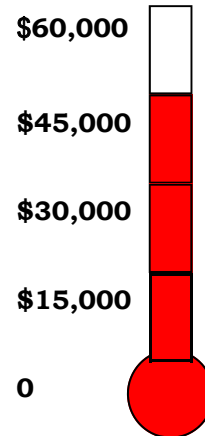




PAHA Newsletter

Encyclopedia Progress Report

We are pleased to report that the PAHA encyclopedia project is progressing well. As of July 1, more than 1,500 topics have been suggested for entries. Of these, 143 have been rejected, largely because they either proposed biographies of people who were not Polish, they dealt with topics that were exclusively Polish and not Polish-American, or they proposed people or topics that did not meet the test of significance. Of the remaining 1,453 suggested entries, 1,037 have been assigned to nearly 100 authors and 337 have been completed. The total completed word count as of July 1 was 178,553. The estimated final word count should be between 500,000 and 700,000 words depending on the size of the remaining entries. Authors for the remaining entries are still being sought, so if you are interested in working on one or more entries please contact the editor, James Pula, at jpula@pnc.edu.



Fundraising for the project is continuing. As of July 1, the project has raised \$37,821.27 and has another \$9,000 in pledges for a total of \$46,821.27—78.0% of our goal. During the fall PAHA will be making another fundraising push to guarantee successful completion of the project. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated. A list of donors as of July 1 appears elsewhere in this issue to recognize those who have thus far made financial contributions to the project. PAHA would particularly like to thank The Kosciuszko Foundation and its president, Joseph Gore, for the Foundation's exceptional grant of \$15,000 toward this project, and for the confidence that this grant expresses in the encyclopedia and in PAHA's work.

PAHA would also like to thank the following organizations and list serves for publicizing the encyclopedia project: the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences, the *Polish American Journal*, the Polish American Forum, H-Ethnic and H-NET.

The Editor wishes to thank all of those who have participated in the project to this point, and especially those who have donated funds and authors who have completed their entries on time or, in many cases, ahead of time. This is a group project, and the support of so many people is both necessary for its successful completion and appreciated.

Submitted by
James S. Pula

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Reserve your Room for the PAHA 2009 Annual Meeting in New York City.*
- ◆ *Space is limited!*
- ◆ *Please pay your 2009 PAHA dues!*
- ◆ *Please mail in your ballot by December 1, 2008.*

Oup Ad

PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM THE PAHA BOARD'S MIDYEAR MEETING IN WILLIMANTIC, CT

On June 7, 2008, members of the PAHA Board of Directors met for the midyear meeting on the campus of Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT. The meeting was partially sponsored by the Dean of the ECSU School of Arts and Sciences and the ECSU Department of History. Present members and officers included: President Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, Treasurer and *Polish American Studies* Editor James S. Pula, Publications Committee Chair John J. Bukowczyk, Secretary and *Newsletter* Editor Stephen M. Leahy, Interim Executive Director Pien Versteegh, and Board members M. B. Biskupski, Mary P. Erdmans, Tom Duszak, and Iwona Drag Korga.

For the news on the progress of the work on the Encyclopedia, which was discussed during the opening meeting, please see Dr. Pula's report elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. Following the approval of January minutes, the officers presented their reports. According to the President's report, PAHA conference in Washington, D.C., has been very successful, with several very well-attended sessions. Thanks to Dr. Janusz Zalewski, Dr. John Guzowski, and Dr. Brian McCook, also the PAHA awards banquet and program at the Embassy of Poland proved to be both a very pleasant and moving evening, during which several Polish American poets presented their poetry, honoring the Zbigniew Herbert Year. The Embassy, and particularly Dr. Mariusz Brymora and Dr. Andrzej Rabczenko, deserve special appreciation for hosting this event.

In March, 2008, PAHA co-sponsored with Pilsudski Institute a one-day conference on teaching Poland's and Polonia's history in the U.S. It was hosted by the Kosciuszko Foundation and resulted in many interesting and important papers and presentations. Video from the conference is available at the Pilsudski Institute's web site. The conference is a great example of the type of collaboration with other Polonia professional organizations of which PAHA would like to pursue more in the future. We are grateful to the Pilsudski Institute and especially to our own board member and the Institute's Executive Director Dr. Iwona Korga for their leadership in this project.

