Contents

University news

2 University Foundation Day
3 Gold Medal for Prof. Stanisław Waltos
3 Exposition of Behem’s Codex
4 100th University Concert
5 60 Years of the JU Museum of Pharmacy
5 Successful hand replantation
6 ‘Ecuador – variety in the centre of the world’ lecture of Ecuador’s Ambassador at UJ
6 JUSFA already launched

International relations

19 Visit from Radboud University Nijmegen

Features

6 ‘Revolt in the Empire’ – 30th anniversary of the Students’ Solidarity Committee
8 Co-operation between Ruhr University Bochum and the JU
10 20 Years of Erasmus Programme
13 CES Reunion Weekend
14 19th century refractor in the Astronomical Observatory
15 Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
16 ‘Krakowiak’ dance on the 12th floor – Song and Dance Ensemble ‘Słowianki’ in Japan

Student life

21 Impressions of a Belgian Erasmus student
22 Football champions
22 Top ten things I learned on a study trip
24 Festival of Science
25 African Festival
On 11-12 May the Jagiellonian University celebrated its 643rd anniversary of foundation. In his speech JU Rector Prof. Karol Musioł emphasised that King Kazimierz the Great, Founder of the University had been aware that in the 14th century universities had been regarded as the foundation of every civilised country. The King’s conviction was expressed in the Foundation Chart of 12 May 1364. Prof. Musioł talked about the relations between the JU and the city of Kraków as well as their common activities and projects. Kraków houses 11 state institutions of higher education, 10 private higher schools and 15 scientific institutes. He also presented the biggest JU investment: the Third Campus which would educate over 15,000 students after its completion. The JU is going to build the Park Life Science on the campus. The Małopolskie Centre for Biotechnology will be a co-operative project of Kraków higher schools.

During the celebration Rector Musioł awarded the City of Kraków with the medal ‘Merentibus’. The medal was handed to Prof. Majchrowski, President of Kraków.
GOLD MEDAL
for
Prof. Stanisław Waltoś

Prof. Dr. Stanisław Waltoś, an outstanding specialist in criminal proceedings law, has been directing the Jagiellonian University Museum for 30 years. He is the successor of Prof. Karol Estreicher who renovated Collegium Maius in the years 1946-64. This year Prof. Waltoś turned 75 and on that occasion the authorities of the Jagiellonian University, his friends and collaborators organised a solemn meeting in the National Museum in Kraków. During the meeting Prof. Franciszek Ziejka, former JU Rector, Prof. Maria Szewczyk, Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs (she wrote her Master’s thesis under the supervision of Prof. Waltoś) and Zofia Golubiew, Director of the National Museum in Krakow presented the biography, scientific achievements and passions of Prof. Waltoś. In turn UJ Rector Prof. Karol Musioł awarded him with a Gold Medal of the Jagiellonian University, emphasizing his distinguished merits for the JU Museum.

‘I was very lucky. For 30 years I have realised my hobby and I have been paid for that! But I would not have succeeded if there were not a team of friends working with me’, said Prof. Waltoś during the ceremony.

Prof. Waltoś is the author of 335 scientific publications, including 6 monographs, 10 manuals and 50 works published abroad. He promoted 370 postgraduate students and 17 doctoral students. He has been the guardian of the University tradition and etiquette. He has also created the gallery of JU professors and rectors in Collegium Maius.

M. Kantor

Based on the article by Rita Pagacz-Moczarska in Alma Mater, April 2007

Codex Picturatus Balthasaris Behem

On 23rd May 2007, the Jagiellonian Library organised a day exposition of Bohem’s Codex of 1505, one of its many marvels. The codex is a unique source of information about social life, legal foundations and material culture of urban areas in the 16th century Europe. Baltazar Behem’s codex is a cartulary of legal acts and charters related to guilds operating in Kraków in the beginning of the 16th century. The text written by Behem, a city of Kraków notary, features 27 miniatures (by an unknown artist), which show craftsmen at work and scenes from daily life of Kraków residents. Both the text and the miniatures (which constitute a rare example of secular late-Gothic paints) create a surprisingly realistic and rich in texture document which shows Kraków of the 16th century, which was one of Europe’s main and unique cultural centres at the time, due to its multi-ethnic and multi-cultural character (besides Poles the city was inhabited by Germans, Italians, Jews and Armenians) as it was here that cultures of the East and West verged. The codex was written in Latin, German and Polish and contains 372 parchment sheets in 32.7cm x 24.3cm format. It comprises additions made between 1511-1515 and later in the 17th and 19th centuries.

The Jagiellonian Library is the oldest and biggest university library in Poland. It is also Krakow’s chief academic library, indispensable to the city’s 150,000-plus scientists and students. It also serves everybody as a public library. And lastly, it is one of Poland’s three national libraries meant to collect and preserve any worthwhile piece of print (and handwriting if possible).

M. Kantor
100th University Concert

On 16 May 2007, the 100th University Concert was held in the aula of Collegium Novum. On that occasion Prof. Władysław Stróżewski reminded the audience of the idea behind University Concerts. It developed from the unity of all scientific disciplines and arts, which formed triwium and quadrivium in the mediaeval faculty of liberal arts. One of the important aspects of the idea of university was to connect various values: cognitive, ethical and esthetical. Many musical works were ordered or inspired by the Jagiellonian University but there was no live music in its halls. Therefore, Prof. Stróżewski decided to return to live concerts. His project was supported by the late Rector Józef Gierowski and the Kraków Filharmonic directed by Tadeusz Strugała.

From the very beginning the concerts consisted of a lecture and musical performance.

The concert embraced the performance of the Renaissance Trombone Ensemble ‘Trombastic’, which played music of the Golden Age in Poland. The musicians played original historical trombones and wore suitable historical robes.

The second part of the concert was Prof. Zygmunt Szweykowski’s lecture on ‘the function of instruments in the Florence-Mantua dramma per musica 1597/98.’

L. Śliwa
60 years of the JU Museum of Pharmacy

The Jagiellonian University Museum of Pharmacy celebrated its 60th anniversary. The Museum was founded in 1946 by Stanisław Proń, who at that time, held the position of director of the district chamber of apothecaries in Kraków. The Museum is located in the apartment house at Floriańska 24. The building was constructed in the 15th century. Although it was rebuilt a number of times, some of its historical elements have been preserved until today, for example gothic, vaulted cellars, several renaissance portals, two Renaissance wooden ceilings, one baroque ceiling covered with a decorative wallpaper and a painstakingly renovated 19th century fresco, which depicts a stylised garden in pastel colours.

A special scientific session on the history of the Museum was organised on 16 March 2007. Prorector for Collegium Medicum prof. Wiesław Pawlik focused on the unique character of the museum collections, which shows the development of pharmacy at the Jagiellonian University. He also emphasised the didactic role of the Museum for JU students.

During the session the renovated cellars of the museum building were opened. An exposition of tools for wine production for medicinal purposes has been installed in one of the vaulted cellars and the reconstruction of an old apothecary laboratory has been placed in the other cellar.

The permanent exhibition of the museum is spread over all five floors – from the cellars to the attic. Currently, it contains over 20,000 exhibits, including pharmacy furniture, manuals, table balances and scales, old apothecary vessels from various periods and diplomas conferred on Polish pharmacists by Polish and foreign universities, including the first university diploma in the world granted to a woman, Konstancja Studzińska. The last room in the museum, placed on the third floor, has been stylized the apothecary attic. Attics, being spacious and dry, were often used by apothecaries to dry and store medicinal herbs. The wooden structure of this room is similar to rafter framing and on this, wooden frames with thick canvas stretched over them, were installed. The frames were once used for drying herbs. On the platforms are various kinds of herb cutters. There are also sieves of various gauges, presses, percolators, a traditional repository with drawers used for storing herbs, and straw containers equipped with wooden sign boards.

