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On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of cooperation between the Jagiellonian University and the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, during a ceremonial session on 14 December 2009, the Jagiellonian University Senate conferred its highest distinction for institutions ‘Medal Merentibus’ to the University of Bochum. Furthermore, the JU authorities awarded the medal ‘Plus ratio quam vis’ to seven professors of the RUB, acknowledging their contributions in the collaboration between our universities. These were the awarded professors: Gerhard Binder (Classical Philology), Ralf-Jürgen Dettmar (Astronomy), Hans-Jürgen Diller (English Philology), Walter Glöckle (Physics), Klaus Goeke (Physics), Roman Seer (Law) and Albert Würflinger (Physics).

The celebration was held in the aula of Collegium Novum. After the University Choir had sung the hymn ‘Gaude Mater Polonia’ JU Rector Prof. Karol Musioł opened the solemn session, welcoming all guests, especially the RUB Rector Prof. Elmar Weiler, the awarded professors, the Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kraków Dr. Heinz Peters, the former JU rectors, deans, academics and students. The laudatory speech was delivered by Prof. Zofia Berdychowska, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Philology. She stressed the long and fruitful collaboration, abounding with many initiatives and projects, as well as friendly relationships. Mentioning the merits of the awarded professors she said, ‘They are a circle of professors who thanks to their personal involvements, created, supported and continue the structures of collaboration in such different fields as astronomy, foreign languages or law, as well as make and cherish friendly relationships. Many a time their fruit was important inspirations and joint projects. But they also allow us to overcome the burden of the difficult history between Poles and Germans and to build co-operation on new partner principles. We want to strengthen and develop the collaboration on these principles, the co-operation, which the agreement signed 30 years ago started.’

After Prof. Marcela Świątkowska, the Dean of the Faculty of Philology, had read the Latin text of the diploma, the medal and the Latin text in a special tube was handed to the RUB Rector Prof. Weiler. Then Prof. Świątkowska pinned an epitogium to Prof. Weiler’s gown. In his address Prof. Weiler thanked for the distinction, given to ‘the youngest university in Germany’. He stressed that the development of scientific collaboration between the JU and the RUB was accompanied by a growth of partnership and friendship. He presented the image of Europe 30 years ago: the division between the West and the East, the Warsaw Pact and NATO, the division of Germany. In that background the agreement between the Jagiellonian University and the Ruhr University Bochum was ‘a friendly light in the politically difficult times.’ The RUB was aware of its historical responsibility for the development of good Polish-German relationships. Currently, the RUB sees itself as ‘a member of the global community of universities, going beyond state, ethical, cultural or religious borders and building a better future for all people through knowledge, science and research. The development of internationalisation as well as support for research conducted by junior research staff within the framework of international programmes belong to one of the important tasks of the RUB’. Rector Weiler ended his speech by referring to the concept of universitas, understood as ‘togetherness of researchers, teachers and students without prejudices, barriers or limits between disciplines. In this spirit we are connected with our partners. We grow together and develop the European educational area. I wholeheartedly want to continue this dimension in which the partnership between our Universities will develop.’
Afterwards the medals *Plus ratio quam vis* were conferred on the RUB professors. Prof. Dettmar said a word of thanksgiving on behalf of the awarded professors. Finally, JU Rector Musioł again congratulated Prof. Weiler and the distinguished professors, wishing them many years of fruitful collaboration and personal successes.

The medal *Merentibus* was awarded to the Ruhr University Bochum on the basis of the motion of the JU Senate of 25 November 2009, which reads,

The Senate of the Jagiellonian University decided to confer the Medal Merentibus to Ruhr University Bochum, the first university in the Federal Republic of Germany that signed an agreement of scientific co-operation with the Jagiellonian University in 1979, for common endeavours with the Jagiellonian University, which embraced social sciences, law, humanities, philology, earth sciences, physics, astronomy, computer sciences, chemistry and collaboration between university libraries. The activities that are worth special attention were:

- donation of a rich library to the Institute of English Philology;
- organisations of numerous scholarships for JU academics, which contributed to their completing doctoral and habilitation dissertations;
- didactic exchange in English and American literary studies and linguistics as well as the participation of the RUB professors of English and American studies in the conferences organised by the JU, which led to the publication of several dozen monographic volumes;
- co-operation in teaching foreign languages, realised in the Institute of Germanic Philology;
- exchange of language teachers and students within the joint project conducted by the JU Language Centre and the Linguistic Research Department in Bochum, which included the examination of the German language certificate at the JU;
- organisation of the Polish-German seminars in international public law;
- organisation of several transports of gifts, medicines, chemical reagents, elements of scientific apparatus, audio-visual equipment, office materials, books and the donation of 100,000 German marks for the Jagiellonian Library as well as a car for JU during the especially hard years of 1982-83.
On 1 October 2009 the Jagiellonian University founded the Research Centre for History and Culture of Kraków Jews as an academic unit within the Faculty of History. The new Centre’s staff is made up of several scholars from the Department of Judaic Studies. The heritage of the Kraków Jews, created over several centuries, is huge and unique, worth studying and promoting. The research concerning the Kraków Jews is diversified. Apart from well-known and deeply analyzed topics there are numerous issues that have not been investigated. Consequently, there is the need to set research priorities and to create teams to conduct systematic studies.

The fundamental tasks will embrace research projects concerning individual Kraków Jews and Jewish institutions, organisation of conferences and symposia on the history of Kraków Jews, courses and seminars for students, promotion of the research on Kraków Jews, collaboration with Jewish organisations on widely understood historical studies, especially genealogies of Kraków Jews and activities aiming at creating a museum presenting the history and culture of the Kraków Jews.

The opening of the Research Centre for History and Culture of Kraków Jews in the aula of Collegium Novum on 17 November 2009 gathered many JU scientists and guests, including the Dean of the Faculty of History Prof. Andrzej Banach, the Director of the Department of Judaic Studies Prof. Edward Dąbrowa, Rabbi Boaz Pash of Kraków and Mr Tadeusz Jakubowicz, the President of the Jewish Congregation in Kraków. The letter from Lili Haber, President of the Association of Cracovians in Israel, was read by Dr. A. Jakimyszyn. The inaugural lecture entitled ‘Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University and the Development of Research on the History of Kraków Jews’ was delivered by Ass. Prof. Michał Galas from the Department of Jewish Studies.

The Research Centre for History and Culture of Kraków Jews wants to collaborate with individuals and institutions interested in the heritage of the Kraków Jews. The centre is located at the centre of the former Jewish district of Kazimierz (Collegium Kazimierzowskie, 19 Józefa Street; www.judaistyka.uj.edu.pl).

International students at UJ

The Jagiellonian University is drawing an increasing number of the world’s students to her ancient halls.

In 2009/10 there were 2,420 international students at JU:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 year Bachelor’s studies</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 year Master’s studies</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 year Master’s studies</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 year Doctoral studies</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erasmus Programme</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Medicine in English</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre of Polish Language and Culture in the World</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one semester course</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shorter courses</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List according to scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship holders of</th>
<th>Doctoral student</th>
<th>Short term stay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Polish Government</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEEPUS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAAD</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral agreement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFPS (Scientific-Cultural Central-Eastern Europe Association)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visehrad Foundation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYLFF/FMP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Pack</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Lane Kirkland Programme</td>
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<td>J. Mianowski Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fullbright Foundation</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The first building of the Life Science Park and BioIncubator in Kraków was officially opened in the vicinity of the JU new campus on 22 December 2009. The opening ceremony included conference talks, given by such eminent speakers as Rev. Prof. Michał Heller, winner of a prestigious Templeton Prize and Mr Andrzej Ryś, the Director-Public Health of the European Commission Health and Customer Protection.

The Life Science Park and BioIncubator is managed by the Jagiellonian Centre of Innovation Ltd. It offers complex laboratory, analytical and contract research services, property investments and laboratory infrastructure ranging across all life science areas, including biotechnology, biotechnics, biomedicine, cosmetology, bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, telemedicine, drug design, chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology, biophysics and physics.

The JCI administers also the Life Science Cluster Kraków & Polish Biotechnology Platform. They are an association of member companies and organisations, which represents the biggest commercial potential for the biosciences in Poland. Additionally, JCI manages a capital investment company – JCI Venture Ltd – part of the Jagiellonian Center of Innovation Group, being on one hand, commercialization accelerator of scientific projects, and on the other, a seed capital fund. The JCI Venture is the first venture accelerator of scientific ideas, projects, and prototypes in Poland.

