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This year marks the twentieth anniversary since the founding of the School of Public Health, now the Institute of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Jagiellonian University Collegium Medicum. To celebrate this occasion, the Institute of Public Health organised a symposium on April 16th entitled ‘Public Health in Europe’ held in the JU Collegium Novum. Among the invited guests were: John Dalli, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Professor Helmut Brand, President-elect of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), Dr. Mark Haber, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Health of Poland, Dr. Maciej Piróg, Advisor to the President for Health and Dr. Andrzej Ryś, Director for Public Health Directorate General Health and Consumer Commission. The conference was opened by the Rector of Jagiellonian University Prof. Karol Musioł, who said, ‘The nineteenth century was the era of steam engines, the twentieth century was marked by electricity, while the current era will be one of health protection because people want to live longer and are able to sacrifice a lot to achieve this. In two areas of science the power of the human mind achieves the best results: in cosmology and in health care. For this reason preventive measures are becoming increasingly more important, which by its nature is noble in every respect, in fact, prevention, is infinitely better than a cure.’ Addresses to the participants of the symposium were given by the Governor of Małopolska Stanislaw Kracik and the Deputy Marshal Wojciech Kozak. The Director of the Office of Health Protection of the City of Krakow Michal Marszałek read a congratulatory letter from Prof. Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of Kraków. Dr. Mark Haber submitted to the Director of the Institute of Public Health a congratulatory letter from the Health Minister Dr. Ewa Kopacz and presented his views on public health in Poland.

Prof. Helmut Brand referred to the problems of teaching public health in a multinational Europe. Dr. A. Ryś spoke about the opening of the School of Public Health, pointing out that it was the work of people who had ‘wanted to want,’ who strived for something more from health care in Poland. ‘The School, and now the Institute of Public Health, is a great success, although we started quite modestly. [...] We dreamed of a school like the one organised by the French, to which students could apply from various fields of study, a place that would forge future personnel for the changing health care organisation in Poland.’

During the symposium, Dr. Ryś received a Plus ratio quam vis medal for his contribution to the Jagiellonian University.

Prof. Andrzej Pająk, Director of the Institute of Public Health, presented the most important changes in health status that had occurred in Polish society during the past twenty years, pointing to the apparent increase of life expectancy. The main reason for this is the reduction of infant mortality and mortality from cardiovascular disease and cancer among adults. The dynamic reduction in mortality is due in largest part to changes that are of interest to public health and lifestyles that affect the Polish society. Prof. Pająk concluded, ‘We are a small unit of the Jagiellonian University, primarily...’
dedicated to research and teaching in public health and our undertakings are part of the process of general transformations rather than of causative significance. If we exert any beneficial effects on this transformation that happens primarily through our graduates. However, in helping to develop knowledge of health problems and improve methods of health promotion and disease prevention, we have no doubts that we are on the right track.’

A brief history

What is today called the Institute of Public Health initially opened in Kraków in 1991 as the School of Public Health – an interdepartmental unit of the Medical Academy, affiliated to the Jagiellonian University. It was the first Polish school of public health, established with support from the Ministry of Health and with the advice of representatives of the French Ministry of Health. The school was modelled on the French Ecole Nationale de la Santé Publique (ENSP).

The School’s first director (1991-1992) was Dr. Tadeusz Skarbeck who was soon succeeded by Andrzej Ryś, MD, (1992-1996). In 1991 the School of Public Health (SZP) launched intensive and multidimensional initiatives aimed at preparing a modern managerial staff for the reformed Polish health care system. To this end, a two-year postgraduate studies programme was opened in the field of hospital management and public administration, and in 1993 a three-year postgraduate studies programme was initiated for professionals employed in managerial positions in health care institutions. ENSP programmes and the Harvard School of Public Health served as models in developing these programmes. In the years 1993-1998 the SZP worked together with its French partners to design an annual postgraduate studies programme for pharmaceutical inspectors. In 1992 the School of Public Health became a member of the Association of Schools of Public Health in European Region (ASPHER), and in October 1994, SZP was organiser of the ASPHER XVI conference entitled ‘Information Policy in Public Health.’ A year later, the School received accreditation for its Public Health education programme from ASPHER (which now has over 80 institutional members located throughout the Member States of the European Union). In 1997, SZP opened an annual postgraduate studies programme on Health Promotion for people employed in the health sector, modelled after similar educational programmes implemented in Holland, and was financed by the EU Tempus Programme.

In February 1997, pursuant to the resolution of the Jagiellonian University Senate the School of Public Health was transformed into the Institute of Public Health and became part of the Department of Health Protection at the JU Medical College. In 1996-2001, Prof. W. Cezary Włodarczyk became the director of the Institute. His successors as directors were: Prof. Zdzisław Szafrań in 2001-2002, Prof. Stanisława Golinowska in 2002-2008. Since September 2008 the Director of the Institute has been Prof. Andrzej Pająk.

The second session of the symposium was turned over to Public Health graduates who spoke about their experiences in managing health sector units. Prof. Marian Zembala, Managing Director of the Silesian Centre for Heart Diseases, presented the jubilee as an opportunity and a test for receiving, treating and arranging treatment. The Director of the National Blood Centre Agnieszka Beniuk-Patola spoke about public health and its place in the department of health. Andrzej Olszewski, the current mayor of the City of Łęczyca, pointed to the chance of promotion and career development offered by the study of public health. The symposium also created an opportunity for all the alumni to meet, which resulted in the creation of the Alumni Club of the Institute of Public Health.

Maja Bończa

Address given by John Dalli, the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here in this great centre of learning in Kraków; to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the University School of Public Health. Looking at these buildings and at all the people gathered here today, I am struck by the positive influence that this University has had on the health and well-being of Europeans over the past centuries. More than 600 years ago, Kraków was one of the first Universities to offer studies in medicine. Since then, the research and teaching carried out here have helped to improve health and treat diseases for countless numbers of people. Over 500 years ago, Nicolaus Copernicus studied here. We all recognise his astounding contribution to the understanding of our solar system. Not so many people know, however, that Copernicus also became an eminent physician who provided free health care to the poor. Today, Kraków University continues to play an important role in Poland and in Europe.

20 years ago, Kraków University established the first public health institute in Poland. And five years ago, it lost its former Director – here with me today - to the benefit of the European Commission, where he heads our public health department.

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Moving on, the issue that is uppermost in our minds these days – in Brussels, and no doubt here in Kraków – is the economic crisis. In these times of budgetary constraints, we need to remind ourselves that our health is our greatest resource. Health is wealth. Money spent on health is an investment in our future. We need to explore knowledge, technology and resources in more effective and innovative ways. We need to be able to achieve more, with less. To do so, we must build on the best knowledge and evidence to build efficient public health systems that deliver better health to our citizens. This Institute of Public Health plays a key role in identifying innovative solutions for healthcare. It is through institutes like this that we develop the knowledge and the skills we need to sustain strong healthcare systems.

I believe the EU has a role to play in supporting the development of the capacities needed in Europe for effective public health policies. The first step is to obtain sound and reliable information on public health capacity. So that we can improve the ways in which we develop such capacity in the future. This is why the European Commission is supporting work to assess public health capacities in the EU through our Health Programme. Developing knowledge is important; but it is not enough. We also need to share knowledge and learn from each other. In this context, I welcome the Jagiellonian University participation in the Association of Schools of Public Health, which fosters exchanges of information and ideas between universities across Europe.

I believe that to build successful public health policies we need knowledge, skills and values. Education and professional training are essential in delivering all these. Public health practice also needs tools, methods and systems. Public health is the ‘science and art of improving health and preventing disease through the organised efforts of society.’

To fulfil its mission, it needs information systems to assess citizens’ health status. It needs research to develop understanding and evidence about actions to improve health. It needs high quality governance to analyse complex issues and develop effective policies. And finally it needs tools, and it goes without saying, it needs resources – to deliver, evaluate and improve these policies.

In the second half of this year, Poland will take on the Presidency of the EU Council. The key health priority of the future Polish Presidency is ‘closing the gap,’ in other words, bridging health inequalities. I fully share this concern. I believe that each and every citizen should have access to good quality healthcare. In this spirit, I am very much looking forward to co-operating closely with Poland on ‘Closing the Gap.’