The outbuilding of the Museum houses a library with old herbaria, antidotaria, pharmacopoeias and other prints connected with apothecary history, contemporary albums and handbooks on the history of medicine and pharmacy, and archival portfolios, documents and photographs referring to eminent Polish pharmacists, as well as videos and slides. These portfolios illustrate the history of the Polish and European apothecary.

The Museum of Pharmacy belongs to the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Jagiellonian University.

L. Śliwa, M. Kantor
www.muzeumfarmacji.pl

Successful Hand Replantation

The Jagiellonian University Children Hospital in Kraków-Prokocim made a successful replantation of a hand completely severed by a circular saw. The 10-year-old boy’s situation was almost hopeless since his right hand was completely amputated through the metacarpus, with the component of avulsion. Dr. Anna Chrapusta, accompanied by nurse Elżbieta Mazur, operated on him for 11 hours. Dr. Krzysztof Kobylarz, senior registrar in the University Hospital, made the anaesthetization. The team succeeded in reconstructing the shape of the boy’s hand. He has a four-finger hand and the process of healing has already begun without any complications. Two weeks after the operation the boy was able to move his finger tips. Now he is anxious to begin the rehabilitation process. The boy’s family can look to his future with restored hope.

‘This operation gives evidence to the fact that it is worth taking risk even if it seems to us that there are no chances for replantation, even if the present medical standards tell us that we should not make an attempt’, Dr. Chrapusta said.

M. Mikos
Ecuador – variety in the centre of the world

On 28 March His Excellency Fernando Flores Macias, Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador gave a lecture entitled ‘Ecuador – variety in the centre of the world’ in the Senate Hall, Collegium Novum. His lecture was part of the ‘Ambassador’ Programme organized by the School of Culture Management of the Institute of Public Affairs, Jagiellonian University, its co-ordinator being Ass. Prof. Anna Lubecka, and the Krakow Municipality. Mr Flores Macias spoke about the richness and diversity of the equatorial republic in South America. He presented the four natural regions: the highlands with Quito, the Pacific coast, the tropical forests of the Amazon basin with over 5,000 bird species and 25,000 plants and Galapagos Islands. The history and tradition of the Inca empire has played an important role in present day Ecuador. The unity of the Ecuadorians is maintained by culture, language and religion (90% are Catholics). The Ambassador also spoke about various Ecuadorean traditions, many of which are quite similar to the Polish traditions.

M. Kantor

JUSFA already launched

Since 1992 Jagiellonian University has been a part of Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund network. Thanks to the generous grant from the Tokyo Foundation more than 150 students of our university were awarded fellowships that helped them to conduct research in various parts of the world. A great number of SYLFF fellows after defending Ph.D. dissertations started to work at the Jagiellonian University.

In October 2006 a group of former SYLFF fellows started organizing the association and eventually on December 6th 2006 the first formal meeting of funding members took place. We started the registration procedures and are about to complete the formal registration of the new Jagiellonian University SYLFF Fellows Association (JUSFA), located at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora (Rynek Główny 34). The Association is open to all former fellows of SYLFF or persons involved in one of the follow-up programs (JREX, PDF, etc.)

The main aim of JUSFA is to promote the initiatives of Tokyo Foundation, mainly the SYLFF program and follow-up programs. We would like to help young scholars and young leaders in preparing their application for SYLFF and in finding other opportunities to finance research or other initiatives. We hope that all our efforts will promote international understanding by means of publications and conferences. We invite all people that were connected with SYLFF to join our efforts.

For further information about the Association, please write an e-mail to amerykanistyka@post.pl

Radek Rybkowski

Revolt in the Empire’ – 30th anniversary of the Students’ Solidarity Committee

On the 30th anniversary of the death of Stanislaw Pyjas the Rector of the Jagiellonian University Prof. Karol Musiol unveiled a commemorative plaque in the building of the Faculty of Polish Studies. The inscription reads as follows, ‘Stanislaw Pyjas, oppositionist killed by the communist Security Services on 7 May 1977, studied in this building in the years 1972-1977.’ In the building called ‘Gołębnik’ Pyjas’ mother, his friends and founders of the Students’ Solidarity Committee, which was founded after the death of the oppositionist in May 77, gathered to commemorate Stanislaw Pyjas. Prof. Musiol said, ‘Today we are gathering to pay tribute to Staszek Pyjas, to remember the man who paid the highest price for his search for the truth, that he did not want to live in lies and had the courage to get involved in the fight against the totalitarian system as a fifth year student.’ He added that ‘the totalitarian system contradicts all that the university teaches.’ Pyjas’ friend and founder of the Students’ Solidarity Committee Boguslaw Sonik reminded the gathered that the communist Security
Services did not only take Stanisław Pyjas’ life but also wanted to defame his memory; the investigation was led to false evidence in order to erase the truth. He also read fragments of Pyjas’ diary.

During the celebration Stanisław Pyjas’ mother received the Commodore Cross of Poland’s Restitution for ‘outstanding merits in fighting for independence of the Republic of Poland, for the activities aiming at democratic changes in the country’, which Poland’s President Lech Kaczyński gave her son posthumously.

The unveiling of the commemorative tablet was part of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Students’ Solidarity Committee, which was held in Kraków on 7-20 May 2007. The first event was the opening of the exhibition entitled ‘The Students’ Solidarity Committee (SKS). Revolt in the Empire’ at the Town Hall on the Market Square. The photo of Stanisław Pyjas opened the series of photographs of the SKS members. The body of Stanisław Pyjas, 24-year-old student of Polish philology and philosophy of the Jagiellonian University, was found on 7 May 1977 in a staircase in a Kraków apartment house. The assassination of Pyjas was made to look like an accident. According to official statements, Pyjas died from injuries sustained in a drunken fall down the steep staircase. It was suspected that the student was killed by or on the orders of the communist Security Services, but the investigation into the Pyjas murder was dropped three times due to the lack of evidence. Some 7 persons were faced with accusations of hampering the investigation. The Krakow prosecution stated that due to their activities any traces leading to the explanation of Pyjas’ death have been erased.

It is worth adding that 30 years after the killing of Stanisław Pyjas new evidence has emerged, a report by an eyewitness describing how Pyjas was killed. The Krakow prosecution intends to investigate the new evidence.

Stanislaw Pyjas was born in a small village near Żywiec. His name was placed in the Golden Book of the School Records. In high school Stanislaw wrote poems, which showed his critical attitude towards the communist system. In 1973 he began studying Polish philology at the JU. He did very well in his exams and in his fifth year of studies he began a second major – philosophy. After June ’76 he sympathised with the Workers’ Defence Committee, KOR, a democratic opposition movement in the communist ruled Poland. He helped in money collections and distribution of underground publishing. The Security Services got interested in his activities in 1976. On 6 May 1977 his friends saw him for the last time. His death was a shock in the student environment, which understood that the price for being free in the communist country might be also life. Facing his death students decided to be united. 10,000 students took to the streets of Kraków in a Black March, which was the first such university demonstration since 1968. The students announced the formation of a Students’ Solidarity Committee with the purpose of establishing a truly representative student organisation.

