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In 2010 Prof. Marcela Świątkowska, the Dean of the Faculty of Philology, celebrated her 65th birthday and 40 years of work at the Jagiellonian University. On that occasion her friends and former students as well as guests from various academic centres in Poland and abroad prepared a commemorative book entitled *En quête de sens* dedicated to her.

Prof. Świątkowska graduated in the Romance philology in 1969, defended her doctoral dissertation in 1977 and received her habilitation degree in 1988 and the title of professor in 2000. During her career she fulfilled several important posts at the Jagiellonian University. She is a member of many scientific organisations and has participated in several international research programmes.

Her scientific interests are very wide and include publications that have been quoted in Poland and abroad. First of all, one should mention two outstanding monographs: *L’imparfait en français moderne. Contribution à l’étude du temps et de l’aspect* (Kraków, 1987) and *Entre dire et faire. De l’interjection* (Kraków, 2000). She founded the periodical ‘Romanica Cracoviensia’ and is a co-initiator of the annual contest *Prix Goncourt: Choix polonais*, in which Polish students choose and award the novel that they regard as the best one of the year. Her doctoral students graduate having profound knowledge and above all enthusiasm and curiosity about the world. She educated numerous linguists.

During the ceremony on 26 November 2010 Prof. Świątkowska was awarded the JU gold medal of Plus Ratio Quam Vis. The laudatory speeches were delivered by Prof. Georges Kleiber from the University of Strasbourg, Prof. Wiesław Banyś, the rector of the Silesian University and Prof. Władysław Miodunka, the director of the JU Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World. Then the closest collaborators of Prof. Świątkowska expressed their wishes for her and the culmination of all these speeches was the words of Prof. Kazimierz Korus presenting wishes in Latin.

The jubilee of Prof. Świątkowska coincided with the Meeting of the Polish Linguists-Romance Philologists organised at the Jagiellonian University on 26-27 November 2010. The meeting gathered some 70 specialists from all over Poland and two foreign guests: Prof. Kleiber from the University of Strasbourg and Prof. Alexandre Veiga from the University of Santiago de Compostela.
The opening of the Nanostructure Laboratory took place on 9 December 2010. It is a part of a larger complex, the Nanostructure and Surface Science Laboratory, which has been established within the project of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, IMRE A*STAR in Singapore. However, each apparatus has a configuration of its functional components that makes it special even within such an exceptional trio.

The Nano-Probe system

The Nano-Probe system is unique worldwide. Besides the Jagiellonian University there are only two apparatuses of similar potential in the world: one is at the Centre d’Elaboration de Matériaux et d’Etudes Structurales, CEMES, in Toulouse, and the other is at the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, IMRE A*STAR in Singapore. However, each apparatus has a configuration of its functional components that makes it special even within such an exceptional trio.

The JU Nano-Probe system

The JU Nano-Probe, made by Omicron NanoTechnology GmbH, has three basic segments: the so-called multi-probe part (4-probe scanning tunnelling microscope integrated with scanning electron microscope and hemispherical electron energy analyser), low-temperature scanning probe microscope (LT-SPM), and preparatory chamber. All three segments consist of high-quality elements and allow for incorporation of additional parts with respect to actual project requirements. Such favourable circumstances enable scientists to conduct very complicated experiments in controlled ultra-high vacuum conditions with the highest precision.

The research potentials of the JU Nanostructure Laboratory and Nanostructure Department were recognised by the European Commission that granted funds to realise the project ‘Atomic Scale and Single Molecule Logic Gate Technologies (AtMol)’ within EP7. The project was proposed by a consortium of 11 strategic partners, including the Jagiellonian University. AtMol is the only project financed within the action ‘Future Emerging Technologies Proactive Information and Communication Technologies’ (FET Proactive ICT Call 6). It is worth noticing that the research centres in Toulouse and Singapore, that hold the other two Nano-Probe systems, are also members of this consortium. Because of that the scientists of the Jagiellonian University belong to the narrow group of experts having both experience and apparatus, which allows them to conduct cutting edge experiments. Altogether such a fortunate situation places our University among worldwide leading centres engaged in nanostructure research and gives the staff and students of the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science opportunities to use this unique apparatus in achieving the highest-ranking results.

Jakub Prauzner-Bechcicki
The Jagiellonian University celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Professors’ House named after Stanisław Pigoń on 10 January 2011. The solemn meeting was an occasion to reflect on the history of the building, to recollect the eminent figure of Prof. Stanisław Pigoń and to see the newly refurbished floor of the guest house.

History of the building

A short history of the building was presented by Prof. Krzysztof Stopka from the JU Archives. Let us mention the most important facts. In 1842 the Senate of the Free City of Kraków agreed to move students to St Barbara’s University Residence at 8 Mały Rynek. This building belonged to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, whose centre in Miechów was about to be closed. The location was to be a temporary solution but students remained there till 1909. The building was dilapidating and the University was looking for another place. Two foundations: of Łukasz Jakubowski (d. 1886), court council and judge of the supreme court, and of Kazimierz Ramult, provided financial support to buy a plot of land and then construct a university hall of residence. In 1905 the JU Senate thought of buying a plot located at 7a Garbarska Street. The means of these two foundations were to cover the purchase, which took place on 9 April 1906. The Senate established a committee to construct a new building at that location. The project of the building was approved in 1907-08 by the Senate. In the meantime St Barbara’s college was sold to the Jesuits and according to the contract 150,000 crowns was to cover the new construction. The new hall of residence was completed in August 1909 and the solemn dedication of the building was held on 11 December 1909. On that day the Charitable Association of the University Residence (then changed into the Society of the University Residence) was called into being. Its first president was Tadeusz Browicz, his deputy was August Witkowski, and the secretary – Tomasz Janiszewski. The senior (superior) of the University Residence was Prof. Kazimierz Żorawski till 1919, who was the last senior at 8 Mal Rynek.

During the First World War the building served as an army hospital.

The refugees from Eastern Galicia were placed there. Students returned to the building in 1919. Besides them there were new lodgers: scientists and administration officers of the Jagiellonian University. The building also housed the School of Political Sciences and the Agricultural College.

In December 1931 the JU Senate appointed Stanisław Pigoń a senior of the university residence. In 1932 the Senate granted him an apartment there. Pigoń was the senior till 1949. During
World War II, in spring 1940, the housing department gave the building to the Committee for Polish Refugees. In 1942 the building was a temporary headquarters of Wehrmacht but the building was administered by the higher school curator (Hochschukurator). After the liberation on 23 January 1945 the first session of the Jagiellonian University was held there because the building of Collegium Novum was destroyed. The building was inhabited by students of various institutions of higher education in Kraków. Then the building was given to the Kraków Technical University. Only on 2 June 1959 the Kraków Technical University returned the building to its proper owner – the Jagiellonian University. At that time the building housed a medical centre, a canteen and apartments for junior scholars. The building was in bad condition.

On 5 March 1969 the JU Senate decided to name the building after Stanisław Pigoń. In the 1970s the building was completely renovated. Since then it housed various units: a medical centre, Professors’ Hotel, Institute of Polish Immigrants’ Studies, the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture, the Institute of European Studies and International Fulbright Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

**Prof. Stanisław Pigoń**

Stanisław Pigoń was born on 27 September 1885 in Kombornia near Krosno. During 1906-1912 he studied Polish literature at the Jagiellonian University. Then he taught Polish and Latin in schools. During World War I he fought in three fronts: French, Belgian and Italian until 1918. From 1918-19 he fought in the Polish Army. After the war he was an associate professor at the University of Poznań, which had just been founded. He worked there for only one year as he volunteered to the Polish Army to fight against the Bolsheviks. He was awarded several military distinctions for his service.

In March 1921 he had a habilitation colloquium at the Jagiellonian University. In the years 1921-30 he was a Professor of Polish Literature at the Stefan Batory University of Vilnius and in the years 1927-28 – its rector. In 1931 he left Vilnius and won the contest for Professor of Polish Literature at the Jagiellonian University. He was one of the professors of Karol Wojtyła (later Pope John Paul II) when the latter began his studies at the JU in 1938. After the Nazis had seized Kraków on 6 November 1939 Prof. Pigoń was arrested together with 183 scholars (Sonderaktion Krakau) and sent to the camp of Sachsenhausen where he spent three months. In 1941 he began teaching clandestine courses at the JU. In 1945 he began reconstructing the Institute of Polish Literature at the JU. Soon afterwards he suffered from the communist persecutions and was forced to retire in 1961. He died on 18 December 1968 while working on a dissertation of the third part of Mickiewicz’s ‘Forefathers’ Eve’ (Dziady).

His scientific output was enormous – 1,200 publications. He edited the works of the Polish eminent men of letters: Adam Mickiewicz, Aleksander Fredro, Stefan Żeromski and Władysław Orkan. He educated numerous specialists in Polish literature. His students included Prof. Czesław Zgorzelski, Prof. Irena Sławińska and Prof. Tadeusz Ulewicz. Prof. Pigoń had a special relationship with Karol Wojtyła. He saw the performances of all Wojtyła’s plays. And Cardinal Wojtyła conducted the funeral ceremony of Prof. Pigoń in 1968.

It was Prof. Franciszek Ziejka, former JU Rector and a student of Prof. Pigoń, that presented the figure of Prof. Stanisław Pigoń during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Stanisław Pigoń Professors’ House.

**Stanislaw Pigoń Professors’ House today**

Currently, the Stanisław Pigoń Professors’ House is one of the two JU guest houses. It is situated in the historical heart of Kraków, close to the JU headquarters. It overlooks the beautiful garden of the Carmelite monastery. It can accommodate 48 guests in 18 single rooms, 12 double rooms and 3 suites. There is also a room for disabled guests, a conference room for 45 people and a lift. Each room has a bathroom, telephone, radio and alarm clock and satellite TV. The guesthouse offers access to the Internet. There is also a small restaurant and car parking.