Improving public health in Europe is a long-term endeavour. Academic centres of excellence in public health, such as Kraków, provide the vital ingredients for this to happen. I wish the Institute every success in contributing to leading and shaping improvements in public health.
New programmes at JU: veterinary medicine
Holocaust–totalitarianisms

In the academic year 2011/12 the Jagiellonian University is launching two new programmes: veterinary medicine and Holocaust and totalitarianisms.

On 7 March 2011 the Rector of the Jagiellonian University Prof. Karol Musioł and the Rector of the Agricultural University Prof. Janusz Zmija and Prof. Tadeusz Wijaszka, Director of the National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy, signed an agreement of scientific co-operation within the framework of the Veterinary Medicine Centre affiliated with the Agricultural University in Kraków. This unit will conduct research in veterinary, in particular food security and people’ and animals’ health. Students can study veterinary medicine. ‘Science has no limits and universities should not be divided artificially. Signing this agreement of co-operation we are making a big step towards food security in southern Poland,’ Prof. Musioł said.

The JU Institute of European Studies and the Centre for Holocaust Studies invite students to a new Master’s course on the Holocaust and totalitarianisms. The course will include the following subjects: the Holocaust, the regimes of the Third Reich and fascist Italy, the consequences of prejudices on the religious and ethnic background, the analysis of ethnic, political, social conflicts (including contemporary international conflicts) as well as the analysis of xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism in a wide historical and comparative perspective.

M. Kantor

Exhibition ‘Beethoven and eternal femininity’

Every year the Jagiellonian Library prepares an exhibition of Beethoven’s manuscripts, which accompanies the 15th Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival. This year the exhibition was entitled ‘Beethoven and eternal femininity’ and designed by Michal Lewicki. It was held on 5-22 April 2011.

The opening of the exhibition took place in the Jagiellonian Library on 5 April and was graced by a piano concert by Marcin Koziać. The opening gathered many outstanding guests including the JU authorities, Elżbieta Penderecka, director of the Beethoven Easter Festival, and Dr. Heinz Peters, the General Consul of Germany in Kraków.

The motif of the exhibition was ‘eternal femininity’ that ‘saves and elevates’ according to Goethe’s ‘Faustus.’ The motif of woman was shown in various musical manuscripts, including two sketches of Beethoven: his compositions to the opera ‘Leonora’ and to Goethe’s drama ‘Egmont.’ The other exhibits included the autographs of Haydn’s opera and of Hoffman’s opera ‘Udine’ as well as manuscripts of Robert Schumann’s and Johannes Brahms’ songs. The curator of the exhibition added several manuscripts of Polish composers of the 19th century: Maria Szymanowska, Tekla Bądarzewska, Julia Potocka and Amelia Ogińska. The figures of women: goddesses, mothers, lovers, were shown on enlarged replicas.

It is worth adding that women were a great source of inspiration for Beethoven. He composed a song cycle ‘To the Distant Beloved’ (An die ferne Geliebte), opus 98, and wrote a letter containing the famous words ‘Already in bed my thoughts go out to you my immortal beloved,’ on the morning of 7 July 1812. Beethoven’s relations with women have been the subject of endless fascination to biographers. Certainly, the composer fell deeply but unhappily in love on several occasions. ‘The exhibition shows the beginnings of the life of a musical work. It is an excellent occasion to look, if only for a moment, into the laboratory of the composer’s thoughts,’ E. Penderecka said during the opening.

M. Kantor
The Jan Błoński Festival was held at the JU Faculty of Polish Studies on 4-6 April 2011 for the first time. The intention of its organisers was to present the most important achievements of the academic staff and students of the Faculty and the role of the Faculty in the Kraków humanities environment.

Professor Jan Błoński (1931-2009), patron of the Festival, was an outstanding, versatile expert in old and contemporary Polish literature as well as literary critic, essayist and translator. The dedication of the Festival to his name flows from the conviction that he played a very important role in shaping the image of the Polish studies in Kraków. The ideological line of the Festival was marked by Professor Błoński’s research and existential project, based on dialogue, embracing various subdisciplines and his unfailing passion for literature.

The main element of the Festival was a conference entitled ‘Transformations of metalanguage. Polish studies versus experiences of post-modernity.’ Among others the following topics were discussed: Temptations of transdisciplinarity; At the wilderness of pop-culture; New perspectives of biography writing; Intimacy of researchers.

The workshops for grammar school students included:
- rhetoric in everyday practice
- how to understand computer games
- Do you know what you remember?
- Culture of cities: texts, pictures, sounds
- What do translations betray?
- What does the body say?
Non-verbal communication.

The Festival was to be an excellent occasion to present to grammar school students, as potential candidates, the didactic offer of the JU Faculty of Polish Studies. The Festival was also an occasion to meet writers and outstanding representatives of Polish humanities. During the first discussion panel scholars and reviewers reflected on the meaning of Jan Błoński’s research and critical-literary activities. In another panel conducted by Adam Wiedemann, Jerzy Franczak and Jaś Kapela, the eminent representatives of the middle-aged and young generation of contemporary writers and JU alumni of Polish Studies, the audience learnt whether one could become a writer after graduating from the Jagiellonian University.

M. Kantor

Commemorating student Karol Wojtyła

On 27 April 2011 the Jagiellonian University Rector Prof. Karol Musiol unveiled a tablet commemorating the studies of Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II) at the JU Faculty of Polish Studies, 16 Gołębia Street. The tablet was placed on the façade of the building of the Faculty at which young Karol Wojtyła studied Polish philology in the years 1938-39. The initiator of the tablet was Prof. Tadeusz Ulewicz, a friend of Karol Wojtyła from the period of his studies at the Jagiellonian University. The academic community had wanted to commemorate their outstanding student 30 years ago, in October 1981 but because of the political situation the idea was not realised until 1997 at which time the tablet was placed inside the building of ‘Gołębnik.’ Currently, it was moved to the façade.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. Barbara Kudrycka, the Minister of Science and Higher Education, who had participated in the session of the JU Senate on the same day. The discussions during the Senate meeting focused on the reform of higher education in Poland, which would be binding from 1 October 2011, and on the situation of science in Poland.

The other special participant of the ceremony in front of the building of the Faculty of the Polish Studies was Professor Emeritus Tadeusz Ulewicz (94) himself. He studied Polish philology in the years 1935-39 during which he got to know student Karol Wojtyła.

It is worth adding that the ceremony of unveiling the commemorative tablet took place just a few days before the ceremony of the beatification of Pope John Paul II (1 May 2011).

M. Kantor
The legend of the Indian cinema
Amitabh Harivansh Bachchan participated in the OFF PLUS CAMERA 2011 Festival in Kraków. For 60 years he has played in over 200 films and has been the most important actor, director and producer in the history of the Indian cinema. On the occasion of his stay in Kraków on 12 April 2011 he also visited the Jagiellonian University since he is a son of the outstanding Hindi poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan (1907-2003). He brought a portrait of his father and gave it to the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Jagiellonian University. The meeting was held in the building of Collegium Novum and attended by the Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations Prof. Szczepan Biliński and the Dean of the Philological Faculty Prof. Marcela Świątkowska as well as teachers and students of Oriental Studies. Naturally, the Indian students who study medicine at the JU were invited for that meeting.

The portrait of H. Bachchan will be hung in the library of the Institute of Oriental Studies. In his short speech Amitabh Bachchan spoke about his father and his poetry. In the evening he read his father’s poetry in Teatr STU. Several weeks earlier the students of the Jagiellonian University, the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań and Warsaw University translated some of Bachchan’s poetry and these translations were displayed when the poet’s son was reading them in the original.

The famous Indian actor, accompanied by his wife and daughter, visited the JU Museum in Collegium Maius and had a separate meeting with the Vice-Rector Biliński. They talked about the Indological studies at the JU Institute of Oriental Studies. Indology has the longest history among the departments at the Institute of Oriental Philology. Lectures in Sanskrit started here already in the 1860s and soon in 1893 a regular chair for Sanskrit was established. The modern Department of Indology offers professional education in civilisations, cultures and languages of South Asia: Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu (soon also in Tamil and Malayalam), which transcends political boundaries of modern India. A wide range of subjects pertaining to and expressed in these languages fall within the scope of education and research programmes: literary and religious traditions, the world of manuscripts written on palm leaves as well as modern topics in literary criticism, textual and linguistic studies, systems of ancient knowledge, history as well as contemporary social and economic problems of South Asia, patterns of regional culture, architecture, theatre and performing arts of India. The Department also publishes Cracow Indological Studies.

