

**NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION**

**IN CO-OPERATION WITH**

**THE JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,**

**THE JAN KARSKI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION,**

**THE POLISH HISTORY MUSEUM**

**AND THE POLISH STUDIES PROGRAM OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

**USA**

**IN CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF**

**JAN KARSKI**

*presents the Eighth Annual Symposium*

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND A JUST SOCIETY**

*This year's program is entitled*

**REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY AND REFLECTION**

**THE MORAL, ETHICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS LESSONS OF THE**

**LIFE OF JAN KARSKI**

**OCTOBER 6-7, 2013**

**Sunday October 6th, 2013**

*Presented at*

**Centre of Contemporary Art *Znaki Czasu* in Torun**

*Waly gen. Sikorskiego 13*

**and**

**Monday, October 7th, 2013**

*Presented at*

*The Main Library, Conference Room, Ground Floor,*

*Ul .Gagarina 13*

*Nicolaus Copernicus University*

*Torun, Poland*

Jan Karski (1914-2000) joined the Polish resistance shortly after the beginning of World War II and witnessed firsthand the atrocities of the camps and the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw. Escaping capture on two occasions he was eventually captured and tortured by the Gestapo but escaped again and travelled to the West and provided the first accounts of the Holocaust to Roosevelt and the British in 1942. Frustrated the rest of his life by his inability to prevent the atrocities, he settled in Washington and taught Political Science at Georgetown for 40 years. In 2012, President Obama posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This year's symposium will focus on Karski's place in history and (until recently) forgotten role in attempting to prevent the Holocaust. Following three dramatic presentations your hosts will lead a panel and participant discussion on some lessons of Karski's life not previously considered such as: How do we arrive at our notions of right and wrong? How do we resolve moral dilemmas? How do we lead a good life by example and promote justice?

***MODERATORS AND HOSTS***

***MR. JOHN J. KUROWSKI, Kurowski Shultz, LLC, Swansea, Illinois, USA and Visiting Professor of Law in the Comparative Law Program at NCU (2006, 2010)***

***PROFESSOR ARKADIUSZ LACH, Vice-Dean of the Faculty for International Relations and Informatization of the Nicolaus Copernicus School of Law and Administration (NCU)***

***DR. MICHAL BALCERZAK, Assistant Professor at the Chair for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University***

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**Sunday October 6, 2013**

**18:30-20:00**

**OPENING EVENT**

***The Film: "Messenger From Poland", a BBC production***

Jan Karski witnessed the Holocaust first hand. He sought to alert the West to the slaughter while it was happening and while it could make a difference. "Messenger from Poland" begins to tell his story in his own words; his words are urgent testimony, urgent still after the passage of 70 years.

*Location: Centre of Contemporary Art **Znaki Czasu** in Torun, Waly gen. Sikorskiego 13*

**DISCUSSION:**

*MS. EWA WIERZYNSKA , SENIOR ADVISOR FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE POLISH HISTORY MUSEUM*

*MS. BOZENA MCLEES, DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH STUDIES PROGRAM AND PROFESSOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO*

*DR. MICHAL BALCERZAK , ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE CHAIR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, FACULTY OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION, NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY*

**Monday October 7, 2013**

*Location: Main Library Conference Room*

*Nicolaus Copernicus University*

*Ul. Gagarina 13*

**9:00-9:15**

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**INTRODUCTION**

- *MR. JOHN J. KUROWSKI, KUROWSKI SHULTZ, LLC,*
- *PROFESSOR ARKADIUSZ LACH, VICE-DEAN OF THE FACULTY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INFORMATIZATION*
- *DR. SUSANNA CAVALLO, DEAN OF FACULTY, JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO*

**9:15-10:15**

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**JAN KARSKI, THE ROMANTIC REALIST**

**Maciej Wierzynski**

**QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND DISCUSSION**

10:15-11:15

**JAN KARSKI, THE ALLIED DECLARATION OF DECEMBER 17, 1942 AND THE NEW CONCEPT OF "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY"**

**Dr. Wojtek Rappak,**

**QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND DISCUSSION**

11:15-11:45

**THE OPENING OF THE POLISH HISTORY MUSEUM EXHIBIT: JAN KARSKI, CZLOWIEK WOLNOSCI (JAN KARSKI, MAN OF FREEDOM)**

11:45- 12:45

**THE ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION OF KARSKI IN POLAND AFTER 1945.**

**Dr. Tomasz S. Ceran**

12:45- 1:45

- **PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THE SPEAKERS AND AUDIENCE DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS OF KARSKI'S WORK DURING THE WAR**

