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SPECIAL EDITION



The **45th** anniversary
of the School of Polish Language and Culture

The **650th** anniversary of the
Jagiellonian University

*Honorary patronage of the spouse of the President
of the Republic of Poland, Anna Komorowska*



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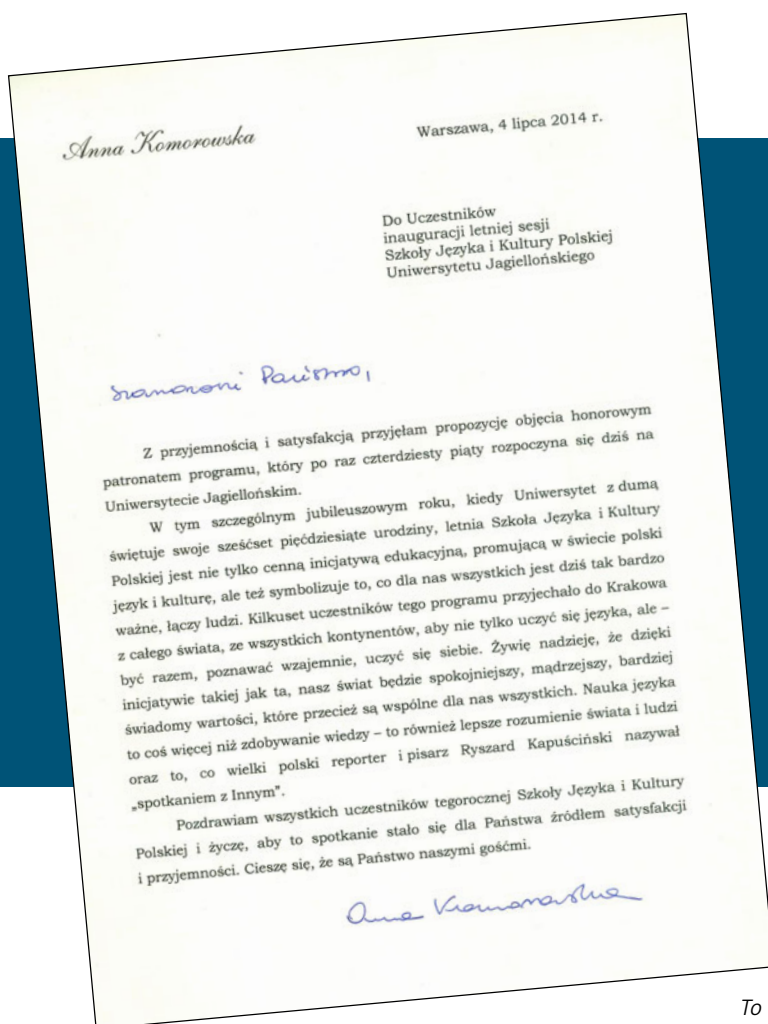
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Warsaw, 4 July 2014

To the Participants of the Inauguration of the summer session of the School of Polish Language and Culture by the Jagiellonian University

*Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
with great pleasure and satisfaction I have accepted the opportunity to hold the honorable patronage over the programme which is launched today for the 45th time at the Jagiellonian University.*

In this particular anniversary year, when the University proudly celebrates its 650 Anniversary, the Summer School organized by the School of Polish Language and Culture is not only a valuable educational initiative, promoting Polish language and culture, but also it symbolizes everything that is so important to all of us today – connecting people. Several hundred participants of the programme have come to Krakow from all over the world in order to learn language and even more – to be together, to learn about different cultures and to learn about one another. I hope that owing to initiatives such as this one, our world will be more peaceful, wiser, and more aware of values that actually are common to all of us. Language learning is so much more than acquiring knowledge – it is also a better understanding of the world and people and, something that our great reporter and writer, Ryszard Kapuściński, called “Meeting the Otherness”.

I would like to greet all the participants of the School of Polish Language and Culture and wish you that the meeting became the source of satisfaction and pleasure. I am glad that you are our guests.

Anna Komorowska

“Chrzęszcz brzmi w trzcinie” strikes back for 45 years already!

» The Aula of Collegium Novum is slowly getting crowded. 4 July 2014. The chairs are taken mostly by the youth from all over the world; one can hear conversations in Ukrainian, English, German or Chinese... The 45th Edition of the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture by the Jagiellonian University is just about to start. Perhaps, after the completion of the courses everybody will speak only Polish?

One of the students came from Germany. When asked for the reasons to study Polish, she answers: - I was an Erasmus student in Wrocław. We had some Polish classes and I have decided to come back to learn the language better.

I also asked the question to several other participants, among whom there was a Polish language student from Slovakia and an American who wants to speak Polish with his mom. Several persons simply came out of curiosity.

The largest group of students are Americans – most of them came to the Summer School thanks to the cooperation of the School with the Kosciuszko Foundation. 45 years ago it was the Foundation that directed the first learners to Poland and the tradition is still vibrant. This year, among the 400 students participating in the courses, about 50 are the learners directed by the Foundation.

THE ART OF TRANSLATION

After greeting all the guests, the Headmaster of the Summer School, Professor Piotr Horbатовski, PhD, read a letter written to the students by the wife of the President of the Republic of Poland, Anna Komorowska, who holds a honorary patronage over the courses this year. Next, the following guests held their speeches, heartening the students: almost all of them said: “Polish language does not have to be difficult!”. It was confirmed both by the USA Consul in Krakow, a participant of an earlier edition of our Summer School, and the President of the Kosciuszko Foundation – John Micgiel. Additional motivation to learn Polish was the speech of Professor Władysław Miodunka, who informed the students about the opportunity to get certificates confirming the knowledge of Polish language.

However, the main highlight of the celebration was the lecture of a Korean translator of Polish language, Ms. Eстера Czoj. She translates and promotes Polish literature in Korea. That is thanks to her that the works of Szymborska, Miłosz, Prus, Kapuściński or Mrozek can be read in Seoul. That is thanks to her that the Koreans can read “Lithuania, my fatherland!” Ms. Czoj completed the Polish language faculty in Seoul and, as she says, translating literature is the first step in the journey of 7736 km that makes the distance from Poland to Korea. She also mentioned the similarity in the history of both countries, she talked about “Quo Vadis”, which was the first book translated into Korean and now has 51 editions. Ms. Czoj indicated the impact of Polish history on the popularity of our literature in Korea. By the 80s of the 20th century, 45 literature books were translated into Korean; however, all of them were translated from other languages – English or Japanese. The year of 1989 was a turning point. Both countries entered into diplomatic relations and since 1990s Polish literature has been translated into Korean from the original language. In front of the auditorium she was talking about her passion for literature and playing with words. Ms. Czoj did not speak only about her work, translation. For the Polish literature translator, her own passion is art - the art of translation.

CHRISTMAS BORSCH AND ST. ANDREW'S NIGHT IN JULY

The Summer School offers several courses, differentiated by the intensity and term. Students can choose a three-week, a four-week or a six-week course. Apart from Polish language lessons, the participants can choose from a whole



range of lectures in Polish and English languages devoted to Polish culture and history. They shall have an opportunity to participate in the comprehensive course of Polish history. There are planned also Polish language theory classes, i.e. classes devoted to changes in Polish language over centuries. During the classes the participants shall get an answer why the language is so difficult. Many lectures shall be devoted to Polish theatre, literature and cinema.

On the other hand, practical classes shall let the students know Polish tradition in a direct way. Students shall experience how to learn about their future marriage and how to interpret wax fortune-telling on St. Andrew's Night. Maybe one of the girls catches a wreath during a traditional Polish wedding, which is a sign of getting married soon? Students shall be able to experience a rare opportunity of

decorating a Christmas tree and taste Christmas borsch in July – as it is the best way to learn about Polish Christmas Eve celebrations of 24 December. Apart from the above attractions, the organizers have also planned some sightseeing: the participants shall get to know Krakow and its historical sites, visit Wieliczka Salt Mine, the Pieniny Mountains and Zakopane.

The inauguration of the Summer School was held in two languages – Polish and English. From that day on, the participants of the Summer School have been experiencing an intense Polish language course – not only during classes and lectures but also by simply buying postcards or mineral water in shops. Therefore, the closing ceremony shall be held in Polish language only.

KATARZYNA RODACKA

University, duties and travels

» An interview with Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs at the Jagiellonian University, Professor Andrzej Mania, PhD. The interview was carried by Sara Bonin, Veronika Hasap, Petra Kollarová.

Students: Good morning.

Rector: Good morning. Where are you from?

SB: From Germany, from Berlin.