M. Kantor

Amitabh Harivansh Bachchan
A. Bachchan among students; on his right – Dr. L. Sudyka
Maria Skłodowska-Curie – an extraordinary woman

Maria Skłodowska was born in Warsaw in 1867 as the fifth child to the patriotic, teachers’ Skłodowski family. Her father taught mathematics and physics and her mother Bronisława Boguska was a superior of a school for girls. From her childhood Mania (the name she was called) had an excellent memory and wide interests. Her mother died when she was less than 11. Two years earlier her sister died of typhus. Her father devoted much time to his family and cared for his children’s education very much. Despite the Russification attempts of the Tsarist authorities he brought up his children in a patriotic spirit. He often invited young people and read the poetry of Mickiewicz and other Polish poets. Mania graduated with honours and received a gold medal of the state gymnasium in Warsaw at the age of 15. She wanted to continue education but due to wrong investments of her father the Skłodowskis experienced financial troubles.

Miss Mania began teaching private lessons. She also studied a little at the illegal Floating University in the Polish territory under the Russian partition. When her sister Bronisława, who also worked as a teacher, left for Paris to study medicine 18-year old Mania accepted a better paid post of a governess in the Żorawski family. She spent three years there. She sent a considerable part of her salaries to her sister. They had made an agreement: firstly, Mania would work for Bronia’s studies and when Bronia graduated she would offer financial help to Maria who wanted to study. Maria would write about her stay in the estate of Szczuki in her Autobiography, published in Poland in 1959.

Since the normal duties did not take up all of my time, I created a small class for rural children, who under the Russian government had nowhere to learn. [...] Even innocent educational work was dangerous because any initiative of this kind was banned by the government and threatened with imprisonment or deportation to Siberia.

Besides her daily governess’ duties and educational work with peasants’ children Maria did her best to catch up with her own education.

She did not know what she was going to do in the future. Her passions included literature, sociology and sciences.

Slowly, however, over the years, working alone, exploring my talents and tastes eventually I focused on mathematics and physics [...].

After having returned to Warsaw she found a new job, similar to her previous one. She gave private lessons and cared for her own education. In 1890 she had access for the first time to a small workshop, the Laboratory of Industry and Agriculture Museum directed by her cousin Józef Boguski, a former assistant of Mendeleev. There she mastered the foundations of chemical analysis and became acquainted with scientific-research work.

I tried various experiments described in textbooks of physics and chemistry. Sometimes a little success encouraged me to continue. At other times, I fell into deep despair due to accidents and errors, resulting from my lack of experience. In general, however, knowing that progress cannot come either quickly or easily,
these first attempts reinforced my passion for experimental research in physics and chemistry.

Mania spent much time with a group of young people who believed that all hopes of her homeland, torn apart by the partitioners, ‘depend on big efforts to develop intellectual and moral strengths of the nation and that such efforts would lead to the improvement of the homeland’s fate. The short-term aim was to work on one’s own education and collect means to spread education among workers and peasants.’

In November 1891, at the age of 24, she left for Paris. On 3 November 1891 she began studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the Sorbonne, in Paris, as one of 23 women among 1,825 students. At first, she stayed with her sister but then she moved closer to the university not to waste time and money for public transport. She lived in the Latin District in a humble flat in the attic. In winter she studied mainly in the library since her flat was so cold that water froze in the basin.

With nothing else to take up my time, I became completely engrossed in learning. [...] Everything new that I saw and learned delighted me. It was like a revelation of a new world, a world of knowledge, to which I finally gained access.

Despite some gaps in knowledge (she did her best to catch up with the programme in Paris), thanks to her talents and tireless work in the year 1893 she received a degree in physics (licence ès sciences phisiques), graduating first in her class. To earn her living she began working for Prof. Lippman. In 1894/95 she wrote a dissertation on which she wrote a personal dedication for Prof. Witkowski that ‘... what individual Professor or group of Professors at Your institution have done to allow women to listen to lectures, attend courses or some special sciences at some faculties and whether the University has ever awarded any degrees to women...’ The answer stated that ‘no one at the University has dealt with it officially and no official activities have been undertaken’ (AUJ, S II 673).

As the result of numerous applications in the academic year 1894/95 three women (pharmacists) as free listeners were allowed to attend lectures at the Jagiellonian University.

In his memoirs – letters to his wife – Prof. Odo Bujwid, a bacteriologist and social activist, described Miss Sklodowska’s attempt to get some post in Kraków:

I remember how it bid your farewell prior to her departure for Paris, when she could not obtain a position as assistant at the Department of Physics, at Witkowski’s. She stands in tears at our dining table in Students’ Street. Both despairing the foolish fate which does not permit women to work at the university [...] You say to her: Miss Mary, be calm, and go to a place where they can better assess your skills and learning. You will do a lot of good for yourself and for the country which does not know how to appreciate you.

As Prof. Wróblewski writes in his book, ‘Scholars in the anecdote’ women’s situation was not better at other places. Lisa Meitner (1878-1968), who worked with Otto Hahn in Berlin, was allowed to organise her own laboratory in the basement of the institute of chemistry. The director of the institute let Lisa work, thus breaking the existing rules, but she had to use a separate entrance and was forbidden to enter the higher floors where women could only clean the halls.

The famous mathematician Emmy Noether (1882-1935) worked with her father and naturally, she did not receive any salary. In 1915 she moved to the centre of mathematics in Göttingen but the local professors by no means wanted to agree to employ women. She was officially employed only in 1923 but received no salary. When she reached the peak of her fame in 1933 she had to resign. The tandem of Hitler and Goebbels thought that women should not work at universities. The former said that emancipation was a Jewish idea and the latter thought that women should be beautiful and bear many children.

The turn of the 19th and 20th centuries was not the time for women to work as scientists. Although Prof. Witkowski was very kind to Maria and she respected him very much (which was shown in her letters and documents as well as in the copy of her doctoral dissertation on which she wrote a personal dedication for Prof. Witkowski) there was no chance to employ women at the Kraków University.

It was still in Paris that Professor Kowalski introduced Maria to Pierre Curie (1859-1906), a humble although already known physicist and professor in the School of Physics and Chemistry in Paris. She described him: noticed a serious and nice expression on his face, and some semblance of negligence in his tall person, featuring a dreamer lost in his thoughts. He was quite simply kind and seemed very nice.

Beautiful minds discern each other despite the sex, age, nationality or social status. Thus one can explain
much. Of Paris, relaxing after their scientific and Pierre rode bicycles in the vicinity in which to live and work. She was also preparing to take honours in 1896. In their free time Maria wanted anything more than a small corner in which I hardly dare believe, to pass through life together hypnotized in our dreams: your dream for your country; our dream for humanity; our dream for science.

When Pierre proposed to Maria she hesitated because marriage would mean leaving her family and homeland. She was not sure whether she made a right decision but her elder brother supported her, writing:

No reasonable man can hold this against you. Knowing you I am sure with all your soul that you will remain forever a Pole and never give up your family. We also do not cease to love you and care for you.

Maria decided to look closer at the uranium ores. Her analytical mind told her what caused the intensified radiation). She had to separate it and show to the what she observed another interesting phenomenon. In the minerals that were part of uranium or thorium the radiation intensity was not proportional to the contents of these elements in the ores. Some minerals showed an activity that was several times bigger than could have been calculated from the amount of the uranium included in them. After many attempts Maria was sure that the results she gained always repeated and she did not make any mistake in her calculations or measurements in the apparatuses.

The fact is very remarkable, and leads to the belief that these minerals may contain an element which is much more active than uranium.

I thoroughly checked this striking fact and I could not doubt it was true. Wondering what the cause was I could see only one explanation, namely that there must exist some unknown, but very active substance in these minerals. How to prove it? How to reach the cause of such strange results of the experiments? Maria invented a simple but genial idea. She would synthesise the compound of chalcocite: Cu(UO2)(PO4) 2 and would examine its activity. It soon turned out that the compound was not so much active as the mineral in which chalcocite was main ingredient. Thus Maria confirmed her conviction that the mineral called chalcocite, which was six times more active than it should have been, had to contain some strongly radioactive element. It was an experimental proof of its or their radiation (she did not know what caused the intensified radiation). She had to separate it and show to the world that it actually existed.

At that stage of her research Pierre put aside his experiments with crystals and helped Maria in her work.
Uranium minerals had been examined in detail in the past. Maria did not hope that she would find a big quantity of some unknown substance, a new chemical element, in them. With time she realised that the quantity of that element was smaller than she thought at first. Therefore, its activity must have been really huge.

