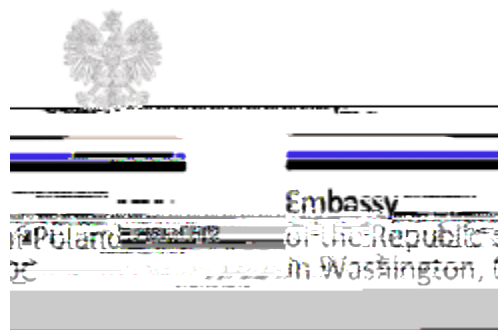


Celebrating the centennial of
Poland's rebirth as a sovereign nation
&
American–Polish diplomatic relations

ORGANIZED BY



CONFERENCE IDEA:

Why celebrate? Americans remember 11 November 1918 as "Armistice Day," the end of fighting during World War I. Poles also celebrate this day, not only for a successful conclusion to the Great War, but to honor the restoration of Polish independence. After more than a century of subjugation, Polish patriots took back control of their lands. This started a new struggle, one that lasted another three years before independence was guaranteed. America strongly supported these efforts, starting with President Woodrow Wilson's powerful endorsement of Polish independence. Less than two months after Armistice Day, America and Poland established diplomatic relations. From that point onward, even during the height of the Cold War, the two nations maintained cordial relations. Today Poland and America have excellent ties, and our conference hopes to illuminate the historical antecedents of these connections.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Ewa Barczyk, John P. Dunn (VSU), Anna Mazurkiewicz (UG), and Ivan Nikolov (VSU).

Student volunteers: Courtney Boone, Austin Danielski, Eric Henderson, Kevin Lancaster, Connor McCarthy, Hunter Tanner, Sam Tucker, Joey Matt Dillon Bell, Grier Rogers, and Tahbius Hughes.

RELATED CONFERENCE EVENTS at VSU:

EXHIBIT

Highlights of POLAND: Poster collection on loan from the Polish Embassy in Washington -- on the second floor of the Ashley Hall rotunda for one week. Images of Poland: its natural wonders, biggest cities, points of interest and more...

STUDENT CONTEST

POLISH TRACES IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH – Student photo & essay competition. VSU students were invited to search for different sites or buildings which are/were important to Polish Americans or honor their contributions to the US history by the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA). This academic organization has launched an important and exciting initiative to publish a book tentatively called *Guide to Polish Historical Sites in North America*. The editor of the volume – Mrs. Ewa Barczyk's – serves as the Chair of the Awards Committee. Successful essays will be published; the best will win cash awards of \$50-\$100 each sponsored by VSU History.

FILM SCREENING

An award winning documentary "**FOURTH PARTITION**" that recounts the story of four million Polish immigrants who came to America circa 1870-1920, and how they played a part in building a community in Chicago. The film mentions first Poles in America (Jamestown 1608) as well as contributions to the American Revolution by Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski. The latter died in 1779 near Savannah, GA. The film ends with Poland becoming a free nation in 1918 after having been erased from the maps of Europe for one hundred twenty-three years. Today, the Polish American community is the eight largest ancestry group in the US with estimated number of ten million people of Polish descent.

PROGRAM for November 9th, 2018

SCHOLARLY SESSION: THE UNITED STATES & POLAND

Ashley

CONFERENCE PARTNERS: