

Yuriy Serebryansky Visits Loyola



Students in Dr. John Merchant's LITR 280 course on Polish American Literature were blessed with the rare opportunity to meet with a writer of the Polish diaspora from Kazakhstan, Yuriy Serebryansky (Юрий Серебрянский), on September 20th, 2017. Mr. Serebryansky, who was taking part as a resident in the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in the Fall of

2017, dramatically expanded the notion of "Polonia" and the Polish diaspora being discussed in the class, for Mr. Serebryansky, who writes in Russian, lives in Kazakhstan, and identifies as Polish, is the descendent of Poles were first exiled to Kazakhstan in the 1930s under Joseph Stalin. In addition to talking about his writing, which includes the novels *Destination. Road Pastoral* (2010) and *Prazhaki* (2014) and the collection of short stories *Kazakhstani Fairy Tales* (2017), Mr. Serebryansky also explained the unique history of the Polish community in Kazakhstan and his work as editor of the Polish diaspora magazine in Kazakhstan, *Almatyński Kurier Polonijny*. Mr. Serebryansky's visit also helped to underscore the extent to which the story of Polish literature writ large continues to evolve and change by means of new connections, translations, and scholarship.