Would we have endured the work, had we known of the actual content of the body, we were looking for, nobody knows that today. All we can say is that the progress of our work kept us under an unbelievable kind of pressure, although the difficulties piled up more and more. [...] We did not know at the beginning any physical or chemical properties of the unknown substance, we knew only that it sends out the rays, so it made sense to use those rays to find out more.

Laborious work began. Hundreds of measurements and chemical experiments. After a few months the Curies managed to separate from pitchblende, the mineral containing uranium and exploited in Jachymov (North Bohemia), some substance accompanying bismuth, which showed characteristic chemical features and was much more active than the uranium.

In July 1898 the Curies announced the discovery of a new element, which they named POLONIUM in honour of Maria’s homeland. But it was a long way to separate pure polonium. During their work to isolate polonium the scientists discovered that the blende contained another new element, accompanying barium. In December 1898, they announced the discovery of the element that they called ‘radium.’ Those discoveries were made possible thanks to radiation. Because of the existence of emission of rays those elements could be differentiated from bismuth and barium, with which they were mixed in very small quantities.

In order to separate their pure forms they needed many tons of raw material containing radium, as well as arduous work and time. Pierre and Maria had neither money nor laboratory nor anyone who would like to help them. They used huge quantities of hydrochloric acid, stinking hydrogen sulphide and other caustic substances. Maria was more and more tired.

After years she wrote, Sometimes a sense of disappointment coming after a failure at work passes quickly giving way to a fresh influx of energy. We also experienced delightful moments of walking around the shed and expounding on our work. One of our pastimes at that time was to go to the studio at night. We could see from different sides slightly shimmering outlines of glass and bags which fit our preparations. It was a truly wonderful sight, and always new to us. Glowing tubes looked like little fairy lights.

After four years of arduous work, on 28 March 1902, Maria concluded that she had separated enough radium salt to define the atomic weight. She could convince the world of science that radium was a new chemical element. The sample weighed slightly over 0.1 gram but was so radioactive that the electrical apparatus went crazy. After several repeated calculations, with conscientiousness and precision, Maria established the atomic weight to be 225.93. Finally, she had the proof of discovering a new element, which science required. In order to receive pure metallic radium she needed still more tons of raw material and eight years of work. She managed to isolate radium only in 1910. She did not succeed to isolate pure polonium because its quantities in the uranium ores were much smaller than that of radium. But polonium was isolated and its properties examined in her laboratory in the following years.

On 12 June 1903 Maria defended her doctoral dissertation – a simple description how she, together with Pierre as well as Gustave Bemont and Andre Debierne, discovered the new chemical elements that caused a breakthrough in science and began a new era – the era of the atom.

Maria was still teaching in Sevres and working on describing radioactivity – this was the name she coined for this new, unknown so far, phenomenon. In August 1903, Maria gave birth to a premature daughter who was not developed enough to survive. Maria wrote to her sister Bronisława who was a medical doctor:
In July 1905, Pierre became a member of the French Academy of Sciences although as he would write later neither he nor the Academy wanted that. 22 members of the Academy voted for his competitor. But Pierre did his best to have a real laboratory and that’s why he agreed to be a candidate to the Academy. His membership should have made things easier for him.

Their lives were about to stabilise. In their free time they rode bicycles to the forest of Port-Royal from where they brought bunches of buttercups and blossoming blackthorn. They enjoyed every moment they could spend together. Sometimes they even went to the restaurant for a meeting of the Physicists’ Society although in general, they preferred to be in the laboratory than at home.

19 April 1906 was a regular day of work for the Curies. It was raining and it was slippery and gloomy. After the meeting in the House of the Scientific Societies Pierre was going along Dauphine Street. When he was crossing the street he died under the wheels of a heavy horse wagon.

Maria died partially with him. Long after the tragedy her look was vacant and she was suspended between the world of the living and the world of the dead. She was too secretive to show her despair. She neither complained nor talked about her nightmares. She did not let anyone console her and pity her. When after the funeral the government proposed a permanent widow’s allowance to her and the orphans she refused it decidedly, ‘I am not going to accept any salary. I am young enough to earn my own and my children’s living.’ She could not say good-bye to Pierre. She wrote in her diary:

7 May 1906

My Pierre, I think of you constantly, my head feels like it will explode and agitates the mind. [...] Yesterday at the cemetery I could not understand the words, “Pierre Curie” carved on the stone. It hurt me, the beauty of the countryside, I covered my face with a veil to look at everything through a net...

14 May,

Pierre, my dearest Pierre. I would like to tell you that the golden rain has blossomed, and wisteria, hawthorn and iris are beginning to bloom. You would be pleased. I want to say also that I got your chair nomination and that there were fools who actually congratulated me on this news.

22 May

I am working in the laboratory all day long, it is all I can do; I am better off there than anywhere else. I conceive of nothing more that could give me personal joy, except perhaps scientific work – and even there, no, because if I succeeded with it, I would not endure you not to know it.

To be continued.

Alicja Rafalska-Łasocha
The captions have been taken from Zbigniew Herbert’s poems. The text is based on the following materials:

Maria Skłodowska-Curie, Autobiografia, Warszawa, 1959;
Korespondencja M. Skłodowskiej-Curie z córką Ireną, PIW, 1978;
Korespondencja Polska Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie, Wydawnictwo IHP PAN, W-wa, 1994;
Ewa Curie, Maria Curie, PWN, Warszawa 1997;
Alicja Dorabialska, Jeszcze jedno życie, Instytut Wydawniczy PAX, 1972;
Józef Hurwic, Maria Skłodowska-Curie i promieniotwórczość, Warszawa 2001;
Andrzej Kajetan Wróblewski, 200 uczonych w anegdoci, Świat Ksiażki, 2010.

* * *

The JU Faculty of Chemistry and Museum prepared an exhibition entitled ‘Maria Skłodowska-Curie – an extraordinary woman’ in Collegium Maius. The exhibition was opened on 12 May – 30 June 2011. The curator of the exhibition was Alicja Rafalska-Łasocha. She collaborated with Anna Jasińska from the JU Museum. The exhibits include physical and chemical instruments, photos of M. Skłodowska-Curie, her letters and copies of the two honorary degrees she was awarded by the Philosophical Faculty of the Jagiellonian University in 1924. The organisers of the exhibition express gratitude to the American Consulate in Kraków for rendering accessible the archival documentary entitled ‘Madame Curie’ (made in 1943). This film was shown three times during the exhibition.

On March 4, 2011, Prof. Barbara Kudrycka, the Minister of Science and Higher Education in Poland, opened the National Centre for Science (NCN) in Kraków. The gala gathered the proxy of the NCN Prof. Szczepan Biliński, JU Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations, the local authorities, rectors of Kraków’s universities, Professor Katarzyna Chalasińska-Macukow, the President of the Polish University Rectors’ Conference and the Rector of Warsaw University as well as members of the NCN Council, including Prof. K. Frysztacki from the JU. In her speech Minister Kudrycka stressed the fact that for the first time the Polish government had decided to locate a national institution outside of the capital, ‘It is the heart of Polish science. Kraków, strong by its academic traditions, with the oldest Polish university and 600-year-old scientific output of generations of eminent scholars, was a natural location for the National Centre for Science.’

The NCN is a government executive agency set up to support scientists within basic research. NCN was created on 1 October 2010 on the basis of the Act on the National Science Centre of April 30, 2010 (Journal of Laws no. 96, Item 617) and some further regulations. The Centre is supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education but its most important organ is the Council consisting of 24 members-scientists representing various fields. It is scientists and not politicians that know best which research projects should be financed in open and transparent contests. Research institutes and teams as well as independent researchers can apply for NCN grants.

The NCN is responsible for the distribution of money for the most innovative projects in basic research. At the moment NCN’s budget amounts to 305,000,000 złoty. The centre is building up a research strategy and determining key research disciplines that will contribute to the development of science and economy.

The tasks of the National Science Centre include:

• Funding:
  – research projects within basic research,
  – doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships,
  – research projects for experienced scientists who conduct pioneering and multidisciplinary research,
  – research that is not funded by the National Centre for Research and Development,

• Controlling the execution of the scientific research projects,

• Supporting international cooperation within basic research that is not financed from other foreign sources,

• Distributing information about NCN programmes among scientists,

• Inspiring and monitoring the funding of basic research from sources other than government funds,

• Other tasks subcontracted to NCN by Ministry of Science and Higher Education, including elaboration of programmes important to the national culture.