Academic ventures and seed capital foundations proved to be a successful way of science commercialization. The first building (Technology Park I) offers laboratory space for biotechnological firms. The project, realised by the filial JU company, is the first endeavour of that kind in Poland and Central-Eastern Europe. The second building will be a BioIncubator for start-up firms. It will have fully equipped laboratories that could be used by doctoral students and start-up businesses. The third building (Technology Park II), which will have its project ready by the end of 2011, will also have laboratories for physico-chemical research.

After its completion the Life Science Park and BioIncubator will provide space for 500 scientists and researchers. It is located in the Kraków Economy Zone, next to the JU campus. The Park is to show a dynamic synergy between science and business.

www.jci.pl

Katarzyna Pętlak-Długosz

Erasmus programme in 2009/2010

• Agreements – 997
• Outgoing students – 802
• Incoming students – 489
(from 23 EU countries) including:
  99 Germans
  82 Spaniards
  61 Turks
  56 French
  41 Italians

It is worth adding that in the years 1998-2008 Poland sent ca. 66,000 and received ca. 18,000 students within the Erasmus Programme.

M. Kantor
Late evening on 25 September 2009 several institutions of higher education and the research institutes in Kraków hosted crowds during the so-called Researchers’ Night, organised in Kraków for the third time. At the beginning of the special event the Faculty of Chemistry of the Jagiellonian University in collaboration with the Ludwig Solski State Drama School in Kraków and the literary cabaret ‘Piwnica pod Baranami’ [Cellar under the Rams] staged a spectacle ‘The Alchemy of the Four Elements’. The main character of the spectacle was the famous Polish alchemist Michael Sendivogius (1566-1636), who was an extremely intriguing figure, very well inscribed in the Researchers’ Night, which was organised in 30 European countries at the initiative of the European Commission.

Sendivogius studied in Vienna, Leipzig and Cambridge. He stayed at the imperial court of Rudolf II in Prague, the capital of alchemists, and then he lived in Marburg where he produced medical drugs in his laboratory of jatrochemistry. He was also a secretary and counsellor of Emperor Ferdinand II and he supervised the construction of the lead and copper mine in Silesia. Sendivogius founded secret societies, used esoteric language and was also a pioneer of empiricism, claiming that experience was the only teacher of truth. As a theoretician and practitioner he could present the phenomena he examined in a way that was even understandable to contemporary chemists. His great achievement was the examination of the air and its role in the processes of life. He was very close to discover oxygen, which was done over 100 years later by Joseph Priestley and Antoine de Lavoisier, who also studied the treatises of Sendivogius. It is worth adding that Isaac Newton, who was very much interested in alchemy, read the works of Sendivogius.

In the spectacle Sendivogius and his two disciples read fragments of his alchemical treatises, including the works on the elements: fire, air, earth and water. Several young chemists from the Circle of Chemists of the Jagiellonian University, directed by their master Dr. Wojciech Przybylski, illustrated the texts with chemical experiments. The colourless liquid in the cup became red like red wine, then it resembled milk and finally, it was changed into a colourless solution. The pharaoh’s snakes crawled on the table, colourful fires danced, the ice was burning and a colourful chemical clock measured time. Nails were fixed using bananas and roses, frozen in liquid nitrogen, crushed like Christmas glass balls. As befits a chemical show there were explosions and multi-coloured flames, which always evoke the biggest emotions among the young audience. The whole spectacle was enhanced with multimedia effects showing the four elements with the accompaniment of carefully selected sounds.

The participants of the Researchers’ Night could also see various interesting chemical workshops and make experiments themselves. Prof. Artur Michalak delivered a lecture entitled ‘Chemistry and the development of contemporary civilisation.’ Dr. Agnieszka Węgrzyn spoke about the automobile of the future and the students from the Circle of Chemists made a show of attention-grabbing chemical experiments. Furthermore, the large audience could see scientific equipments and watch chemists work. The whole project is to popularize science among Europeans. Every year the event draws more and more people.

Alicja Rafalska-Lasocha

A. Rafalska-Lasocha
The life, immortal works and achievements of Fryderyk Chopin belong to the Polish cultural heritage, testifying about the spiritual dimension, mentality and joys of the Polish nation and his homeland. During the year 2010, dedicated to Chopin, the whole world pays tribute to the outstanding composer, organising concerts and festivals to him, launching exhibitions and opening museums.

In Kraków the official inauguration of the Chopin Year, commemorating the 200th anniversary of his birth, was held on 28 February 2010. The most important events took place at the Wawel Cathedral and the Jagiellonian University Museum. The Wawel Cathedral is the most important place in honouring Polish political, religious and literary leaders. Fryderyk Chopin was a great patriot and he dreamt about independent Poland, writing, ‘it will not come without terrible things, but at the end of all this is a wonderful Poland, great, in one word: Poland.’ Therefore, the unveiling of the Chopin Medallion, which is a copy of his Parisian tombstone, in the royal necropolis, next to the sarcophagi of Adam Mickiewicz and Juliusz Słowacki and the symbolic tomb of Cyprian Kamil Norwid – the national Polish bards – was not only a symbolic act but also tribute to his timeless musical genius, expressing the spirit of unity and freedom, endurance and continuity of the Polish nation in the time of the partitions. Consequently, the Crypt of the National Bards in Wawel has the ‘fourth national bard’ representing the Romantic musical spirit.

On 23-30 July 1829 the young nineteen-year-old Fryderyk Chopin visited Kraków and its surroundings. He came here with a group of students and graduates of the Main School of Music, University of Warsaw. Tangible traces of their stay are entries of the participants in the Jagiellonian Library Guest Book and the Wieliczka Salt Mine Visitors’ Book. Therefore, the building of Collegium Maius seems to be the most appropriate place to show memorabilia associated with Fryderyk Chopin. The exhibition is entitled ‘Chopin in Kraków and his memorabilia’ Exhibition launching Chopin Bicentenary at JU and personal souvenirs of him.’ The opening of the exhibition was graced by the Chopin concert performed by Kevin Kenner, an American concert pianist and winner in the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1990, on a historical Pleyel instrument, accompanied by Ensemble XIX in the aula of Collegium Maius. It is worth adding that the JU Museum has two Pleyel instruments Chopin played. One instrument was bought by Countess Potocka in 1847 and brought to Poland in the 19th c. ‘We know that Chopin chose the instrument for Countess Potocka himself as he wrote in his letter to his mother’, said Prof. St. Waltoś, the director of the JU Museum. The other instrument belonged to Chopin’s pupil Jane Stirling who had bought it so that Chopin could play the piano during his stay at her Scottish residence.

We spent the first week in Kraków on walks and visiting the Kraków area… wrote Chopin to Tytus Woyciechowski. The short visit was an occasion to become acquainted with the city and its monuments. Chopin visited the JU Library, then located in Collegium Maius. On page 86 of the Guestbook he put his autograph. His short and unfortunately only stay in Kraków and its area found summary, small yet emotional, musically: in the sumptuous output of Poland’s greatest composer we find a krakowiak: Rondo à la Krakowiak in F major, for piano and orchestra, op. 14 from 1829, dedicated to Princess Anna Czartoryska.

The collection of Chopin’s souvenirs is not big but very interesting. It contains musical manuscripts (Mazurka A flat major, op. 7 and Mazurka E minor, op. 17, 1830-33, Scherzo E major, op. 54 and Rondo a la Krakowiak F major, op. 14), handwritten letters (to his friend...
Wilhelm Kolberg, dated 19.08.1824) and entries to guest books, printed music, various prints, including the poster of Chopin’s first public concert in the National Theatre in Warsaw on 17 March 1830, the announcement of Chopin’s death – invitation to his funeral in St Magdalene’s Church in Paris on 30 October 1849, personal souvenirs: box for candles, petit-point embroidery, wool on linen canvas, made by George Sand for Fryderyk (chair cover), photographs framed with inscriptions, cast of Chopin’s hands; sculptures: medallions with the image of Fryderyk Chopin, his death mask according to a sculpture by J.B. Clésinger, porcelain, 19th century; several paintings of Kraków, circa 1840; graphics: portraits of Chopin according to E. Delacroix from 1836, photograph by I. Krieger showing a lost sketch by Georg Sand. One exhibition hall has been dedicated to the Salt Mine in Wieliczka, which young Fryderyk also visited. The exhibits include some 19th century sketches of the salt chambers, maps of the mine workings, models and mining objects.