PK: I come from a small town in Slovakia, in the western part of the country.

Which larger town is around?

PK: Trenčín.

VH: I am a Hungarian, I study in Budapest but I come from a small place not far from Budapest.

SB: What are the most important qualities of the Jagiellonian University and its students?

The Jagiellonian University is, first of all, an old academic center with rich history. Thus, the added value of being here is the fact that everybody – apart from the entire educational curriculum – can experience the incidental contact with history. In the practical aspect, however, it is a very dynamic academic centre. It is enough to have a look at the students' campus that is now under extension with due consideration of modern aspects, open to a wide range of visiting students, also the foreign ones, for example within the Erasmus exchange program or summer courses. So, this is an old university, i.e. with experience and functioning as a tradition warden, but also a very modern educational centre. In the case of the Jagiellonian University we can also talk about the investment boom – we build many objects and we constantly develop.

VH: What is the meaning of the Jagiellonian University to you?

It is like my actual father or mother because my personality has been shaped here. Today I can say that the majority of my life has been connected with the University – it is almost 40 years already. Anything that happens in my private, emotional, professional or social life is connected with this place, so in the positive sense of the word I can say that I am "a child of the University". One cannot have a better "parent", so I am really satisfied.

VH: Is the rector's work difficult?

It consists largely in a whole series of administrative operations

connected with management. For example I have had to sign 60 thousand diplomas lately. There are many meticulous and mundane but very important activities. Somebody has to elaborate rules and regulations, assign scholarships, participate in meetings with other universities in order to launch the mutual cooperation. It is especially exciting when we manage to find some interesting solutions. Among such successful projects there are interdisciplinary doctoral studies where the methodology enables the cooperation of representatives of all the disciplines. At the moment I am trying to launch an international doctoral school and to achieve that I am contacting, among others, the University in Frankfurt and Heidelberg. I am eager to participate in such projects. I assert that it is an opportunity to work for public welfare.

SB: To what extent is the University dependent on politics or economy?

Firstly, the Jagiellonian University is a state-owned academic centre and therefore, we use the state budget support. Secondly, we are a part of the state, and the state creates law. However, we are largely autonomous, among others, as for the appointment of our internal authorities. We function within the scope of funds that we are granted by the state and based on funds obtained by our scientists owing to their projects. It can be said that the University, due to its rank, is respected by the authorities and it is treated with attention although we do not agree on all the issues. I am convinced that the academic centers of our range can be very important from the state perspective as they set good directions in the academic education. I do not want to say that smaller centers do not have wise employees, however, we have a huge potential. We employ 3.5 thousand academic staff and we have 48 thousand students.

PK: I think you like travelling. What was your most distant destination and how long did you stay abroad?



I have been to so many countries in my long life. My wife, who is sometimes not so happy that I am always abroad, calculated that I spent about 5 years abroad, in total, in many different places. My longest stay was in the USA at several academic centers. The other important long stay was in the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo – it is a Research Institute assisting the Committee for the Nobel Peace Prize; I spent a year there. I had two longer stays at the University of Oxford. I have travelled to Vienna and Frankfurt lately, of course I have also been to Budapest, I have been invited to Olomouc lately and I am waiting forward to a visit in Bratislava. I think that the students at the early stages of their academic education should spend at least one semester abroad. Such a stay makes us think more, compare two different worlds and notice differences – it has a significant impact on the personality.

VH: What are the advantages and disadvantages of accepting foreigners for studies?

I cannot see any disadvantages. For us, accepting foreign students is especially important because of our post-war history, when the Jewish minority had been mostly murdered, which was a tragic turn of history. Poland changed, became a single-nation country, and therefore, foreign students teach us to accept the cultural variability.

PK: Can you say that you have a "second fatherland"? Where,

apart from Poland, could you live?

I enjoy Italy most because I often travel there on vacation. I feel great there. I have visited various parts of the country. I am a bit irritated by the mess there although maybe it is a too strong word. It is hard to make an appointment with an Italian. I have a more Scandinavian or, maybe, German mentality. When I have a meeting at 1:00 pm – I come at 1:00 pm. However, with the Italian you never know. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful country with nice climate and interesting monuments. On the other hand, I know America best. When I was younger, I was asked several times to stay there. I have never decided to do that. I have always missed my country.

SB: What languages can you speak?

I can read in German and I used to speak the language. I know Russian but not so well as in my youth. Nowadays, English language has dominated everything – even when I am going to a conference in Germany, it is held in English. German language is very popular and takes the second place in Poland as regards language proficiency. In particular, in the case of some faculties; practically all the lawyers learn German. However, English prevails in any communication. Nevertheless, we have to fight for the rights of less popular languages.

SB: That is why we are here. Thank you for the interview.

Teaching method that passes the exams

» We are talking with Ms. Adriana Prizel-Kania, PhD, the Vice-Director of the Centre of Polish Language and Culture in the World by the Jagiellonian University, responsible for the Summer School language programme.

During the inauguration ceremony the course was presented as a great adventure and getting acquainted with the nightlife of Krakow. And what can you say about the school from the academic prospective? What is the programme like?

The school is a great adventure – it cannot be denied. However, apart from many additional attractions it is, first of all, the School of Polish Language and Culture. The education, even though it is summer season, is very intensive. Even if we look at non-intensive courses, they cover 3 hours of language classes a day! The most intensive programme covers as many as 6 language classes daily. Please, remember, that we also provide afternoon lectures on culture, history, art or grammar. We have participants who are just starting their adventure with learning Polish but there are also participants who speak Polish pretty well, and therefore, some lectures are held in Polish and some in English.

You also organize excursions. Do you speak Polish then?

We pay attention that in each situation only Polish language is spoken – that Polish is our lingua franca. However, there are situations in which the communication turns out to be faster and more effective in English.

Who are lecturers in the Summer School?

Our teachers are, one the one hand, individuals with vast experience in teaching Polish language both in the country and in foreign academic centers. We are just celebrating the 45th anniversary of our activities and during that time we have been teaching foreigners on all the continents – in many European countries (France, Germany, England, Ireland, Ukraine...) in Asia, among others, in Japan, South Korea and China, in South and North America (the USA, Canada, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil) or in Australia. Experienced teachers most usually hold functions of the coordinators of specific programmes. We also have in our team many young teachers – graduates of and post-graduates of the faculty of teaching Polish as a foreign lan-

guage, organized for many years by our Centre. We have already managed to educate several generations of teachers who are successful both in the country and abroad. During holidays they try to come back to their Alma Mater to carry our summer courses.

As for the lecturers offering the afternoon lectures, they are professors of the Jagiellonian University. They also offered lectures at various academic centers all around the world. During the academic year, they also carry classes within their specialization with Polish students.

In what way are the classes divided? Grammar in the morning and texts in the afternoon?

Every day in the morning we start from language classes. Depending on the course, the classes are held by one or two teachers. If a course is more intensive, i.e. when it covers for example 4 hours a day, it is divided between two language teachers. Everything depends on the proficiency level; however, from the very beginning we carry classes in Polish. We teach Polish language in Polish and it works! Afternoons are reserved for lectures and evenings for interactive experiencing of Polish culture.

Which students excel in learning Polish? Can we assume that it is always easier to learn Polish by Ukrainians, Byelorussians or Slovaks due to language similarities?

We cannot observe any rule here. A lot depends on individual factors: motivation and preparation. An important factor is also general experience in learning foreign languages. As for the participants from Ukraine, they are most interested in the opportunity of studying in Poland. Therefore, we have a separate programme for them – preparing them to undertake studies in our country. It started in June. The course shall last for 8 weeks; however, it is also possible to choose a 4-week programme. We have observed a significant increase in such preliminary courses for the last two years. We offer not only summer courses but also annual and semi-annual preliminary courses.



Let's come back to the Summer School. After completing the course the participants can try to pass a certificate exam to confirm the knowledge of Polish language.

All the participants of the Summer School, if only they meet the requirements, i.e. pass the language exams and get the required score, can choose lectures they are interested in, obtain a diploma of the language course completion and a certificate of the Jagiellonian University. Many academic centers recognize our courses and students can obtain credit points at their home universities. However, the State Certificate Exams in Polish as a Foreign Language are another issue. They are held by the State Commission for the Certification of Proficiency in Polish as a Foreign Language at B1, B2 and C2 levels. As the exams are held in Krakow in July, many participants of our Summer School decide to take them and many of them succeed. Within the framework of the

Summer School we offer a special preliminary course to take the certificate exam.

And what is your unit occupied with during the academic year? Do you organize regular courses?