The building also houses the JU School of Polish Language and Culture and the Centre for European Studies.

Prof. Ziejka recollecting Prof. Pigoń

M. Kantor

based on the texts of Prof. K. Stopka and Prof. F. Ziejka
In the ranking organised by the independent German institution monitoring European universities — the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE), the Jagiellonian university’s faculty of chemistry was distinguished in the Excellence Group. European universities from 19 countries were selected for the CHE Excellence Ranking on the basis of up to eight research and internationalisation indicators. The results of the ranking were published in ‘Die Zeit’ on 28 October 2010.

The faculties offering Master’s and PhD programmes in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics were surveyed. The CHE Ranking is conducted in two stages. In the preliminary stage all faculties offering the above-mentioned Master’s and PhD majors are evaluated. Eight indicators are considered: number of publications, number of quotations, Marie Curie projects, reputation of the employed scientists, staff and student mobility and participation in the Erasmus Mundus Programme. The best faculties are selected for the second stage.

In the 2010 CHE Ranking, among 68 faculties of chemistry in the Excellence Group the JU Faculty of Chemistry was awarded in 10 categories, which is the best result of all faculties in Poland. The other Polish faculties of chemistry listed in the ranking were from Warsaw University, Wrocław University and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

In their student surveys the JU master’s and PhD students of chemistry evaluated highly the organisation of studies, competence and collaboration with their teachers, workshops and laboratories, which allowed them to achieve good grades on tests and examinations.

Alicja Rafalska-Lasocha

Medical development in Europe

Within the semester break of the academic year 2010/2011 a group of 34 Polish-Swedish-Italian medical students (16 Swedes, 12 Poles and 6 Italians) began an unforgettable journey of exploring their scientific and cultural backgrounds. The course called ‘Medical Development in Europe’ is an annual 3-week exchange programme between three major medical schools: Karolinska Institutet of Stockholm, the Jagiellonian University Medical College and Università degli Studi di Cagliari. The students spend a week in each city attending clinical rotations and lectures in English. Moreover, students have a week at their home universities where they do their best to introduce their environments to others. The course offers a great opportunity not only to attend lectures conducted by the best specialists in each region but also allows discovering the attractiveness of Northern, Central-Eastern and Southern Europe.

As the first part started at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, the students were impressed by the place where the Nobel prizes are awarded. They could learn a large part of Swedish history by visiting the enormous Vasa Museum, with the glorious 17th century ship. After visiting the University Clinics all the foreign students were impressed with how the medical system in Sweden
was organised and how friendly the wards seemed, making patients feel more comfortable. The biggest surprise was the hospitality of Prof. Hans Gyllenhammar, a living proof that the cold northern climate could be connected with the most cordial personality.

The next part of the course was held at the second oldest university in Central Europe – the Jagiellonian University. The city of Kraków is full of legends, symbols and beautiful traits introduced to students in a lecture presented by their colleagues. The students could breathe the Polish history while visiting the Wawel Castle, the treasure of the Polish culture, or during the dinner in the Zodiac Chamber of the JU Medical Faculty, a representative hall where all the distinguished professors often meet.

The possibility to see a live broadcast from the operating theatre showing an operation on the open heart was an unforgettable experience for everyone.

The last part of the course took place in Cagliari, the largest city in Sardinia. Charming narrow streets, the smell of spring in the air and green palms at every corner, bathing in pure sunshine, made it impossible to believe that it was the middle of January. Apart from walking along the seashore and trying delicious Italian food everyone was looking forward to the culmination of the course – a gorgeous presentation. Divided into six multinational groups, during the three weeks, the students were gathering various issues concerning the health situation in Europe, which they were to present.

The course showed all the students that regardless of their nationalities they had a lot in common: plans, dreams and hopes. Medicine seems to be the kind of language that enables complete strangers to communicate; a language that everywhere is spoken a little bit differently although one can learn much about these differences. The entire course was a priceless experience, expanding horizons in numerous aspects, all of them discussed in a friendly manner. As Frank Zappa said, ‘The mind is like a parachute, it works only when it is open.’

Alina Sobczak & Anna Horbaczewska,
JU Medical College
This year marks the bicentenary of the establishment of an independent library of the Jagiellonian University’s Medical Faculty. The idea of establishing the Medical Library was born in a particular time, not only for the university, but for Kraków in general as well as for the so-called West Galicia region led by Fr. Józef Poniatowski. It was the gift of Emeritus Professor Rafał Czerwiakowski, which included books, surgical equipment and drawings that is seen today as the symbolic event that initiated the first stage of the medical library’s existence 200 years ago. On 15 December 1810, he declared he would donate his extensive collection to the Faculty of Medicine.

On 9 December 2010 the Jagiellonian University’s Medical Library celebrated its 200th anniversary. To honour this occasion, jubilee celebrations were held at the library on 9-10 December. The medical library organised an exhibition called ‘Looking at the Past. Collections-People-Events’ which opened on 11 December. Coincidently, the jubilee was also the time that the Medical Library celebrated the completion of a Polish-Norwegian project called ‘MedLibTrain,’ a Polish-Norwegian contribution to the process of levelling the competency of health librarians-teachers in Europe. On this special occasion, both the Polish and Norwegian teams were invited to a piano concert held in the aula of Collegium Novum on the evening of 9 December.

The MedLibTrain Project Dissemination Conference took place on the following day at the JU Medical Library. The fruit of this two-year long collaboration was the publication of a handbook on how to become a better teacher of health information skills, in two languages Polish and English, the editors of which were Barbara Niedzwiedzka of the Jagiellonian University’s Institute of Public Health and Irene Hunskar of Haraldsplass Deaconess University College. The speakers recounted their personal and unique experiences with the process of ‘co-writing,’ shedding some light on the benefits and also the difficulties of collective writing in open access spirit. By the time of the Norwegian team’s arrival to Kraków, the handbooks had been printed, and one more chapter in the book of long-term and continuous international co-operation between the Jagiellonian university and foreign institutions had been written. But not without looking back, with much gratitude and humour, ‘Thank you for your review and suggestions. I will be sure to include them in my next draft!’

Maya Boncza-Nowak
The Kraków Medical Society met at a solemn session to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. It has been a long standing tradition to hold celebrations connected with the events of World War II towards the end of January referring to the liberation of the concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau and for the last several years referring to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January) established by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

During the scientific session, held on 25 January 2011 and presided over by the President of the Krakow Medical Society Prof. Igor Gościński, the medals of the Founder of the Society Prof. Kremer were conferred on the JU Vice-Rector for Collegium Medicum Prof. Wojciech Nowak and the veteran of Auschwitz Dr. Wiktor Krzyżanowski. Prof. Nowak reflected on the tragic past, the effects of which have lasted till now. In turn, I presented several dozen photographs showing the occupied city. These included the pictures of the Wawel Castle, which was the headquarters of Governor-General Hans Frank, showing the anniversaries of the NSDAP (National Socialist German Workers’ Party) celebrated in the courtyard; the photos of the Main Square decorated with the swastika flags on the occasion of renaming the Square into ‘Adolf Hitler Platz’ and the photos of the successive anniversaries of the creation of the Nazi General Government in occupied Poland. The photos of the aula of Collegium Novum (the venue of the session) showing the Nazis officers and representatives of the Polish intelligentsia discussing how to defeat the resistance movement were very moving.

The actress Beata Rybotycka read touching fragments from the book...
On 10-11 December 2010, the 7th Symposium 'Progress in immunosuppression in vascular organ transplantation' was held in Kraków. It was organised by the Polish Transplantation Society and the Transplantation and Nephrology Clinic of Warsaw Medical University.

During the four sessions of the symposium transplantologists focused on contemporary trends in immunosuppressive treatment taking into account the specificity of the different vascular organs, new immunosuppressive drugs and methods of monitoring immunosuppressive therapy. They paid special attention to the acute and chronic transplant rejections dependent on antibodies, showing interesting clinical cases (e.g., immunological tolerance after kidney transplantation, changes in coronary artery in transplanted heart or rejection in transplanted kidney) and shared their experiences. There was also a poster session.

The symposium was a place of sharing opinions and deepening medical knowledge with the aim to optimize the immunosuppressive treatment and improve the effects of transplantations.

As the symposium was held during the Chopin Year the participants could listen to the music of the genial Romantic composer who was described, ‘Chopin does not play like the others; he seems to have his every note proceed from his sight to his soul and only his soul pours the notes in his fingers.’

(jod)
It is quite natural that our life perspective is that of the here and now, hic and nunc. Let us add another Latin Word: ego. We are naturally egocentric, concentrated on ourselves, and concentrated on what is close to us in space and time. And this goes for individuals, as well as for groups. Hence apart from egocentrism senso stricto, its more collective varieties are also known, such as parochialism, provincialism, ethnocentrism or eurocentrism.

Let us consider the last on the list. Imagine that we ask ourselves for any free associations that ‘Europe’ might evoke within us. The freer those associations, the closer they would be to what these three Latin words – hic, nunc and ego – lead us to expect. Individually, these associations may range over experiences as different as the smell of coffee in an Italian café, or a deep conversation somewhere in the streets of Kraków. Collectively, we might also come up with topics that are on the agenda of ‘official’ European discussion: things having to do with immigrants, the economic recession or the figure of Thilo Sarrazin and his attitude is not that easy. Efforts are required that we are not ready to make. Some of you may remember that page in Rituals, Cees Nooteboom’s bestseller, where Inni Winthrop, the main character, confronted in an antique shop with Far Eastern Buddhas, Japanese prints and tea bowls, simply refuses to go further than mere aesthetic contemplation of these objects. And the justification is telling: to try to penetrate into the deeper meaning of these objects would require another life. The accidental fact of being born at a given moment and at a given place bars him – he thinks – from this foreign world.