‘The exhibition is to remind the visitors of the composer’s visit to Kraków and its environment. Visitors can enter the atmosphere of the 19th century and the guide will be Chopin himself through his letters and one of his best pupils Countess Marcelina Czartoryska, who settled in her residence in Kraków after having returned from Paris. And she taught how to play Chopin’s works’, said L. Bełtowska, the curator of the exhibition. The decoration of the exhibition is the embroidery, which George Sand made for Chopin. The exhibition will be opened till the middle of April 2010.

Finally, let us add some biographical data of Fryderyk Chopin. He was born in the village of Żelazowa Wola, not far from Warsaw, on 1 March 1810 to a French-expatriate father and Polish mother. In the same year the family moved to Warsaw where Fryderyk received education in the Polish spirit, culture and language. Actually Chopin never learnt good French. His teachers noted his ‘remarkable talent’ and ‘musical genius.’ He completed the Warsaw Conservatory. In November 1830, seen off by friends and admirers, carrying with him a silver cup containing soil from his native land, Chopin set out ‘into the wide world, with no very clearly defined aim, forever.’ In November 1830 the Uprising broke out in Warsaw and Chopin was in Vienna. Chopin, writes Jachimecki, ‘afflicted by nostalgia, disappointed in his hopes of giving concerts and publishing, matured and acquired spiritual depth. From a romantic... poet... he grew into an inspired national bard who intuited the past, present and future of his country. Only now, at this distance, did he see all of Poland from the proper perspective, and understand what was great and truly beautiful in her, the tragedy and heroism of her vicissitudes.’ In 1831 on his way from Vienna to Paris Chopin learned that the uprising had been crushed. His frustration and outcries of a tormented heart found musical expression in his Scherzo in B minor, Op. 20, and his Revolutionary Étude.

Chopin arrived in Paris in 1831. There he found opportunities to exercise his talents and achieve celebrity. He earned a good income teaching piano to affluent students from all over Europe. In 1836 Chopin met the French author and feminist Amandine Aurore Lucille Dupin, the Baroness Dudevant, better known by her pseudonym, George Sand. They became lovers and as the composer’s illness progressed, Sand gradually became his nurse. In February 1848, he gave his last Paris concert. In April he left for London where he performed at several concerts and at numerous receptions in great houses. He also visited Scotland. In 1848 in Edinburgh, at the home of a Polish

Guest book of the Jagiellonian Library from 1812-1869, Chopin’s signature on page 86 from 23rd July 1829
physician, Dr. Adam Łyszczyński, Chopin wrote out his last will. At the end of November, Chopin returned to Paris. He was seriously ill but he continued seeing friends and visited the ailing Adam Mickiewicz, soothing the Polish poet's nerves with his playing. He no longer had the strength to give lessons, but he was still keen on composing. Feeling ever more poorly, Chopin wanted to have one of his family with him. In 1849 his sister Ludwika Jędrzejewicz, who had given him his first piano lessons, came to Paris. Chopin had lately taken up residence in a very beautiful, sunny apartment at Place Vendôme 12. It was there, a few minutes before two o'clock on the morning of 17 October 1849, that Chopin died. Later that morning, Auguste Clésinger made Chopin's death mask and casts of his hands. Before the funeral, pursuant to Chopin's dying wish, his heart was removed and preserved in alcohol. His sister later took it in an urn to Warsaw, where it was sealed in a pillar of the Holy Cross Church, beneath an inscription from Matthew 6:21,

For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

M. Kantor

Based on the exhibition catalogue ‘Chopin in Kraków i osobiste po nim pamiątki’, edited by Lucyna Bełtowska, exhibition curator.

The English Department of the Philological Faculty at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, in collaboration with the English departments of four partner universities – University of Pardubice, University of Prešov, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Budapest, and Charles University in Prague – has launched a project called “Common Challenge: The Bologna Process in Anglophone Literature and Culture Departments of Visegrad Universities.” The project is supported by the International Visegrad Fund (www.visegradfund.org). The main purpose behind this initiative has been to present the syllabuses, educational materials and approaches to British, American and Commonwealth literature and culture teaching used in each institution, and to launch a closer co-operation among departments that have had only sporadic contacts so far. In the course of the project, staff members from the partner institutions attended two workshops devoted to the presentation of each department’s educational offer and to sharing didactic expertise.

Alongside these activities, the partners have decided to launch a website dedicated to BA and MA candidates searching for interesting programmes in Anglophone literature and culture studies. The common website at www.ccv4.eu will serve as an online platform disseminating information on educational options offered by the five Visegrad English departments. Candidates for the BA and MA programmes who wish to study, or continue their studies, at one of the partner universities are welcome to browse the offer and select courses and programmes which best suit their expectations and needs.

Currently, the efforts of the project partners focus on an integrated information campaign, consisting of a series of meetings with current BA students and prospective candidates for the MA programmes. The events are planned for April at all partner universities (for details, check www.ccv4.eu and the websites of respective departments).

Anyone who would like to learn about the possibilities of studying Anglophone literatures and cultures in one of the partner universities is welcome to visit the project website www.ccv4.eu. Moreover, the International Visegrad Fund offers special scholarships for those wishing to study at the universities from the Visegrad region. Information for prospective applicants can be obtained at: www.visegradfund.org/instructions.html.

I. Curyllo-Klag

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Medallion with Chopin’s head and fine copies of his compositions

Participants of the CCV4 workshop in February 2010

Medallion with Chopin’s head and fine copies of his compositions

Common Challenge: Advancing English Studies in V4 Countries
Despite the meaningful role the Latin Kingdom of Cyprus played in the Middle Ages, the history of this Mediterranean island is relatively unknown in Poland. It was the Polish archaeology that has had more success in the realm of Cyprus, especially in Nea Pafos where the Polish Archaeological Mission has been conducting research since 1965. The Mission also embraces the scholars of the Jagiellonian University, including Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, from the JU Institute of Archaeology. The outstanding specialist in Oriental studies Prof. J. Hauziński, who used to work at the Jagiellonian University, has contributed much to making the history of Medieval Cyprus known to Polish readers. His textbooks concerning the Near East contain numerous details about the island.

Polish contacts with Medieval Cyprus have never been as big as the contacts with the remaining parts of the Greek world. But the location of the island on the pilgrims’ tour caused that it became an obligatory stop for the Poles going to the Holy Land. On the other hand, the significant role of Poland during the Middle Ages made the Cypriot kings try to get interested in the Mediterranean matters of Polish rulers at least twice.

The division of the Roman world caused the division into the West and the East. Cyprus became a province of the Byzantine Empire. The attractive location of the island as the crossroad of trade routes, both from Europe to the Holy Land and from Anatolia to Egypt, and on the other hand, as the island controlling the Levantine sea navigation became the desirable target of the Crusaders going to the East. At the beginning of May 1191 the fleet of the English King Richard the Lionheart heading for the Holy Land during the crusade, which later historians called the Third Crusade, arrived at the Cypriot coast, at that time being in the hands of the Byzantine usurper Isaac Doukas Komnenos. King Richard defeated the relatively weak Greek units within three weeks and seized the island.

For the next 380 years, from the conquest of the island by Richard the Lionheart in May 1191 until the fall of Famagusta defeated by the Turks in August 1671, Cyprus was in the centre of international interests: of Sicily governed by the Hohenstauf family, Angevinnians and the Aragonese, the Italian states of Genoa, Venice and the Duchy of Sabaudia, England and the African Sultanate of the Mamelukes. After the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem in 1291 the role of the island increased considerably. Cyprus became the furthest bastion of Christianity in the East. The rulers of the island were aware of the location of their kingdom, surrounded by the Turkish emirates from the north and by the Mamelukes in Syria and Egypt and consequently, they wanted to renew the idea of the crusades. In the 1360s the King of Cyprus Peter I together with Lusignan decided to organise a crusade against the Muslims. His efforts brought about an expedition during which they destroyed Alexandria in Egypt in 1365, which was the key harbour of the Mamelukes. Soon afterwards the ambitious ruler was murdered and in the years 1373-74 the island was invaded by the Genoese who seized Famagusta, known as ‘the Levantine pearl’ and forced the island to pay tribute. In the 15th century Cyprus became dependent on the Mamelukes and King Janus was enslaved in Egypt. Moreover, the island served the Muslims as a base to attack Rhodes, the headquarters of the Knights of St John. Cyprus remained under the rule of the Lusignan dynasty until 1489 when the Venetians became formal rulers, taking power from Catherine Cornaro, the widow of King James II from the Lusignan dynasty. They controlled the island until the Turkish invasion in 1571.