Pyjas’ murder became one of the most important events in Polish history. It was one of most spectacular murders of the 1970s, which showed how brutal the political police was. It seemed that the blood shed by political police was a seed for political opposition activities. Instead of silencing the crowds such actions of the Security Services only added boost to their activities.

‘The Black March. The Beginning of the Revolt’ was the title of the historians’ debate in the aula of Collegium Novum on 18 May 2007. The debate was organised by the Institute of National Remembrance, the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University and the Association May ’77. In the evening a concert of Jacek Kaczmarki’s songs was held in the Cultural Centre ‘Rotunda’ to commemorate Stanisław Pyjas.

On 19 May 2007 the Association May ’77 organised a debate with Prof. Alain Besançon, eminent French historian, philosopher and expert in the communist system, the title being ‘Free in the times of slavery! Enslaved in the times of freedom!’ Afterwards documentary films were shown on the Market Square. On 20 May a commemorative tablet to Zygmunt Chyliński, Miroslaw Dzielski and Janusz Szpotański was unveiled at 24 Poselska Street.

Finally, on the 30th anniversary of Pyjas’ death the Rector of the Jagiellonian University took an initiative in creating the Stanisław Pyjas Scholarship for JU students.

M. Kantor
Less than two decades ago, the world disintegrated into hostile-minded blocks – the ‘West’ feared the welfare-promising communism of the ‘East’, the ‘East’ the freedom of the ‘West’. The ‘iron curtain’ and ‘cold war’ were concepts, which are almost forgotten nowadays and which hardly appear in common parlance any more. Yet at that time, they were omnipresent and prevented communication between nations.

In spite of the ideological contrasts there was a slight relaxation of tension during the 1970s, above all, between the Federal Republic of Germany and the People’s Republic of Poland. It began in 1970 with the so-called ‘kneeling down’ of Warsaw, the gesture of reconciliation by the then German Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt. In 1972, the German Bundestag ratified the Treaty of Warsaw and in 1976, both states signed a cultural agreement. However, it took another four years until the Ruhr University of Bochum (RUB) became the first official university of the Federal Republic to establish contact with the Jagiellonian University (JU) of Krakow. Indeed, there had already been an exchange between some scientists of both universities in the middle of the 1970’s; the time however was not yet ripe for a real partnership. Finally, by November 1979 the time was right: The rectors of the JU and the RUB, Mieczyslaw Hess and Knut Ipsen, signed a ‘Treaty of Cooperation’ in the oldest and historically most famous building of the Jagiellonian University, the Collegium Maius.

At first, it was a surprise that the RUB and the JU engaged in contact with each other: why would two such universities agree on a partnership? Especially when their traditions were so completely different, or, at least, when barely any historical points of contact had existed until then. The JU was founded in 1364; the start of construction work of the RUB on the other hand started in 1962, almost 598 years later. While one celebrated its 600th anniversary in 2000 (they dated it from 1400), subjects had only been taught and researched at the RUB for 35 years (only in 1965 did the first teaching operations begin). Also at that time, the plans of both universities seemed to have very few common characteristics. The RUB was supposed to be, above all, a university for the Ruhr province and to give an academic perspective to the children of the workers living there. In the Ruhr province, there had been no university until 1962. Coal and steel dominated life there. The JU, however, looks back over many centuries of academic tradition as the second-oldest University of Central Europe. The astronomer Nicolas Copernicus and Karol Józef Wojtyła, later Pope John Paul II, count among its most notable graduates. Teaching and research still take place within the chambers of its time-honoured walls. The same applies to the city of Krakow. Nearly every angle of this royal town testifies to magnifcent times.

The RUB is quite different: Built with a lot of concrete in an austere style of functionality. The city itself was nearly destroyed during the war. As the industrial heart of Germany, the Ruhr province had been at the centre of air raids and was targeted by many bombing campaigns. The quick reconstruction of the fifties was not based on the pre-war state, which is why the dubious charm of post-war architecture stamps its mark all over the townscape.

The rectors would have merely looked at the differences between them, had the partnership agreement not been signed. Clearly, with regards to the agreement, it was not the differences and the past that were decisive but the common characteristics and future perspectives it promised. Yet there was one historical point of contact: The JU was the first Polish university, the RUB the first new establishment in the Federal Republic after 1945.

In the foreground of the partnership agreement there are, admittedly,
less historical aspects than scientific cooperation, in particular common research projects and the exchange of researchers. The treaty of 1979 regulated the modalities very specifically. Ten weeks were available annually to both parties for the exchange of professors and assistant professors, six months for ‘younger researchers’ and twelve months for the exchange of doctoral candidates and graduates. The accepting university bore the costs in the host country. Polish professors and assistant professors with long-term stays (more than 21 days) received about 2,200 DM per month, younger researchers, at least 1,600, the JU provided free board and lodging as well as 4,000 złoty.

It was especially important for both universities to find out more about international conferences and conventions and facilitate their participation. It was nevertheless highly complicated at the end of the 1970s in spite of the policy of détente to overcome the ‘iron curtain’ – even for scientific purposes. Besides this, difficult times were still to come. Pope John Paul II had already pushed for social change in June 1979 with his visit to Poland; the first Polish Pope became the symbol of opposition, supporting Lech Wałęsa and Solidarność. The communist state apparatus defended itself however and General Jaruzelski consequently imposed martial law in 1981. As German media announced that the rector of the JU had been arrested, his colleague in Bochum reacted immediately. Knut Ipsen wrote a protest letter directly to General Jaruzelski via the German Embassy in Warsaw. Later it turned out that the rector had not actually been arrested. The partnership of the universities withstood the crisis.

During this time both universities intensified their contact. RUB organized transport vehicles each with 50 metric tons of auxiliary goods on several occasions. In the end, the partnership agreement was extended indefinitely in 1982. One can say without any further comment that the more difficult the times became, the more intense the exchange became. The JU transmitted on the other hand greeting addresses to the RUB. In one such address in the year 1985, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of admission of teaching operations, we can read, ‘When we take into consideration the excellent development for its age, and being such a young and at the same time world-renowned university, and when we consider its astounding comforts, the famous Ruhr University of Bochum is…’ etc. Such noble and kind words of the rector of JU at that time, Jozef A Gierowski, filled the rector of RUB with a deserved pride. The partnership thrived; the exchange was active and was maintained. Many faculties were involved in it, on the part of the RUB particularly the Faculties of Education, Philosophy, English and German Studies, Linguistic research, Slavic Studies, Law, Physics, Chemistry, History, etc. The universities also profited from each other in artistic fields in the form of visits by the university choirs and orchestras.

Then came 1989. With the opening and dismantling of the Berlin Wall the ‘iron curtain’ finally came down. Although the borders were then more permeable it did not reinforce the partnership necessarily. On the contrary, in Bochum, many protagonists of the cooperation retired and Krakow looked past Bochum even further west. ‘The Ruhr University has failed to maintain the partnership after the fall of the wall’, summed up with regret Knut Ipsen, the father of the partnership. Of course, there were further contacts, e.g. with the tax and international law lawyers or with historians. However, these were predominantly isolated cases, based on personal commitment.

Two decades have passed since the fall of the Berlin Wall and we clearly feel that on the part of the JU as well as the RUB, the interest has revived to maintain and develop the partnership. The formal reciprocal invitations and exchanges of researchers and students are increasing again. Close cooperation of both universities exists now in the so-called Utrecht Network in which 30 European universities are participating. Visits by deans take place and cooperation is agreed at faculty level. For example, the dean of the School of Law at the JU, Tadeusz Wludyka, spontaneously travelled to Bochum to expand and intensify existing relations at the end of last year. Such initiatives are indispensable and without them, a partnership is not conceivable. Indeed, friendly conversations are by far not enough; a dynamic partnership must be created.