The Centre has been modelled on the European Research Council. By creating it Poland has joined the elite of the European countries such as Austria, Portugal, Sweden or Germany, which have similar, independent agencies managing public money for research. The Centre allows Poland to introduce the most modern standards of finance management and helps the Polish scientists work in prestigious international research teams. It also supports young talents as 20% of its budget goes to finance research conducted by scientists at the threshold of their scientific careers.

M. Kantor
The JU Faculty of Polish Studies organised a conference dedicated to the literary output and thought of Czesław Milosz on 9-13 May 2011. The conference was entitled ‘Milosz and Milosz.’ It fell on the 100th anniversary of the poet’s birth.

Czesław Milosz (1911-2004) moved to Kraków after the fall of the Berlin wall. He used to walk along the streets and could be seen in cafes. His authority as a poet and philosopher was never questioned. One can still draw inspirations from him and his works.

The conference aimed at sketching many aspects of Milosz’s portrait: as artist – poet and essayist; as thinker – philosopher and theologian and a man evoking admiration and respect but provoking to revolt and opposition. In fact, he presented himself as a versatile and ambiguous personality. He was one of few Polish writers who became an example for many thinkers and artists in the world.

The first day of the conference was devoted to the theme ‘With Milosz against the world,’ i.e., confrontation, posing questions about the trouble spots between Milosz and the present, where did he find those who thought the same and where are the antagonists of his ideological duels. These questions were asked since Milosz’s separateness was as interesting as his partiality.

The second day focused on various issues that Milosz himself had entitled as ‘Themes (undertaken) to be given up.’ These were biographical threads and political contexts, which formed a platform of ad personam arguments and personal fascinations.

The third day gave an insight into Milosz’s thinking. The theme ‘Milosz suspected – reception and poetics’ let conference speakers show the poet’s language – the matter of his thoughts. This matter included his new literary genres, stylisations, masks and irony, in a word – the Master showing his many faces.

Finally, the theme ‘Milosz and disenchantment’ referred to one of his main themes, namely religion. Milosz kept speaking about the 20th century erosion of religious imagination and the torment of lonely mind, which was connected with it. Milosz drew abundantly from Christianity: Catholicism, Orthodox Church and Protestantism but he went beyond that circle: to Buddhism, Judaism and gnosis.

The theme of the last conference day provoked a debate about the ultimate and fundamental issues. The participants found in the poet’s thinking a teacher, a master and a worthy adversary.

The conference was part of the Second Czesław Milosz Festival in Kraków on 9-15 May 2011.

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Czeslaw Milosz was a Polish poet, prose writer and translator of Lithuanian origin. He left for the West in 1951 and in the years 1961-98 he was a professor of Slavonic Languages and Literatures at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1980 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. His famous works included ‘The Captive Mind’ (1953), the novel ‘The Issa Valley’ (1955) and numerous poetry and prose collections. The obituary in The New York Times said, ‘He was a hero of the history of his time and a hero of the literature of his time. For friends and for strangers, for lovers of liberty and for lovers of beauty, he was, for more than half a century, an indispensable man. […]’

“The death of a man is like the fall of a mighty nation,” declared Czeslaw Milosz in one of the many poems in which he speculated upon the experience of dying. […] Yet it is the death of this man that is like the fall of a mighty nation, but a nation full and undispersed, its mission honored and its language imperishable.’

M. Kantor
University Day – 12 May

As the first university in Poland, the Jagiellonian University in Kraków was chartered on 12 May 1364. The Jagiellonian University celebrates its annual University Day, which serves as a celebratory reminder of the University’s beginnings.

This year on 12 May 2011 the Jagiellonian University celebrated its 647th anniversary of foundation. In the morning the authorities of the Jagiellonian University deposed wreaths on the tombs of the University’s Founders in the Wawel Cathedral.

Then there was a solemn session of the Jagiellonian University Senate during which Prof. Karol Musiol, JU Rector, spoke about the important initiatives the University had been involved in. The Rector also conferred the JU honorary degree on Professor Peter Christian Müller-Graff from the Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg, Germany, and a Medal Plus Ratio Quam Vis on Mr Joachim Gollwitzer, a long term president of Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nuremberg.

Professor Peter Christian Müller-Graff is one of the most eminent German lawyers who has been involved in the School of German Law at the Jagiellonian University for several years. His scientific achievements include pioneering works concerning European law, legal comparative studies, theory and practice of lawyers’ education and realisation of several EU projects concerning the harmonisation of law.

During the solemn session of the JU Senate the laudatory speech for Prof. Müller-Graff was delivered by Prof. Wojciech Pyzioł, the JU Chair of Economic Private Law. Firstly, he presented the scientific career of Prof. Müller-Graff – studies of law at the Universities of Göttingen, Berlin and Tübingen, Germany, and Cornell University Law School, the USA – and research work as professor of law at the University of Cologne, Trier and since 1994 in Heidelberg. He co-created
Prof. Müller-Graff is also an excellent expert in the German culture. He tried to share his knowledge with his Polish colleagues and students, organising special cultural programmes as part of each scientific seminar held at the Jagiellonian University. The laudator ended his speech saying, ‘Prof. Müller-Graff has radiating personality, is full of indefatigable energy, open and warm, friendly to people and with a great sense of humour. He is a man who is for us, his Polish colleagues and collaborators, very close.’

The cultural collaboration between the Jagiellonian University Choir and Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nürnberg, directed by Mr Gollwitzer, has lasted for over 20 years. The JU Choir has performed several times in Erlangen and Nürnberg. The last time the Choir gave concerts there on 7-13 March 2010. In turn the musical groups from Erlangen-Nürnberg have performed at the Jagiellonian University and in various churches in Kraków. On the occasion of the University Day 2011 the Accordionists and Madrigalists Ensemble gave two concerts: on 10 May in the Franciscan Basilica and on 12 May in the JU aula of Collegium Novum. The repertoire included the works of Bach, Schütz, Monteverdi, di Lasso, Dvorak, Franck and Nowowiejski. The biggest project realised by the JU and Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nürnberg was ‘Carmina Burana’ by Carl Orff performed in Kraków and Erlangen in 1994.

M. Kantor

Programmes in English

Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes:
- dental surgery
- medicine
- public health
- mathematics
- English philology
- European studies,
- European studies, Russian, Central and East European studies
- cultural studies
- Polish studies
- advanced spectroscopy in chemistry
- biotechnology.

Doctoral programme:
- biological science

Post-diploma studies:
- Polish business law

Programmes in French
- French philology
- droit privé (economic and tax law)
  in collaboration with the University of Orléans

It is worth knowing that in the academic year 2010/2011 at the JU there were:

- total number of students: 50,564
  - Bachelor’s studies: 19,121
  - Master’s studies: 10,757
  - 5-year studies: 14,935
  - PhD students: 2,682
  - Post-graduate non degree students: 3,069

- Number of staff: 7,083
- Teachers: 3,614

For more please write to rekrutacja@uj.edu.pl

M. Kantor
Monument to Ignacy Jan Paderewski

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the death of the great Polish pianist, composer, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and a honorary doctor of the Jagiellonian University Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860–1941) a monument dedicated to him was unveiled in front of the JU Institute of Musicology located in the Pusłowski Palace, 10 Westerplatte Street, on 24 June 2011. The ceremony of unveiling was graced by the representatives of the local government – Mr Roman Ciepiela, Deputy Marshal, and Mr Andrzej Haręźlak, Deputy Governor, and of the District of Tarnów – Prefect Mieczysław Kras, the representatives of the US Consulate General in Kraków, including the Consul General Allen S. Greenberg as well as the authorities – Rector Prof. Karol Musioł and the Dean of the Historical Faculty Prof. Andrzej Banach, scientists and students of the Jagiellonian University. Also present were Mr John Hamon, Deputy Mayor of Paso Robles, California, and Prof. Marek Żebrowski, Director of the Polish Music Center, Los Angeles, Kalifornia.

The monument was donated to the JU by Mr Harry E. Blythe, who is a great promoter of the works of I. J. Paderewski and collector of his memorabilia. The statue was designed by the American sculptor Jesse Corsaut who made three castings of the statue. The remaining two have been placed in the former Paderewski’s rancho in Paso Robles, California, (the rancho belongs to Mr Blythe now) and in the gardens of the Polish Embassy in Washington.