Some Polish crusaders and pilgrims going to Jerusalem must have reached Cyprus. However, until the 14th century we have no information about concrete relationships between Poles and Cyprus. The oldest testimony comes from 1347. Then Philip of Mézières, the chancellor of the King of Cyprus Peter I Lusignan, met Wojciech of Pakóś (Albert de Pachost), the governor of Brześć and Kujawy in the years 1325-

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1 Polish authors relatively thoroughly described the visit of one of the Cypriot rulers in Poland Peter of Lusignan in 1364 in Kraków during the meeting of the monarchs. These are the works by K. Szajnoch, A. Semkowicz, S. Kutrzeba, H. Pachoński, S. Zającowski, R. Grodecki, J. Wyrozumski, or quite new publications by S. Szczur, J. Śliwiński and M. Dąbrowski.
who forced their supremacy over the island, offering the King two of their three voices in the matters concerning the island and two thirds of the income of the Kingdom of Cyprus. In order to cement the agreement King Janus proposed a marriage between his only son and Jagiello’s daughter Jadwiga. Unfortunately, the alliance with Cyprus was not completed as Jadwiga had died several months before the envoys came to Poland (on 8 December 1431), Jagiello’s treasury was almost empty and the king himself, facing the threat of the Tatars, the Teutonic Knights, Swidtrygjełło and Zygmunt of Luxemburg, was not able to organise an expedition to seize the island for the duration of the loan. But the remembrance of the visit to Poland and the King’s kind welcome of the Cypriot envoys was strong, which was testif ied in the letter of 3 August 1434, sent to King Władysław III Warneńczyk by the Cardinal of Cyprus, in which the latter sent his condolences upon hearing of the death of Jagiello’s death.2

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1350, regarded as a hero of the defence of Kujawy against the Teutonic Knights, in the Holy Sepulchre Basilica in Jerusalem in 1332. Philip was deeply impressed by his ascetical practices connected to his pilgrim’s vows. But in the 15th and 16th centuries Cyprus was often visited by Polish pilgrims heading for Jerusalem, including Jan Łaski, the voivode of Sieradz, Prince Bogusław X the Great of Western Pomerania, Bishop Jan Dantyszek, a poet, Stanisław Odrowąż-Pieniążek, castellan’s son and Jan Tarnowski, Chief Hetman. Jan Góryński, a nobleman from Great Poland, Prince Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł and a courtier Maurycey Pawel Henik.

However, the most important role for the Polish-Cypriot relationships was played by King Peter of Lusignan who visited Kraków in 1364 and the Cypriot mission at the court of King Władysław Jagiello in 1432. The first visit is relatively well-known and was related to the participation of the Cypriot ruler in the famous congress in Kraków. He was invited by Emperor Charles IV. The other event, although not widely known and less discussed in the Polish historiography, is extremely interesting and testif ies about Poland’s significance in the Middle Ages. In March 1432, over 200 people of King Janus of Cyprus, headed by Piotr of Bnino, a knight of Polish background living in Cyprus, arrived in Wiślica where King Władysław Jagiello stayed. The envoys asked the Polish king for a loan for the fight against the Mamelukes who forced their supremacy over the island, offering the King two of their three voices in the matters concerning the island and two thirds of the income of the Kingdom of Cyprus. In order to cement the agreement King Janus proposed a marriage between his only son and Jadwiga, Jagiello’s daughter. Unfortunately, the alliance with Cyprus was not completed as Jadwiga had died several months before the envoys came to Poland (on 8 December 1431), Jagiello’s treasury was almost empty and the king himself, facing the threat of the Tatars, the Teutonic Knights, Swidtrygjełło and Zygmunt of Luxemburg, was not able to organise an expedition to seize the island for the duration of the loan. But the remembrance of the visit to Poland and the King’s kind welcome of the Cypriot envoys was strong, which was testif ied in the letter of 3 August 1434, sent to King Władysław III Warneńczyk by the Cardinal of Cyprus, in which the latter sent his condolences upon hearing of the death of Jagiello’s death.2

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2 The theme was popularized in the article by Ł. Burkiewicz, Zamorska kolonia, ‘Focus Historia 2010′, no 2, pp. 73-74.
The agreement of scientific co-operation between the Jagiellonian University and the Ruhr University Bochum was signed in Collegium Maius, Kraków, on 30 November 1979. The RUB was the first university in the Federal Republic of Germany that signed an agreement with the JU. The agreement was prolonged on 30 August 1982. Later the protocol signed on 12 July 1983 defined the main fields of collaboration and ensured access of the JU scientists to the Calculation Centre of RUB so that they could conduct their own research there. The man who signed all the documents on behalf of the RUB and who greatly contributed to establishing the co-operation was the Rector of the Ruhr University Bochum Prof. Knut Ipsen. His personality exerted a decisive influence on the development and form of co-operation between our universities.

The first contacts between particular units of both universities were established as early as in 1966. The proposal of co-operation was initiated by Prof. Berthold Beitz, the President of the Curators’ Council of Alfred Krupp von Bohlen-und-Halbach Foundation, who in 1965 presented his project of collaboration to Prof. Paul Mikat, the German Minister of Culture. However, the political situation in the 1970s did not allow formalising the academic contacts in chemistry, physics and international law. Only the agreement signed in 1979 provided big possibilities of scientific co-operation and bilateral exchange. The joint projects embraced law, sociology, philology, earth sciences, physics, astronomy, chemistry and collaboration between the university libraries. Within 30 years the exchange of academic staff and students comprised hundreds of visits. For instance, in 1982 the exchanged embraced 630 days, in 1983 – 700 days, in 1984 – ca. 1,300 days and in 1985 – 640 days used by JU workers who conducted their research, using the laboratory equipment and library resources that were not available in Poland. Moreover, RUB helped them win German means from DAAD, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or Heinrich Hertz Foundation for longer stays at the University of Bochum.

In 1984 the exchange also concerned language teachers and students. The project of collaboration between the JU Practical Language Teaching Centre and the Department of Linguistic Research at RUB aimed at organising a German language examination for JU students (from 1990). The cultural collaboration between the ‘Bratniak’ Foundation and Akademisches Förderungswerk Bochum-Studentenwerk started in 1997. The student exchange began in 1995, when ten JU students participated in language summer courses in Bochum and several students received 10 month scholarships. Currently, the student exchange is realised within the Erasmus Programme.

Besides the scientific co-operation we should mention the material help that the Jagiellonian University received from Bochum, especially in the hard years

The Academic Choir ‘Camerata Iagellonica’ giving a short concert
1982-83. There were transports of gifts (food and medicines), books and office materials as well as scientific equipment. It was the initiative of Prof. Ipsen, who received the JU honorary degree in 1986, his goodwill and attitude towards the widely understood Polish-German relationships that shaped the co-operation and friendly relationships between our universities to such a significant extent.

The co-operation between the Jagiellonian University and the Ruhr University Bochum was presented during a session entitled ‘30 years of co-operation between Bochum and Kraków’, which was the second part of the celebrations on 14 December 2009. The moderator of the session was Ass. Prof. Elżbieta Chrzanowska-Kluczewska, Director of the Institute of English Philology. Welcome speeches were given by Prof. Marcela Świątkowska, Dean of Philological Faculty and Prof. Elmar Weiler, Rector of the University Ruhr Bochum. Then the representatives of the International Relations Offices of both universities M. Kantor and M. Sprung made multimedia presentations of their universities and their 30 years of co-operation.

Then there were short speeches by the professors from Bochum, who received the JU medals ‘Plus ratio quam vis’ and their partners from the UJ. The first speakers were Prof. Roman Seer and Ass. Prof. Adam Nita from the tax law departments. Below we present the speech of Prof. Seer.

The partnership in the field of English Philology was shown by Prof. Hans-Jürgen Diller and Ass. Prof. E. Chrzanowska-Kluczewska. Prof. Diller, an outstanding specialist in Medieval English studies in literature and language, began his collaboration with the JU in 1978, one year before the official agreement. One of the fruits of his work with the Cracovian scholars was the publication of several volumes on English drama and theatre. The co-operation in Classical Philology was presented by Prof. Gerhard Binder and Prof. Kazimierz Korus. Prof. Binder initiated the collaboration in 1982. Then the project on the history of Greek and Roman literature, literary theories and linguistics was launched. Prof. Binder supported the applications of the JU candidates for DAAD scholarships and supervised their research stays in Bochum. The result of their endeavours was the monographic work ‘Places and Forms of Communication in Antiquity.’