However, what connects the JU and the RUB today? Exactly the same issues as in 1979, namely the student...
and scientific exchange, not to mention the breakdown of reciprocal prejudices. Meanwhile the basic conditions and the circumstances have changed since then: The JU, with more than 45,000 students nationwide and internationally, boasts of having the highest reputation in Poland. The city of Kraków shines more and more with an historical lustre. The RUB is among one of the biggest universities in Germany with nearly 35,000 students studying in 20 faculties and choosing between approximately 150 disciplines. It has acquired its own reputation as a reform university. It shines with innovative force and modernity in many areas and, for a long time, it has not been the concrete constructions that have dominated the campus skyline but the green areas and vast amounts of trees. Visitors are visually surprised not to find the dreary industrial scenery any longer. Not only has the city of Bochum carried out an impressive structural change but the whole Ruhr province as well. Coal and steel industries with their coal mines and furnaces are gone and modern cities with a lot of recreational space for approximately 5,3 million residents have taken their place. Besides this, nowhere in Germany can we find so many people with Polish roots as in the Ruhr region.

The JU and the RUB can benefit more than ever from one another. In the meantime, a real historical tradition, namely the partnership made in 1979, also connects both universities. In 2009, it will have existed for 30 years. In the future, the commitment will be individual and indispensable. Both universities are committed to it, to stimulate and promote it. The 30-year-old jubilee should be used not only as a ceremonial event but also as a challenge to fill this partnership with life. Germans and Poles are connecting substantially more than they are separating. The Krakowians in Bochum and members of RUB in Kraków are invited and welcome to see it for themselves.

Erasmus Day in Kraków

In 2007 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the SOCRATES/ERASMUS Programme. The celebration was to show the importance of the academic mobility to all European citizens. For 20 years more than 1,500,000 students have lived the unique Erasmus experience. The SOCRATES/ERASMUS programme is a European Union founded programme which offers the possibility to students of studying abroad in another European country for a period of between 3 and 12 months. The programme is open to the 27 Member States of the European Union, the three EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and one candidate country (Turkey).

The celebration was organised by the Erasmus Student Network, the mission of which is to foster student mobility under the principle of students helping students. Among other things the celebration project included Erasmus Days around Europe.

The Erasmus Day in Kraków was held on 20 April 2007. It was organised by four institutions of higher education: the Jagiellonian University, Stanisław Staszic University of Mining and Metallurgy, Kraków University of Technology and Kraków University of Economics. The Erasmus Van toured around these universities. Its tour started in front of Collegium Novum, the main JU building. A press conference was held in Collegium Novum. In the afternoon the van reached the JU new campus and then went to the student campus AGH, where the van awaited the Erasmus Parade, which started on the Main Market Square.

The closing event of the Erasmus Day was a special birthday party in a students’ club. Over 700 students came to the party. There was a presentation of the photographic contest ‘Discover Europe’ and then all students sang Happy Birthday to Erasmus and ate a big cake.

Research report of ESN Survey 2006

Ewa Krzaklewska and Seweryn Krupnik (both PhD students at the Jagiellonian University, and Ewa Krzaklewska is also the Vice-president of ESN for 2005-2007) conducted the ESN Survey from May to July 2006. The online questionnaire was

The press conference: Mr Krzysztof Dzikiewicz, President of SWMWS ESN Poland, Mrs Magdalena Warzonkowska, co-ordinator of PR SWMWS ESN Poland, Mr Mirosław Klimkiewicz, Director of the International Students Office of the JU, Mrs Beata Skibińska, National Erasmus Office, Warsaw, Poland
filled out by more than 12,000 exchange students (Erasmus programme – 91% and other exchange schemes) from all over Europe. The project resulted in a report published in 2007. The report covers such issues as recognition of academic and non-academic achievements from abroad, the Erasmus University Charter, students’ motivation to go abroad, their satisfaction with stay in a foreign country and with ESN’s help.

Below are the results of the ESN Survey 2006.

**Students’ motivation:**
- to have new experiences
- to practice a foreign language
- to learn about different cultures
- to meet new people
- to have fun
- to enhance future employment prospects
- to improve academic knowledge
- to be independent.

In general, ‘experiencing something was more important than maximizing career chances.’ But students from Central and Eastern Europe are more career oriented than respondents from Western Europe.

**Exchange students’ rights**

Every university must follow the guidelines of the Erasmus Charter: institutional foundation of Erasmus, free tuition and full recognition of studies abroad, usage of ECTS, linguistic preparation, provision of information, integration of incoming students, assistance in looking for accommodation, etc.

The results of the survey:
- 52% of the respondents had all their courses recognized
- 28% had most of the courses recognized
- 13% had only few courses
- 7% did not receive any recognition.

28% of the respondents lost a semester of their studies at home university because they went on exchange.

There are different opinions about the amount of the work at the host university:
- 30% believed the amount of work was the same
- 33% of students believed they worked more at home
- 26% that they worked more at the host university
- the rest did not receive ECTS credits.

79% of the students were able to freely choose courses at the host university.

**English Language** is becoming the language of student mobility:
- 27% of Erasmus students said that all courses at the university were in English
- 41% that some of the courses
- 30% that they did not have any course in English.

The Erasmus Charter in Europe is partially guarded: only half of the students received full recognition for their period abroad.

**Satisfaction with stay abroad**

98% of the students declared that they would recommend their friend to go abroad.

Students’ answers enabled differentiation of three dimensions of stay:
- academic dimension: professors, courses and university facilities
- social dimension: social life, contact with local students, atmosphere of the city and the country where university is located
- problem-solving dimension: provision of information, help from the International Office and financial situation.

Students are most satisfied with the social dimension of their stay and least satisfied with the problem-solving dimension.

**Satisfaction with ESN**

Almost half of the Erasmus students have heard about the Erasmus Student Network. Nearly 70% of the students declared that they were satisfied with the services of ESN and other student organizations. The satisfaction with student organizations had the strongest correlation with satisfaction with the problem-solving aspect of the stay.

Find more information at www.esn.org
Erasmus at Jagiellonian University

The Jagiellonian University began Erasmus exchange in the academic year 1998/99.

Within the ERASMUS Programme, for the academic 2007/08, the Jagiellonian University has signed 689 agreements concerning student and faculty exchange:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>101</td>
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The most popular disciplines are:
Romance philology – 59
Sociology – 42
Law – 38
European studies – 36
Political sciences – 35
English philology – 29
Polish studies – 28
Management – 26
Medicine – 23
Geography – 23
German philology – 22
Biotechnology – 21
History – 20
Chemistry – 20
Pharmacy – 19
Philosophy – 17
Physics – 15
Journalism – 14
Psychology – 12
Mathematics – 11

Expected Erasmus exchange at the Jagiellonian University in the year 2007/2008
– outgoing students: 976
– incoming students: 450

M. Kantor
“Krakow is a trap ... and I’m still here!”

Alumni from all six previous years joined current CES students in Krakow for our long-awaited Reunion Weekend. And I’m pleased to report that we had a fine time!

Many of the congregation did not have too far to come. Several flew in from Britain; one came to us from Brussels via St Petersburg; others caught a train from Warsaw or walked from their home in Krakow city centre. Many of our alumni are living and working in North America, and the trans-Atlantic trip proved impossible for most this time. But with so many of our graduates working in the corridors of power of Washington DC, or studying or working elsewhere on the US East Coast, a CES get-together is being planned for there this summer. The furthest anyone came to see us was from Canada, while one alumnus, who has been working in India, arrived back in Krakow from there a whole week early, and was slightly disappointed to find that nobody had arrived yet.