Yes, we offer intensive semi-annual and annual courses during which the students have minimum 30 hours of Polish language and culture classes. Moreover, we carry courses devoted to foreigners who live in Poland. The course is entitled "My Polish" and covers language classes held twice a week. We also have a cycle under the name of "4 Seasons with Polish Language". Within the cycle we offer 4 intensive courses a year. Our portfolio includes also courses for Erasmus students, individual classes or classed ordered by international companies. Apart from language classes we also offer methodological workshops for teachers and lecturers.

INTERVIEWER:
KATARZYNA RODACKA

Get to Know Your School Office

What is your best memory of the Summer School?

Director dr Piotr Horbatowski:

I like the Summer School in general and each year it is an adrenaline shot. I always have a stage fright that everything works ok and the energy to manage so many things so fast. We have to be on time with everything. But there is also lots of satisfaction when the students are happy and show it during our meetings. In spite of so many administrative tasks I try to spend as much time as possible with students. And the opportunity to participate in the life of the School, in the activities of the students I appreciate most. Therefore, my best memories include the evening cultural events, especially dancing workshops. I cannot dance so the opportunity to dance the Krakowiak dance was really something.

Ewa Nowakowska: Meeting of the School participants with Czesław Miłosz in 1994 – the poet was reading his poems and it was great experience...

Joanna Włoch: Bonfires together.

Patrycja Mazurkiewicz: The Dunajec river rafting in pouring rain ;-) Polish Culture Meetings – Easter and Christmas Eve.



What language would you like to learn?

PH: French; it sounds so beautiful, especially in the songs of French songwriters. And Japanese. For two years I was working at the Tokyo Polish Language Faculty, teaching Polish to the Japanese, but I have not learned Japanese. I regret it would like to catch up with it.

EN: Spanish! I have already completed five terms in Instituto Cervantes in Krakow and I intend to continue the education. ¡Hola a todos!

JW: Italian.

PM: Spanish.

What is your favorite Polish book that you could recommend to the Summer School students?

PH: I recommend novels by Olga Tokarczuk. She is my favorite writer. She takes me to her unusual world; she lets me discover the magic of everyday events, ordinary places and ordinary – extraordinary people. I would recommend three of her books, “Primeval and other times”, “The Wardrobe” and “House of Day, House of Night”.

EN: There are so many interesting books to read, but I will remain with the classics: “The Doll” by Bolesław Prus, the best Polish novel...

JW: “Empire” by Ryszard Kapuściński.

PM: “The Trilogy” by Henryk Sienkiewicz.

What is your favorite place in Krakow?

PH: Kazimierz District and Vistula Boulevards. Although I also dream about romantic cafes by the boulevards with a view to the Wawel Castle and the Vistula river.

EN: My home, naturally!

JW: Blonia Park in Kraków.

PM: Kazimierz District.

What is your favorite Polish dish?

PH: I like cooking, and especially experimenting, which is not always seen in the taste quality of my dishes. After I cook, the kitchen looks as if a typhoon came over it. Perhaps that is why my wife prefers to cook herself. Nevertheless, I had several spectacular culinary highlights, which were highly approved by my family. It was a Beijing duck of late. And from Polish dishes – Tatar and dumplings. Those are the dishes I like most.

EN: Borsch with dumplings and home-made Polish bread, for sure.

JW: Pancakes with cottage cheese.

PM: Dumplings ☺

Which Polish tradition do you like and celebrate most?

PH: Christmas, including Christmas Eve. Buying the Christmas tree and decorating it. The aromas of the home-made dishes. Gifts. The colorful rush in the illuminated streets, additionally, when Krakow is covered with snow. But also the spiritual aspect of Christmas, uniting people regardless of their religion, political view, etc. The world,



for a moment, becomes a better, more tolerant place, open to depressed and lonely people.

EN: The Christmas Eve – always unforgettable.

JW: The Christmas Eve.

PM: Christmas.

Why do you think it is worth to learn Polish?

PH: Poland is still a very interesting country although we, the Poles, like to complain about it. But we are really fine, open, and you cannot know us better than by learning the language. We have our tormented, and therefore, interesting history, quite rich and diversified culture, interesting traditions, many of which are still celebrated. Nowadays, the knowledge of Polish language creates more and more professional development opportunities. And the language itself? Many people say it is difficult. I say it is interesting, for sure not boring. Of course we have some language rules and a whole ocean of exceptions. The Polish language learning is like playing a computer game. You never know where the enemy strikes from and shoots with the exceptions. And as in com-

puter games the practice makes the master. The language can be learned and we have proofs of that in our Summer School.

What do you like most in the work with foreign students?

PH: The close contact with the students. I try to get to know them, what they are like and who they are. A student cannot be just a mere number or a name and surname on the list. When you get to know them, you become a partner in their drive to get the knowledge; you can see how many interesting people can be found around you. Then, even in the worst lazy-bones, in the least talented students you can find some advantages. It often turns out that “the worst” are very interesting people. In my opinion such an approach to students gives the students additional motivation. And suddenly, it turns out that the group gets integrated, achieving excellent results. And even if it is not the case, if anybody fails the exam, the warm feelings and understanding remain anyway.

Dancing into the Polish culture

» Polonez and Krakowiak are just two of the Polish dances which the participants of the School of Polish Language and Culture could learn on July 10.

On the 8th floor of the Piast dorm the students were welcomed by professional dancers from The "Słowianki" Song and Dance Ensemble of the Jagiellonian University who wore traditional folk dresses and were accompanied by an accordionist.

The evening began with a lesson of Polonez, which is a dignified dance. Students learned that in the Polish culture it used to be danced during wedding ceremonies as well as at pre-graduation balls. Polonez was followed by the joyous and dynamic Krakowiak. Participants were able to discover how different it is from the previous dance – much more speedy and danced either solo or in groups. The atmosphere in the room quickly warmed up! Both dances date back to the 17th century. Polonez is regarded as a traditional Polish dance while Krakowiak – as indicated by its

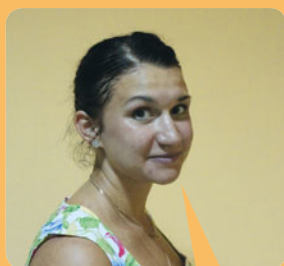
name – is closely connected with the Kraków region.

That evening ladies prevailed in the dance room but it was the gentlemen's task to invite them to dance – in this way the group integrated even further. The instructors joked that in the Polish culture it is always the gentleman who asks the lady for something, and that she should never refuse...

Krakowiak and Polonez were followed by Silesian and highlander dances. The evening concluded with the famous folk song "I have an embroidered handkerchief": according to tradition, one person dances within a circle formed by all those present and then offers a handkerchief to his or her "darling".

The workshops were attended, among others, by students from the US, Ukraine, and Switzerland.

EWA SAS



Irina Łozinska, Kiev

All of dances made a strong impression. I like a lot when dancers presented themselves in front of us. It is hard to say which of dances was the most difficult for me. Krakowiak with leap is not so easy, you have to know where and when you should have your head, and where hands. Folk costumes are pretty, but they are similar to Ukrainian ones. It is the same with dances.



Renelle Pierre, London

Polish folk dances are very interesting. I have tried others eastern European traditional dances but these are unique. They are not even a little similar to these, whose I have seen till now. Each of them is in a way special, but my favorite is polonaise. Women and men participate in polonaise and they have specified roles – it is energetic and different from others dances. Besides, the name polonaise (polonez) sounds like French name, and I like that as well!



Natasza Diurdiević, Serbia

Polish dances are funny and interesting – they help us to get to know Polish culture and traditional costumes. Thanks to them, in a funny way, we can learn about Polish customs. When we dance, we laugh, we talk, we release our emotions. Dancing is a good way for expressing ourselves, and that helps us to get know each other better. It is a perfect way for integration. We have people from around the world, who during this evening can learn something new. I like all the dances, I also practice Latin American dances. However, my favorite is polonaise and I would like to learn how to dance it in a professional way.



Peter Podlipni, Chicago IL

My favorite dance is polonaise because is very elegant. In Chicago we have a custom to dance polonaise during Polish weddings – I have danced it number of times. It is an element of tradition. From all folk costumes I most like highlands ones, but others are beautiful as well. The costumes have many colorful different elements and that is really great. For me, very important elements of women are beads. When I see a girl who wears a string of bead and a braid I immediately think about Poland. In Chicago we have many groups of Polish folk dances. During this evening I did not have any problems with dancing, because I already know some steps. However, I am not trying to hide that I had some problems with cracovienne.