Do not be afraid, though: I am not going to offer you yet another critique of egocentrism and to praise the numerous amenities of the opposite attitude. Moralists have done this for many centuries, to no, or to little, avail. Why? Perhaps because there is something fundamentally sound about egocentrism – or so some may say. In the final account, the vast majority of things that are vitally important to us take place in that part of the world which these three dimensions of hic, nunc and ego define. Maybe egocentrism is just a version of a more general principle, called ‘minimax,’ that tells us to strive at the most minimal cost possible for maximal effects, a principle we tend to respect not only in economic contexts.

Having said this, I would still like to persuade you to abandon egocentrism, at least to some extent and for a short while. Namely, I wish to propose that we give up eurocentrism so that we may catch a glimpse of Europe in the eyes of others. (I realise that in the case of some of you these persuasive moves are superfluous. Some of you bring in this non-European perspective on Europe quite naturally because you come from other parts of the world.) Of course, I could now supply you with many pragmatic and utilitarian arguments showing that such a non-Eurocentric attitude may benefit you after all, enhance your professional career, etc. I will forego all that.

Instead, taking advantage of our situation, of our being now here, at the heart of an academic institution, I prefer to say simply that such a change of perspective is immensely interesting.
“the backward cultural features of Latin American society” (Gracia, 141).

It is owing to these features that the situation of the Latin American region, despite its political independence, remains so disadvantageous when compared with Europe or North America. The sources of this backwardness are twofold: first, the remnants of the Spanish colonial culture, of no use in the modern world; and second, equally useless in this world, are the cultural resources of the local, indigenous population. If Latin America wants to catch up with the modern world, these cultural elements should be removed. It is necessary to thoroughly transform Latin American and their culture and to adopt European and North American models and patterns. This in turn will require rapid industrialisation of the region. Mass immigration of Anglo-Saxon, German and other European specialists and workers will be instrumental in bringing about these changes.

This programme of rapid technological and civilisational change was developed by Alberdi’s contemporaries Domingo Faustino Sarmiento and José Victoriano Lastarria. Many Latin American positivists acted as well for progress and the civilisation of the “backward features.” But soon different voices were heard. Belonging to the next generation, the Uruguayan José Enrique Rodó (1872-1917) questioned this programme. He regarded the world of technological civilisation and mass politics invading Latina America from Europe and North America as a menace for the authentic, spiritual, subtle values that Latin America still preserved. Taking recourse to the opposition made popular by Shakespeare’s “Tempest” he said that Europe and North America is on the side of Caliban. Latin America’s vocation is to follow Ariel. His influential work was, of course, entitled “Ariel.”

Still differently Alberdi and the Latin American positivists were opposed by the Mexican politician and intellectual José Vasconcelos (1882-1959). In his famous essay “La Raza Cósmica,” what Alberdi disqualified as Latin American weakness, Vasconcelos saw as extremely valuable for the entire humankind. He maintains that thanks to the famous Latin-American mixture of various ethnic, racial, and cultural elements, a kind of universal ‘synthesis’ – the raza cósmica – may emerge that will harmoniously unite whatever is of value in mankind’s legacy. This cosmic race will find ways to overcome the limitations of various stages of human history, especially the limitations of European and North American culture.

The strongest impact on the relation between Europe and Latin America is certainly the Second World War. The Latin Americans have seen it as an abdication of Europe, of European culture. One of the first diagnoses of this sort came from the Mexican philosopher Leopoldo Zea. In 1942 he wrote an essay “En torno a una filosofia Americana.” He says there that Latin America till the setback of the war lived safely under the shadow of the European culture. And now those who have believed in it face a vacuum, the values of the European culture turn into artefacts, useless and meaningless. Latin Americans are like somebody who lived under a shadow of a tree he himself did not plant. Now the tree has been felled by a person who had planted it. The conclusion is: we have to plant our own tree; we have to create our own ideas. (Ahora tiene que plantir sua propio arbol cultural, hacer sus propios ideas...)

Our second example will be an occasion to recall some of the positions we encounter in Russian philosophy and political thought with regard to the questions concerning the relation between Russia and Europe. Some may protest: there is an obvious error in this formulation because Russia is simply part of Europe. But on the other hand, the fact is that this question, ‘does Russia belong to Europe or is Russia rather an entity sui generis’ is, if not the basic question of Russian thought, then at least one of the basic questions Russian classical thought and its post-Soviet variety asks.

The practical import of that question was fully realized in Russia because of the reforms of Tsar Peter I (1682-1725). These reforms aimed at rapid, compulsory and thorough Europeanisation of many aspects of Russia. Peter I wanted to transform Russia into a strong power that would count in the concert of European powers. Europeanisation was his means to this end.

The intellectual import of this question was first quite clearly expressed by Petr Chaadaev (1794-1856). Chaadaev’s main thesis to be found in his “Philosophical Letters” especially in the first one, published in 1836 is that history of Russia is in many respects different from the history of European nations. Because of the “Tartar Yoke” Russia was mainly deprived of that phase of national development that Chaadaev calls “the youth/adolescence of a nation.” This is the formative time when a given nation finds its traditions and lays the foundations of its identity. The consequences of that gap are serious: Russia’s cultural and civilisational backwardness may be largely explained by this historical peculiarity. By referring to it Chaadaev tries to explain some features of Russian life such as...
superficiality and imitative character of many products of Russian culture or the absence of respect for elementary principles and rules in everyday life. Russia may catch up with the main current of European history only on the condition that the achievements of other nations will truly be adopted. Peter I had shown the way.

Chaadaev’s position is qualified as “Zapadechestvo” or Occidentalism. The opposite stance, called “Slavophilism” was elaborated by Ivan Kireevsky (1806-1856) and Aleksey Khomjakov (1804-1860). Slavophiles think that there is no reason to adopt European or Western models. Under the influence of Roman legal culture and its rationalism, Europe has betrayed the true spirit of Christianity. The legacy of Rome is also responsible for extreme individualism. All that has disastrous consequences for religious and social life. Western religiosity is superficial, suffused with the element of reason. Social life has disintegrated into many different domains that follow different rules. There is no communal life. The reforms of Peter I were then an error. Russia was cut off from its own roots and true Orthodox religion. Russia must follow own model: the pre-Peter epoch this tradition represented must be revived and allowed to develop.

The controversy between Occidentalism and Slavophilism became for a long time the most important divide in Russian thinking. Sometimes, however, one has the impression that this thinking set out to explore all the possible positions vis-à-vis Europe. In this exercise elements of Occidentalism or slavophilism or at best a critical assessment of both is often essential. Here are several examples. A brilliant Russian poet Fyodor Tyutchev (1803-1873) was also a diplomat and a political thinker, the main element of his doctrine was an outright imperialism. Here is very briefly his argument. The West has betrayed not only Christianity but also another idea: the imperial idea. All the Western attempts at a restoration of the Roman Empire, from Charlemagne to Napoleon, were usurpations. The Roman Empire endured until the mid-15th century in Byzantium. The only legal inheritor of Byzantium is Russia. Hence, Russia is called for the maintenance of the imperial idea and its development. This is why Tyutchev spins grand scale imperial plans for Russia. Its confines should include lands from the Elbe to China, reach as far as the Euphrates, Ganges and Danube. One of the capitals of Russia should be Constantinople.

The main representative of a still different position called Panslavism is Nikolay Danilevsky (1822-1185) the author of a very influential book “Russia and Europe” (S. Petersburg 1869). His main thesis was that Russia as the leader of all the Slavs should create a strong state as a tool of natural expansion. Russians and other Slavs are called to create a separate, new type of civilisation that will effectively oppose the Roman-German West. There is no simple, all-human history. There are only histories (in plural) of different cultural and historical types or civilisations. These are like the Leibnitz monads: they have no windows: that is, they are completely separate, irreducible to each other. Hence there is no general progress. The notion of progress can only hinder historical-cultural types that are obeying the most important principle of nature: that of struggle. Does this sound familiar? Yes, it does: Oswald Spengler and Samuel Huntington owe much to Danilevsky.

Towards the end of the 19th century, one of the most talented Russian thinkers, Vladimir Solovyov (1853-1900) put forth a bold plan. There is only one way to end the Orthodox-Catholic conflict: radical concessions are necessary. The Orthodox Church should accept Papal authority in religious matters. At the political level, this spiritual unification should be mirrored by a unification of all European states under the guidance and sovereign authority of the one and only emperor – the Tsar of Russia.

Our final example: in the early 20s of the 20th century, Russian émigrés, especially those living in Prague, endorsed a movement called Eurasianism. Once again Russia is given a special role in human history. But this time the main argument is different: this special role follows from some natural, geopolitical necessity. By that necessity Russia is a leader of a huge mass of land, a whole continent that is neither Europe nor Asia but Eurasia. Eurasia, being an emanation of this huge mass of land and its diverse ethnic elements, by the same necessity has to oppose the other part of the world – the West – that derives its force from ruling over oceans and seas, i.e. over huge masses of water. As we see, the argument is literally ‘elementary.’ The initiator of this movement, Prince Nikolai Trubetzkoy (1890-1938), better known as a distinguished linguist, one of the founders of structuralism called for the final shutting off of Western dominance. “Having freed ourselves from the Tatar yoke, we must throw off the European yoke” (Eurasia. 1827).