Some intrepid souls began the festivities on Friday morning, joining current students under the CES and UJ banners in the Juwenalia procession. Later on we convened for drinks around a long table in Kazimierz, an evening that began low-key but gathered steam as the night went on, lasting into the early hours. Saturday was the main event, however. The Reunion Bus picked us up from the CES base at ul. Garbarska and whisked us up to the picturesque surroundings of Przegorzały, where the main part of European Studies is housed. The day had dawned bright and sunny, and as the clouds gathered above old friends reunited were not perturbed as students of various vintages mingled over a glass of wine or two in the keep of the Castle and on the terrace overlooking the Vistula.

Our Director, Prof. Zdzisław Mach, was on hand to open proceedings and welcome students, alumni, staff and professors alike, declaring his hope that there would be many more year groups of students and many further reunions to come. Thereafter, one person from each year gave a few words. Stephen Green, a pioneer from 2000/01 and more recently a Russian teacher here too, recalled a “pep talk” which CES stalwart Scott Simpson had supposedly given when the going was tough, probably in the middle of November with the essays piling up and the sleet coming down.

“From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remember’d; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he to-day that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne’er so vile”*

The other representatives – respectively Dena Gurgul, Ruth Burns, Irena Luchko, Magnus Slingsby and Chris Hargraves – did not recall such rousing speeches, but remembered anecdotes from their time here of study trips, parties, and one or two classes on the Rynek too. This year’s Student Representative, Emily Grainger, was also there to welcome her forerunners back, stressing how time had flown for this year’s students and how they too would soon be looking back – fondly we hope – on their time here.

Those who were missing were not forgotten. Rafał Mazanek, the departing programme coordinator, spoke on behalf of staff past and present, bemoaning with a wink the absence of Jola Jaworska and Ela Baran; the former had “inconsiderately” just got married and emigrated, and the latter, with equally bad planning, had given birth
just days before. Messages from ex-students were also read out. Here’s an excerpt from one: “Alas, I will be in East Timor doing election observations during the reunion. Otherwise I’d be there in a second … my favorite CES/Krakow memory – I know this is kitsch – but it would have to be meeting my now-wife in Jazz Rock.” Another brought applause with this metaphor:

“If life is a DJ, then CES is a bartender: it makes an excellent cocktail!”

And one alumnu who was there at the start summed things up thus: “The first words Professor Mach told us were that Krakow is a trap. That was in 1999 and I am still here.”

As the heavens opened, the bus took us back to the city, where we tucked into Polish delicacies and a little more wine at the reunion dinner. Nic Nowego was the venue for our evening party. More current students sought refuge from the rain and joined the fun, and more alumni too who had mysteriously become waylaid arrived en masse late on. A slideshow of highlights from over the years brought back memories. Sunday was a day of farewells and smaller gatherings. And those who still had enough energy met up for the embers of the weekend and a long brunch at a certain hotel by the river.

So what next? ‘When’s the next reunion?’ some people asked. For the time being, the next rendezvous will be across the pond in the US capital. In 2010 we hope to be celebrating ten years of our international programmes. We’ll see how many more CES alumni have been caught in Krakow’s snare by then!

* Shakespeare, of course, and not Simpson, penned these words in Henry V.

Ben Koschalka
www.ces.uj.edu.pl
The diameter of the Harvard refractor is 203 mm and its focus is 284.4 cm. Due to these parameters it was the biggest Polish telescope in the early 1920s. In 1925 the refractor was fitted with a micrometer made in Switzerland, and after 1927 a clock mechanism was installed, which enabled researchers to move the instrument and thus followed the celestial bodies.

Prof. Banachiewicz, creator of cracovian theory (a special kind of matrix algebra), appreciated the necessity to make astronomical observations and embarked on two big projects, in which the Harvard telescope played the key role. The first project concerned observations of eclipsing binaries. Prof. Banachiewicz also started publishing his own ephemeris. The second project included observations of the Moon, the first observation being made on 23 October 1923. It is worth noting that during the Nazi occupation astronomical observations were not seized and currently, they are of special value as the only observations conducted in the years 1939-45.

In 1964, on the 600th anniversary of the Jagiellonian University, the Observatory hosted Prof. Harlow Shapley, one of the outstanding world astronomers and director of the Harvard Observatory (1921-52). He joked about 'lending the refractor for three years'. The American telescope was used till 1976 and then it was dismantled and transported to the Bieszczady Mountains.

In May 2007 the 'American' refractor returned to the Astronomical Observatory in Kraków and installed where it originally stood. It will popularise astronomy. It is worth stressing that we have an original 19th century refractor placed in the historic dome of the 18th century building of the Astronomical Observatory.

It is with great pleasure to announce the formal founding, as of April 2007, of the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Faculty of Polish Studies. This new initiative at Jagiellonian University has been established due to the efforts and ideas of Prof. dr hab. Michał Paweł Markowski, the Director of the Centre and also holder of the Chair of the Department of International Polish Studies (IPS). The Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities is a welcome and exciting addition to the academic and scholarly activity at Jagiellonian University and it adheres to the guiding philosophy of Prof. Markowski, the Faculty of Polish Studies, and IPS: that of aiming toward the goal of augmenting and stimulating the intellectual and academic environment in Kraków while creating a larger international and multicultural community of scholars and students dedicated to interdisciplinary humanistic and artistic concerns. It is in this way that the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities intends to expand and enlarge the prominent scholarly center found in Kraków and the Jagiellonian University and to group those interested in establishing a fertile thinking circle at the heart of the central European melting pot of cultures. It is to this that the Centre has constituted its academic activities.

The Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, taking as its operational model that of the advanced institutes in the USA and Europe that comprise the consortiums of the SIAS and NetIAS, is the first such institution of its kind in Poland. The Centre will aim to attract senior scholars with significant publishing records and outstanding promising graduate students from all over the world to partake in the endeavors of the Centre. Because of these scholarly ambitions, the Centre has received significantly strong support from the Rector of the Jagiellonian University and other university authorities. Added to this highly encouraging foundation are a large number of national and global sources of enthusiastic approval and backing.

The Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities is envisioned to be an elite and prestigious individual unit based at the Faculty of Polish Studies. It is a scholarly mix of an academic research institute, a doctoral studies program in comparative literature, Centre-run research projects, and specially organized conferences, seminars, and colloquia. Coalesced together, these activities share as their main goal the promotion and extension of humanistic research undertakings and the bringing together of academics from different countries and cultures to benefit the exchange and spread of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural ideas. The major activities of the Centre include the following:

1. Research Fellowship Program, divided into senior and junior fellowships;
2. Dual PhD Program in Comparative Literature;
3. Summer School of Critical Theory;
4. Two lecture series, separately the Jagiellonian Seminar and the Art of Exegesis Seminar, led by invited international lecturers of global repute (earlier seminars were led by Prof. Gianni Vattimo, University of Turin; Prof. Walter Burkert, University of Zurich; and Prof. Tomas Venclova, Yale University);
5. Centre-run research projects: The Humanities after Deconstruction

Jerzy M. Kreiner
Chair of Astronomy
National Education Committee
Pedagogical University
in Kraków
Another international tour of the Song and Dance Ensemble ‘Słowianki’ is over. 23 concerts, 12,000 km, and a performance on the 12th floor of a skyscraper in Japan. The aim was to promote Polish culture and at the same time to get to know the culture of the land of the cherry blossom. It was amazing to see so many lovers of Polish folklore among the Japanese. Japan is a country that combines tradition and modernity in an astonishing way. After a five-week stay in Japan no one can claim to have got to know the country well.