Following a year and a half of efforts, PAHA has regained its tax exempt status and is currently in good standing with the IRS. PAHA is also now registered with the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, and is incorporated in the State of Connecticut.

The PAHA Online Committee, headed by the President and including Pien Versteegh, John Guzowski, and Ann Gunkel worked with the website builder and designer Marcin Witruszynski on the new website. The work on the website is progressing according to plan and the new website should be available to the members shortly (see elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for more information on the new website).

Continued on page 13

PAHA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

POLISHAMERICANSTUDIES.ORG

Please visit our new website at the old address. The site has been redesigned by Marcin Witruszynski with the help of the Online Committee: John Guzowski, Ann Hetzel Gunkel, Jim Pula, Pien Versteegh, and Anna Kirchmann. Many other board members also contributed to this effort. Please note all the new features, including: a new attractive banner; expanded section on the *Polish American Studies*; connection to PAHA books on **Amazon.com**; and online membership dues and conference registration payment. Let us know what you think about PAHA new website by contacting Pien Versteegh at A.P.Versteegh@uvt.nl.

Polish American Historical Association Annual Meeting Conference Program January 2-5, 2009

PAHA Annual Conference will take place in conjunction with the American Historical Association's (AHA) annual meeting in New York City on January 2-5, 2009. Information about the AHA conference, accommodations, transportation can be found at **www.historians.org**. PAHA conference participants (both presenters and audience) do not need to register for the AHA conference, but are required to register for the PAHA conference by sending a registration form and \$20.00 registration fee to the PAHA Headquarters c/o Magda Jacques, CCSU, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050. Hotel space is limited, so please register early.

Friday, January 2, Session 1. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

PANEL: American ethnic groups and their response to the Cold War: Comparative perspective

Chair: Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann,

Traitors and Patriots: American Ethnic Responses to Communism, John Radzilowski

Patriots and Partisans: Armenian-Americans and Soviet Armenia in the Early Cold War Years, Benjamin F. Alexander

Talpra Magyar, rise up Magyars: Hungarian expatriates in the United States and their struggle against the Communists following World War II, Judith Fai-Podlipnik

Latvian émigrés, the Cold War and comparative analysis of the experience of political refugees, Ieva Zake

Session 2. 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

PANEL: Writing the Polish American Experience: East Coast

Chairs: John Guzłowski and Janusz Zalewski

Presenters: Stephen Lewandowski, Sharon Mesmer, Thad Rutkowski, John Surowiecki, Bill Zavatsky, New York City

6:30 p.m. Tour & Cocktail Reception at Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) 208 East 30th Street, New York City

Saturday, January 3, Session 3. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

PANEL: Polish American Women

Chair: Mary Patrice Erdmans

Mother-daughter Relations in Contemporary Polish American Literature, Grazyna J. Kozaczka

Doing Ethnicity and Doing Gender: Polishness in Third-Generation Women, Mary Patrice Erdmans

Women Building Communities on the Lower East Side, 1880-1920, Anne M. Gurnack

Discussant: Ann Hetzel Gunkel, Columbia College Chicago

Annual Meeting Program Continued

Saturday, January 3: 11:30 – 2:30 PAHA Board Meeting & Business Meeting

Session 4. 2:30-4:30 p.m. PANEL: Revisiting New York City Polonia

Chair: Anne M. Gurnack

"Tales from Polish Lower East Side Saloons in New York City," Anne M. Gurnack,

"How World War II Affected the Polish East Side 1939-1945," Dr. Iwona Drag Korga,

Doing Histories of New York City's Early Polonia: Stories, Sources, and Suggestions,"
Dr. Joseph Wiczerzak,

Saturday, 6:00 p.m. PAHA Annual Awards Banquet, Location TBA

Sunday, January 4, Session 5 9:00-11:00 a.m. PANEL: Topics in Polish Studies

Chair: William Galush, Loyola University Chicago

"Looking for better opportunities or a way of life? Polish migrants in Nanticoke," Pien Versteegh

"Alternative Explanations for Opposition to Civil Rights in Milwaukee, 1963 to 1964," Stephen Leahy

"Polish Vincentian Fathers of the New England Province," Charles R. Kaczyński

Session 6 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. PANEL: 20th Century Personae in Polish American History

Chair: James Pula, Purdue University North Central

"Ira Hirschmann and the Situation of Polish Displaced Persons," Charles Chotkowski

"Frank Kowalski: Connecticut Congressman at Large, Anti-War Army Veteran" Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.