Of course, Tyutchev’s line was continuously present in Russian culture, too. Many thinkers, writers, composers, painters, etc. Herzen, Turgieniev, Shostakovich, Brodsky, prolonged that line in many different and subtle ways.

Instead of a conclusion, let me offer the following quote from a very personal manifesto by Brodsky, another plea for practicing the art of viewing things through the eyes of others.

To Please a Shadow, p.138
Children’s University
at JU Faculty of Chemistry

In October 2010 the JU Faculty of Chemistry organised a series of lessons in chemistry for the Children’s University. These activities are to inspire children to deepen their interests in the sciences and to create a friendly atmosphere around chemistry that is present in our daily lives.

The Children’s University was created in Kraków in 2007 by the PAIDAIA Foundation. Its workshops and lectures are held at various universities all over Poland. Currently, there are over 1,000 children-students at the age of 6-12 enrolled in the Children’s University. According to the idea of this university classes are conducted by scientists and students can volunteer to help.

In May 2009 the JU Faculty of Chemistry conducted workshops entitled ‘How much magic in chemistry, how much chemistry in magic’ for children, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Małgorzata Krzeczkowska from the Chemistry Didactics Department. Little students changed themselves into chemists, wearing uniforms, rubber gloves and indispensable protective glasses. They got to know pictograms that they could see laboratories and commonly used products. Then they conducted simple chemical experiments and learned what a chemist’s work involved.

‘The children enjoyed playing detectives very much. They could use invisible ink, read the invisible texts placed over a candle flame and copy documents. The youngest ‘students’ were delighted to see colourful foam. And the chemical garden evoked admiration of both parents and children,’ Dr. Krasodomska said.

Pre-school children were guests at the Children’s University, too. During the workshop ‘C like candy, L like lemon – playing hide-and-seek with vitamin C’ children learned what a young chemist should know about vitamin C and they played hide-and-seek with this vitamin in various food products. Naturally, candies and juice from cardboard boxes lost in the contest of high content of Vitamin C with fresh fruit juice. ‘Children were excited to play games, especially those in which they could conduct experiments themselves. Their parents were curious to observe the experiments and could not believe their kids were as successful as chemists,’ Dr. Krasodomska said.

‘The academic year 2008/09 ended with a lecture of Dr. Magdalena Kurdziel from Inorganic Chemistry Department during which students-volunteers conducted chemical experiments. The Children’s University has been opened in the present academic year. We have ca. 220 children at the age of 7-9. This year’s topic is ‘With acids and alkalis around us.’ Our children accompanied by students helped discover various chemical substances using acid-alkali indicators,’ Dr. Krzeczkowska said.

‘We hope that it is not our last meeting with the participants of the Children’s University. We are counting on them to come to us in the future, this time as real students of chemistry,’ said Prof. Grażyna Stochel, Dean of the JU Faculty of Chemistry.

Alicja Rafalska-Łasocha
Opened in 2005 the Jagiellonian Language Centre is an inter-faculty unit at the Jagiellonian University. Its main task is to teach foreign languages to JU students. The didactic staff of the JLC embraces ca. 120 teachers. Every year they teach almost 9,000 regular students and some 500 people in fee-paying language courses.

The Centre organises courses of 13 languages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Lithuanian, Chinese, Latin, Japanese, Swedish, New Greek and Esperanto.

The knowledge of languages opens doors to new cultures and challenges. That’s why the Jagiellonian Language Centre does not only teach languages and also enriches their courses with various modern didactic aids and original texts that take into account the profile of particular studies.

Trying to meet our students’ needs the Centre organises special modules, first of all directed to doctoral students, including:

1. ENGLISH
   - Reality Reflected in Literature and Life,
   - Legal English,
   - English for Natural Sciences,
   - Academic Writing,
   - Business English,
   - English for Research Paper Writing.

2. GERMAN
   - Deutsch für Juristen,
   - Wirtschaftsdeutsch für fortgeschrittene,
   - Deutsche Mediensprache.

3. FRENCH
   - Legal French.

4. RUSSIAN
   - Business Russian.

The JLC has also prepared specialist courses for Bachelor’s and Master’s students in astronomy, environmental sciences, law and chemistry. Furthermore, the Centre conducts special courses for disabled students in the hall with the latest audio-visual equipments in the JU Office for Disability Students.

In November 2008 the Jagiellonian Language Centre won the contest European Language Label organised by the European Commission. The certificate European Language Label is an award for promoting pioneering initiatives concerning teaching and learning foreign languages. The awarded project was a book for computer science students ‘English++ for Computer Science Students.’ The project was invented and conducted by Mrs Monika Stawicka, a senior lecturer of English, together with a group of fourth year students of computer sciences at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science who attended language courses at the JLC.

Besides didactic activities the Centre publishes a language series ‘Zeszyty Glottodydaktyczne Jagiellońskiego Centrum Językowego’ and other publications related to teaching foreign languages. In October 2010 it published a textbook entitled ‘Gija’ to teach Lithuanian, prepared by Mrs Greta Lemanaitè-Deprati. It is the first publication of this type in the Polish market.

Dr. Irena Polańska
New Frontiers in Interventional Cardiology

On 3 December 2010, within the framework of the 11th International Cardiology Workshop ‘New Frontiers in Interventional Cardiology – NFIC 2010,’ which gathered over 1,500 specialists from all over the world, there was a forum on ‘how to live in a healthier way and how to prevent heart and vascular diseases according to the latest medical knowledge’ with the participation of specialists in cardiology, invasive cardiology and cardio surgery as well as journalists.

The Interventional Cardiology Workshops in Kraków are scientific meetings focusing on interventional treatment of cardiovascular diseases and strokes, gathering cardiologists and healthcare professionals. This area of cardiology is undergoing very rapid development in our part of Europe. Our goal is to match this development with an intense, educational effort at the highest professional level possible.

The panel discussion was initiated by Prof. Piotr Podolec who spoke on preventive intervention and treatment – taken together. He reminded the panellists that five years ago eight scientific associations formed the Polish Forum for Prevention Guidelines on Cardiovascular Diseases (www.pfp.edu.pl) to treat the problem of prevention of these diseases in an interdisciplinary way. ‘If in Poland strokes are the first reason for disability of people over 40 the development of sclerosis appears in childhood and eight million people suffer from hypertension, these are the reasons for which we must work together,’ Prof. Podolec stressed. Despite the fact that invasive cardiology decreased the mortality rate from 30% to 5% the mortality and morbidity rate within two years after heart attacks and intervention still amounts to 20%. Why does this happen? The most important thing is the patient’s awareness, which is still very insufficient. The statistics say that 26% begin treatment with much delay, only 5% show all symptoms of heart diseases and 1/3 of the citizens of Kraków do not know the emergency number. As many as 30% of the patients who had heart attacks stop using double anti-thrombotic therapy,’ Prof. Podolec continued.

In turn, Ass. Prof. Dariusz Dudek admitted that although invasive cardiologists had been very effective to introduce the programme ‘Stent for life,’ problems appear in further therapy after heart attacks. The patients that undergo invasive treatment, which itself is spectacular, think that they are healthy. They stop taking drugs after several months or even weeks, stop coming for medical check-ups and fail to lead a pro-health lifestyle.

Another problem is the aging of the society, which Prof. Waldemar Banasiak, the President of the Polish Cardiac Society, mentioned. Responding to this issue Prof. Jerzy Stańczyk from the Polish Paediatric Society, stressed that when speaking about prevention among old people we forgot that the problem began in childhood. Sclerosis changes occur at the age of 12-14. The recent epidemiological research conducted on 25,000 children show that ca. 23% of them have problems with obesity. ‘And this is a group of your future patients. We repeat certain stages of the developed countries. Children use improper food, spend too much time before computers and do fewer and fewer exercises. 6% suffer from metabolic problems. They smoke. Our role as paediatric cardiologists is to change these habits but this is also the task of parents and teachers. But actually nobody deals with this problem and the National Health Fund does nothing with that,’ Prof. Stańczyk said.

The number of children suffering from hypertension has increased. According to Prof. Kalina Kawecka-Jaszcz from the First Cardiac and Hypertension Department of the Jagiellonian University, all actions concerning the limitation of salt usage and creation of a network of counselling centres for children and youth with hypertension are very important to the Polish Society of Hypertension. The rehabilitation after surgeries should embrace educational programmes because all patients should know what is most important for their full recoveries: 30 minute exercises a day and controlling their weight. And theoretically, we can achieve an 80% decrease in mortality from ischemic heart diseases and strokes.

At the end of the workshop Prof. Jerzy Sadowski encouraged the participants to make new initiatives for patients. ‘In our clinic we have founded the Association of Heart-Operated Patients SONS (www.szpitaljp2.krakow.pl/sons) that embraces ca. 600-700 people who meet once a week. We organise educational lectures and trainings for them. For some patients it is shocking that they cannot continue their routine lives, that they must care for their health. Meeting various people I am sometimes invited to business environments. I tell them that they are all fantastic, can create business plans and must think about their health. Make a good business plan for your health, too!’ Joanna Depa

The occasion to remind the academic community of the figure of President Ronald Reagan and to reflect on his politics, economic policy and legacy was the 100th anniversary of the 40th American President’s birthday, which fell on 6 February 2011. The conference was opened by the US Consul in Kraków Benjamin Ousley Naseman and the former leader of the Trade Union ‘Solidarity’ in Katowice Andrzej Rozpłochowski.

During the first panel dedicated to politics and political thought Dr. Magdalena Modrzejewska presented the critic of Reagan from the libertarian point of view, i.e., the increase in state expenses during his presidency. Rafał Olszowski sketched the context in which the American conservatism was formed from the post-war period to Reagan’s times and the most important thinkers that functioned in this conservatism. Prof. Andrzej Bryk contrasted the presently prevailing moral and political convictions in the western world with the values defended by the American conservatives; he also evaluated them, which aroused a real enthusiasm of the public.