The next talks concerned the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Sciences. The first speakers were Prof. Ralf-Jürgen Dettmar and Ass. Prof. Katarzyna Otmianowska-Mazur, Director of the JU Astronomical Observatory. Their common multimedia made for a very interesting presentation and showed 15 years of collaboration on the project concerning the structure, dynamics and evolution of galaxies, the interstar environment in galaxies. Prof. Albert Würflinger and Prof. Stanisław Urban (Institute of Physics) have collaborated for over 20 years. Their partnership led to publishing pioneering research in liquid crystals and vitreous phases. Having the consent of the RUB Prof. Würflinger gave the JU Institute of Physics his unique apparatus to examine the phase transmissions in the function of pressure and temperature, using the DTA method.

The last speaker was Prof. Michał Praszałowicz (Institute of Physics), who presented the co-operation with Prof. Klaus Goeke and Prof. Albert Glöckle, who could not come to Kraków. 20 years of partnership between the JU Department of Nuclear Physics and the Institute of Theoretical Physics II at the RUB embraced numerous visits, seminars and publication of over 60 joint papers. Prof. Praszałowicz stressed the aspect of ‘universitas’ in international scientific relationships. The medals for Prof. Goeke and Prof. Glöckle were given to Rector Weiler who later handed them to the honoured professors in Bochum in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Physics Prof. Czarnetzki.

The participants of the session could also listen to a concert of Polish music performed by the Academic Choir of the Jagiellonian University ‘Camerata Iagellonica’. It is worth mentioning that the JU Choir performed in Bochum in 1985 within the framework of cultural exchange between our universities.

M. Kantor
Magnifici, Spectabili, Honorable, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Bochum-Kraków-Law Faculty Connection began in the middle of the eighties of the last century. Especially the former Rector Knut Ipsen, Rolf Grawert und Heinrich Wilhelm Kruse established the partnership with the Jagiellonian University before the Iron Curtain had been drawn up. This was a remarkable act. The main subjects of their co-operation were public international and constitutional law, and even tax law. Apoloniusz Kostecki and Heinrich Wilhelm Kruse started a series of seminars on comparative tax law in the 1980s. In the beginning, the seminars focused on German Tax Law because in the socialist society the issue of taxes was not a very important question. Tax is the price of freedom. However, in a general view my colleagues could discuss the different systems of public financial law.

With time for the developing democratic Polish state tax law became more and more important during the ‘90s. Nearly every year groups of students and academics visited Kraków and Bochum. It had a forgoing impact on their German-Polish-friendship and attitude. In 1996, when I succeeded Heinrich Wilhelm Kruse on the chair of tax law, I found the tradition of seminars which I liked to continue and intensify. Apoloniusz Kostecki and I agreed to enlarge the seminars by student groups from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, supervised by our colleague Oliver Loncaric-Horvat. It was hard work to organise the tri-national-seminar every year. However, the results of our efforts made us very happy. One EU foundation state, one state on the way to the EU and another country, which wanted to find a way out of the tragedy of the Balkan war to become part of the peaceful, democratic European community. From 1997 to 2006 we organised annual seminars, which dealt with a huge scope of tax law issues. They referred to income, corporate, consumption, inheritance taxes as well the questions of the tax procedure and the legal protection of tax payers. The main subject was the European tax law and the impact of the European law on the national domestic tax systems of the EU member states. One of the most meaningful seminars was our meeting in Kraków in May 2004, the day after Poland had become an EU member state. The topic was – of course – the EU Tax Law!

After the retirement of Apoloniusz Kostecki the partnership has been continued by my colleague Adam Nita. Our two last bilateral seminars on the Value Added Tax Law in Kraków and Poronin near Zakopane last year and this year’s seminar in the Westphalia Versailles Castle in Nordkirchen near Münster with our friends of the North-Rhine-Westphalia School of Finance were very successful. I am deeply confident that we will have many more Polish-German Tax Law seminars in the future. Currently, my Chair and the Tax Law Department maintain international partnerships with several law faculties all over the world. But our partnership RUB – JU has had the longest tradition and has been one of the most important seminars. I have a vision of several very attractive academic projects in the future: we can start with an international summer school of Polish and German law for bilingual students, with courses in Polish and German, conducted partly in Kraków and partly in Bochum.

Plus ratio quam vis et viva amicitiae JU & RUB!

Prof. Dr. iur. Roman Seer, Lehrstuhl für Steuerrecht, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

ECTN works within the frameworks of European programmes and collaborates with numerous institutions, organisations and committees in particular EU countries. One can mention the German institution of Akkreditierungsverfahren für Studiengänge der Ingenieur- und der Naturwissenschaften, der Informatik und der Mathematik, the English one – Royal Society of Chemistry or the Italian Societa Chimica Italiana.

Before the JU Faculty of Chemistry had received the accreditation its academic staff and the teaching-research facilities were carefully evaluated. The Bachelor studies must ensure general
chemical knowledge, like in other institutions within ETCN, and the Master programme must embrace proper application aspects.

The accreditation is a distinction for the Jagiellonian University and it gives students many privileges. In the years 2008-2011 each graduate of the Faculty of Chemistry will receive a supplement confirming his knowledge and abilities, which the academic teachers belonging to the ECTN consortium regard as necessary on the given level of higher education. This applies to other European universities, too.

Since 2009 the JU Faculty of Chemistry has conducted international doctoral projects (MPD). Each project is realised in collaboration with a partner European university where a doctoral student does part of his research project within four year doctoral studies. ‘The programme embraces 20 research topics proposed for the best young researchers selected during an open contest. The novelty of the programme is included in the research topics themselves as they concern the latest fields of chemistry and multi-disciplinary research as well as the possibility to carry out research in close collaboration with the best centres in the world’, says Prof. Jacek Młynarski, the co-ordinator of the MPD Programme at the Faculty of Chemistry. Candidates from all over the world can send their applications to this programme. More information can be found at www.chemia.uj.edu.pl/mpd.

Alicja Rafalska-Lasocha

### That’s a life story!
**Prof. Stanisław Łukiewicz**

Professor Stanisław Jan Łukiewicz was born on the 8th of January 1927 in Kraków, where he spent his whole life. During the period of the German occupation (1939-1945) he completed three-year schooling at the Kraków Trade School. That allowed him to work at the Tax Office. In his personal accounts he mentioned being forced into labour by the Germans on the construction of the defense in infrastructure at Niedźwiedź near Kraków. He studied simultaneously in the underground education system functioning in Poland at that time. He passed his secondary school examinations under the auspices of the secret State Examination Commission. His School Certificate was obtained after the liberation of Poland and in 1946 he started to study at the Mathematical-Natural Science Faculty of the Jagiellonian University, from which he graduated in 1952 with Master’s degree in Biology. At the same time he also studied physics. During the final years of his university studies he was also working at the State Institute for Physical-Chemical Research.

Professor Łukiewicz began his academic career in 1952 following his employment as an academic teaching assistant in the Department of Animal Physiology and Biochemistry at the Agricultural Faculty of the Jagiellonian University. During the period 1954-1958 he studied as a postgraduate student at the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), becoming in 1958 lecturer at the PAN Department of Experimental Zoology in Kraków. He was awarded the degree of PhD in natural sciences in 1961 for his thesis entitled ‘Research into the prolonging of electronarcosis and galvanic contraction’, which he defended at the M. Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology at PAN in Warsaw.

From 1961 to 1965 Dr. Łukiewicz was in Sicily, Italy, for post-doctoral studies. At the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Comparative Anatomy of the University of Palermo he used the spectroscopy of electronic paramagnetic resonance (EPR) in the analysis of the physiochemical properties of biological systems. This research was pioneering for EPR applications in biology and allowed Dr. Łukiewicz to prepare his post-doctorial thesis entitled ‘Electronic paramagnetic resonance and the absorptive spectra of the sea urchin cell and its components’. He was awarded the habilitation degree in the field of biophysics on the 26th of September 1966 by the Biology and Earth Sciences Faculty Council of the Jagiellonian University.

In 1965 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. S. Łukiewicz together with Dr. M. Sarnecka-Keller (cf. *Triplet*, No 6 (3/09)) undertook the organisation of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the Jagiellonian University. In May 1969 Dr. Łukiewicz was transferred from the Polish Academy of Sciences to the newly opened research and teaching unit at the university where he took up the position of Reader. A year later, as a result of reorganisation, the department became the Institute of Molecular Biology, while from 1st January 1972 Dr. Łukiewicz was appointed Head of the Biophysics Department of the Jagiellonian University’s Institute of Molecular Biology; a function he fulfilled until 1984. It needs to be stressed that the founding of the Department of Biophysics at that time was only possible thanks
to the initiative, involvement, power of persuasion and enormous energy of Professor Łukiewicz. In 1976 Łukiewicz was appointed associate professor and in 1991 he was appointed full professor (profesor zwyczajny), at the Department of Biophysics. In 1986 he organised the Laboratory of Radio Spectroscopy of Cancer and Radiobiology, which he headed until 2002. Even following his formal retirement in 1997, Professor Łukiewicz displayed an exceptional degree of academic and teaching activity, employed at the Department of Biophysics on a part-time basis he directed academic research and doctoral theses almost up until the day he died. He passed away on 20th February 2005.