"Waclaw Kruszka, A Centennial Retrospective on Polonia's First Historian," James Pula

Session 7. 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

PANEL: Topics in Polonian History & Pedagogy, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

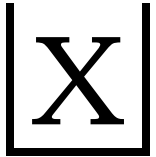
Chair: John Radzilowski

"Witold Gombrowicz: A Polish Writer Viewed Through an Argentine Prism," Dr. Silvia G. Dapia

"Preserving Polish Peasants: Reexamining U.S. Foreign Policy towards Poland in the Cold War,"
Robert Mark Spaulding

"Teaching a course in Polish Cultural History at the Graduate Level," Peter Obst,

PAHA 2009 MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



Yes, I will be attending the 2009 Polish American Historical Association Annual Meeting in New York City!

2008 Dues (\$40/year for individuals) -----

Conference Registration Fee: \$20 -----

Donation (Any amount is appreciated) -----

Total:

Name: _____

Affiliation to be Printed on Badge: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip : _____

Number attending Banquet: _____ Names of Those Attending _____

Clip and mail registration form and check with the appropriate amount to:

PAHA Headquarters, c/o Magda Jacques

Executive Director Pien Versteegh



My name is Pien Versteegh. In my work I compare Polish migrants in Germany and the United States. As the executive director of PAHA I am in charge of the Public Relations of PAHA. We wish to recruit new members, especially graduate students and young scholars with an interest in Polish American History. If you want to become a member of PAHA or have any other questions please contact me at: **a.p.versteegh@uvt.nl**.

**Check out our new website!
www.polishamericanstudies.org
Check out our back issues online!
Please pay your 2009 dues!**

The Polka King's Death (1963)

They liked that his casket was lined with robin's-egg-blue satin undulating in G-clef patterns and that his golden initials, so cleverly intertwined and flecked with stars and Saturns and grace-noted comets, once again blazoned from his pocket; most of all, they liked that he kept his fez.

He had played at all their weddings, started them on all their journeys, all bound for the same unremarkable place, all the same to him.

He had given them a day of joy and frenzied music, a day without bosses or angry looks or remarks about being poor or uneducated or just plain stupid.

In return, they gave him a joyless hour and, heads bowed, they sang their sluggish hymns.

From John Surowiecki's book *The Hat City After Men Stopped Wearing Hats* (2006).

John Surowiecki is the author of *Watching Cartoons before Attending a Funeral* (White Pine Press, 2003) and *The Hat City after Men Stopped Wearing Hats*, (The Word Works, 2006 Washington Prize). He has also won the Pablo Neruda Prize for his poetry and the first Poetry Foundation Award for Verse Drama for his play *My Nose and Me: A TragedyLite or TragiDelight in 33 Scenes*. Born in 1943, John has degrees from the University of Connecticut. He is married to Denise Rodosevich, has two children, and lives in Amston, Connecticut. A freelance writer, he teaches poetry courses at Manchester Community College. His poems have recently appeared in national publications, such as *Poetry*, *Nimrod*, *MacGuffin*, and the *North American Review*.

The Sarmatian Review

An academic tri-quarterly whose goal is to help develop in the United States a scholarly discourse on Poland and non-Germanic Central Europe. The journal specializes in publishing documentary materials in English translation. Its electronic version, *Sarmatian Review Online*, is distributed by Rice University (www.ruf.rice.edu/~sarmatia). *Sarmatian Review* is indexed in the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies, in PAIS International Database, and in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (www.cceol.com) where it is available in PDF format. Our contents are a creative mix of annotated data, scholarly articles, literary texts, and more. *Sarmatian Review* is twenty-six years old. Libraries from Harvard to Stanford subscribe to it.