The second panel focused on economic issues. The speakers included Szymon Chrupczalski from the Ludwig von Mises Institute, Paweł Toboła-Pertkiewicz, the deputy President of the Polish-American Foundation for Economic Research and Education, and Prof. Wojciech Bienkowski, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management at Łazarski University. The first speaker showed the economic and economic-political aspects of Reagan’s presidency, which focused on the disintegration of the communist system in the U.S.S.R. The second speaker stressed the economic programme of Reagan’s administration (Reaganomics) and the positive effects (not only economic) that it brought for the Americans. The third speaker compared the detailed analyses of Keynesian economics and Reaganomics, illustrating them with contemporary examples and connecting them with concrete political circles.

The longest third panel concerned the figure and influence of President Reagan. It gathered four special speakers. Prof. Bohdan Szklarski, a specialist in American studies from the University of Warsaw, showed a positive public image Reagan enjoyed, contrasting it with the internal difficulties of the White House giving the example of the Iran-Contra affair. I, the conference co-ordinator and translator of the newly published spiritual biography of Ronald Reagan into Polish (God and Ronald Reagan. A Spiritual Life by Paul Kengor), from the JU Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, sketched the phenomenon of the meetings and collaboration between Reagan and John Paul II on the historical background of the relationships between the US Presidents and the Popes. Dr. Paweł Laidler from the JU Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora spoke about the stability and fragility of Reagan’s nominations in the Supreme Court and their influences on forming the jurisdiction and American political culture. Dr. Radosław Rybkowski (also from the JU Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora) showed an interesting situation of those American universities that decided to remain independent from the state programmes, regulations and finances that was connected with that.

Each panel was followed by debates on various problems. Besides opinions showing the great value of Reagan’s presidency and his influence on political and economic freedom in Europe there were critical remarks concerning some of his activities, which made the conference dynamic and evoked deep reflections. The conference itself like the figure of President Reagan enjoyed great attention of the audience and the media.

Piotr Musiewicz
Ronald Reagan was the 40th President of the United States (1981-1989). He was born in Tampico in Illinois in 1911 and educated at Eureka College. He began his career as an actor in Hollywood (the most famous film he acted was Knute Rockne, All American) and then he worked as a spokesman for General Electric. Reagan joined the Republican Party in 1962 and thanks to his rhetorical skills he quickly became its major figure. Reagan became the governor of California in 1967 and the President of the United States in 1981.

In his politics he emphasized moral values such as financial, political and religious freedom. He was a committed Christian and emphasized the role of religion in public life as well as in the American tradition. His economy that greatly lowered the taxes of the Americans was called ‘Reaganomics.’ He was known as an invincible opponent of the Soviet Union. Reagan was the first American President to use strong language against Communism (in his famous ‘Evil Empire’ speech he called Communism ‘evil’). Reagan greatly supported the Polish Solidarity movement (morally and even financially) and co-operated in that with Pope John Paul II. One of his aims was to help pull down the Berlin Wall, which he fulfilled. R. Reagan died in 2004.

On 17th December 2010 a conference on the subject of ‘Global Transformations: Culture, Politics, Economy’ was held on the initiative of the Department of International Cultural Studies of the Institute of Regional Studies, the Faculty of International and Political Studies at the Jagiellonian University. The conference, which took place at the University Campus, was organised by Professor Tadeusz Paleczny, Monika Banaś, PhD and Joanna Dziadowiec, MA.

The theme of the conference was inspired by the events that occurred in the first decade of the 21st century, providing tangible evidence of intensive ongoing transformations of cultural, political and economic character, related both to individuals and entire communities.

To understand the modern world and its possible future shape, it is vital to seek answers to questions about the cause, nature as well as short- and long-term consequences of certain important events. These are, for example, Barack Obama’s successful bid for the office of the President of the United States, the global financial crisis of 2007 and a consequent destabilization of the Greek and Icelandic economies, development and strengthening of socio-political movements aiming at integration in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia and at the same time clearly manifested separatist attitudes, e.g., in Canada, Spain, Belgium, Georgia or the Philippines. Mass migrations and the resulting problems of immigrant assimilation in the host countries as well as social changes occurring due to the influence of these cross-cultural interactions would also fall in the domain of phenomena significantly shaping our future social, political, cultural and economic reality. These and many other similar issues became debate topics, bringing together representatives of various fields of study and resulting in a multidisciplinary approach.

The Dean of the Faculty of International and Political Studies Professor Bogdan Szlachta and the Head of the Institute of Regional Studies Professor Tadeusz Paleczny opened the
The economic sessions were dedicated to the debates on the challenges present in the modern global economy, namely capitalism, the shift of the management powers from the level of national governments to the level of transnational corporations, currency as the instrument of foreign policy, growing role of rural areas in the economic development, the issue of population growth connected to the economic development of specific regions, Europeanization of the labour market policies in the new member and candidate states of the EU, the effects of the energy gap and the global warming on economic growth and environment pollution on the world economy, the effect of the EU on the Human Development Index, public sector’s principal agent theory in the global market, the new consumerism, cultural hierarchies and comprehensive treatment of local cultures in foreign investments, accounting culture.

During the sessions on the topic of politics and culture, specific case-studies allowed for in-depth analyses of modern transformations of political systems and changes in the composition and functioning of nations. The participants also explored the issues of terrorism, wars, revolutions, ethnic conflicts, cultural aspects of crime and human rights in the postmodern world. Migration was another vital point to consider – the influence of migrants on the economy of the host country, inclusive educational initiatives helping them to assimilate, the issue of the EU citizens and labour migrants, the social and cultural capital of return migrants.

Papers delivered during the cultural sessions tackled the issues of the influence of cultural factors on the effectiveness of the cohesion policy, women in business on the local labour market, the new consumerism, cultural transformations as demonstrated by language changes and reshaping of the perception of the national symbols, the cinema, literature and art as the media revealing social, cultural and political metamorphoses. Important cultural phenomena, such as the wiki concept, volunteerism, offshoring and folk movement were also mentioned.

The diversity of the presented research perspectives is a valuable feature of a debate aiming at full and comprehensive treatment of the challenges of global reality. It requires, however, undertaking the effort of organising and systematising the conclusions. The publication of the most important papers from the international conference, being prepared by the organizers, may become an opportunity for a reflection and further discussion on the vital topic of the global transformations.

Joanna Dziadowiec, PhD student  
Kornelia Wicherek, student
the JU Institute of Regional Studies
Interfaculty Individual Studies in the Humanities

It was the Faculties of Philosophy, Philology and History that initiated the Interfaculty Studies in the Humanities (MISH) at the Jagiellonian University in the year 2001. These studies are conducted as five-year Master’s (since 2001/02) and a two-year Master’s programme (since 2010/11). It was made possible thanks to the agreement between various JU units. They are for especially talented candidates who have diversified interests in the humanities. They are a new form of studying: students themselves choose their subjects under the supervision of their tutors. They can choose from among many different courses of the JU units collaborating with MISH. Moreover, students can conduct research supervised by the JU professors. This model of studies and student-tutor relationships meet the requirements of present times and at the same time they refer to the roots of the university thought.

Thanks to the involvement of the tutors (and students’ skills) the studies in the humanities have become some kind of elitist studies preparing students for scientific work. The studies require from students large intellectual independence and skill to organise their time and consequently, it is not a programme for undecided students. Actually it is directed to those who have already defined their scientific interests. Tutors only care for the formal aspects and review the students’ plans of studies, showing them desirable elements of their work during studies.

The MISH programme assumes students’ activities as far as their mobility within various courses is concerned, based on collecting ECTS credits. This programme promotes internationalisation of studies, making students’ international mobility easier for example, by supporting their skills to work in diversified international teams. Every year students must submit reports describing their activities, including publications, participation in conferences or scholarship contests. Alumni of the programme should have profound knowledge in the humanities.

This system based on the collaboration between students and their tutors has turned out to be very motivating. Students of the interfaculty individual studies in the humanities constitute ca. 10-15% of all students who have been granted prestigious ministerial scholarships for their achievements, which is a very good result considering that only 150 out of 45,000 JU students have chosen this programme.

Moreover, MISH has prepared a special educational offer that could attract international students. It is an interdisciplinary programme in the humanities and social sciences conducted in English. Each year international students can chose from among 22 courses concerning Polish and European history, philosophy and religion, Polish literature and culture, the cultural meaning of the Holocaust, the social consequences of the Cold War, development of social and cultural relationships, psychology of culture and cultural shock, Judaic contexts of philosophy and European literature, Polish cinema, contemporary Polish audiovisual art as well as legal and political system of Poland and its role in the European Union. Thus students get to know historical facts and confront them with the common stereotypes concerning the attitudes and social phenomena in Poland and their neighbours. They can discuss these things with the peers from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Spain, Holland, Lithuanian, Latvia, Norway, Turkey, the USA and Great Britain. Thanks to that the classes are not only sources of knowledge but also new challenges both for students and lecturers. Besides theoretical classes students can participate in trips to museums, places of worship and other sites connected with Poland’s cultural heritage, which leads to their better understanding of historical processes and contemporary social phenomena.

This module is to complement studies at three levels: Bachelor, Master and Doctorate. Every year over 200 international students choose to pursue the courses in English.