Ohayo gozaimasu! (Good morning). I have the privilege to write a report on the 98th tour of the Song and Dance Ensemble ‘Słowianki’ of the Jagiellonian University to Japan. It is hard to write about Japan focusing on our concerts and leaving out the other aspects of our visit. And the panorama of topics and motifs is enormous: customs, economy, cuisine, history, philosophy, language, writing, religions, and etiquette. Unfortunately, as an observer and participant, I must omit some of these aspects, which separately could create materials for many books. However, one should look at Japan from a certain distance. This is a very dynamic country that moves at high speed. One should stand aside and see everything in slow motion. It can turn out difficult for us, Europeans, who want to absorb this country with all its details. This is impossible since Japan is a country full of mysteries to which only some have access and can understand its complexities.

Force majeure

From the beginning every participant of our tour felt curious and uncertain, and did not realize that he or she was going to visit such a distant country. Some wanted to prepare themselves by buying guidebooks and phrasebooks. But you cannot plan everything. The information that reached us the day before our departure was unbelievable. The manager of our Ensemble Henryk Wolff-Zdzienicki and one of the members of the group fell ill and could not go with us. Thus the responsibility fell on Barbara de Lehenstein-Brońka, dance instructor and choreographer, and Wiesław Dziedziński, bandmaster, and of course on all of us. Things went all right and after an almost 15-hour flight we landed in Japan on 9 February 2007.

During their five-week tournée ‘Słowianki’ (39 performers) gave 23 two-hour concerts, 5 short concerts and 10 seminars on Polish national and

Mateusz Samulewski
regional dances. The repertoire included regional dances and songs from Rzeszow, Kraków, Lublin, Biłgoraj, Przeworsk, Kujawy, Kurpie, Nowy Sącz, Śląsk and national dances of polonaise, mazurka and Krakowiak. The organizer of the tour was Folklore Report from Tokyo, with its President Tetsuo Masunaga, who covered all costs.

**Kanji and makaron udon**

Japanese writing is a big mystery. Actually, there are three kinds of writing: kanji – Chinese ideograms representing concepts as well as hiragana and katakana, having phonetic values. Usually people use about 5,000 – 10,000 signs of kanji.

Japanese cuisine is very exotic. Our first contact with Japanese food was on the plane. I took tofu jelly for cottage cheese! I ate makaron udon once and I will probably not have it again but I will eagerly eat kare raisu (curry rice). Naturally, I recommend sushi and sashimi to every visitor of the samurai country.

**On Japanese tatami**

In the first and last week of our stay we were accommodated in the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo, where the standards were European. The rest of the time we slept in various places: hotels, mountain hostels and with Japanese families. The families received us with unbelievable hospitality and kindness. Their bedrooms were traditional: with six to eight tatami (sleeping mats of 196 cm x 93 cm). Every day they fold their mats and put them into wardrobes. Then the bedrooms serve as sitting rooms with small tables and cushions.

**Mysticism in o-furo**

It is worth writing a few words about Japanese hygiene. Why? All those who have returned from the country of the rising sun talk about toilets and baths. The Japanese take extreme care when it comes to the matter of hygiene but they hate baths with foaming soap. Before they take a bath they sit on a plastic basin and carefully scrub themselves. They rinse the soap and only then do they immerse themselves in a bath or o-furo (traditional Japanese bath). Such a bath is mystical, it cleanses body and mind as well as it gives relaxation and entertainment, a kind of social club, ritual and therapy. In large baths people discuss about serious things and trifles. In some cases a bath lasts several hours. Unfortunately, we were too busy to enjoy this Japanese custom! The Japanese style toilet is a hole in the ground. But there are also European style toilets.

**Emotions on the Japanese route**

‘Słowianki’ were on the three out of the four Japanese islands: Honsiu, Sidoku and Kiusiu. The ensemble visited 30 cities. All our performances were enthusiastically received. Some were extremely emotional, for example our concert in the primary school in Kozakai-Nishi near Tokyo, where about 2,000 pupils caused us to be totally
amazed and overcome with emotion. We were treated with the highest respect and piety. We gathered in a large gymnastic hall and felt children’s heart beating when they were singing ‘Szła dziewczka do laseczka’ in Polish and a Japanese song about peace. If I could hug those children I would have surely done so. I will always remember the day of that visit: 13 February. It may seem funny but there is some power and strength in children that make us, adults, feel small.

The second moving moment was our visit to the Peace Museum in Hiroshima. We all know the date of 6 August 1945 when over 78,000 inhabitants of Hiroshima were killed.

Hamburger in Kyoto scenery

Of course, we visited Japanese temples and castles. The most valuable visit was the visit to the overwhelming one hundred year old temple of Kiyomizu. The visit was too short, especially that there are 12 large temples and several museums in Kyoto. An additional ‘attraction’ was eating hamburgers and chips at a fast food bar, located in a charming street.

We performed in various places; the most unusual one was a skyscraper. We performed on the twelfth floor. A few days later we performed four floors underground...

The audiences were between 300 and 2,000 people. The halls were packed and people arrived one hour before concerts, which was unique. I was very surprised by the fascination of the Japanese with Polish folklore. It is worth stressing that the Japanese spectators want to be active and take part in seminars where they can learn the dance techniques. The dancing level amazed us, especially that the average age of those who participated in the seminars was ca. 60! Each seminar was for about 100 people who attentively listened to our dance instructor Barbara-san as they called her.

With a wooden hammer in hand

Our group was invited to welcome parties several times. Apart from refreshments we could see Japanese traditions: making tea (which lasts about one hour), the art of calligraphy or making the delicacy o-mochi. This was not easy at all. We were to boil special rice in a special utensil, then put the rice into a wooden or stone dish. Using a big wooden hammer we had to smash the rice. You are not going to believe it but the hammer weighed about 10 kilos. The smashing lasted about 20 minutes and you had to turn the dough and pour some water. Then we moulded cakes and put them on plates. The dish was served with red beans, turnip paste and some sprinkle, probably made of beans.

The art of conformism

I would like to thank the organizers of our tour for professionally prepared concerts, including all technical aspects. The professional team dealing with light and sound made our performances on the highest level. Thanks to that our dancers, singers and musicians did their best to present Polish folklore to Japanese audiences. There were some failures on the part of the Japanese partner but ‘the Japanese mentality amae, which is the essence of Japanese psyche, says that guilt and mistakes must be forgiven’ (Janina Rubach-Kuczewska’s book ‘Japanese Life’). One can write that every society has more and less generous people. I remember the statement of Professor Chie Nakane, which I read in one of his books and with which I would like to close my report, ‘There is a species of fish that have no backbones and their shapes depend on the external environment since jelly bends easily but when pressure is lessened the jelly takes its original shape. That describes the Japanese.’ I will always remember my trip to Japan and so will my friends with whom I spent wonderful moments in the country of the cherry blossom. Oyasumi nasai Nippon! (Good night, Japan).