Subscription price in 2006: \$21/year for individuals; \$28/year for libraries. Overseas: \$28 individuals; \$35 libraries.

Partial contents of the September 2007 issue: George Gasyna, "Rituals at the Limits of Literature: A New Reading of Witold Gombrowicz's COSMOS;" Krzysztof Rak and Mariusz Muszyński, "A View for Europe: Denying Its Own Past;" Gregor Thum, "The Clash of Moral Nations: Cultural Politics in Pilsudski's Poland;" and much more.

Address: Post Office Box 79119, Houston, TX 77279-9119

The Polish Review

The Polish Review is interested in printing topical issues or sections of issues. Topics include:

Polish film (including current film, women in Polish film, Polish literature in film, Polish war film)

Polish folklore (myths, customs, "new folklore,")

American views of Poland (in literature, the press, textbooks)

Today's ethnic groups in Poland

Contemporary arts in Poland

Contemporary Polish music

Articles must be of scholarly quality and submitted in packages (three or more articles per package suggested) to: Editor, *The Polish Review*, 208 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016

Personalia

Dennis Badaczewski, professor emeritus at Northern Michigan University, and author of *Poles in Michigan*, Michigan State University Press, 2003 will be the keynote speaker for the "Movers & Seekers: Michigan's Immigrant Experience" exhibit at the Lorenzo Cultural Center of Macomb (Michigan) Community College on October 3, 2008.

T. Lindsay Baker, W.K. Gordon Endowed Chair in History at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, received the Billie Wolfe Award from the American Wind Power Center in June 2008 for his efforts to promote the preservation of historic wind machines. He also received notification that the University of Arkansas Press had received the Basil W. Duke Award for reprinting Confederate history for his recent edited work, *Confederate Guerrilla: The Civil War Memoir of Joseph W. Bailey*. In addition to teaching history at Tarleton State University, Baker directs the W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas, a museum and research center at the coal mining ghost town of Thurber on Interstate Highway 20 midway between Fort Worth and Abilene.

Don Binkowski's first volume of a two volume set: *Tolerated but Never Accepted: Polish American Officials of Michigan in a World Political Perspective*, will be published in 2008.

M. B. B. Biskupski was elected Vice President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Bozenna Buda and Teresa Burik presented a session on "Infusing Polish Heritage Learning into pre-K to 12 Instructional Curriculum" at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, June 13-14, 2008, in Philadelphia.

In July 2008, **John Bukowczyk**, Professor of History at Wayne State University, delivered two lectures at the Poland in the Rockies Summer Program in Canmore, Alberta, Canada. For information on the program, see <http://polandintherockies.com/>

Anna M. Cienciala served as the American editor of: *Katyn. A Crime Without Punishment*, Yale University Press, 2007.

Mary Patrice Erdmans had her essay "Gods Who Smell Like Goats" selected for inclusion in *The Best Travel Writing of 2008*, and her essay "A Live Cat Is Better than a Dead Lion" appeared in *Slow Trains* in April, 2008.

Check out our new website! www.polishamericanstudies.org

Check out our back issues online!

Please pay your 2009 dues!

Personalia

Linda Nemeč Foster's new poetry chapbook, *Ten Songs from Bulgaria*, has recently been published by Cervena Barva Press of Massachusetts. It was a top finalist in the press' national chapbook competition. For ordering information, go to www.cervenabarvavpress.com Foster has also garnered awards this year from the Detroit Working Writers and the Springfed Arts organizations. Her work has appeared in recent issues of such journals as *Salamander*, *Witness*, *Istanbul Literary Review*, and *The MacGuffin*. Her new full-length poetry manuscript, *Talking Diamonds*, was recently accepted for publication by New Issues Press (sponsored by Western Michigan University) and will appear in the fall of 2009.

Regina Gorzkowski-Rossi headed a panel on "Polish American Heritage and the Question of Preservation" at the meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences held in Philadelphia. Her paper on "Two Endangered Polish Paintings in the Gesu Church in Philadelphia" was part of the preservation session which marked the beginning of promoting, on the Eastern Coast, of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage' inventory project for ecclesiastical art in Polish American churches. Her forthcoming Pulaski Day Parade Supplement (*Nowy Dziennik*, Sunday, Oct. 7) will focus on the City of Philadelphia's plan for Pulaski Park, part of the Delaware Riverfront.