Anna Stadnicka
On the occasion of the publication of Jews in Kraków, Polin, Studies in Polish Jewry, vol. 23 (ed. Michał Galas, Antony Polonsky, Oxford 2011) and the conferral of the Stanisław Musiał, SJ, Award, the scientific session entitled, ‘History of Jews in Kraków’ was organised at the Jagiellonian University in the aula of Collegium Novum on 4th March 2011. It gathered a wide representation of scientists, institutions, the Catholic Church, the Jewish Community and students who have been involved in studying the history of the Jews in Kraków and in the activities promoting good Polish-Jewish relationships.

**Scientific session “Jews in Kraków”**

Ass. Prof. Michał Galas, the JU Department of Jewish Studies, prepared and moderated the session, which was opened by Prof. Andrzej Mania, JU Vice-Rector for Didactic Affairs, who stressed the exceptional figure of Fr Musiał matching the idea that the award represented. ‘Father Musiał is remembered because of his courage, decisiveness and non-submissiveness while struggling for certain ideals. These values are also close to the Jagiellonian University.’ Moreover, he mentioned the 25th anniversary of POLIN, Studies in Polish Jewry and those whose activities for the development of Polish-Jewish dialogue the Jagiellonian University wanted to honour.

The first talk entitled ‘A special character of the modern history of Jews in Kraków’ was delivered by Prof. Antony Polonsky from Brandeis University, USA, one of the initiators of research on Polish Jewry. He initiated the publication of this volume of POLIN dedicated to Prof. Józef Gierowski and Henryk Halkowski. In his talk Prof. Polonsky stressed that very few cities evoked more cordial feelings among the Jews than Kraków. He mentioned five reasons of this love of the city:

– intensive religious activities of the Jews in Kraków: celebrations of religious feasts, constructions of several synagogues and development of a strong intellectual centre of Jewish thought;

– early Polonisation of the Jews in Kraków: Polish-speaking Jewish intelligentsia, circles of progressive and Polonised Jews; in the year 1921 40% of Jews living in Kraków declared their Polish nationality;

– political involvement of the Jews: participation in the self-government, the figure of Adolf Gross;

– democratisation of the political system and equal rights for the Jews: ca. 60,000 Jews lived in Kraków before World War II; the Jewish daily ‘Nowy Dziennik’ had the circulation of 18,000 copies; the different Jewish groups (Zionists, integrationists and the Orthodox collaborated in the Jewish Kahal and in the city council; creation of many educational and social institutions; Kraków was characterised by religious harmony among its Jews;

– relatively harmonious relationships between the Jews and non-Jews: neighbours’ relationships were much better than in other parts of Poland; there were anti-Jewish incidents, e.g. numerus clausus and fixed places for Jewish students at university. The Jagiellonian University solved this discrimination by assigning stable places for all its students.

Enculturation and Polonisation of the Jews were the causes of ethnic tensions. However, the Kraków Jews had a strong sense of community. The city was of conservative and pre-industrialised character. Despite all kinds of difficulties Kraków takes a special place in the hearts of its Jewish inhabitants. At the end of his speech Prof. Polonsky mentioned the outstanding figures of Prof. Józef Gierowski, Prof. Jan Błoński and Fr Stanisław Musiał, SJ, who played enormous roles to commemorate the Jews in Kraków. He also recited the poem of Nataniel Gross ‘Kraków autumn’ depicting the lost world of Jews in Kraków.

His talk was followed by a panel discussion with three participants: Prof. Jacek Puchla, Prof. Czesław Brozoa and Prof. Andrzej Chwalba. They all contributed to the 33rd volume of POLIN. Prof. Puchla focused on the specific character of Kraków in the background of European cities, especially Vienna, and the role of Jews in the processes of modernisation at the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries. He mentioned the Polonised Jews who played important roles in the local government: Józef Sare who was a vice-president of Kraków and Jan Zawiejski, the architect who designed the Słowacki Theatre in Kraków.

Prof. Czesław Brozoa reflected on the Jews’ activities between the wars. The population of Jews in Kraków grew rapidly in the years 1910-1939 – a 40,000 increase, due to increase in births and inflow of Jews from other parts of Poland and Europe. There was also a change of the geography of Jewish Kraków: traditionally ca. 70% of the population of the districts of Kazimierz and Stradom was Jewish but many rich and educated Jews moved to the city centre. Most of the Jews were businessmen and craftsmen. Prof. Brozoa said that there were numerous stereotyped opinions about the Polish-Jewish relationships and generally, these two communities lived in
separation – next to each other rather than together. Poles did not understand Yiddish and many Jews did not speak Polish.

Prof. Chwalba concentrated on the dark period of World War II and the post-war persecutions of the Jews. After the Nazis had entered Kraków on 6 September 1939 they wanted to get rid of its Jewish inhabitants. Governor Hans Frank thought that Jews should be expelled form the city as soon as possible. He assumed that only Germans would live in the city centre whereas Poles and Jews should be moved to the other side of the river. He introduced the compulsion of wearing David’s stars by Jews. The first phase of repressions against the Jews assumed legal, personal and property degradation and propaganda concerning the Germans (mentality of killers) and the Jews (mentality of slaves contrasting them with insects and pests). The Jews had the dilemma whether to escape to the Soviets or to go to the Germans. They believed that the Germans would not kill them as they had not exterminated Jews during World War I. The Nazis decided to create a ghetto in the Kraków district of Podgórze from where they removed 3,500 Poles on 3 March 1941. Within two weeks there were 12,000 Jews in the ghetto and the number increased to ca. 20,000. The conditions in the ghetto were terrible. In March 1942 the Nazis decided to exterminate all Jews. In 1942 they transported ca. 14,000 Jews to the death camp in Belzec. In December 1942 they began enlarging the camp in the Kraków district of Plaszów. At the same time many Cracovians helped the Jews to hide. The ‘Żegota’ Council to Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland 1942-45 helped 1,100 Jews in Kraków. Moreover, many Catholic priests, including Cardinal Sapieha, and women’s convents hid Jewish adults and children. The Kraków ghetto was liquidated on 13-14 March 1943. 2,000 Jews were killed on the spot, mainly at the Zgoda Square, which is now called the Ghetto Heroes’ Square. The remaining 3,000 were transported to the camps of Auschwitz and Plaszów. In the camp of Plaszów ca. 1,000 Jews survived thanks to Oskar Schindler who managed to transport them to other labour camps, which allowed them to stay there till the end of the war.

Prof. Chwalba stressed that describing the occupation one should use the totalitarian language. The machine of totalitarianism was supported by ruthless propaganda. After the war Jews regarded Poland a cemetery, i.e., place that one should leave. Therefore, after the war many Jews escaped from Poland, especially that there were many anti-Semitic actions. At the end of his speech Prof. Chwalba mentioned the congress of historians to be held in Kraków in 2012.

Conferral of the Stanisław Musiał, SJ, Award

The second part of the ceremony was conducted by Prof. Wiesław Kozub-Ciembroniewicz, the President of the Christians and Jews’ Club ‘Covenant’ and a professor in the JU Institute of Political Sciences and International Relationships. The Stanisław Musiał, SJ, Award was established in 2009 and is given in two categories. Its founders are the JU Rector and the President of Kraków.

Fr Stanisław Musiał SJ (May 22, 1938 – March 5, 2004) was a pioneer and eminent leader of Catholic-Jewish dialogue and Polish-Jewish reconciliation. A long-time member of Tygodnik Powszechny Catholic weekly editorial board, he also directed Kraków’s Apostleship of Prayer Publishing House in the years immediately following the Solidarity revolution in Poland. As a journalist he wrote numerous articles for the local press on issues such as anti-Semitism, Catholic-Jewish and Polish-Jewish relationships. As a member of the Episcopal Commission for Dialogue with Judaism from its foundation in 1986 until 1997, Fr. Musiał played a key role in organizing and facilitating a Geneva meeting of Catholic and Jewish leaders that led to the 1987 agreement resolving the conflict over the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz. He was the Church’s powerful advocate for tolerance and mutual understanding between the two religions, most intensely devoted to fighting anti-Semitism and Xenophobia. Fr. Musiał was also a member of the board of the Geneva-based United Nations Watch and the Kraków Judaica Foundation – Centre for Jewish Culture.

The award for intellectual activities promoting the Christian-Jewish and Polish-Jewish dialogue was conferred on Prof. Bożena Wyrozumska and Prof. Jerzy Wyrozumski, professors connected with the Jagiellonian University and the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters. They contributed to the development of the research on Polish Jewry, especially the Jews in Kraków; they promoted Jewish studies and improved the Polish-Jewish relationships. At the Jagiellonian University Prof. Wyrozumski was a pioneer of didactic activities concerning the history of the Polish Jews. In the academic year 1983/84 he began open lectures on the history of Polish Jewry in the Institute of History, which were very popular with students. Prof. Bożena Wyrozumska has written many publications on the history of Polish Jews. She focused on the Jewish surnames in the Medieval registries of Kraków and discussed the difficult subjects concerning the Christian-Jewish relations in Kraków and Wrocław.

In the second category – social activities promoting the Christian-Jewish and Polish-Jewish dialogue – the award was conferred on Tomasz Pietrasiewicz and the ‘Brama Grodzka–Teatr NN’ Centre in Lublin. Mr Pietrasiewicz has initiated the centre and realised numerous educational and artistic activities aiming at restoring and healing the Polish-Jewish memory for almost 20 years.

M. Kantor
The Fifth Grenzenlos Fair in Bochum

The Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, organised the fifth international fair and information day ‘Grenzenlos – Studying and Working Abroad’ on 9 December 2010. The Ruhr-University invited its partner universities: Belarusian State University, Minsk, Université Francois Rabelais de Tours, Universiteit Utrecht, Universidad de Oviedo, the University of Wrocław and the Jagiellonian University. The representatives of these universities met at the welcome dinner on the day before the fair.