Throughout over half a century of his academic activities Professor Łukiewicz remained faithful to the academic interest he had developed while still an undergraduate and during the first years of his work as a researcher. His scientific development was characterised by a rarely met consistency – Prof. Łukiewicz persistently strove to understand the nature and physical mechanisms of the phenomena occurring within biological systems. Besides, he was always interested in new physical methods useful for the research of such processes. It is worth emphasising that some of these methods or techniques were developed by Prof. Łukiewicz himself or were adapted by him. His earliest research interests concerned bioelectric effects, particularly the role of stationary bioelectrical potential as well as the electrokinetic potentials of the cell surface. Professor Łukiewicz became interested in the magnetic properties of biological systems and the EPR techniques during his stay in Italy.

Of particular note among Professor Łukiewicz’s scientific accomplishments in the 1970s is a series of experimental works devoted to analysis of the EPR spectra of live cells and amphibian embryos. These studies were the first academic publications to demonstrate in a convincing way that EPR spectroscopy, despite known physical limitations, may be applied for studies of living organisms. Prof. Łukiewicz’s work from this period showed that in certain conditions the EPR spectrum is a source of unique information on disturbances in the permeability of cytoplasmatic membranes as well as on the physiological state and vitality of cells. What’s more, Prof. Łukiewicz was the author of new methodological solutions enabling EPR measurements of the X-ray irradiated samples. An extremely important achievement by Professor Łukiewicz’s research team from the 1970s and 1980s was the conceptualization and methodological development of the measurement of concentrations and diffusion of oxygen in biological systems using EPR oxymetry. This advanced physical method, used widely at present, enables an analysis of the transportation of molecular oxygen in biological membranes and other supramolecular biostructures.

Prof. Łukiewicz’s attention was drawn in 1988 to the atypical paramagnetic properties of rejected heart transplants and some tumours, connected with the appearance of complexes of nitric oxide. This work was done in parallel with analogical research conducted at the best American and English laboratories, for which the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine was awarded in 1998. In the same year Professor Łukiewicz gathered the main research trends on the subject in a monograph, which was published by the renowned Kluwer Academic Publishers. He was awarded, together with his team, Kraków’s II Degree Prize in 1999 in the field of science and technology for this editorial work.

His particular passion, one that had taken hold of him possibly even in the 1960s, was the application of EPR spectroscopy in the search for new methods in the treatment of tumours. Paramagnetism in melamins led to his interest in melanoma. He strove to a multimodal sensitization of melanoma to radiation, and later to visible light in the presence of a photosensitizer. He established many academic contacts with clinical institutions, many of which are still in effect to this day. One of them is the JU Ophthalmology Clinic, which is at the fore in Poland in the treatment of melanoma of the eyeball.

Prof. Łukiewicz’s research achievements met with lively interest and recognition on the part of foreign institutions. This was reflected by numerous invitations to international scientific meetings at the time that the participation of Polish academics was rather rare. In 1963 Professor Łukiewicz was the guest of the British Biophysical Society. From 1962-1964 he lectured at the Italian universities of Pavia and Genoa, and in 1973 at the University of Zurich within the framework of the European School of EPR. A year earlier he had actively participated in the work of the Fourth Congress on Biophysics held in Moscow, while in 1974 he gave two papers at the Fifth Congress on radiation research in Seattle (USA). In 1974, he participated in the Gordon Conference, presenting the results of the research into the paramagnetic properties of living cells.

In the 1970s Prof. Łukiewicz initiated co-operation with the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA, on biophysical applications of EPR. This co-operation, continued by the Biophysics Department to this day, was amongst some of the most fruitful that the Jagellonian University has engaged in over the last few decades. It has resulted, among other things, in the publication of over 200 joint papers in prestigious academic journals, several patents and
several joint research projects funded by the National Institute of Health.

Professor Stanisław J. Łukiewicz belonged to the group of eminent initiators of biophysical research in Poland; he played a decisive role in the development of this discipline in Poland and in a significant way was instrumental in the introduction of EPR spectroscopy to biophysical research. He was a co-founder of the specialist journal Current Topics in Biophysics. It is no exaggeration to say that Professor Łukiewicz made the Kraków School of Biophysicists recognizable worldwide. He possessed a unique talent of endearing students to biophysics through his excellent lectures, exceptionally friendly attitude towards students and devoting his time to students with embarrassing generosity. He would personally oversee the first experimental steps of novices to science, sometimes late at night. He used to visit laboratory classes, and willingly and most attentively fulfilled the role of tutor. It is, therefore, no surprise that the basis of the Professor’s School has been first and foremost the numerous group of PhD and MSc students tutored by Prof. Łukiewicz (in total over a hundred people) as well as a significant body of independent academics amongst who are many professors. Worth emphasizing is the high quality equipment of the present Department of Biophysics as well as the extensive academic contacts with the leading laboratories in the world. Out of the individuals, equipment and classes nurtured, assembled and designed by Prof. Łukiewicz, one could easily create a large academic institution. This has established the basis for further dynamic development of biophysics in Kraków, which was always Professor Łukiewicz’s dream.

On the 22nd January 2010 the Jagiellonian University hosted a delegation from the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas in the persons of Prof. Zigmantas Lydeka, Rector of the University, Prof. Jonas Vaicenonis, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Prof. Zigmantas Kiaupa from the Institute of History. The delegation met the Rector of the Jagiellonian University Prof. Karol Musiol as well as Prof. Andrzej Banach, Dean of the Faculty of History, Prof. Stanisław Sroka, Director of the Institute of History, and two historians: Prof. Piotr Franaszek and Prof. Krzysztof Ożóg. The aim of the visit was to discuss mutual projects devoted to the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald, in particular a conference on ‘The Times of Jagiello and Vytautas’ organised in Kaunas on 9-11 September 2010 with the participation of six historians from the Jagiellonian University.

The Battle of Grunwald (Tannenberg) was one of the most important battles of Medieval Europe and the largest one of those, in which medieval knights fought. It took place in open plains near the villages of Grunwald, Stębark (Tannenberg) and Łodwigowo on 15th July 1410. The Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian forces under the command of the King of Poland, Ladislaus Jagiello [Polish spelling: Władysław Jagiełło] in alliance with the Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas executed a decisive defeat on the Teutonic Knights, strengthened for the battle by Western European knights and commanded by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, Ulrich von Jungingen.

The Battle of Grunwald was one of the most splendid and important victories in Polish history. It has been commemorated and celebrated in numerous ways. For example, Henryk Sienkiewicz (the Nobel Prize recipient in literature) devoted one of his novels entitled ‘Krzyżacy’ [The Teutonic Knights] to the events connected with the battle and the battle itself. Numerous poems, songs, monuments, paintings and medals from various periods in history commemorate that victory. The memorial to King Jagiello and the Battle of Grunwald erected in Kraków in 1910, and destroyed by the Nazis during the Second World War, became the site of patriotic and anti-communist manifestations in the years 1945-1989.

In 1878 the eminent Polish historicist painter Jan Matejko painted a huge oil canvas devoted to the battle and entitled simply ‘Bitwa pod Grunwaldem’ [The Battle of Grunwald]. This painting is regarded a masterpiece of battle-scene painting.

It is also worth mentioning that there is a memorial devoted to the Polish King located in Central Park in New York. The equestrian statue of Jagiello, raised on its grand plinth, is one of the most prominently-sited and impressive of the twenty-nine sculptures located in Central Park. The inscription on the plinth of the monument reads: King Jagiello, King of Poland, Grand Duke of Lithuania, 1386 – 1434, Founder of a Free Union of the Peoples of East Central Europe, Victor Over the Teutonic Aggressors at Grunwald, July 15, 1410.

The King is shown seated on a horse holding two crossed swords over his head as a symbol of defiance and of the union of Polish-Lithuanian forces. Known as the Grunwald Swords, they were an invitation to the battle offered to the Polish King and Vytautas in an ironic gesture by Ulrich von Jungingen, the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. The monument represents the triumph of Jagiello, who was one of the most famous kings in the common history of Poland and Lithuania. It is worth mentioning, that the king played a very important role in the history of the Kraków University as well when he re-founded it in the year 1400. It is his wife Jadwiga and he himself, who gave the name to our Alma Mater – the Jagiellonian University.