Emeritus Professor **Victor Greene** gave a series of public lectures sponsored by the US State Department on "The History of American Immigration Policy, Past and Present," at United States Embassies in Prague, Budapest, Warsaw, and Krakow in mid-May, 2008. He also presented a talk at the third biennial "Ethnicity" seminar co-sponsored by the Jagellonian University's Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and the United States Consulate on his current research, "Genre Artists and American Minorities."

Ann Hetzel Gunkel was named Director of Cultural Studies at Columbia College Chicago. Her article "Terra Nova 2.0: The New Worlds of MMORPGs," with David J. Gunkel appears in the the October 2008 *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

John Guzłowski recently published two poems about his mother's experiences in the war ("The Evil that Men Do" and "My Aunt Sophie was 17") in the *Chattahoochee Review*. He also recently read from his book *Lightning and Ashes* for the Polish American Art Association at American University in Washington . Please subscribe to his two blogs: <http://lightning-and-ashes.blogspot.com/> (dealing with his parents' experiences during World War II) and <http://writingpolishdiaspora.blogspot.com/> (dealing with Polish-American writers). Please contact John at jzguzlowski@gmail.com.

Personalia

Joseph A. Herter, the Kosciuszko Foundation's representative in Poland, authored the liner notes to a highly acclaimed CD recording of Zygmunt Stojowski's orchestral and choral music which was released by DUX Records in Warsaw. He also took part in a Marcella Sembrich Symposium at the Sembrich Opera Museum on Lake George, New York.

David J. Jackson, Associate Professor of Political Science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, was a Fulbright Lecturer in the Department of American Studies and Mass Media at the University of Lodz. He taught courses in American and Canadian politics, and wrote a brief memoir of his time in Poland entitled "Classrooms and Barrooms: An American in Poland," which he hopes to publish in the Fall of 2008.

Francis Casimir Kajencki died on July 16, 2008 in El Paso, Texas. He was 90 years old. Colonel Kajencki, a West Point graduate, career officer in the United States Army, patriot, and defender of *pol-skość* in America, was also a competent historian, biographer, and author of nine books. Condolences can be sent to Anthony A. Kajencki, II, 260 Turtle Lane, Hedgesville, West Virginia 25427. In turn, he will share them with the family.

Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann guest edited (with Suzanne M. Sinke) a special issue of *Polish American Studies* on the ethnic historical associations (Spring 2008), and authored an article there "The Polish American Historical Association: Looking Back, Looking Forward." Her article "Repatriacja czy wygnanie: upolitycznienie polskich wysiedlencow 1945-1951," will appear in *Przegląd Polonijny*, Fall 2008.

Jerry Krase published and co-edited *Italian Americans Before Mass Migration* (AIHA, 2008) in which he has an essay: "Ethnic Succession in Little and Big Italy," and "The American Italian Historical Association: A View from the Bridge," *PAS*. Krase presented papers; "American Cities as Visually Contested Terrain: Turkish and Other Moslems," Turkish Cultural Studies Association, Sile, Turkey; "Visually/Symbolically contested terrains," European Commission on Urban Anthropology, Tirana Albania, in September, 2007. In June, 2007 he presented "Visualizing Changing Polonia: Greenpoint and London," at the PIASA meeting in Washington.

John J. Kulczycki, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Chicago, gave a paper entitled "Polish Historians in the United States and Canada" as part of a session on post-World-War-II Polish emigre historians held at the annual meeting of the PIASA, in Philadelphia, June 13-14, 2008. He also gave a paper entitled "Factors Affecting the Teaching of Polish History in Chicago" at a conference on "Teaching the Polish Experience" sponsored by the Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America and Polish American Historical Association in New York City.

Witold J. Lawrynowicz published book "Schneider, St. Chamond" in AJ-Press in Gdansk, Poland. Also, he published „French Light Tank Renault FT & U. S. Six-Ton Tank M1917” in Progress Publications in Warsaw, Poland. Every year Witold publishes numerous historical articles in *Nowy Dziennik* in New York City.