This time the fair was held within ‘PartnershipDays’ (7-10 December 2010) for which the rectors and presidents from the most important partner institutions of the Ruhr University were invited. They were asked to share on the key words, ‘Internationalisation, excellence and networking.’ They discussed how they could make the best use of their long standing and vital relationships to intensify scientific co-operation and to enhance international visibility, acting in the spirit of partnership and co-operation. They also participated in a special session of the Senate of the Ruhr University Bochum during which the Ruhr University honoured the two of the earliest partner institutions for their commitment and over 40 year old collaboration: the University of Tokyo, Japan, and the François Rabelais University of Tours, France. On the Partnership Days, the Jagiellonian University was represented by Prof. Marcela Świątkowska, the Dean of the Faculty of Philology. She participated in the workshop focusing on the increase of internationalisation on all levels: teaching and studying, research and administration.

At the Grenzenlos Fair, the Jagiellonian University was represented by Agata Kozielska, the Head of the Educational Affairs Office and Maria Kantor from the International Relations Office. Early in the morning of 9 December we prepared our JU booth in the foyer of the Audimax at the RUB campus. We brought JU leaflets, information about our courses in English for Erasmus students, guides to Kraków and various JU gadgets. During the fair we showed a short movie in English about our University and the LipDub produced by our students in May 2010. But of course, what was most important we informed potential students who considered pursuing a degree with us or coming for one semester or two as exchange students. We estimate that some 100 visitors came to our stand.

At the Grenzenlos Fair there were ca. 40 exhibitors, including the Federal Foreign Office Germany, the German Academic Exchange Service, the British Council, the Fulbright Commission, the Embassy of France/CIDU, IDP Education Australia and various student networks. Moreover, there were seminars, discussions and presentations.

The Grenzenlos Fair is a major event at the Ruhr University, taking place every two years and is visited by several thousands of students and staff members. The aim is to bundle information on study opportunities, jobs, practical trainings, grants and applications in foreign countries. Thus the Ruhr-University Bochum supports students’ mobility by increasing the flow of information by providing international exchange programmes.

The Ruhr University Bochum is one of the oldest partners of the Jagiellonian University. In 2009 we celebrated thirty years of scientific co-operation. Every year we exchange several scholars within our bilateral agreement. Currently, there are four Erasmus agreements between the Ruhr-University and the Jagiellonian University in the fields of law, history, Polish studies and English philology.

M. Kantor

M. Kantor and A. Kozielska at the JU stand

M. Kantor

M. Kantor
The Polish foreign politics behind the scenes, and especially its relationships with Russia, was the focus of the conference organised at the University of Vigo (located in Vigo, Querse and Pontevedra) in September 2010. It was accompanied by the show of the feature film ‘Katyn’ by Andrzej Wajda. The organiser of the conference Prof. Pedro was also a sign of hope for a new stage in the relationships between Poland and Russia, which would develop on the basis of democratic values.

During the discussion the participants referred to the words of Konstantin Kosaczow, the chairman of the foreign commission of the Russian Parliament, who said in one of his public speeches in the forum of the Russian Parliament that ‘Poles who suffered during the war like no other European nation, reconciled with the Germans. Despite the massacre in Vohlynia they could also reconcile with the Ukrainians, the best proof of that attitude is the fact they will host the Euro 2012 Cup with Ukraine. Thus the task of Russia should be to get rid of the lie about Katyn from the way leading to the Russian-Polish agreement.’

In the opinions of the conference participants, these types of declarations of the Russian politicians were the best evidence of Russians’ openness to dialogue with Poles although the way to reconciliation was still very difficult. However, it is worth appreciating these types of gestures in politics, at the same time seeking the truth at all cost, opening the secret archives and rehabilitating the victims of the crime that had happened 70 years ago and which still overshadows the Polish-Russian relationship.
My speech also focused on the political plan of de-Stalinisation of life in Russia, which was much commented on by the Russian media, which for the international community is undoubtedly a wise gesture of Putin and Medvedev who want to get rid of the baggage of Stalin. This breaking of the political impasse in Russia should mobilise especially the Polish politicians to undertake activities to improve the mutual relationships with Russia. Speaking straight about the crimes of Stalin’s regime is not only the opinions of the Russian politicians but also the official interpretation of the state politics.

My stay and lecture at the University of Vigo, Spain, resulted from the scientific co-operation within the framework of the Erasmus agreement between the JU Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations and the Department of Communication and Social Sciences at the University of Vigo. In the near future joint research projects concerning selected aspects of contemporary European politics are planned.

Dr. Maciej Miżejewski

Dr. Miżejewski and Prof. Gutierrez Gonzalez

TO GEORGIA TWICE
LOOKING FOR THE GENOISE TRACES IN PLACES WHERE THE GOLDEN FLEECE WAS SOUGHT

For several years I have been interested in the remains of the Genoese colonies in the Black Sea Basin. The Ligurian sailors and merchants were frequent guests in this region from the middle of the 13th c. to the middle of the 15th c. Thus numerous colonies and trade factories were created there. Some of them were of real metropolitan character, with multilingual and multi-faith population, such as Kaffa in the Crimea or Pera near Constantinople. However, most colonies were relatively small ports protected by impressive fortresses, e.g., Sudak in the Crimea or Amasra on the southern coast. But the answer to the question about ‘the Genoese souvenirs’ on the western and eastern coasts of the Black Sea seems less clear.

My exploratory visits to the Black Sea coasts, which I have undertaken since 1996, led me (in 2007) to the area of the former Empire of Trebizond, i.e. the eastern part of the southern coast of the Black Sea. Consequently, I had only one destination – Georgia where I decided to go in August 2008. As we know now it was not the best moment to visit Georgia. After a few days of my stay in Tbilisi and having seen the most important monuments in the vicinity the war in South Ossetia broke out. Like most Polish citizens I was evacuated (by the way, very efficiently) to Poland whether I wanted to leave Georgia or not. Firstly, we were taken from Tbilisi to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, by coaches and then we flew on the governmental TU-154M (the same that crashed at Smolensk on 10 April 2010) from the local airport of Zvartnoc to the military airport in Warsaw-Okęcie.

This false start only intensified my desire to return to Georgia but due to the unstable situation I could realise it only in September 2010. Together with Dr. Piotr Grotowski, a historian of the Byzantine art of the John Paul II Pontifical University in Kraków, I decided to use the opportunity to visit the extremely numerous monuments this country can boast of. We managed to visit several dozen places in the uniquely diversified Georgian regions: Central and Lower Kartli, Imereti, Megreli, Javahketi and Kahketi. Our companions included Temur Lezhava, Shalva Lezhava and Baadur Kupreishvili, art historians from the George Chubinashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art.

However, I went to the Black Sea on my own as I wanted to seek the traces of the Genoese visitors along the shores of Megreli, Guria and Adjara. The historical accounts state that

Shalva Lezhava taking a photo of the recently collapsed part of the main Orthodox church in the monastery of Udabno
Medieval Phasis (Lo Fasso) would begin in 2011 within the framework of the project prepared by the Museum of History of Poti and Kolkheti Culture in Poti. The other place was Lo Vati, situated within the boundaries of present Batumi, the capital of the autonomic Republic of Adjara. The Genoese activities began there before 1290. It is possible that the port was controlled by the Genoese from Savastopoli (present-day Sukhumi in Abkhazia) although the political adherence of Lo Vati changed and was rather complicated. It was within Guria, whose rulers, the Gurielis, at first subordinated to the Georgian Bagratids, possibly from 1372, the Grand Kommenos of Trebizond, and from ca. the middle of the 15th c. – to the Georgian Duchy of Sa-atabago.

In my opinion Lo Vati should be located at the site where we can see the ruins of the castle, commonly known as the Castle of Tamara, situated at the mouth of the brook Korolits Tskali flowing into the Black Sea, some 3 km north from the present-day port of Batumi. The Georgian historian of architecture V. Lekvinadze identified the ruins with the castle of Losorion, built by Justinian and then rebuilt.

But my biggest surprise was the trip to the small Megreli Fishers’ village of Anaklia on the border of the revolted Abkhazia. I knew that in 1787 in his treaty about the history of the Black Sea trade the French historian Charles de Peyssonel had regarded relatively small but solid stone fortress of Anaklia as the Genoese work. During the Roman and early Byzantine times the contemporary Anaklia was probably called Zigana, Sicanabis, Sigania, Ziganne. In the middle of the 19th c. the information was repeated by Élie de la Primaudie who recognised the place as one of the two fortresses the Genoese had on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. The other fortress was to be Savastopoli, which is at present Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia.

It turned out that the ruins of the fortress remained in Anaklia. Until recently they were inaccessible because they were the headquarters of some military unit on the turbulent Abkhazian borderland but today they are threatened by the construction works in the vicinity.

The unique cordiality towards Poles, rich monuments and attractive landscapes make me desire to come back to Georgia some day.

Rafal Quirini-Poplawski
JU Institute of History of Art
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS in 2009/2010

Currently, the Jagiellonian University collaborates with 167 institutions of higher education from 40 countries (79 agreements on the general level, 39 – on the faculty level and 49 – on the institute level).

In 2010 the Jagiellonian University signed 14 new agreements

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In 2009/10 the bilateral exchange on all levels embraced 26 countries and 540 scientists and students.

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Orientation Week for Erasmus students

On 28 February - 6 March 2011 the International Students’ Office and the Erasmus Student Network at the Jagiellonian University organised the Orientation Week for Erasmus incoming students who chose to stay during the second semester of the academic year 2010/11.

The official welcome meeting was held in the aula of Collegium Novum on 28 February 2011. Over 200 Erasmus students turned up for that event. On behalf of the JU authorities Professor Andrzej Mania, Vice-Rector for Didactic Affairs welcomed the gathered students.