During the unveiling ceremony there were two concerts dedicated to I. J. Paderewski. The first one ‘Chopin and Paderewski’ was held on the evening of 24 June in the aula of Collegium Novum. Its programme consisted of four works of Paderewski: Nocturne op. 16, no. 4, Chant d’amour op. 10 no. 2, Mélodie op. 8 no. 3 and Krakowiak op. 5 no. 1, transcribed for cello and piano by M. Żebrowski, and Chopin’s Sonata op. 65 for cello and piano. The performers were the cellist Lars Hoefs and the pianist M. Żebrowski. Lars Hoefs studied at the University of Southern California where he also learned a Doctorate of Musical Arts. Together with M. Żebrowski, Director of the USC Polish Music Center and improvisation-partner to filmmaker David Lynch, Mr Hoefs has championed rare Polish works in New York, London and Southern California. The pianist M. Żebrowski studied in Poznań, France and USA. He received his Master’s Degree at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He played with symphony orchestras all over the world. He is also the artistic director of the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles and authored Celebrating Chopin & Paderewski and Paderewski in California.

The second concert was held in the JU Institute of Musicology on 25 June 2011. It was performed by young artists who were participants of cultural exchange between Paso Robles, California, and Paderewski Center in Tarnów-Kąśna Dolna, Poland: Robert Maciejewski, Evan Lin, Urszula Barnaś, Jordan Adams, Marcin Krysa and Madeline Anderson. They played the works of I. J. Paderewski, W. A. Mozart, L. van Beethoven, F. Chopin, F. Liszt and M. Ravel.

The unveiling was part of the 100th anniversary of Kraków Musicology that falls in 2011. The centenary celebrations on 24 June 2011 included the Reunion of the Alumni of Kraków Musicology and the exhibition entitled ‘Recollections of Musicology Alumni in Photos’. More events celebrating the Centenary of the Kraków Musicology are planned for autumn 2011.

Stanisław Hrabia
The annual meeting of IRUN (International Research Universities Network) was held at the University of Barcelona on 12-13 May 2011. This time it gathered rectors, vice-rectors, international relations officers, communication group and careers services from ten universities as IRUN gained another member – the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. The Jagiellonian University was represented by Prof. Andrzej Mania, Vice-rector for educational affairs, Dr. Maria Kantor from the International Relations Office and Mrs Agnieszka Dudziak from the Careers Office.

The first day of the meeting included working sessions of the communication group, IRUN contact person group and for the first time the meeting of the representatives of the careers offices from the Universities in Glasgow, Münster, Nijmegen, Duisburg-Essen and Kraków. The communication group focused on IRUN visibility (Newsletter, PowerPoint presentations, student ambassadors’ programme, Facebook and LinkedIn) and on the possibility of collaboration between student organisations and positioning of IRUN as compared with other European university networks. The careers services discussed the problems of labour markets, cultural differences, intercultural issues/awareness, application schemes or informational politics. The group decided to check the possibility of making short films about the labour markets in the countries represented in IRUN.

The IRUN contact person group talked about the IRUN activities in the years 2011-12: summer schools and seminars, excellence programmes, female professors’ conference, joint PhD programmes and staff exchange. They welcomed Katja Cerjak from the University of Ljubljana. They also discussed the next IRUN meeting to be held at the Jagiellonian University in May 2012.

As usual Saturday was a full working day for the rectors and IRO representatives. During the morning session on 13 May, the Rector of the University of Ljubljana Prof. Radovan Pejovnik signed the IRUN Charter, thus becoming the tenth member of IRUN. The strategic topic of the rectors’ meeting was ‘Excellence in Bachelor and Master programmes’ introduced by Prof. Sebastian Kortmann, Rector of the Radboud University Nijmegen and ‘Excellence in the PhD phase’ presented by Prof. Alessandra Viviani, Vice-rector for international relations at the University of Siena.

In the afternoon the participants of the meeting visited the new campus of the University of Barcelona (Barcelona Knowledge Campus). First, they saw the pavilion designed by Antonio Gaudi (Finca Güell) with the famous gate showing a dragon, which is now part of the UB. Then they went to the Faculty of Chemistry. They had a chance to see the laboratories and there was a presentation of the activities of the Faculty of Chemistry. It is worth adding that the Jagiellonian University joined the Erasmus Mundus project – Euro-Russian Academic Network, initiated by the UB Faculty of Chemistry.

As it has already been mentioned, the next IRUN annual meeting is going to be in Kraków and the theme will be ‘Meeting at the heart of Europe.’

M. Kantor
Erasmus Staff Training in Milan

The University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, organised an Erasmus Staff Week from May 23rd to May 27th. The training gathered 36 participants: 2 from Latvia, 4 from Spain, 4 from France, 4 from Turkey, 2 from Greece, 2 from Bulgaria, 1 from Lithuania, 2 from Portugal, 1 from Finland, 1 from Sweden and the biggest group from Poland – 12. They represented international relations, finance sectors, placement and human resources offices, student offices and faculty administration.

Before going to Milan every participant had sent to the International Relations a detailed description of his/her work at home university and fields of interests. On the basis of that the University of Milan prepared individual programmes for each participant trying to meet their needs. They arranged a lot of different meetings which allowed us to discuss our work and tasks.

As administrative and finance officers of the JU we could exchange information and experience with members of ‘Ufficio Missioni,’ which was the office dealing with the same matters as we do. We learnt about their procedures connected with business trips, reimbursement money and other documents. What is more, we saw the structure of the International Office as well as the structure of the whole University of Milan-Bicocca. Furthermore, we had a great opportunity to compare the organisations and tasks of international relations offices with our colleagues working at other universities.

The programme for all participants included visits to the University Campus, the Disabled Students Office, a student hall of residence and the University Library.

The University of Milano-Bicocca was founded in 1998 to serve students from northern Italy and take some pressure off the overcrowded Universities in Milan. It has 31,412 students and is located in the northern outskirts of Milan, which was occupied by the Pirelli industrial complex until the late 1980s. It is housed in 27 modern buildings. The University has eight faculties, divided into schools (of Economics, Sociology, Medicine, Education, Psychology, Law, Statistics, Sciences) and departments. The School of Medicine is located in Monza, 30 km from Milan.

Joanna Kliś

The building of the Faculty of Sciences
The Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg organised an Erasmus training week on 6-10 June 2011. It gathered 20 participants from 18 universities from 10 countries (Bulgaria, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey). They represented the International Relations Offices and Student Mobility Offices as well as administrative staff from various faculties. Bianca Kündgen, Deputy Head of the Central Office for International Affairs at the University Erlangen-Nürnberg, prepared an excellent programme of the training. It included the presentation of the University Erlangen-Nürnberg and presentations of guest universities by the participants of the training, a guided tour to the Siemens Healthcare Solutions Centre, visits to the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Engineering and the School of Business and Economics, a visit to student services run by Studentenwerk. We were informed about the outgoing student strategy, incoming exchange students, advising PhD students and visiting researchers, the Bologna process implemented at FAU, marketing strategies and alumni work and there was also a presentation entitled ‘Cultural shock in Germany. Dos and don’t’s.’

The cultural programme was also very rich: concert in the Schlossgarten, Swedish evening organised on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of collaboration between Erlangen and Eskilstuna, concert of classical music in the Erlangen Philharmonic Hall, guided tours of Erlangen and Nürnberg as well as optional tour of Bamberg and a visit to the local Beer Festival (Bergkirchweih).

It is worth adding that the sharing of experiences of the participants was also very important and beneficial. It showed that our experiences and problems we encounter are similar and their solutions depend on the local contexts.

There are nine Erasmus agreements between the JU and the University Erlangen-Nürnberg in: economics, German philology, Polish studies, European studies, pharmacy, sociology, pedagogy, physics as well as journalism and social communication. Both universities have collaborated within the framework of bilateral agreement since 1985.
Visit to the Free University of Berlin

In March I spent one week in Berlin. On my way to the library by metro, I was wondering how Berlin had changed since 1935 – from being a very German city to the cosmopolitan city it is now full of different people with different religions, colours, ideas, philosophies, experiences and races. Now Berlin is open to everyone. I was wondering as well how Berlin had changed since 2003, the last time I was there. Then Berlin had seemed to me unfriendly, monotonous and black-white. Now I saw Berlin in a new light. It is a colourful, nice place. When I was talking to German people, they said themselves that Berlin had changed – it is a more cheerful, interesting place. The most amazing thing is, in my opinion, that Berlin is able to connect past with present. Berlin is cosmopolitan, with a colorful, modern (postmodern) atmosphere but it is full of memories and history. Its inhabitants are able to connect their dark history with fun of contemporary life. Strolling the streets there are plenty of possibilities to have fun, in a nice atmosphere and to know the history. The whole city is marked with where the Berlin’s wall had stood. The line marked in the street makes it possible to remember the history and to appreciate the present peace and tolerance.