Bonfire and singing

» It was a magical night. Students from the Summer School who participated in the bonfire at the Wobra Clearing in the Wolski Forest were all in the buoyant mood. All they needed was a fire, Polish sausages, the guitar and songbooks.

Two big coaches carried the students from the "Piaśt" students' hostel to the gate of the Krakovian ZOO. From that place there was only a short walk to the nearby Wobra Clearing. To warm up, the participants danced the



Osher Leizer, Israel

I study Polish language and culture in Israel and it is my teacher who recommended me the Summer School, that's why I came to Cracow. It is my second time in Poland, before I was here while learning in high school. Along with school group we were visiting the memorial and museum Auschwitz- Birkenau. Studying Polish in the Summer School is going well, especially because we have plenty of opportunities to speak in this language, ex. during a bonfire. I like all events and classes. In the future I would like to study in Poland for one semester.

"Belgian" dance. People who got mistaken during dancing and fell at one another seemed to be the funniest part of the dance. Afterwards, the students were given "kielbasa", rolls, pickles, ketchup and mustard. For vegetarians there were corns waiting for them. From that moment they all had to manage on their own with roasting the sausages or corns. The fire was heating the atmosphere and discouraged the disturbing mosquitoes from attacking the participants.

The bonfire started before 8 p.m. so the darkness came very quickly. This wasn't a problem for our most eager students to go on playing football. Students were given songbooks with six songs, both from Polish and international repertoire. Such hits were sang as: "Hej Sokół", "Gdybym miał gitarę" or "Lubię mówić z Tobą". The atmosphere of the evening changed completely when the microphone was taken by Kyle from the USA who preformed "Cry me a River" by Michael Buble. The perfect performance was awarded with loud applause. From that moment on our makeshift scene many participants sang songs from all over the world. But there couldn't be a bonfire without the hit "Ona tańczy dla mnie", which encouraged literally everybody to dance. This song was preformed by Joshua from the USA.



After two hours it was time to come back. It was hard not to get lost after the nightfall in the forest, but luckily some of the students took torches with them. All the students returned to the "Piaśt" students' hostel in excellent moods

and, unfortunately, also bitten by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes had no mercy on that day, but even that didn't ruin this wonderful evening.

EWA SAS



The Magic of Numbers

» The name of a future spouse and the future in general was revealed to the participants of St. Andrew's Nights celebrations held by the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture. The participation in the Summer School Programme is not only classroom learning but also getting acquainted with Polish traditions in common entertainment that can integrate much more than mere school classes.

St. Andrew's Night is such an important element of Polish culture that it was inevitable to hold the celebrations both in the programme for adults and for the youth.

WHOM AM I GOING TO MARRY?

The first of the St. Andrew's Night celebrations was held on 8 July in the café of "Piast" Students' Hostel for the Summer School adult learners. The organizers prepared a vast range of fortune-telling games and introduced everybody to the arcana of that one special night of 29 November – St. Andrew's Night.

The first task was to peel an apple and throw the peel back over one's shoulder. Then, the participants had to look carefully and try to discover if the peel formed a shape of any letter of the alphabet. If they were able to read the letter, it was the first letter of their future spouse's name.

Another St. Andrew's fortune telling game consisting in placing shoes in a row predicts soon marriage. All the participants had to take off one shoe and place the shoes in a row, one by one, towards the doors. The shoe that crosses the threshold as first wins – the owner of the shoe shall get married as first of all the participants.

There were two additional ways to learn the name of a future spouse. Male names were written on a large paper heart. Women pricked the heart from the other side with pins, not seeing the text and in such a way they "chose"



the name of their future husbands. The same fortune-telling game was held for men, who pricked a heart with female names written on it.

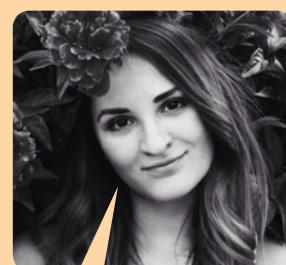
FORTUNE-TELLING FOR THE BRAVE ONES

However, the most excitement was caused by a fortune-telling game consisting in picking a name of a future wife or husband from under a pillow. Before the evening celebrations were started, the organizers had asked all the participants to write their names on small pieces



Marisha Yurkovska, 15 years old, Ukraine

It is my second visit to Poland. My great-grandparents come from this country and that is why I have decided to take part in the Summer School and master my Polish. I have never met with the games of St. Andrew's Night. Tonight it was funny and enjoyable. The fortune-telling game that I enjoyed most was placing the shoes in a row until one of the shoes crossed the threshold. Unfortunately, my shoe did not win but in the game with mugs and fortune-telling I drew money so I will be rich.



Maria Karpenko, 17 years old, Ukraine

From the St. Andrew's Night I enjoyed most the fortune-telling game that predicts the name of the future boyfriend/husband. Both drawing a piece of paper with a name written on it and pricking a paper heart with a pin were very funny. It is my fourth visit to Krakow, I like the city very much for its beautiful and old monuments. In autumn I am planning to start studies at the Jagiellonian University and that is why I have come here to Summer School to practice my Polish. Additionally, my great-grandmother was Polish so I am of Polish origin.



es of paper. Then, they placed them under a pillow. All the participants, after a short “nap”, picked one of the cards. Each time all the participants were utmostly focused and impatiently awaited the verdict. After reading the name and loud applause, the selected person was coming to the room centre to give a friendly hug to the “future spouse”.

The brave ones who wanted to learn more about their future were invited to participate in another fortune-telling game. The participants were to select one of three mugs under which three different items were hidden: a ring (designating the marriage), a drawing of a nun (meaning the priesthood), or ... nothing (which means lonely life). The exciting evening was completed with one of the most popular fortune-telling games of St. Andrew’s Night – wax melting. Hot, melted wax is poured to cold water through a keyhole and the shadows of the hardened shapes are viewed on a candle-lit wall – the future is read from the wax shapes.

THE YOUTH ALSO EXPERIENCED THE MAGIC

The “Explorers’ Summer” Youth Camp also held its St. Andrew’s Night of fortune-telling on 10 July in the café of “Bydgoska” Students’ Hostel. The majority of participants had never heard of St. Andrew’s Night and therefore they were really interested in the fortune-telling. As their older colleagues, the younger participants also learned the names of their future spouses by pricking the paper hearts. Some of them liked the game so much that they repeated the fortune-telling for a few times.

As during the first night, the game with a pillow caused most excitement and joy. A short “nap”, picking the card and reading aloud the name of the future spouse in front of colleagues and teachers was a real challenge during the night full of magical emotions.

ALICJA SZYRSZEŃ



Christmas Eve and Polish Wedding

» Participants of the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture, during the “Sacrum/Profanum” cycle presenting Polish culture and customs, had an opportunity to participate in the traditional Christmas Eve and a Polish wedding.

The Christmas Eve, celebrated every year on the 24th of December, is for many Poles the most important celebration of the year. Therefore, in spite of summer heat, the organizers decided to show the School participants how the special day is celebrated in Poland. The learners decorated the Christmas tree with their hand-made decorations and made Polish dumplings for the traditional Christmas Eve borsch. They were also explained the symbolism connected with laying an extra plate on the table and placing hay under the table cloth. The participants made seasonal greetings by sharing a traditional waffer and if somebody experienced difficulties with experiencing the elevated atmosphere, the common singing of the most beautiful Pol-

ish Christmas carols certainly helped in catching the Christmas mood.

The School participants also had a chance to experience one of the most important family celebrations – the wedding ceremony and the wedding party. The students who played the roles of the bride and the groom were met with the traditional welcome in the wedding hall, with a toast and breaking of glasses for good luck. The newly-married couple had their first dance and later on popular wedding games were organized for everybody: “the train”, “the dance with balloons”, “musical chairs” or – as a finale – the unveiling ceremony.

The participants had lots of fun while learning about the most important elements of Polish culture.



Fot. archiwum

Experiencing Krakow

» The participants of the “Explorers’ Summer” Camp were challenged with the task of writing their own legends, role-reading a poem by Jan Brzechwa, tasting Polish products and creating a definition of the Krakow “bublyk” during the urban game. While having fun they practiced their linguistic and cultural competencies.

Unpredictable weather did not let us play outside and therefore the urban game participants were carrying their tasks in historic interiors of the Centre of Polish Language and Culture in the World at ul. Grodzka 64. There were eight teams consisting of 4 to 5 players. Each team had its unique name. The names included: Waffles, The Creative, Nutella, The Dangerous, Wawelski Dragon, Squirrels, Dumplings and Dragons.