Every year the Battle of Grunwald is commemorated through its re-enactment, which takes place precisely on the 15th of July. Thousands of medieval re-enactors from all over Europe, many dressed in knight’s armour, gather in Grunwald fields to reconstruct the battle. Each year the event is rehearsed with great care for the historical details of the armour, weapons, and the conduct of the battle itself.

M. Kantor, J. Basista
What is ‘Europe’? This is one of the first questions – and a deceptively difficult one – that students of European studies have to grapple with. However, we define it, the studies of the continent, and specifically its political integration, have gone from strength to strength and become increasingly popular in recent years, with landmark events such as the Maastricht Treaty and later Eastern Enlargement of 2004 and 2007 convincing many young people – from within the EU and further afield – that whatever Europe is, its structures and machinations are something worth learning about and seeking worth in. Today, increasing numbers of universities produce graduates in European Studies, training a cosmopolitan workforce for careers in European government and institutions, international business and much more besides.

The Jagiellonian University is no exception to this trend, and, in Poland at least, has been a forerunner, with the history of what is now the Institute of European Studies going back to 1993, when the Inter-faculty Department of European Studies was founded. Today, the Institute offers degree programmes and various specialisations at all levels in Polish, as well as a number of programmes taught in English, mostly taught at our international section known as the Centre for European Studies (CES). As well as participating in consortia including Euroculture and the International Masters in Economy, State and Society, both of which have been made Erasmus Mundus programmes, we offer several specialisations for students content to complete their MA studies at the Jagiellonian University. Some specialise in EU studies, and often end up following a career in government or NGOs in their own country or in multinational hubs such as Brussels.

Very popular is our Central and Eastern European Studies (CEE) stream, for students intent on building on their interest in our fascinating region. The new specialisation in Europeanisation and Governance in CEE, meanwhile, offers an angle which focuses on the same region in the light of its political integration into Europe and the challenges that brings.

On February 13 I represented the Jagiellonian University and the Centre for European Studies at the 11th annual EU Studies Fair organised by European Voice newspaper in the capital of Brussels and Europe. Around 700 visitors attended the fair, mostly young people interested in options for graduate study. Registrations had suggested that numbers might be even higher, but the cold weather proved a deterrent for some. Around 60 organisations were represented – mostly European universities but also other institutions, including the European Union Directorate General for Interpreting and, perhaps surprisingly, the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

The guest of honour at the fair was Androulla Vassiliou, four days into her job as European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multiculturalism and Youth, who gave the opening speech and made a short tour, chatting to exhibitors. As well as discuss education options, participants were also able to attend seminars on such subjects as ‘What is European Studies?’ and ‘The European Job Market’, and a tour of the European Union institutions was also offered.

The JU/CES table attracted a significant amount of interest, and, while I was able to provide information to visitors on options for studying in Kraków, it was also an interesting experience for me and other exhibitors to learn from the varied and cosmopolitan crowd, who came from a total of 56 countries (I talked to people from the Netherlands, Romania, France, Canada, Ukraine, China and Djibouti, to name but a few) and spoke an average of 3.6 languages each. Many were browsing for options for the best place to go to complete an MA degree in European Studies, European Law, International Relations etc., while others already had one or two MAs and were looking for the right location for doctoral studies. I spoke to a number of visitors and fellow exhibitors who had visited Małopolska’s capital before, their impressions usually very positive. Some people were specifically interested in Masters studies in the CEE region, and, fingers crossed, may soon be Jagiellonian University students. They should by then have a very good idea of what Europe is, and be ready to ask and learn to answer many more questions raised by the field of European and CEE studies.
The international conference in Sankt Petersburg, organised by the Polish Association and the General Consulate of the Republic of Poland on 30 October 2009, focused on the role of the democratic transformations in Poland after 1989, the limits of freedom of speech in public debate and the role of the media as the guarantee of a well-functioning democracy.

Addressing the young participants of the conference Aleksandra Sapieżyńska, the Vice-Consul of the Republic of Poland in Sankt Petersburg, stressed the merits of all those who had created the foundations of democratic country 20 years ago, giving examples how to build a better future, assuming the responsibility for the fate of their homeland. Unfortunately, many of those founders passed away. ‘Guarding democracy is a great challenge and at the same time a test of patriotism, especially for the Polish people dispersed in the whole territory of Russia, those who speak Polish and feel Polish thanks to the history of Poland, the tradition of their grandfathers and the feeling of responsibility, respecting freedom of speech as the fundamental value of the democratic state of law. This is the value without which building citizen society is a fiction. At the same time I reminded the audience that freedom of speech in political debate had to be always accompanied by responsibility for words. Using the constitutional warranty of freedom of speech must be realised with the feeling of responsibility, respecting other people’s personal goods, including politicians as well. Therefore, it is not easy to define the limits of criticism of the authorities. Freedom of the media often gives journalists a tool to effective control of the government’s activities but on the other hand, it frequently becomes a dangerous tool in the hands of those who overusing freedom of speech harm democracy.

The conference held in the Polish House in Sankt Petersburg gathered Polish and Russian young people from different regions of Russia, from the distant Archangelsk and even Kamchatka, the places where once Polish deportees lived, and nowadays the remembrance about their hard fates survived thanks to the efforts of the Polish Consulate and what is especially worth praising, thanks to the initiative of the Russian youth of one of the local schools who completely disinterestedly renovated the Polish cemetery in Borowicze (Borovichy), the place where the soldiers of the Home Army were transported in 1944. Mr Roman Władysław Bar, the President of the Association of the Polish Siberian Survivors of Borowicze Environment and a former prisoner of the Russian forced labour camps, was moved thanking the Russian youth for their remembrance of the Polish deportees. On 1 November the participants of the conference went to the cemetery in Levashovo, several kilometres away from Sankt Petersburg, to pay homage to the Russians, Poles, Latvians and other victims of Stalin’s represions who were massacred there in the years 1933-39. They put a wreath on behalf of the polished and Russian, concerning various aspects of building democracy in Poland after 1989. Victoria Gromowa, a doctoral student at the University of Sankt Petersburg, conducted workshops for youth entitled, ‘We learn democracy.’ They discussed what democracy was and what values were most frequently associated with it, how to use the achievements of democracy responsibly, how to participate in political life actively and what role the free media played in democracy.

Representing the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relationships of the Jagiellonian University I emphasized the merits of Anna Politkovska, the Russian journalist who gave her life for freedom of speech as the fundamental value of the democratic state of law. This is the value without which building citizen society is a fiction. At the same time I reminded the audience that freedom of speech in political debate had to be always accompanied by responsibility for words. Using the constitutional warranty of freedom of speech must be realised with the feeling of responsibility, respecting other people’s personal goods, including politicians as well. Therefore, it is not easy to define the limits of criticism of the authorities. Freedom of the media often gives journalists a tool to effective control of the government’s activities but on the other hand, it frequently becomes a dangerous tool in the hands of those who overusing freedom of speech harm democracy.

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Maciej Miżejewski
The route to the Stockholm prize requires extraordinary knowledge, abilities and an enormous input of work...

Our Faculty gained 15 students of Biophysics, who are already now putting in all possible effort in order to enter onto this difficult path. The reactivation of the Biophysics Student Club, under the new graceful name of NOBEL, started in 2008. The acronym could be read as Natural Obsession for Biophysics Emanating from Laboratories. The academic overseer for the Nobelists is Dr. Jerzy Dobrucki.

Agreement of co-operation with Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University

Economy. The research focuses on the Ukrainian language and literature, Polish studies, social work, geological studies of the Carpathians and the soil sciences.

Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi University, founded in 1875, is located in the south-west of Ukraine, close to the Romanian border, in the city of Chernivtsi, the centre of Northern Bukovina. It has 16 faculties, over 20,000 students, 1,150 professors and 7 research centres.

M. Kantor

Biophysics Student Club NOBEL

On 22 February 2010, the Jagiellonian University hosted a delegation from Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine. The delegation consisted of the Rector Prof. Stepan Melnychuk, Prof. Yuri Makar, the Director of the Institute of International Relations at the Faculty of History, Political Science and International Relations, and Dr. Yaroslav Redkva, the Director of International Relations. The main purpose of the visit was to get to know the JU and to sign a new agreement of co-operation, which would continue the collaboration that started in 2006. The Ukrainian visitors met the JU Rector Prof. Karol Musioł, the Vice-rector Prof. Szczepan Bieliński, the Dean and the Vice-Dean of the Philological Faculty Prof. Marcela Świątkowska and Prof. Zofia Berdychowska, the Director of the Institute of East Slavonic Philology Prof. Grzegorz Przebinda and Prof. Adam Fałowski from the same institute, who initiated the collaboration.