Personalia

Upon completing the Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship at the Immigration History Research Center in Minnesota **Anna Mazurkiewicz** is back in Poland working on the history of Assembly of the Captive European Nations. In the meantime University of Gdansk opened the American Studies department where she will teach beginning this fall

Thomas Napierkowski just finished a three-year term as president-elect, president, and immediate past-president of The University of Colorado-Colorado Springs Faculty Assembly.

Laurie Palazzolo and the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society held its first historic Polish Church pilgrimage. The pilgrimage ended with a delicious meal consisted of kielbasa, ham, potato salad, deviled eggs, beet horseradish, bread, butter lambs, and a variety of cakes, or *babkas*, plus coffee and fruit punch.

Rev. **John T. Pawlikowski O.S.M.** served as a Visiting Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. He lectured in Heidelberg under the auspices of the Stadt Heidelberg's cultural affairs office, in Luxembourg City and at the Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, France. While in Great Britain he presented lectures in Cambridge, spoke to the interreligious staff at Lambeth Palace and participated in a meeting of the World Economic Forum's Committee on Islam and the West. He joined the leadership of the International Council of Christians & Jews in a discussion with the President of Germany.

Leslie Pietrzyk will be teaching in Converse College's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, which is just being launched. For more information, see www.converse.edu/mfa Additionally, she received the "Award for Teaching Excellence" from the Johns Hopkins University's Master of Arts in Writing Program.

The National Polish Center in Washington is searching for a motivated person who is experienced in management, fund raising, diplomacy and who has a positive plan for Polonia. For further information contact **Dr. Jack Pinkowski** at **jackpink**

@huizenga.nova.edu or Al Koproski at oceanvu222@sbcglobal.net with your resume.

Professor **Thaddeus Piotrowski** was awarded a Certificate of Merit (*Dyplom Uznania*) by the Warsaw-based Association of Combat Veterans and Former Political Prisoners of the Republic of Poland. The document reads: "For outstanding services in the public sphere in behalf of combat veterans associations, including those from the borderlands, and for popularizing and preserving the memory of the people and their deeds in the struggle for Polish independence during World War II and after its conclusion." He also gave a talk ("The Polish Deportees of World War II") at McGill University in Montreal. The talk was sponsored by the McGill University History Department, The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada, and The Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies.

Personalia

James S. Pula spoke at a conference on teaching Polish and Polish American History; delivered a presentation “The Kościuszko Squadron in Two Wars” at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point; spoke on “Polish Pioneers in Jamestown,” at a meeting sponsored by the Polish American Congress and the Georgetown University Polish Students Association; spoke on “The Poles in Jamestown” at the annual meeting of the Polish Teachers Association in Boston; delivered a paper on “Tadeusz Kościuszko: A Case Study in Constructed Historical Symbolism,” at PIASA; and was installed as a “Fellow of the Association” in the University Continuing Education Association.

John Radzilowski recently published an article on Polish and Italian immigrant demography in *Journal of American Ethnic History* and a chapter on the history of Minnesota Politics for the 6th edition of *Minnesota Politics and Government*. He is the general editor for 2nd edition of the *Encyclopedia of American Immigration*.

Brother Leo V. Ryan, Professor of Management–Emeritus, with co-author Richard J. Hunter, Jr. presented a paper “An Update on the Polish Economy,” at the PIASA meeting in Philadelphia. The paper will be published in the *International Research Journal of Finance and Economics*. Their paper “A Report and Update on the Polish Privatization” has been accepted for presentation at the Warsaw Eastern European Conference. It will be published in the *European Journal of Social Sciences*. Brother Leo is also author of the lead article “French Creek, Allamakee County” in the Iowa Postal History Society *Bulletin*.

Don Samull published the 34th edition of his Polish American calendar. Samull served as co-chair with Laurie Palazzolo of West Side Detroit American Historical Association’s Tour of Polish Churches and Swieconka Dinner. He also arranged the Polish National Catholic Church section of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan’s meeting. Samull gave a slide program on Polish customs at the Shelby Township Public Library.