In March I had the opportunity to visit Berlin and the Free University’s library in the frame of bilateral exchange.

During my visit to Berlin in 2003 I had been writing my PhD thesis, now I was reading about theatre in prison and drama therapy. The bilateral exchange of academic teachers gives a possibility to spend hours in the library and to meet academic staff of the host university. It is also a chance to get to know a new place with its history, culture and experience. Freie Universität Berlin is a leading research institution. It is the place where students in the 1960s participated in protests providing the impulse for more openness, equality, and democracy. Now the Free University of Berlin is cosmopolitan and open to the public. Since 2003, the Free University of Berlin has been regrouping its research capacities into transdisciplinary research focus areas called clusters. It also gathers the broadest spectrum of research in the humanities in Germany under the auspices of the Dahlem Humanities Center. There are Departments of Education and Psychology, History and Cultural Studies and Philosophy and Humanities. I was interested in the last one – especially in the institute of Theatre Studies. I wanted to meet Prof. Erica Fischer-Lichte – one of the most famous German professors of Theatre Studies. She is a director of the International Research Centre ‘Interweaving Performance Cultures’ and President of the International Federation for Theatre Research as well as a member of the Academia Europaea, the Academy of Sciences at Goettingen, and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. The field of her research includes aesthetics, theory of literature, art and theatre, and in particular semiotics and performativity, theatre history, and contemporary theatre. In Poland her last translated book is ‘The Transformative Power of Performance.’ It is a very important book in theatre studies. I met Prof. Erica Fischer-Lichte during her lecturers in Kraków. When I was in Berlin in the frame of bilateral exchange I asked her about doing some work at the Free University of Berlin and she agreed. She introduced me to her office on the last day of my stay in Berlin and asked me about reporting what I had done in Berlin. I talked to her about books which I had found in the library. The library system of Freie Universität Berlin comprises the University Library and around forty departmental libraries with total holdings of around 8 million printed items, 38,000 e-journals, 400,000 e-books, and 1,250 databases. In addition, library users can find and access vast numbers of electronic resources licensed nationwide to the DFG (German Research Foundation) and from other external providers as well as online content services in the meta-index Primo Central (via the Library Portal). I was interested in the main library and the library of Theatre Studies. I found there a lot of books about prison, theatre in prison and drama/tragedy therapy. One of the most important books was the book ‘Theater Therapie’ by Doris...
Müller-Weith, Lilli Neumann and Bettina Stoltenhoff-Erdmann. Among others I found information about activities of Sue Jennings from Great Britain and I established cooperation with her.

The meeting was of great importance to me. Two hours of talking was worth more than hours spent in the library. And just the opportunity to know professors and to talk to them is, in my opinion, the most important advantage of bilateral exchange. On the second position there is ability to use the library in other countries which are better equipped with books from all over the world than our library (I have got the opportunity to use the impressive library of Uppsala as well as the library in Vienna in the frame of bilateral exchange and Erasmus). During the meeting we talked about my researches. I am interested in therapeutic drama (I try to define this category of drama) and theatre in prisons. These two fields tightly correspond to each other. Both of them use the theatre and tragedy therapy. Prisoners in Poland not only play and prepare performances but also write dramas. I talked to Prof. Erika Fischer-Lichte about the category of identity (therapeutic identity which I try to describe), about terminology linked with therapy and theatre/drama and about Polish and German cultures and literatures. During this chat, drinking tea I learnt more than in the libraries.

When I was in Berlin I established contact with Agnes Bohley as well as other researches dealing with the theatre in prisons in Germany. We would like to meet in Berlin during Internationales Symposium zu Gefängnistheater.

Taking my visit in Berlin in the frame of bilateral exchange into consideration I have to affirm it was a very important time for me because of my research due to the possibility of getting to know Berlin. The campus of the Free University of Berlin is located in the residential garden district in south-western Berlin which was established as a center for research of the highest caliber. On my way to Dahlem by metro and while strolling around the campus I met a lot of people and I started to get to know Berlin’s spring atmosphere. I had the chance to visit museums and theatres as well. On Sunday I visited the city: the Berlin Wall painted on the western side in 1986 (the most impressive place), Checkpoint Charlie, the German Parliament, Alexanderplatz, the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Cathedral, Potsdamer Platz, etc. I discovered Berlin one more time – this time it was a nice, friendly and cosmopolitan Berlin. Now when I talk to my students (especially to those who study about Germany) about German culture I am able to tell them about interesting and nice places in Berlin and its culture.

Anna Kinga Gajda

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**Agreement with The University of Edinburgh**

On 4 May 2011, in Edinburg

the Jagiellonian University Collegium Medicum and The University of Edinburgh, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine signed a Memorandum of Understanding, thus extending their longstanding academic links and tradition of cooperation, forged with the establishment of the Polish School of Medicine at The University of Edinburgh in 1941 and through the Polish School of Medicine Memorial Fund Scholarship.

Now both universities will develop postgraduate and undergraduate student mobility. Additionally, the staff of JU Collegium Medicum will be visiting scholars at the University of Edinburgh. The agreement was signed by Prof. Jeremy Bradshaw, Director of Postgraduate Studies, International Dean, of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and Prof. Beata Tobiasz-Adamczyk on behalf of the Vice-Rector of JU Collegium Medicum.

M. Kantor

K. Gołąbek
On 27 April 2011, in Kraków the Jagiellonian University signed an agreement concerning postgraduate studies ‘Polish-British Strategic Partnership in the EU and NATO’ with the Polish University Abroad (abbreviated PUNO) in Hammersmith, London. The postgraduate programme is directed to those JU alumni who are interested in the Polish-British relations and know English very well. It will start in October 2011.

The collaboration with PUNO has been carried out by the JU Faculty of International and Political Studies since 2010. The meetings of the rectors of both Universities: Prof. Karol Musioli and Prof. Wojciech Falkowski was held on 6 April 2010 and a Memorandum of Understanding concerning staff exchange and scientific collaboration was signed on 26 July 2010, during a solemn professors’ breakfast at the JU Faculty of International and Political Studies, in the presence of the Dean Prof. Bogdan Szlachta. He gave the inaugural lecture on the relations of the English and Polish political thought at PUNO, London on 14 October 2010. Then both Universities organised a conference dedicated to the Polish presidents and governments in exile who had fought for Poland’s independence in the years 1939-1990 in London on 9 April 2011, on the eve of the first anniversary of the tragic death of the last Polish president-in-exile Ryszard Kaczorowski, the President of Poland Lech Kaczyński and 94 members of the delegation who lost their lives in the plane crash at Smolensk.

M. Kantor

Poland and Spain in the EU Conference in Madrid on Victory in Europe Day

At the University San Pablo CEU in Madrid there was a debate on Europe’s history, its difficult and little-known chapters as well as perspectives of building new relationships between countries. The conference organised on 9 May 2011, Victory in Europe Day, by the Faculty of Humanities and Communication Sciences, was accompanied by a show of the film ‘Katyn,’ by Andrzej Wajda.

The celebrations of Victory in Europe Day, organised by the University CEU in Madrid, was an occasion to discuss the most dramatic moments of our common history, which for the Europeans is still a challenge for new research and to discover the most effective methods of education of young generations. Historians, specialists in political sciences, journalists and students who participated in the debate had an occasion to get to know different points of view concerning the relationships that often cause disputes, not only of diplomatic nature, between countries.

The Spanish students, moved by the film ‘Katyn’ by Andrzej Wajda, were interested especially in the historical resolution of the Russian State Duma (lower house of the Russian Parliament) passed in November 2010 and its political consequences. For the first time in its history
Russia acknowledged that the massacre of Katyn was ordered by Stalin. During my talk I said that on the day of voting the MPs of the Communist Party, with its leader Viktor Iljuchin, a former prosecutor, tried to prove in the Russian Parliament that the documents discovered in the archives were false and made by ‘the enemies and traitors of Russia.’ Iljuchin tried to convince the MPs that ascribing the guilt for murdering the Polish officers to the leaders of the USSR the Russian Parliament confirmed Goebbels’s version of events’ and his party colleague Anatoliy Lokots thundered that passing this resolution meant ‘unconditional capitulation of Russia.’