The main speakers at the meeting were Mr. Scott Simpson from the JU Centre for European Studies and Mr Aeddan Shaw from the Józef Tischner University in Kraków. The title of first speech was ‘Cultural shock and cultural differences.’ He emphasized the increasing ‘sameness’ around the world: – access to the same foods, clothes, cars, etc., – the same media, – products provided by the same international companies, – access to shared Internet and other global communication networks – conscious standardisations: the Bologna process, European Concept of Human Rights and the various dimensions of the local culture, which including the academic culture.

The second part of his presentation focused on mobility and shock. According to him there four stages of cultural shock: honeymoon, confrontation, adjustment and comfort can be distinguished. He also mentioned the reverse culture shock after students return to their own countries and undergo the process of self-analysis and their own culture analysis. What can help students survive? Flexibility, patience, tolerance and sense of humour.

The other talk focused on the history of Poland presented in a series of images and connections between Poland and other European countries. He managed to show the connections with almost all European countries (except Latvia and Cyprus). He mentioned the three famous Poles who made international carriers (Nicolaus Copernicus – Mikołaj Kopernik; Maria Skłodowska – Marie Currie; Józef Korzeniowski – Joseph Conrad).

Erasmus students

Kopernik; Maria Skłodowska – Marie Currie; Józef Korzeniowski – Joseph Conrad).

After a coffee break the representatives of the International Students Office and ESN talked about the formalities, the JU library and cultural and sports attractions of the Orientation Week and during the semester (sightseeing tours, parties, tandem scheme, trips, etc.). One could see that a week full of fun and joy was prepared for the Erasmus students and they should not miss this chance.

M. Kantor

Erasmus students according to nationality – spring semester 2011

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<td>British</td>
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<td>Swiss</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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STUDENT MOBILITY FAIR

The JU Student Self-Government organised the Second Student Mobility Fair in the building of Auditorium Maximum on 9 December 2010. The aim of the fair was to promote student mobility, to inform about various exchange programmes, scholarships and study possibilities abroad. There were several dozen exhibitors who prepared their stands. Besides, there were six hours of lectures, presentations, seminars and discussions. The Jagiellonian University was represented by the International Students Office and Erasmus Programme Office. One of the presentations of studying abroad within the Erasmus Programme was given by Oskar van der Weijer from Radboud University Nijmegen, Holland. He was an exchange Erasmus student at the JU Faculty of Law and Administration in the winter semester 2010/11. Oskar van der Weijer also met JU students who considered the possibility of studying in the Netherlands in the senate hall, Collegium Novum, on 13 January 2011. During his presentation he talked about Holland – land, culture, people; Dutch universities and Radboud University Nijmegen. Oskar was part of the IRUN (International Research Universities Network) ambassadors. It is worth mentioning that Oskar could also use the IRUN booklets, which have been released in 2010.

The Jagiellonian University has signed 10 Erasmus agreements with Radboud University Nijmegen in philosophy, religious studies, history, Germanic philology, law, zoology, psychology, journalism, sociology and computer science.

M. Kantor

New Year’s Concerts

It has already become a JU tradition to organize concerts in the beautiful edifice of Auditorium Maximum in January, which begins a new year. In 2011 three concerts were held: Gala University Concert, Carol concert and the charity concert for the JU Children’s Hopsital.

Sixth Academic Carol Concert

The Polish and international Christmas carols sounded in the hall of the JU Auditorium Maximum on 16 January 2011. It was the Sixth Academic Carol Concert that gathered several hundreds of scholars, students and inhabitants of the oldest academic city in Poland. The concert was held under the patronage of the JU Rector, the President of Kraków and the JU Student Self-Government. The performers embraced nine academic choirs and one orchestra. These were: the Choir of the Philosophical-Pedagogical Higher School ‘Ignatianium’ (conducted by Małgorzata Gawor), two Choirs of the John Paul II Pontifical University (conducted by Katarzyna Śmiałkowska and Włodzimierz Siedlik), the ‘Dominanta’ Choir of the University of Economics (conducted by Małgorzata Langer-Król) and three choirs of the Jagiellonian University: Male Voice Choir (founded in 1878 as the oldest choirs in Poland, conducted by Oleg Szničar) Female Voice Choir (conducted by Janusz Wierzgałcz) and mixed ‘Camerata Iagellonica’ Academic Choir of the Jagiellonian University...
The JU Choir conducted by W. Siedlik

(conducted by Włodzimierz Siedlik). The guest performer was the representative orchestra of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy conducted by Karol Pyka. The programme consisted of the well known Polish carols as well as the highlanders’ Christmas joyous songs. Naturally, the programme could not lack the Polish version of the famous Austrian carol ‘Silent night’ sung by Jacek Wójciak from the AGH. The AGH representative orchestra, dressed in colourful gala costumes, played the American standards: Jingle bells, All you want for Christmas, Driving home for Christmas and Do they know it’s Christmas. The master of ceremony of the concert was Krzysztof Drozdowski.

At the end of the concert all the choirs and the orchestra performed the two most popular Polish carols Wśród nocnej ciszy and Bóg się rodzi, together with the audience. Finally, the JU Vice-Rector prof. Michał du Vall wished all the gathered the joy, positive energy and hope expressed in the carols for the whole new year.

The orchestra of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy conducted by K. Pyka

All the choirs and the orchestra performing Polish carols

Gala Concert


The ‘Imperium’ variety show (dancers from Belarus and Ukraine) presented dances from various parts of the world. The Obligato Orchestra conducted by Jerzy Sobeńko accompanied all performers. The artists presented Latin American, Italian, French, Polish, film, musical, operatic, and operetta music. The concert was also an opportunity to listen to a new piece by Teresa Sobeńko (lyrics) and Jerzy Sobeńko (music). Light show, lavish costumes and fireworks guaranteed a flamboyant performance and an unforgettable evening.
Charity concert

A group of 30 musicians from Vienna played a charity concert for the Children’s Heart Surgery Centre in Kraków. The concert took place in the Auditorium Maximum on 22 January 2011.

Modelled on a traditional New Year’s concert in Vienna, the annual concert became one of the most prestigious cultural events in Kraków and is long-awaited by music lovers. This time the concert celebrated the 30th anniversary of the JU Children’s Heart Surgery Hospital, the first medical centre of this kind in Poland. The Children’s Heart Surgery Hospital conducts 400 open-heart operations a year.

The proceeds from the concert will go towards training purposes, acquisition of medical equipment, which is helpful during and after operations and necessary renovation works.

Apart from the Viennese musicians the concert also featured the Polish soloists: Iwona Socha (soprano) and Adam Zdunikowski (tenor).

The concert was accompanied by the auction of donated objects:
- Torso by Auguste Rodin, bronze sculpture (museum’s replica) donated by Prof. Skalski,
- The Beautiful Danube, Hanna Zembrowska’s painting,
- Kraków’s Tale, Łucja Kłanska-Kanarek’s painting donated by the author,
- replica of Guarneri del Gesu ‘Il Conone’ violin made and donated by Ryszard Florek, an artist and violin-maker,
- a bronze sculpture of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
- Rainbow by Marc Chagall (1969, limited edition — 500 copies) donated by the Wójtowicz Antique Shop.

M. Kantor

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The Imperium variety show

Gala concert: A. Martinez, J. Sobeńko, I. Socha, T. Szenkier

Charity concert

Prof. Skalski
The Dutch Student Orchestra gave a free concert for employees and students of the Jagiellonian University in the hall of Auditorium Maximum on 19 February 2011. In the first part of the concert the orchestra conducted by Peter Biloen played the work *Moriae Encominum*, op. 64, based on *The Praise of Folly* by the Dutch philosopher Erasmus, composed for the Orchestra by the talented Dutch composer Marijn Simons (born in 1982) and Edward Elgar’s Romantic *Cello Concerto in e-minor* with the soloist Sietse-Jan Weijenberg. After the intermission the artists played the spectacular heroic musical poem ‘Ein Heldenleben’ (A Hero’s Life) by Richard Strauss. The 50-minute piece depicts magnificently a struggle between a hero and his opponents. The violin solo, describing the emotional and frickle loye of Strauss’ wife for her husband, was played by Floor le Coultre. The performance was enthusiastically applauded by the audience. And the orchestra decided to play an encore: the music of the film ‘Superman’ with the conductor wearing a Superman’s red coat.

The Dutch Student Orchestra consists of university students from all over the Netherlands. Although they pursue different majors they become full-time musicians for one month a year. During that time they give several concerts in Holland and abroad. So far they have performed in Carnegie Hall, New York, in the Winter Palace of the Tsar in St Petersburg and the Musikverein in Vienna. In 2011 they decided to give two concerts in Kraków: in the Philharmonic Hall and for the Jagiellonian University. The orchestra consists of ca. 100 students. Since its foundation in 1952 the Orchestra has been supported by the royal Dutch family and many outstanding Dutch artists. Every year it is conducted by a different composer belonging to the young generation of Dutch composers.

Peter Biloen is known for his inspiring interpretations of both classical and modern music. He is the first Dutch conductor who reached the finals of the 2004 Donatella Flick Conducting Competition. He led the London Symphony Orchestra in the acclaimed concert at the Barbican Centre and the Moscow Symphony Orchestra at the Festival of Modern Music in the Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

The cello soloist Sietse-Jan Weijenberg studied in the Groningen Conservatory and at the CNSM of Paris. He is a winner of many competitions, most recently at the 2009 Rostropovich Competition. He frequently performs concertos by Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Elgar and Vivaldi with many renowned orchestras.

M. Kantor