M. Krzywyda
To be continued.
Visit from Radboud University Nijmegen

On 13-15 March 2007, the Jagiellonian University hosted a delegation of Radboud University Nijmegen, Holland. The delegation consisted of Prof. Dr. C.W.P.M. Blom, Rector Magnificus, Mr René Vermeulen, External Relations, Mr W.H.M. Goossens, Vox/Radboud Magazine and two students: Ms Mariska Kleemans (social science) and Mr Bart Voet (biomedical sciences). During the meeting with JU Rector Prof. K. Musioł, Vice-Rector for international relations and research Prof. Sz. Biliński and Vice-Rector for educational Affairs Prof. M. Szewczyk, Prof. Blom talked about the developments of the International Research University Network and future cooperation between our universities. Prof. Blom also joined part of the workshop on psychology organised by Prof. Coenen and Prof. Kaiser, and visited JU Collegium Medicum. At the meeting with the representatives of the JU Philological Faculty Prof. Blom presented the Radboud University and possibilities of collaboration. R. Vermeulen and the Dutch students met about 30 Polish outgoing Erasmus students who intended to study at Dutch universities. He presented the system of higher education in the Netherlands and the Polish students asked the Dutch guests questions about studies as well as student and cultural life in Holland.

On the second day Prof. Blom and R. Vermeulen visited the JU new campus and met Prof. K. Strzałka, Dean of the Faculty of Biotechnology, Biophysics and Biotechnology, Prof. R. Laskowski, Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Prof. B. Domanski, Director of the Institute of Geography and Space Economy. Whereas Mr Goossens and the Dutch students visited the JU Erasmus Student Network and other student places, accompanied by M. Samulewski from the JU Department of International Polish Studies.

The Jagiellonian University has co-operated with the Radboud University Nijmegen since 2005. The collaboration involves all faculties. Currently, there are also 8 Erasmus agreements in the fields of philosophy, religious studies, German philology, law and administration, zoology, psychology, journalism and sociology (21 outgoing students, 16 incoming students and exchange of 3 teachers).

Visit to the Freie Universität Berlin

Maria Kantor paid a short visit to the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. The purpose of the visit was to get to know the Free University, especially the Department of International Relations, as well as to discuss staff and student exchange. Her host was Mrs Ute Handschuhmacher, who deals with the collaboration between the FU and the JU. Mrs Handschuhmacher showed Dr Kantor the FU Campus in Dahlem, which resembles a dignified park landscape. The central Campus includes the Henry Ford Building, the Botanical Gardens and the Language and Literature Library. Dr. Kantor met Mr. Gügold, director for academic exchange with Eastern Europe, Dr. Lack, the Erasmus Co-ordinator, Mrs Cybulski, International Students Office, and Mrs De Vito-Egerland, assistant dean for conferences and congresses.

The Free University (FU) has seen itself from the very beginning as a university at the very heart of democracy. It was founded in 1948 after students and academic teachers had been barred for political reasons from the re-opened University of Berlin. Thanks to the support of West Germany and the United States the FU was able to flourish as a university of international standing. John F. Kennedy spoke at the FU during his historic visit to the divided city in 1963. Currently, the University has eleven faculties and the Medical Faculty Charité, made up of the former medical departments of the FU and Humboldt University. It has 35,500 students, of which 15 % are foreign students.

The agreement between the Freie Universität Berlin and the Jagiellonian University was signed in 1998 and it concerns all faculties. The Erasmus agreements embrace medicine, zoology, physics, applied psychology and political sciences (7 incoming and outgoing students and exchange of 3 teachers).
Visit from Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec

On 27 April 2007 we hosted Mrs Lise Grenier, Director of the Students Affairs, and Mr Robert Sage, co-ordinator for international student programmes, from the Université de Sherbrooke. They wanted to get to know our University, especially the JU programmes for foreign students, in order to develop student exchange in the future.

The Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, established in 1954, is a large university with three distinct campuses and the only French-language university in Quebec. It has over 30,000 students, of which 11,500 are full-time. There are nine faculties at the university: Management, Law, Education, Physical Education, Engineering, Letters and Social Sciences, Medicine, Science, and Theology, Philosophy and Ethics. It is the only university outside of Quebec’s large urban centres with a medical school and a law school.

www.usherbrooke.ca
H. Michalik

Robert Sage and Lise Grenier

Agreement with the University of Irkutsk

On 19 February 2007 the Jagiellonian University signed an agreement of co-operation with Irkutsk State University, Russia. The agreement concerns the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences. In 2006 Prof. Szczepan Biliński, Vice-rector for Research and International Relations, visited the University of Irkuck and discussed possibilities of co-operation with Prof. Natalya Ivanovna Granica, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science.

Irkutsk State University is located in Eastern Siberia not far from the western shore of Lake Baikal. It was founded in 1918 and is an institution of higher learning run by the Ministry of Higher Education of Russian Federation. It is included in the top ten university list of Russia. Over 9,000 students study in 11 faculties: biological, geological, geographical, historical, physical, philological, chemical, social sciences, service and advertising, international and the faculty of psychology.

There is also UNESCO Chair on water Resources, which is an international research-education centre. The main reason to select Irkutsk for such Chair was, of course, the lake Baikal. The lake is UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996, as the oldest, deepest lake of the planet and the largest reservoir containing 50% of the World’s drinking water and 20% of liquid fresh water of the Earth.

www.isu.ru
M. Kantor

Agreement with Universidad Nacional Mayor De San Marcos

On 8 May 2007 the Jagiellonian University signed an new agreement of co-operation with Universidad Nacional Mayor De San Marcos, Lima, Peru. The agreement includes exchange of faculty and students, exchange of publications and joint research projects in the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences and the Institute of American Studies. These UJ units will work out annual programmes of collaborations.

Universidad Nacional Mayor De San Marcos was founded in 1551 and marked the beginning of the university history of the American continent. Currently, it has 20 Faculties and over 35,000 students.

www.unmsm.edu.pe
M. Kantor
Tuesday, October 3rd, 2006

I arrived to Kraków three days ago. I was in the city a couple of times before. Maybe the honeymoon, which was promised by former erasmus students, is passing quicker: I saw the touristically interesting pictures before. Now, they don’t give me a new feeling, something I didn’t experience before. I am now staying in a youth hostel close to Nowy Kleparz.

Some thoughts I made during the day: (1) The Poles I have met so far, understand English better than I expected. I had relatively few difficulties to navigate through my first days. (2) I bought a Polish cell phone number. It makes me feel local a bit. (3) The homeless at Nowy Kleparz are scaring me a bit. It’s strange: I am not scared quickly. But here and now, I am. Probably it’s because I don’t understand what they are saying. I cannot estimate whether they are dangerous or not. (4) There is a lot of police and private security control in the streets. It doesn’t make me feel safer, though.

Wednesday, October 4th, 2006

It feels strange: I haven’t spoken Dutch for four days now. I am now thinking in English. Mailing home is strange, I have to translate back from English to Dutch. I am starting to find my own places in town. The small paper shop on Ul. Długa. The vegetarian restaurant on Ul. Sw. Gertrudy where I had the best breakfast in years – before I went flat hunting. Finding a flat turned out to be a lot more difficult than I expected. Knowledge of basic Polish would have been really helpful here: I cannot even understand the apartment offers in the newspapers or on the internet.

Thursday, October 5th, 2006

I found a flat! It feels like arriving home, somehow. My flatmates: two Slovenian Erasmus students and Lore – my girlfriend, who will arrive in two weeks. She’ll live in Kraków as well and take a Leonardo da Vinci internship in an architect’s office for six months.