Due to high differentiation of tasks everybody was able to broaden their interests. The first task consisted in role-reading a poem by Jan Brzechwa entitled “At the vegetable stall”. In another room the young explorers found the text of the Legend of the Wawelski Dragon. The task for the team was to write their own legend using selected words written on a piece of paper. After reading and writing there was high time for singing. Creating a new song about the parts of the body and singing it was great fun, especially when the singing person was singing “eyes” and pointing to the nose.

The interactive quiz required concentration and attention. It consisted in matching several elements of the urban space, which had to be called correctly first. After more exhausting tasks it was possible to unwind during the culinary tasting. The team members

with their eyes closed tasted raspberries, Krakow “bublyki”, tomato juice and borsch. Their task was to give the correct names – naturally in Polish – to all the tasted products. Remaining in the culinary circle, the participants had to match the drawings with the right groups of vegetables and fruit, learning the product names at the same time. The last element of the urban game was a conversation with a seller of “bublyki” (Krakow bagels), at Grodzka street. The team had to find the difference between: a “bublyk”, a “pretzel” and a “bagel”.

The finale brought lots of emotions and laughter; however it also caused some stage freight. Each team had to stand in front of the audience in the Aula, sing the song they created and read the poem by Jan Brzechwa. The winners were the “Dumplings”: Ania Lipkin from Israel, Ines Hutmacher from France, Elena Pilch from the USA, Adam Kochanowicz from the USA, and Jacob Halon from the USA. – The urban game gives lots of satisfaction, the group members have to cooperate and help one another, working on their vocabulary in this way. The structure of tasks enabled everybody to get involved in the game regardless their proficiency level, – comments Urszula Legawiec, the coordinator of the “Explorers’ Summer.

ALICJA SZYRSZEŃ



Stefan Kussmaul, 16 years old, Massachusetts, USA

I learned about the Summer School from my mom, who is Polish. I liked the idea and I have come to Poland. It is my first stay in Krakow. I visited only the Tricity before. I like Krakow very much, it has lots of history and you can feel that it is an old city. During the urban game I enjoyed the legend writing task most because I like writing. For me it was a good exercise because writing in Polish is the most difficult to me. Polish letters and marks, especially “sz” and “cz” are very difficult. Reading and speaking is much easier to me.



Antoni Repala, 15 years old, Ohio, USA

During the tasks in the urban game it was the most difficult to integrate the group. Some team members wanted to do the tasks as well as possible but, unfortunately, not all the members can cooperate because not all the team members speak Polish so well. That is why the cooperation was not so efficient. The best task for me was to create and sing our own song. My parents were born in Warsaw and that is why I spend almost all the summer holidays in Poland. I have been here maybe six times and in Krakow I am for the third time. I like the programme of Summer School very much. Polish language classes are not so difficult but also not too easy. For me the most difficult competency is writing.



Isabella Górski, 16 years old, Colleen Padykula, 17 years old, Connecticut, USA

We talked about the Summer School in our Polish school in the USA and we have decided to take part in the camp. I have been to Poland five times, I have always come here with my parents who are Polish. I have already been to Krakow and I remember the stay here as very nice – Isabella Górski. It is my third stay in Poland and in Krakow the first one. The city is so beautiful with all its monuments and lots of people – Colleen Padykula. During the Polish language classes it not so difficult because we passed our maturity exams in Polish in the USA. Reading aloud is the most difficult but I can see some progress – Isabella Górski. For me grammar is the most difficult – Colleen Padykula. During the urban game we liked the task with the song and food tasting most. We recognized all the products and drinks but we did not like borsch very much.

Hoay, Adventure!

» Not to the tune of old sea chanteys but to the tune of disco music the participants of the “Explorers’ Summer”, accompanied by their teachers, sailed on their magical cruise to Tyniec. While admiring the historical buildings of the city and mysteries hidden by the Vistula banks they discovered Krakow even better.

A “Legend” paddle steamer boat started from the vicinity of the Wawel Hill, taking all the participants for a long but relaxing journey to Tyniec. Apart from beautiful landscapes and the sunset the passengers admired the Cloister of Norbertine Sisters at Salvator, the Kosciusko Mound, the Castle in Przegorzały, the Cloister of Bielany and the Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec, where the boat turned back to return to Krakow.

A huge attraction was ensured by cruising over a water dam and waiting for the green light at the Kosciusko sluice gate. At that moment one of the sailors brought a singing book and the cruise participants started to sing sea chants and dance on the deck front. At the rear part of the deck discussions – and

at the lower deck – card games were in progress.

The “Legend” boat with the open upper deck and comfortable seats was a perfect place for landscape lovers. Practically all the participants could not rest in one place, admiring the beautiful views and taking pictures. Those who felt chilly and wanted to rest for a while, were taking their time at the lower “all-glass” deck, where an additional attraction was the observation of the paddle wheels powering the boat.

The sound of the boat horn announced the end of the cruise. A bit tired but in great mood, the participants of the river adventure debarked the boat.

ALICJA SZYRSZEŃ



Robert Stolarz, Connecticut, USA, 16 lat

The ad about this camp was found by my mom and I thought it might be a great adventure. That's why I have come here. I like that we spend time here like the students of the Jagiellonian University because we live in the students' hostels. In Zakopane I liked the excursion to Gubalowka because from the top of it there were the best views to the mountains. The cruise to Tyniec was very relaxing to me. Learning Polish is not a big difficulty for me, although we speak Polish at home only a little. I was born in Poland but when I was just a few years old we moved to the USA. After the camp I plan to visit my family in Poland.



Alex Kochanowicz, 15 lat, Adam Kochanowicz, 17 lat, Connecticut, USA

We have come to Krakow to learn Polish language and, most of all, to get to know this country and its culture because we really like Poland. Our parents come from this country. At home we infrequently speak Polish, so here we have an opportunity to improve our Polish. We have been several times to Poland – we have visited almost the entire country. We like the architecture of Krakow, its monuments, especially the Old Town. In studying Polish language the hardest for us are grammar and writing. The cruise to Tyniec was another fantastic trip. As in Zakopane, we had a good time and we relaxed.



Ania Khurtak, Byelorussia, 16 years old

I have come to the “Explorers’ Summer” Camp to improve my Polish language skills. I found the ad on the Internet, I talked it over with my parents and I'm in Krakow now. My great-grandfather was Polish. I have been a few times in Poland already and I've seen Krakow before. But only now, during this camp, I learned about this city even more. I really like the Wawel Castle, the palaces in this city and its architecture. All the organized trips were cool. The cruise also but it takes some time and it gets cold afterwards. I was in Zakopane for the first time. Despite the rain I have really good memories of that trip. I plan to come to Krakow next year to study at the Jagiellonian University, but I don't know yet what I want to study.

Students write: „My meeting with Poland”



La Pologne? C'est d'abord en France que je l'ai rencontrée, avec la femme qui deviendra mon épouse. C'était il y a quinze ans environ. Quelques mois de cours de polonais, deux ou trois manuels bien choisis, et en route pour le premier voyage vers la Pologne. En bus bien sûr. Vingt-quatre heures de trajet. Au diable la facilité! À la frontière germano-polonaise, premiers frissons: les douaniers sont à peine plus souriants que leur uniforme. C'est donc ici qu'on peut attendre des heures pour d'obscures raisons bureaucratiques. S'ouvre alors devant nous une longue route rectiligne bordée d'une forêt de pins aussi sombre que mystérieuse. Le jour se lève. Enfin. Bonjour, Pologne!

Premier contact, direct, physique: les ornières. Eh oui, à cette époque les routes ne survivaient pas plus d'un hiver et ressemblaient davantage à des pistes de ski de fond goudronnées. Quelques vaches et chèvres éparpillées ici et là, broutant autour d'un piquet, nous regardant passer, ou en tout cas font semblant. Défilent alors des maisons grises au toit goudronné, donnant l'impression de ne pas être finies. «C'est que le plus beau est à l'intérieur» disent les Polonais! Au premier arrêt sur le sol polonais, je me trouve enveloppé de ce qui deviendra pour moi le symbole de la Pologne: l'odeur du charbon. Elle vous entoure telle une écharpe de bienvenue et ne vous lâche plus.