The new agreement embraces the exchange of scientists, doctoral students and MA students. It concerns the Institute of East Slavonic Philology, the Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World, the Institute of Psychology, the Botanical Garden and the Institute of Geography and Space

Science Festival 2009
The first president of the reactivated club was Patryk Kuleta, at the time a student of the 3rd year of biophysics. At the beginning of the current academic year 2009/2010 the new NOBEL board was elected: its president is Paulina Rybak (4th year student), the function of vice-president is performed by Maciej Bratek (2nd year) while the funds are administered by Joanna Kwiatek (4th year).

The members of NOBEL meet on Wednesdays – in the very middle of the work week. Besides the friendly atmosphere, an important fact is that freshmen as well as older students are involved in the organisation of the particular projects to various degrees.

Despite the fact that the Club has only been in existence for a short time we have already managed to take part in several important undertakings. One should note that many of these have been conducted in association with the Departments and Laboratories of our Faculty. The first important event for the Club was its presence at the annual Science Festival. At the Main Market Square, amongst historians staging battles, and students of culture teaching Asiatic dances, there stood our Faculty’s tent full of a ‘field laboratory’. The Biophysics Student Club organised a stand on which the cosmic looking pipettes, bottles and beakers with their mysterious liquids allowed one to extract from the plants and vegetables used every day in the kitchen, a whole array of colours – plant dyes. The rainbow of testers caught the attention of visiting adults and children alike.

Under the presidency of Patryk Kuleta, combining strength and zeal with students from other parts of Poland, First Biophysics Student Exchange Programme was launched. The inaugurating round, organised by biophysicists from Poznań, took place in May. This allowed the most active of our Club’s members to go on an academic trip and visit the sister faculty of Biophysics at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The project had its finale at the end of November at the Jagiellonian University’s Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, where our guests had the opportunity to take part in seminars and practical laboratory classes. However, co-operation itself with the Poznań biophysicists has not come to an end, for on the horizon other joint ideas.

To make biophysics more popular among the high school students, we decided to answer the most often asked question: ‘What really is biophysics?’, and so we have started a series of lectures entitled Meetings with Biophysics! To date we have been hosted by three high schools (in Kraków and environments). Remembering our own rebellious attitude to studying while at secondary school, we were more than pleasantly surprised by the lively reaction on the part of the young and the genuine interest in the subject we presented.

We are aware that a lot of work still lies ahead of us as well as challenges – those every day and those more extraordinary, but we have also the hope that our NOBEL is on the right route to a Nobel.

Agnieszka Pierzyńska-Mach
Agnieszka Grabowiecka
A long time ago in a kingdom far, far away, two young explorers were given a special task. Coming from the oldest city of their country, they were sent to the unknown east. After a long and heroic journey they finally arrived at their final destination, the magical medieval city of Kraków situated at the banks of Poland’s main river. So what was the mission that brought these two brave young men to this cold and unknown region?

The two explorers are IRUN ambassadors studying at the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands. This spring semester we are studying at the Jagiellonian University as Erasmus students. From the last winter semester, the Radboud University began to train exchange students to become IRUN ambassadors. During their study period at an IRUN partner it is our task to promote the International Research Universities Network as well as our own university. With this purpose we co-operate with the partner’s International Office, e.g. to give a presentation at an event promoting studying abroad. Furthermore, as ambassadors, we keep a weblog about our experiences in Kraków. These weblogs can be found on the website of IRUN. In this way, we hope to encourage other students to follow our example and to spend some months at an IRUN partner university. Personal contact with the local students is, therefore, essential in achieving our goal.

It is obvious that science is not bound by national borders. In a globalizing world it is important that students are prepared for international careers. Studying abroad is, therefore, becoming more and more important. Going abroad to one of the IRUN members makes it even more attractive for students to study at a foreign university. It is an exciting and fulfilling period of your life; you gain personal development through cultural experience, you have the option to specialize or broaden your study, it looks good on your curriculum vitae, and of course, during this adventure you will make many international friendships. And we are experiencing all these benefits right now.

We are really positive about both our first weeks as exchange students as well as the way we were welcomed as IRUN ambassadors. The first time we visited the office of the JU International Relations we were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Maria Kantor, who told us a lot about the university and the ambitious plans lying ahead. Besides that, she introduced us to other staff involved in student exchange and international relations, a good starting point for our ambassadorship in Kraków!

Of course, we are not only ambassadors; we enjoy the Erasmus student life as well! After all, the best way to promote our university is to stay in close contact with both the Polish and the international students. After our registration at the International Student Office, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) organized an Orientation Week for all the incoming students. In this week, we met a lot of other students from all over Europe and also from other parts of the world. We did some nice sightseeing tours in the old city and Kazimierz and we discovered the university library. We had a lot of fun during a paintball session in the basement of an old hotel and of course we didn’t miss the famous Kraków nightlife. It was an intensive but really useful and interesting week were we made a lot of new friends; a perfect basis for a wonderful spring semester in Kraków. It was good to see the ESN team putting a lot of effort in making everything as comfortable as possible for us. We will definitely take these experiences back home and follow their example when exchange students will visit our university!

And now the classes have started, the reason why we are actually here. In these classes we really experience the advantages of studying abroad. We discuss various topics with international students and lecturers. These intercultural meetings are a real enrichment to our study programme. It is good to see that the level of the courses we are following is so high and that most of the students are very motivated. We are looking forward to classes still to come and of course all the interesting discussions we will have. We are sure we will have a semester never to forget, and hopefully, many other students will decide to do the same at one of the IRUN universities!

Rick de Jong & Roger Voncken

IRUN student ambassadors at JU
Fifth Academic Carol Concert

Polish and international classic Christmas carols sounded in the hall of Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University on 16 January 2010. It was the Fifth 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 and the President of Kraków. The performers embraced five choirs and one orchestra. These were: the Choir of the Philosophical-Pedagogical Higher School ‘Ignatianium’, the Choir of the University of Agriculture in Kraków, the Choirs of the John Paul II Pontifical University, the ‘Cantata’ Choir of the Kraków University of Technology, the ‘Camerata Iagellonica’ Academic Choir of the Jagiellonian University, the Polish Radio Choir and the orchestra of the AGH University of Science and Technology. 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 carol ‘Silent night’. The AGH representative orchestra, dressed in colourful gala costumes, played ‘Jingle bells’ and ‘White Christmas’. The professional Polish Radio Choir performed ‘La Nuit de Noël’ (arr. Jean Baptiste de Bousset – 1662-1725), ‘A la nanita nana’ (arr. Mario Acebedo) and ‘A ty, Betlejem’ – Christmas Oratory by Hubert Kowalski, with the soloists L. Pociecha (soprano) and H. Poczykowski (alt).

Finally, one should mention Mr Grzegorz Mielczarek, an actor of the Słowacki Theatre in Kraków, who was the master of ceremony of the concert.

M. Kantor

O. Sznicar conducting the JU Choir ‘Camerata Iagellonica’

P. Szeptyński conducting the Choir ‘Cantata’

Polish Radio Choir

G. Mielczarek – the master of ceremony

Orchestra of the AGH University of Science and Technology
Errol Tapiwa Muzawazi from Zimbabwe, a student of law, is a real star among the international students of the Jagiellonian University. In 2009 he won the special award granted by the President of the Students’ Parliament and the Chairman of the Educational Foundation ‘Perspektywy’ in the first contest ‘InterSTUDENT’ for the best international student in Poland. Errol Tapiwa Muzawazi is also known for his attempt to make Guinness records for the longest lecture. His last (the fourth) successful attempt began on 9 December at 12 p.m. and lasted 121 hours, i.e. almost six days and nights! 59 students from 17 countries were involved in organising this long lecture and the JU Rector Prof. Karol Musioł took the honorary patronage over this event. The theme of Errol’s lecture was various political systems. He also answered the questions of the listeners who gathered in the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University. The whole lecture was broadcast on the JU webpage.

Two days after beating the record Errol formulated his theory of will consisting of 5 factors: courage, faith, motivation, determination, sacrifice. Certainly, all these features help him study law and initiate numerous endeavours. Perhaps the best conclusion of his extraordinary achievement is the words of one of the encouraging banners ‘Even sky is not a limit for you’. Congratulations to Errol!

M. Kantor