Sara and Lea – the Slovenian girls – are listening to Bob Dylan now. Can it get any better? We filled our first evening here discussing cultural differences in Europe over a bottle of wine. I had a slight L’auberge Espagnole-feeling. I started to ask myself this question: are inhabitants of small countries more open towards other cultures? My flatmates immediately asked about the Belgian culture, music etc. This never happened when I socialized with French, Spanish or British youngsters – who were always eager to introduce me to their culture, but never asked about mine. I don’t want to generalize, but it is my observation so far.

Jens Verlinde, Erasmus student (Belgium) 2006-2007
FOOTBALL 
CHAMPIONS

On 17-20 May 2007 Kraków hosted the 24th Polish Medical Schools Football Championships. The football teams represented the Medical Colleges from Łódź, Białystok, Gdańsk, Wrocław, Warszawa, Szczecin, Zabrze, Bydgoszcz and Kraków. The matches were held in two stadiums and attended by numerous students – football fans. The contest was won by the team of the Jagiellonian University Medical College, consisting of Bodgan Ciażyński (captain), Truls Hanestad, Ole Brenne, Mikhail Kisialeuski, Anders Engebredsen, Arkadiusz Kwoka, Holgeir Selven, Trond Dalen, Eivind Liljeas, Espen Schjerven, Ivar Hompland, Tomas Berg, Jakub Sieprawski, Eivind Hanson, Andreas Dalen, Danny Smyth, Krystian Kraus, Hubert Tyrikel (14 international medical students and 4 Polish ones). The coach was Czesław Klim. The champion team won all the matches and the top scorer was Ivar Hompland (6 goals).

Top Ten Things I Learned On a Study Trip

Jenny Merit, a student of the University of Richmond, is currently on the Study Abroad programme at the Centre for European Studies. Here’s her postcard from our recent study trip.

Every student traveler should be equipped with the following necessities before embarking upon an adventure: excitement, a desire to learn, patience, a sense of humor, an open mind, and of course, a camera to take evidence of what will inevitably be a unique experience. From 27 April to 6 May the Centre for European Studies offered a study trip that explored Lithuania, Russia, and Estonia. Here are ten thoughts and reflections I personally took away from this trip:

10. Traveling by bus is not conducive to comfort

Perhaps this is obvious to the well-traveled individual but Polish roads, in a big bus, while one is trying to sleep is not the most luxurious way to travel. However, it is efficient, cheap, and by the end of the trip I can say there were some great memories made on that bus. And after spending 20 hours at a time with the same group of people, they begin to become like family.

9. I would like to get married in Lithuania

Our first stop along our journey was to the bright, colorful, and welcoming city of Vilnius, Lithuania. After freshening up at our hostel we found an authentic Lithuanian restaurant with seating outside along a sparkling creek. As we were lazily enjoying our meal, a wedding party walked over the bridge next to us. Then another. And another. Apparently there is a tradition that the bride and groom must attach a lock to one of the posts on the bridge. The bridge is FULL of these locks, some plain, some elaborate, some old and some new. Later on our walking tour, we saw many incredible churches and even more weddings. The tour itself ended at the “Gate of Dawn” which is the last standing gate of the city. The top of this pale blue gate is now a chapel with a very famous icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of Mercy. It is said that this icon will grant miracles and thus people come from all over to pray before her.

8. I need to invest in property in Trakai

Trakai is a city about an hour west of Vilnius where we visited the reconstructed “Trakai Island Castle.” The castle, as its name implies, is situated out on an island in the middle of a clear, blue lake. The castle and the town itself were quite enchanting and I wouldn’t mind coming back in the summertime when it is warm!

7. Russia can be very intimidating

Speaking of time spent upon that bus, we discovered upon our attempt to cross into Russia that Russia can be very intimidating. Apparently, even after thorough planning, our bus was missing one “crucial” document needed for entry into Russia. Thus at
one in the morning we were denied entry and sent back to Latvia where we slept (in the bus of course) until morning. Twelve hours, a large fee to sort out a small piece of paper, and a long passport check later we were finally on our way towards St. Petersburg! Upsetting? Not in the least. It was all part of the adventure!

6. St. Petersburg defines the word “magnificent”

Nothing can compare to the sites we saw in St. Petersburg. In sun and snow and bitter cold we were awed by structures like the “Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood,” which is the church with the onion-shaped domes, complicated mosaics, and bright colors similar to St. Basil’s in Moscow. Simply stunning. True to St. Petersburg’s nickname “Venice of the North” we wandered along many canal streets and ended up in the massive Palace Square with the lavish Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum. Later a group of us visited the famous Bronze Horsemen (statue of Peter the Great), saw the panorama view from the top of St. Isaac’s, and even took a boat tour along the Neva River.

5. Estonia really is unique

My personal favorite of the trip was the endearing city of Tallinn, Estonia. The Old Town has a strong medieval flavor to it where as the main city is very clean, modern and commercial. Even though Estonia has been influenced by Germany, Sweden, and Russia throughout the years, they have maintained a uniqueness. In fact, Estonia considers itself more of a “Nordic country” rather than a “Baltic state”. The Estonian language is even unique and related only to Finnish and Hungarian.

4. Estonians and Russians do not get along

One of the best academic meetings we had on our trip was our meeting with Mr. Toivo Klaar, Head of European Commission Representation in Estonia. The lecture included a brief overview of Estonian political history and was followed by several great discussions about Estonia, and specifically Tallinn’s, current state. Estonia, since its accession to the European Union, has been doing quite well politically and economically. It seemed however the only obstacle in their way is the current issue of ethnic-Russians living in Estonia. In fact, almost 30% of the population of Estonia is ethnic-Russian and many of them only speak Russian. We were fortunate to be there a week after the riots over the removal of a Red Army statue from a square in Tallinn. Thus, we were able to witness and hear about the conflict between the two nationalities first hand.

3. Exploration is necessary for discovery

The CES trips also offer free time each day for one to explore their own avenues of interest, or to catch up on a much needed nap. However, most took advantage of the leisure time to discover more about each city. In Vilnius we found a fun outdoor market as well as visited the Genocide Museum. In St. Petersburg we took a boat tour along the Neva River and also saw several May Day festivities, including a military demonstration in the Palace Square. In Tallinn we ventured to the First Estonian History Museum and skipped rocks along the Gulf of Finland.

2. Poland is Home Sweet Home

After a 20 hour bus ride home through the landscapes of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania we awoke to find ourselves back among the rolling, yellow fields of Poland. Although it was rainy and cool and our new memories were still fresh in our minds, there was nothing sweeter than coming home to Krakow.

1. Participating in a CES study trip is a great experience

From the educational and cultural to the experiences and memories everyone who participated in the trip walked away with an individual satisfaction. The trip was well planned, well executed and thoroughly enjoyed by all who went. Thank you CES!

Jenny Merit
Another student event in Kraków – tent campus on the Market Square in Kraków. The Jagiellonian University presented its scientific and didactic activities in nine tents set on the Square and in the courtyard of Collegium Medicum at 12 Św. Anny Street. The University also invited people to its geological, Botanical, Zoological Museums and to its Astronomical Observatory (special observation of the stars ‘Evening with Stars’).

The Festival offered meetings, talks, discussions as well as presentations, lectures, laboratory experiments. The cultural part was also rich: concerts, theatrical performances, dances. The Festival of Science was officially opened by the rector of eleven state institutions of higher education in Kraków, the consuls and directors of various institutions. They all gathered on the scene in front of the Town Hall.

The stand of the JU Institute of Oriental Languages drew large audiences. Students wearing various Eastern dresses shared their experiences from trips to the Near and Far East and talked about various Oriental traditions whereas the stand of the Institute of Pedagogy drew children with games, plays and contents.

M. Kantor