Suzanne Strempek Shea was interviewed on Easter Sunday on National Public Radio regarding her eighth book, "Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith." The interview is available via the NPR

archives: [http://www.npr.org/
/templates/story/story.php?
storyId=88883495](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88883495)

Anyone interested in setting up a reading is invited to contact Suzanne at sess7@comcast.net.

Henry (Hank) P. Silka, an avid maritime historian, died April 15th, 2008 at the age of 76. He became enchanted with the sea as a child while observing the greater New York Harbor region. After serving in the army, Silka worked as a foreign press correspondent in Asia. Later, he worked as a technical editor. Upon his retirement, he wrote maritime history and helped preserve historic maritime sites. He also studied Polish and became an active member of the Polish American Historical Association.

President's Report Continued

The First Vice President's (Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel) report indicated that the January 2-4, 2009, PAHA conference will take place in New York City in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. Please look for more information elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

The Second Vice President's (Dr. Brian McCook) report commented on the work of the Awards Committee, which he heads, and which includes Dr. Ann Gunkel, Dr. Neal Pease, and Dr. Bill Galush. Dr. Pien Versteegh, and Interim Executive Director, presented a business plan to improve PAHA's visibility among Polonia, professional organizations, as well as Poland's universities and institutions.

The Treasurer's (Dr. James Pula) report indicated that PAHA's finances are stable, but the necessity to fund the Encyclopedia, website, and mounting of the journal on electronic databases will challenge our budget. The Treasurer recommended that no new projects be undertaken until current obligations are met.

Dr. Stephan Leahy, the *Newsletter* Editor, reported on the *Newsletter*. Dr. James Guzlowski will serve as an Assistant Editor. Dr. James Pula, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Polish American Studies* reported that the Spring 2008 issue discussed ethnic historical societies. Guest editors Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann and Suzanne M. Sinke prepared the issue. The journal continues to solicit article submissions. PAHA has also signed agreements with the History Cooperative and JSTOR for including *Polish American Studies* in their electronic databases.

Dr. John Bukowczyk reported that the Ohio University Press Polish and Polish-American Studies Series has already published eight volumes (please see an ad for the OUP series elsewhere in this *Newsletter*), two other books currently are in press, and two additional manuscripts are currently under review. The series is still soliciting new manuscripts.

Mr. Tom Duszak, chair of PAHA Polish American Studies e-Access Committee, presented his report, which reviewed the process of joining the History Cooperative and JSTOR by *Polish American Studies*. The following discussion centered on the pro's and con's of joining the EBSCO database and/or mounting the journal with the University of Illinois. The board decided to authorize the committee to continue exploring our options in this matter. The nominating Committee, headed by Dr. Mary Erdmans will organize Fall elections. This committee will include the past two presidents and the current president.

Rudolph J. Vecoli dies at the age of 81

A premier immigration historian Professor Rudolph J. Vecoli died on June 17, 2008. He was 81 years old. Vecoli was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, speaking Italian at home. Vecoli served in the Navy and then earned degrees from the University of Connecticut, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Wisconsin. His Ph.D. dissertation examined the communities of Southern Italians in Chicago prior to World War I. As part of the research for his dissertation, Vecoli conducted extensive interviews with immigrants in Chicago, observing and engaging the community.

Vecoli's article "Contadini in Chicago: A Critique of the Uprooted," which appeared in 1963, became a watershed in the discipline of the immigration and ethnic history. Vecoli worked in the History Department of the University of Minnesota. In 1967 he created the Immigration History Research Center, an institution, which he headed till his retirement. In 2004, PAHA granted Rudy Vecoli the Amicus Poloniae Award. His citation read: "For Polish Americans, Rudy has been instrumental in promoting The Polish American Studies Fund to support the Polish American Collection."

Encyclopedia Honor Roll

PAHA extends its sincere appreciation to the following donors for their support of the encyclopedia project. Their generosity will help us to preserve our heritage for future generations. This listing is complete as of July 1, 2008. Donations received after that date will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Sustaining Benefactor (\$1000 or more)

Thomas Duszak	The Kosciuszko Foundation	Polish Studies Program, CCSU	Rosenstiel Foundation
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Thank you again!**

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