms. Pearl Park, who is also a successful artist. The Chief curator is a prominent art organizer, Mr. Gustav Yim. During the Reception, as a curator of this LA/NY PROJECT Exhibition, I introduced the artists of *KrakArt* and their work to the guests. The group is presenting mostly abstract oriented compositions with an emphasis on simplicity and color palette.

Highly respected painter, graphic artist and vice-chairman of *Emotionalists*, Mr. Janusz Skowron introduced the artworks of his group. They were largely semi-figurative landscapes, figures and portraits, emphasizing visual emotions.

A sizeable crowd of guests had a chance to enjoy a healthy spirit of an artistic confrontation between two groups. *KrakArt* was represented by painters: K. Czerpak-Wegliński, N. Finch, J. Fodczuk, A. Gajewska, A. Kołodziej, L. Konopelski, T. Myszta, W. Mitrowski, A. Popek, W. Wójcik. Photographer: D. Banasik and video artist: Eva C. Świder.

Emotionalists were represented by painters and photographers: P. Betlej, M. Fuks, Z. Nowosadzki, J. Skowron, A. Skowron, M. Starzec, J. Wolski, A. Zatorska. Photographers: K. Derda, W. Kubik, M. Rudek, P. Todo and illustrator: B. Szpura

This exhibition was strictly a visual arts event. We hope that someday we will be

Asto Museum to page 16