Ma rencontre avec la Pologne, c'est aussi, bien sûr, ma rencontre avec les Polonais. Mes beaux-parents d'abord. J'ai dû vite apprendre à les tutoyer tout en veillant à garder «Mama» ou «Tata» dans chaque phrase pour ne pas avoir l'air d'un rustre occidental. Puis c'est au tour des autres membres de la famille et des voisins, tous un peu excités de voir débarquer la curiosité locale: un Français parlant (très modestement) polonais. Une chance pour moi car l'accueil est forcément chaleureux. Le mauvais côté, c'est que j'ai dû m'habituer très vite à l'activité sociale principale en terre inconnue: faire semblant de comprendre ce qu'on me dit, ce qui exige un état d'alerte permanent. Face au flot de paroles reçues, les meilleures stratégies restent les réponses courtes, voire ultra-courtes: «oui», «non», «peut-être»; le rire complice: «ah la bonne blague!»; le sourire poli voire intelligent: «je partage tout à fait cet avis»; ou bien le sourire idiot quand ta réponse atterrit complètement à côté.

C'était il y a longtemps, évidemment. Les temps ont changé. Les stratégies aussi. Aujourd'hui, c'est moi qui parle en polonais et ce sont les Polonais qui sont obligés de faire semblant de me comprendre!

DAVID SANSAULT, FRANCIA



When I was younger I never expected to have any ties with Poland. At the outset my encounter with Poland - which one could already call a series of encounters with it - started without my particularly wanting it. When I was a graduate student studying Russian literature I was expected to choose a "second" Slavic language in addition to Russian. My colleagues and I actually wanted to study Czech; but the professor who would have taught it was

very busy and he was replaced by another who offered us...Polish. As a result I studied Polish for two years, but sporadically and in the midst of other classes and responsibilities. For many years afterwards I did nothing at all with my Polish, other than reading a couple of books and articles for my dissertation - though I did learn at that time that my grandfather on my father's side, whom I had always thought of as German, had come from a place on the current territory of Poland (when he emigrated it was Galizien and the Russian empire). So at the very least I have geographical ties to Poland.

In 1998 I had the opportunity to come to Kraków for the 12th International Congress of Slavists. I liked Kraków from the start. I liked it for the beauty of its architectural monuments but also for its resemblance to a world I knew well from Russia. But it differed from Russia in the persistence I could sense in it, despite all the tragic events of the 20th century, of the spirit of its better times, of its pre-war freedom, the spirit of the artistic life of the Young Poland era.

During that visit it was fun to use one or two of the words that I remembered from my earlier studies (along the lines of "dzień dobry" and "dziękuję bardzo") - because the most pleasant stage of language learning is the very beginning, when you know a couple of words and no one expects you to be able to say anything more. One of my Polish colleagues said to me then, "if you like it here so much, you should come back for a language course." Which I did, more than once. I first went to Toruń in 2000, then to the Summer School in Kraków in 2001. Then I came back in 2003 and again in...but I won't list all the times I've been here already. I will just comment that Poland continues to fascinate me - with its complicated cultural identity, its belonging on the one hand unambiguously to the countries of eastern Europe (with which it shares an experience of the communist system) but on the other with its roots in the culture of western Europe, via its Catholicism and long history of contacts with the West. And the Polish language, not the easiest in the world, continues to fascinate me and draw me: with its entangled and complicated beauty.

THOMAS SEIFRID, LOS ANGELES, USA



Моя первая встреча с Польшей произошла еще во времена позднего Советского Союза. У моей мамы была интересная книга «Искусство Польши» с фотографиями Кракова, Варшавы и других польских городов. В детстве любил листать ее, рассматривать картинки и, наверное, тогда же влюбился в польскую культуру и архитектуру.

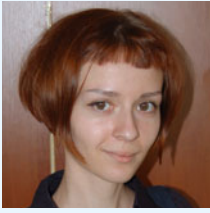
Позднее, уже учась в университете, прочитал чудесную книгу Яна Парандовского «Алхимия слова», в которой он обобщил мировой опыт писательского творчества, и «Мужиков» Владислава Реймонта, написанных в лучших эпических традициях. Эти книжки стали поводом полюбить великую, но неизвестную в России польскую литературу.

Потом два раза приезжал в Польшу туристом и побывал в Кракове, Варшаве, Торуне, Вроцлаве – своими глазами увидел те места, которые ребенком видел только на картинках.

Поводом для того, чтобы начать учить польский язык, среди прочего, оказалась невозможность найти переведенными на русский язык польских книг или фильмов, некоторые из которых легендарны. Кроме того, поляки имеют богатую театральную историю, которая влияла и влияет на мировую культуру. Изучение языка также облегчило понимание этого интересного процесса.

Существует такая пословица: в тебе столько людей, сколько языков ты знаешь. Хотел бы знать разные языки, чтобы ощущать себя человеком мира.

АЛЕКСЕЙ ЖУНДРИКОВ, РОССИЯ



Магчымасць спаткацца з польскай культурай з'явілася ў мяне яшчэ на першым курсе маёй вучобы ў Беларускай дзяржаўнай акадэміі мастацтваў. Гэта былі пяць цудоўных дзён у Польшчы, падчас якіх я атрымала больш уражанняў, чым за апошнія пяць гадоў свайго жыцця.

У тый тыдзень я наведвала адразу пяць польскіх гарадоў: Варшаву, Торунь, Мальбарк, Гданьск і Сопат. Першыя ўражанні я атрымала адразу пасля таго, як перасякла мяжу. Маленькія, ўтульныя дамкі з прыгожымі кветкавымі садамі ўразілі мяне. Да гэтага чула, што Польшча - краіна з найпрыгажэйшымі садамі ва ўсёй Еўропе. Гэта сцвярджэнне цалкам апраўдана.

У годы другой сусветнай вайны мая краіна згубіла большую частку сваёй архітэктурнай спадчыны. А Польшча адкрыла для мяне магчымасць убачыць старадаўнюю архітэктур, велічныя замкі, гатычныя касцёлы, якіх ў Польшчы вялікая колькасць.

Гэта былі дні поўныя пазітыўных уражанняў і эмацыйных хваляванняў. Два дні праведзеных у Гданьску магу смела назваць аднымі з лепшых у маім жыцці. Гэта месца па-сапраўднаму дорага майму сэрцу. Ніколі не забуду белы пясок, сіняе неба і зялёнае бушуючае мора.

Нельга, кажучы пра Польшчу, не гаварыць аб польскай мове. Упершыню яго пачуць мне пашанцавала ў далёкім дзяцінстве, калі я глядзела мультыкі на польскай мове. Так, несвядома, прыйшла любоў да польскага. Прыехаўшы ў Польшчу першы раз я перажыла "культурны" шок! Ніколі да гэтага не адчувала сябе такой бездапаможнай з-за няведання мовы. Першы час я ўсяляк старалася пазбягаць кантактаў з палякамі. Але яны, у сілу сваёй ментальнасці, так ці інакш падыходзілі да мяне, хацелі размаўляць і дапамагаць. З часам я перастала іх пазбягаць, бо зразумела з якой шчырасцю яны жадаюць мне дапамагчы. Так я спазнала сваё першае польскае слова «дзякуй». З гэтага ўсё пачалося.

Я сумавала па Польшчы. Пасля вяртання на радзіму ў мяне пачыналася дэпрэсія. Я з нецярплівасцю чакала наступнай магчымасці паехаць у Польшчу. З кожным разам разуменне культуры і ментальнасці палякаў становілася ўсё больш дакладным.

З пэўнасцю магу сказаць, што палякі - шчаслівы народ. І ў гэта шчасце я першы час не верыла, таму што рэдка бачу сапраўды шчаслівых людзей на сваёй радзіме. Але па завяршэнні кожнага свайго маленькага падарожжа па Польшчы, я разумею, што раблюся крыху больш шчаслівай.

Дзякуй, Польшча.

Марчанка Наталля, Рэспубліка Беларусь



С первых минут пребывания в Польше, а именно в Кракове, мысль о том что надо будет возвращаться все реже и реже посещала мою голову. Чистый, замечательный вокзал и солнечная погода радовали мой глаз. Приятные отзывчивые люди помогли мне найти остановку, разменять деньги и купить билет. В первый же день когда я познакомилась со своей соседкой, мы отправились на прогулку по ближайшим паркам Кракова. Замечательный большой парк, зеленая трава...ничего кроме того, чтобы лечь на эту траву в голову не приходило, хотя в Украине такая мысль навряд ли будет.

Живем мы от центра 15-20 минут ходьбы – это замечательно, так как я очень люблю вечером перед сном прогуливаться. Знакомство с уникальной архитектурой Кракова началась с посещения **Старого города**, сердцем которого является **Рыночная площадь** – одна из самых больших средневековых площадей в Европе, по периметру которой построены старинные трехэтажные особняки, вплотную прилегающие друг к другу. Самое красивое здание на площади - **здание Суkenнице**. В Кракове столько интересных мест, что я не смогу все перечислить. Но от увиденного дух захватывает. Я в Кракове буду только 6 недель – это очень мало...хочется остаться на дольше.