I stressed that their protest had not mattered much since the pro-Kremlin fractions had an overwhelming majority in the Parliament. Following the President’s wish they were to give a helpful hand to Poles before the official visit of Dimitriy Medvedev to Poland. This undoubtedly important gesture in the Polish-Russian relationships was highly evaluated by Adam Daniel Rotfeld, former Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, who stressed in his commentary published in ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’ that Russia was making an important turn in her attitude towards history. In his opinion Russia ‘is not a small boat that can turn in a fraction of a second’ but ‘a big cruiser that needs a lot of time to turn.’

My lecture on the Polish-Russian relationships was part of the debate on Europe’s contemporary history organised by Prof. Francisco Cabezuelo Lorenzo and Jose Luisa Orella, professor of modern history. My visit to the University CEU San Pablo in Madrid resulted from the new agreement within the ERASMUS LLP between the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations and Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Comunicación, CEU San Pablo in Madrid.

Maciej Miżejewski
Student exchange with Rochester

On 25 May 2011 the participants of the student exchange between the JU Collegium Medicum and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester NY, USA met for a solemn dinner. Every year students and professors visit some interesting places in Kraków and then have dinner. This year Prof. Ralph Jozefowicz, doctor honoris causa of the Jagiellonian University, and Prof. Jeffrey Lyness from Rochester as well as a group of some 20 American students and residents and three JU students of medicine, who had participated in clinical rotations at the URSMD, together with the authorities of the JU Collegium Medicum spent a wonderful evening on a barge mooring on the river bank of the Kraków district of Kazimierz. Our vivid talks and sharing experiences made us enjoy every moment of our meeting. And we are going to meet again next year!

The Collegium Medicum of the Jagiellonian University and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester NY, signed an agreement of co-operation in 1995. The agreement includes annual student exchange and organising conferences on medical education. So far the student mobility has embraced over 200 students.

Magdalena Stepniak

About the first lesson of history of art – subjective report on inventory field studies in Sucha Beskidzka

On 18-22 May 2011 the JU students of history of art went on field studies organised with the Municipality Museum of Sucha Beskidzka. Some of their tasks were to make a documentation of the exhibits located in the museum and some tasks were to make an inventory of numerous sacral monuments dispersed in the vicinity of Sucha Beskidzka. The effect of the students’ work was descriptions of several dozen paintings and artistic objects as well as over 40 chapels and road chapels and monuments located in the vicinity. The documented data, ordered in proper forms, contain information about when the object was created, what materials and techniques were used, what its history was as well as how it was preserved and what preservation works need to be done.

For many of us these field studies were occasions to have inventory practices understood as contacts with monuments of near and distant past, most frequently not objects from big cities but from the local, tangible and directly functioning in the community. With paper and pencil were had to stand in front of some rock-hewn object of cult, painted with a bright paint, which seemed not very interesting at first sight. It was an encounter, slowed down by heat and thunder storm, with an archetype, some return to the roots that we know from the stories of such excursions of Władysław Łuszczkiewicz or sketches of young Stanisław Wyspiański. The latter was recollected by two icons from the collection in Sucha, which the grand daughter of Wojciech Weiss, connected with his town, gave to the museum. The icons, presenting the Mother of God with Infant Jesus, which were both awkward, strangely composed and very...
much destroyed, were to come from one of Wyspiański’s trips and to appear in his drawings. This strange ‘something’ was continuously visible somewhere on the arm – a detail sketched with charcoal on paper and captured by a digital camera, recollection of Seweryn Udziela, when sitting at a table in the garden we gathered all kinds of information, which were not actually meaningful, about the condition of the railways at the bottom of the Tatra Mountains during the early years of the Polish People’s Republic. Finally, blurred and hastily recollected guidelines concerning the description of some monument, i.e., another blazing trail pointed out to us during the introduction to history of art course on our first year of studies. Such a mobilisation to reconstruct connections in mind, exercises to recognise various types of monuments – little chapels, might have had good effects considering the issues of modern art (both theory and criticism), which we are to study during our final year. Besides the self-conscious art, often speaking about itself, we came across monuments of secondary character, which did not inscribe in the development line of art and having nothing to do with the contemporary art industry. But they do exist and function on the periphery of art and ethnography and perceived by the prism of culture: decorated with artificial flowers, plastic flowerpots, greeted by the sign of the cross made even by very young inhabitants of Sucha Beskidzka. They are being destroyed – a sequence of statues of saints along Role Street, running from Sucha towards Stryszawa: the saints have lost their faces in the last two years.

As for some chapels we can speak about their aesthetic reception, expressed in the opinions of those who dealt with their preservation, i.e., rubbing off the layer of polychrome and uncovering the rough sandstone. A conversation with a woman living in Sucha who was not eager to express her opinion on this treatment, makes us at least consider, regardless of the fact whether we like the sight of claret stone blocks and faded, former blue, robes of Our Lady of the Rosary, or not. Cleaning statues might seem to interfere with their specific characters, and even if their present looks are reconstructions of their original conditions, even if our accepting them is connected with the level of the receiver’s awareness, should make us reflect whether we are not losing something unique.

Recollecting our wonderful stay in Sucha Beskidzka we remember heat, tiredness, the firm rules of describing works of art, which those interested in modern art rejected long ago, which means corrections, discouragement, affectionate names of especially misshapen monuments (Holy Trinity in the type of the Groke from the tale of the Moomins). We experienced a storm and came across the really excellent architecture of St Mary’s Church, designed by Teodor Rałowski, architecture that is consistent, carefully thought out in details, perfect craft realisation and stories about it told by Dr. Urszula Bęczkowska, not forgetting about deep feelings of the churchwarden who was then closing the windows after some May service. And again the spirit of Łuszczkiewicz is flashing by the church. Somewhere I am pondering on the other trips of ‘grand rats’ of history of art, fundamental research, discoveries and questions what has been left for us. Even if it is not anything great I still have to develop the skill of speaking about art, which our teachers have developed and again a little about the epoch of ‘dinosaurs,’ this time on the platform master-disciple, relishing knowledge and fluency of formulating opinions.
about knowledge. Here it is perhaps worth adding that during our stay in Sucha Dr. Piotr Krasny gave a lecture on the Hungarian art of the modern epoch, delivered in the castle in Sucha Beskidzka. Our trip to Sucha and return via Kalwaria Zebrzydowska was or could be treated a kind of secular retreat. Variety of stimuli, conglomeration of impressions, art and history of art ‘in action’ in various, sometimes unpredictable ways: perceptible when you play according to the rules and open yourself to what could be a ‘school’ at first sight, fulfilling obligatory tasks that do not leave much space for creation or at least constructive elaboration of thought. A somewhat surprising experience, although connected with a ‘school’ or having much in common with some scout’s orientation run, for example pleasant suntan, which we brought to Kraków.

The first lesson of history of art is important and basic field studies are very much needed. Apart from the general, functioning on the political platform recovery and examination of the cultural heritage, which has the institutional support, it is in some way a realisation of the mission of our discipline, the mission that was worked out over 100 years ago, a mission that is sometimes forgotten and sometimes undermined a little. Yet, on a completely personal level it can serve to define the identity of young historians of art. A little seriously, a little in passing like on the margin of the introductory lectures – Remember young historians of art!

Agata Zuzanna Jabłońska
Traditionally, students have their festivities called Juwenalia in May. The biggest and most riotously celebrated students’ festivities go back to the 15th century. There was a welcoming of freshmen with various rituals, which were sometimes very unpleasant for freshmen, for example they were smeared with a black sticky substance or forced to wear weird clothes and dog-ears. Students chose a king – the most popular student. Today there was also a contest of the most beautiful female student and the best male student.

‘Juwenalia’ was introduced in 1955 and developed in the 1960s and 1970s. During Kraków’s Juwenalia festivities, students rule the streets with parties and parades (the most famous is the ‘March to the Main Market Square’). In a tradition dating back to medieval times, the mayor hands the students his keys to the city in the Market Square on the Friday of the week-long event. Throughout Juwenalia, students swap their everyday wardrobes for their obligatory fancy costumes, while the city brims with concerts, parades, art exhibitions and shows. Here are some photos of this year’s ‘Juwenalia’ held on 17-22 May 2011.