ŁOZIŃSKA IRINA, УКРАЇНА



Students write: „Kraków – my city”



Mi piace molto vivere a Cracovia perché è più grande e meno costosa di Torino.

A Cracovia non ci si annoia mai: è una città molto interessante dove si può andare a fare shopping, passeggiare per il centro o bere un gustoso caffè in caffetteria. Questa città è simile a Torino, ma Torino ha meno attrazioni culturali.

Cracovia è più turistica e bella di Varsavia; il mio quartiere preferito è Kazimierz, dove si possono trovare le più belle sinagoghe e ci sono bar molto interessanti ed originali. Inoltre, le persone a Cracovia sono più socievoli e gentili dei torinesi.

GIULIA RUBINO, ITALIA



My studies of Polish Language and Culture at the Jagellonian University are not my first experiences with the city of Kraków. I came here often as a child when I visited my Polish family. We often came to visit the main market square and Wawel castle, as well as many museums. My point is, that I already was familiar with the city when I came here to study. However, when I go with my new friends who are in Kraków for the first time, it is as if I am rediscovering Kraków all over again. When I see the expressions on their faces when they see the places this city has to offer, I too realize how beautiful this place is, and I am so happy that I can share that experience with them.

MARIA ROSSI, USA



Krakau und ich, das ist eine lange Geschichte.

Mein erster Besuch in Krakau war auch mein erster Besuch in Polen. Meine polnische Freundin Anita zeigte mir ihre Lieblingsplätze in der Stadt. Ich erinnere mich daran, wie erstaunt ich war als ich das erste Mal den Wawel sah. Vor meinen Augen sehe ich Bilder, wie wir durch die Altstadt und Kazimierz laufen. Es waren sehr kalte Wintertage und häufig suchten wir Zuflucht in kleinen gemütlichen Cafés.

Nicht lange nach dem ersten Besuch kehrte ich nach Krakau zurück. Dieses Mal zur Sommerschule der polnischen Sprache an der Jagiellonen-Universität. Die ersten Wochen des Polnischlernens waren nicht einfach. Einen Vormittag gingen wir in den Park Jordan, wo wir anhand von Fragebögen mit Leuten sprechen sollten. Leider kannte ich damals noch nicht die verschiedenen Bedeutungen des Wortes „wolno“ und statt zu sagen: „Bitte sprechen Sie langsam“, sagte ich mehrmals „ich bin ledig“ zu einem älteren Herrn...

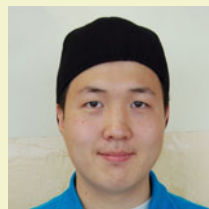
Dennoch waren es wunderschöne Wochen in Krakau. Ich besuchte Krakau und die Umgebung. In Zakopane ging ich wandern in der Tatra. Zusammen mit einem amerikanischen Studenten fuhren wir nach Częstochowa zur Jasna Góra. Zum ersten Mal erlebte ich den berühmtesten Wallfahrtsort Polens. Besonders schön war auch die Altstadt von Torun und natürlich das Meer.

Dieses Jahr freue ich mich sehr wieder nach Krakau zurückkehren zu können, dieses Mal als Doktorandin der Universitäten München und Basel im Rahmen des Stipendienprogrammen der polnischen Regierung. Nach einer Pause von drei Jahren lerne ich wieder polnisch. Im Kurs lerne ich polnische Grammatik und erweitere meinen Wortschatz. Ich besuche Bibliotheken und laufe auf den alten Straßen Krakaus. In schönen Cafés trinke ich Kaffee und freue mich an der Sonne. Gerne fahre ich mit dem Fahrrad entlang der Wisła und gehe im See schwimmen.

Im Unterschied zum letzten Mal spreche ich schon viel besser polnisch und kann mich ohne größere Probleme mit Leuten unterhalten. Ich freue mich, die Bekannten des letzten Aufenthalts wieder zu treffen. Auch dank ihnen kommt mir die polnische Sprache und Kultur näher. Hier in Krakau kenne ich einen Schauspieler, vielleicht den ältesten in Polen, wie er sagt. Er zeigt mir alte Fotografien und Theaterprogramme und rezitiert Ausschnitte von Theaterstücken. Er erzählt von der Geschichte Krakaus und Polens, und den vielen Erlebnissen in seinem fast 100-jährigen Leben. Insbesondere durch ihn begeistere ich mich immer wieder aufs Neue an der Schönheit der polnischen Sprache.

Krakau ist wirklich eine fantastische Stadt!

UTA KARRER, DEUTSCHLAND



저는 폴란드어를 배우기 위해 새해월전에 폴란드 크라쿠프에 왔고 이미 야기엘론스키 대학에서 한학기동안 공부를 하였습니다. 처음에는 물론 크라쿠프가 낯설었고, 그래서 스스로 해결해야 하는 문제들을 경험했습니다 (예를들어 아파트임대, 거주등록, 기간교통권 구매와 같은 모든 외국인들이 해외에서 보통 처음에 맞닥뜨리는 것들). 그렇지만 운 좋게도 폴란드 친구들이

이 다양한 방법으로 저를 도와주었고 그들 덕분에 크라쿠프에서의 삶에 보다 쉽게 적응할 수 있었습니다. 제가 지내는 동안 때때로 건디기 힘든 순간들 (폴란드인들의 인종차별, 직원들의 불친절한 태도들과 같은 우리나라에서는 받아들여지지 않는 행동들) 이 있었음을 인정하기는 하지만, 제 폴란드 친구들은 그럴 때마다 그런 불손한 사람들의 행동에 사과하며 저를 위로해 주었습니다. 그렇지만 훨씬 더 많은 잊지 못할 행복한 순간들 (크라쿠프로의 여행, 여러 나라에서 온 사람들과의 만남, 클럽에서의 주말파티) 이 있었음을 분명히 해두고 싶습니다. 이것은 한장의 종이에 다 설명하기가 힘들습니다. 게다가 이러한 시간들은 폴란드어를 향상시키는 데에도 도움을 주었습니다. 저는 이미 백퍼센트 크라쿠프 및 폴란드에 만족하고 있고 이번 섬머스쿨 또한 제 크라쿠프 생활에 있어 가장 아름다운 시간중 하나가 될거라고 의심치 않았습니다. 벗겨낼때마다 계속해서 새로운 모습을 보여주는다는 점에서 저는 한마디로 크라쿠프는 양파와 같다고 생각합니다.

조 승 렬



«Кто хочет познать душу Польши – должен искать ее в Кракове».

Wilhelm Feldman

В Краков я приехала первый раз в мае 2013 года. Город встретил меня запахом цветущих каштанов и отблеском солнца на мокрой брусчатке.

На площади перед железнодорожным вокзалом можно было окунуться в буйство красок, веселый звон трамваев и шум толпы. В Кракове переплелись

старина и современность. И теперь сложно их разграничить.

Знакомство с Краковом я начала с посещения Вавеля. Во дворе светило солнце, виднелась разноцветная черепица, позолота куполов и водостоки, украшенные скульптурами драконов. Простота и изысканность, изобилие форм — все перемешалось в одну фантазию веков и вкусов. Создавалось впечатление, что короли живут в замке и сегодня.

Широкая аллея вела от Вавеля к Рынку. Башни Марьяцкого костела возносились в небо. А гармоничное здание ратуши, столетние деревья, бесконечно разнообразные дворы в домах, обступивших площадь, придавали ему неповторимое очарование. От Рынка разбегались в разные стороны уютные улицы, вдоль которых можно гулять вечно. И только издали доходил запах цветов и весны и мечты о новой встрече с Краковом...

КОЛБИНА ЕЛЕНА, РЕСПУБЛИКА БЕЛАРУСЬ



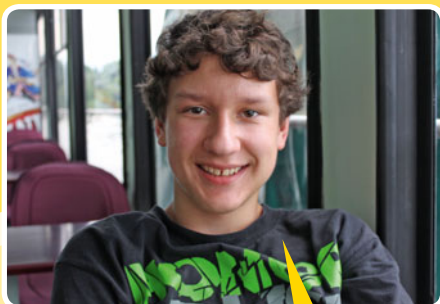
Kraków is the most beautiful city in the world. I am interested in transport and Kraków tramway and bus system is in my opinion the best and cheapest in Europe.

Everything about this city is interesting. I love the splendid Wawel Castle, the beautiful river, the Collegium Maius, the Old Town and the Mariacki Church; the Professors' Garden is a place of peace and quiet.

I am now staying at the students' dormitory, Piast. From there it is very easy to get to the Old Town by tram and I have already been there three times with friends. We sat in the open air in the Market Square and talked about our Polish courses, Poland and our own countries. I feel as if I were in heaven! But perhaps in heaven they haven't got such unbelievably hot weather?

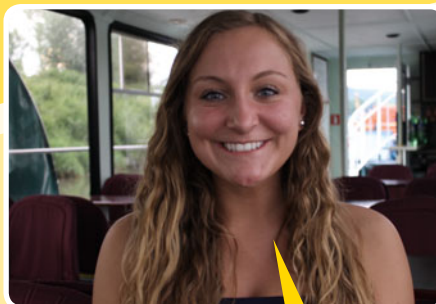
RON HICKSON, ENGLAND

Feedback from participants of the youth camp



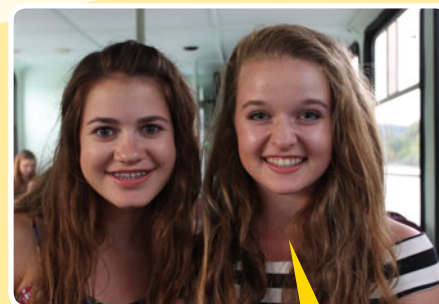
Alan Tondryk, Illinois, USA, 13 years old

I was born in Warsaw. We moved with my parents and sister to the States when I was a small child. My younger brother was born in the States. After we left Poland I was here only once – last year. I spent my holidays at my grandparents' and I was visiting other relatives. This year I'm also visiting my grandparents but earlier I have come to this language camp, which my mom told me about. I thought it was a great idea. I really enjoy the Polish language classes, trips and other activities. At home we speak Polish, so speaking is not a problem to me. The hardest for me is writing in Polish. I have never been to Zakopane before. I really enjoyed this trip because I had the opportunity to get away from the city which is noisy and crowded and I definitely prefer peace and quiet.



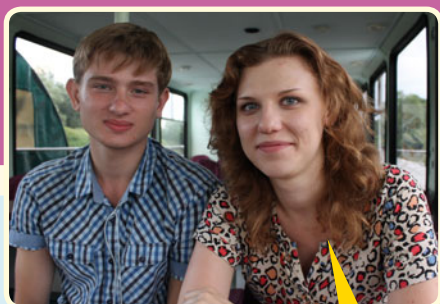
Victoria Wojtaszek, Connecticut, USA, 17 years old

Last year my friend was at this camp and she encouraged me to come to Poland. Along with other friends from the Polish School in the USA we saved money for the trip. It's my sixth time in Poland, the fourth in Krakow. When I visit this city I always find new places. For example, this year I visited Kazimierz for the first time, which is a beautiful district. Krakow and Zakopane are both my favorite Polish cities. The biggest difficulty for me in studying Polish is grammar and writing. I always understand everything because we speak Polish at home. At weekends I go to the Polish school and I am a member of a scouting group, where we also speak Polish. In future I would like to study something connected to medicine, maybe I could even come to Krakow to study for one semester.



Agatha Goluszek

My mom learnt about the camp from Isabella's mom. Isabella had already been here last year and she told me how cool it was. I was in Poland a year ago, I managed to see Krakow but only for a brief moment. I have my family in Lublin. My parents moved to the USA when they were small. I came here first of all to learn writing. I don't have problems with speaking. At home we speak Polish, my mom always corrects me once I make a mistake. In Sacramento, the city which I live, we go to the Polish church. I also am a scout member! I have been several times to Poland, for the first time I had literally a few months. I love Krakow. Warsaw is a city of business, but Krakow is a city with special atmosphere. During the "Explorers' Summer" Camp I have learned this city better, I had no idea there were such wonderful buildings there. I like the "Sukiennice" especially.



Olga Gerashchenko, 17 years old, Ivan Udovychenko, 17 years old, Ukraine

We've been living in Krakow for a year because we study Management at the Jagiellonian University. We have decided to participate in the camp to improve our Polish. Krakow is a really pretty city, I wish to stay here in future, live here and work here. Before I started my studies I was in Poland only once, skiing in Zakopane – Ivan. Actually, I first came to Krakow and to Poland to study. My grandmother is from this country – Olga. We have been studying Polish for a year, the beginnings were really hard but now it is much better. For me the hardest is writing – Ivan. For me the most difficult is speaking but I really enjoy reading in this language. We really like the "Explorers' Summer" Camp, especially because you can meet new friends from all over the world.



Izabella Samuel

Last year I was on a similar trip. It was a cultural exchange organized by the Embassy. We lived in the same students' hostel. We didn't have so many Polish language classes. My grandmother lives in Bialystok. My mom moved to NY when she was 20, then moved to California, where we live now. At the "Explorers' Summer" Camp I really like the morning language classes – they are not hard, they're actually fun to me. In Polish language the hardest for me is grammar. I started learning Polish several years ago and I have to admit – it's not an easy language! From all the events in which we participated I liked the trip to Zakopane most. Polish mountains are beautiful, completely different than those in California. If I come back to Poland I would like to revisit Krakow. Although I've been here I still have a feeling that there wasn't enough time to fully explore this city.



Feedback from participants of the Summer School



Taylor Tyson, Michigan

I like Polish, traditional costumes very much. My grandma used to have one, but she never allowed me to touch it. That is why, when I saw dancers dressed in traditional costumes, I was excited that finally I can see them in up close and in movement. I truly like the dances for couples – I think they are unique. In polonaise, I especially like one part when all couples pass by an 'wałut' made of hand of others. For now I am just looking, I am not brave enough to try.



Jennifer Byron

I found out about summer school during my internship programme. My university, Arizona State University was given a grant for such trip. I've learnt Polish for two years, I applied for it and I was chosen. My greatgrandmother from my father's side is Polish. In summer school I'm studying at level A2.2. In studying Polish the hardest for me are grammar and vocabulary. In Arizona, where I come from, do not live so many Polish people, we also don't speak Polish at home. I forget the vocabulary once I don't use a language. During the Summer School I have an opportunity to participate in classes that are in Polish only and it's really helpful. I was in Cracow a year ago, for a week- it's an amazing city with wonderful architecture. All evening activities of Summer School were very good, for I could get to know Polish culture better.



Pawlo Khryshchenuk, Kiev, Ukraine

I have decided to participate in the Summer School to improve my Polish language skills because from the next year I plan to study at the Jagiellonian University. In Krakow I love everything – it is a wonderful city. I love the monumental architecture, narrow streets and the cafes. Krakow has an amazing atmosphere.



Robert Schibli, Switzerland

The idea of coming here came from my neighbor, who 30 years ago was also on such journey and once he found out there was such a possibility he started to encourage me to come. I really like Krakow. This is a small city with huge culture. From every side of the city it is close to the Town Market Square. In the Summer School I really enjoyed the evening with Polish dances. Polish dances are different from others that I know from clubs, they have unique atmosphere.



Joshua Iverson

I've been interested for Polish culture for over 4 years. One day I was looking for Polish language courses in the Internet and I found the site of the Jagiellonian University. I read about the programme of Summer School and I thought it was a great idea. It's my first visit to Poland, first outside of the States as well. I love Cracow, it's really gorgeous. I really like the old buildings with their own history. I have no Polish roots, but in Connecticut, where I live, there are many Polish people. In the Summer School I liked the dancing classes the most. I love dancing, especially those connected to the culture. On the course my language level is A1.2. The hardest thing in studying Polish is for me grammar, but I'm determined and ambitious to do my best. I would recommend the Summer School to everyone. It is a special occasion. Not only do we live in the dorm or take classes. Jagiellonian University offers a lot of additional classes, which help us to understand culture of Poland.

Dear Participants!

Thank you for that time which we have spent together! We have been with you every day, answering all your questions, solving little problems and entertain you with conversation (in Polish, of course). We have been meeting at the trips – our photos taken together are proof of visiting Zakopane, Wieliczka or our rafting on Dunajec river. We hope that besides regular studying, you are going to remember extra events, which we took part in together. It was very intensive, because every day we have integrated and meet with Polish culture. Do you remember fortune telling evening Andrzejki, where everyone could know the name of the future partner? Or a bonfire where we prepared sausages, danced and sang so loud? There was also football match, crazy karaoke night and typical Polish wedding! We hope that you are leaving Cracow with even bigger love to the Polish language, with a lot of good memories, new friends and ... need of coming back!

**So see you next year? ☺
Your Assistants**