*MODERATED BY PROFESSOR KUROWSKI AND DR. BALCERZAK*

## **THE FACULTY**

**MACIEJ WIERZYNSKI** is a veteran Polish print, radio and TV journalist, whose 50 year career started in Poland in 1961. Wierzynski has worked for virtually all the major Polish language media both in Poland and the US. He was a sports journalist, a TV talk show host, a columnist for Poland's most popular weekly, Polityka and managing editor of an intellectual weekly newspaper Kultura. Following the imposition of martial law in Poland in December, 1981, he lost his job in Polish National TV, was blacklisted and immigrated to the United States in 1984 with his family. In the US he studied at Stanford, drove a cab in Chicago and - in time - found his way back into journalism, when he established the first Polish-language daily TV program in Chicago - Polvision. He later took the job of Polish section director at Radio Free Europe and built the first office of the RFE in Central Europe. He was also head of the Polish section of the Voice of America in Washington, DC and the editor-in-chief of Nowy Dziennik, a New York-based daily newspaper published in the Polish language. In 2006 he returned to Poland and was offered a post in the largest privately held commercial news channel TVN-24 where he currently has a weekly program devoted to international affairs. Wierzynski has interviewed most major foreign thinkers, writers and foreign policy analysts who visited Poland in recent years, he has moderated presidential debates in the past and regularly comments on current international news. His third book - **The Emissary. In his Own Words** is based on dozens of hours of interviews recorded for VOA with Dr. Jan Karski was recently published in Poland and met with wide interest and critical acclaim. Maciej is married to Ewa Wierzynski and their son Gregory is a graduate of the Georgetown School of Law and lives in Geneva, Switzerland. Their other son Lech Antoni is a

musician and lives and works in the Bay area as a front man for The California Honeydrops. Maciej continues to compete - and at times win - in downhill ski races.

**WOJTEK RAPPAK** was born in Gdańsk and emigrated with his family to Canada in 1961 at the age of 12. He received his first degree in politics, philosophy and economics from the University of Alberta and then continued at the University of Warsaw where he received a Master's degree in Philosophy in 1973. After a year at the Paris Sorbonne, Wojtek moved to London to study at King's College, University of London, where he was awarded a PhD in 1982 for research into the foundations of logic and the early philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. His doctoral thesis was entitled *The Notion of Form in Wittgenstein's Tractatus*. After completing his doctorate, Wojtek began academic work for the University of London but after a year decided to join a pioneering software company which was developing advanced financial management systems in the City of London. He continued on a successful software design career and went on to establish a software company, Rational Commerce, which specialises in the design and development of complex industrial database systems. These systems are the foundation of most of the software applications people use every day. Dr. Rappak has always been very interested in contemporary history and is currently working on a historical research project on Jan Karski at the University of London (UCL). The aim of the project, which is nearing its last phase, is to publish a book on Karski and also to submit the research for a doctorate at the University of London. Most recently, he has presented seminars at UCL on Karski's famous 1943 meeting with Justice Frankfurter and on the way that Jewish and Polish history is bound together in Karski's life. Soon after the fall of communism, Wojtek spent a year in Warsaw working as a consultant helping to modernise the Polish banking system. He frequently travels to Poland on business, to visit friends and relatives, and also to conduct historical research in the Polish national archives. Wojtek has Polish, Canadian and British citizenship. He is married to Penny Walsh, a noted natural dye and historical textile artist. They have a son and two daughters and live in London.

**EWA WIERZYNSKA** works as Senior Advisor for International Cooperation at the Polish History Museum in Warsaw, Poland and as the leader of the Jan Karski, Unfinished Mission educational and public awareness program. Previously, she was deputy director of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Ms. Wierzyńska holds a Masters Degree from the Warsaw School of Economics and the University of Warsaw. She is the author of several books of historical non-fiction and numerous articles. Exiled from Poland in 1984 for political reasons, Ms. Wierzyńska and her family spent 20 years in the United States where she worked as a congressional aide, free-lance journalist, advertising executive and public relations specialist. From 1992 - 2000, she lived in the Washington DC area, where she befriended Jan Karski. Since her return to Poland in 2005, Ms. Wierzyńska has devoted her time to the memory of Jan Karski in Poland.

**DR. TOMASZ S. CERAN** is a researcher and educator in the Polish Institute of National Remembrance in Bydgoszcz, Poland. He received his PhD and Masters in History from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. He also has a Masters degree in International Politics from the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. He also serves as a Research Fellow with the Casimir Pulaski Foundation. At Copernicus he has taught courses in Twentieth Century Polish Foreign Policy and Polish International Relations during the Cold War (1945-1989).

**DR. MICHAŁ BALCERZAK** is an Assistant Professor at the Chair for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. He obtained his Master's degree in law in 2003 and his Ph.D. in 2007 from the same university. In 2004, he was awarded the Diploma of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. Apart from his academic activities, Dr. Balcerzak is a legal advisor in the office of the Polish Government

Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. Since 2005, along with Dr. Kaldunski, he has been one of the faculty coaches working with students who take part in the Jessup International Law moot court competitions. His teams won the Polish National competition in 2006 and 2007 and competed at the international level in Washington, D.C. both years. In 2006, he was elected the Chairman of the Council of Europe expert committee on human rights in the context of accelerated asylum procedures. He specializes in European and international human rights law, the international judiciary and the law of international organizations.

**DR. SUSANA CAVALLO** received her doctorate in Romance Languages & Literatures from The University of Chicago. Currently, she is the Dean of Faculty at Loyola's Rome Campus. A specialist in Twentieth-century Hispanic Poetry, Prosody and Poetics, and Women's Narrative—including prison literature—Cavallo is also a poet, translator, and composer. She has translated into English works by Claribel Alegria, José Hierro, Susana March, Federico García Lorca, and Francisco Brines. Among her publications are La poética de José Hierro, El sujeto femenino en escritoras hispánicas, and numerous articles on 20th century European, Latin American and Anglo-American literature. Her interest in resistance writing led her to edit a special volume of the M/MLA Journal entitled, "Witness: The Real, The Unspeakable, and the Construction of Narrative." In "Witness," which featured a special interview with the Egyptian writer, physician and feminist activist, Nawal El Saadawi, critics examined phenomena as diverse as Holocaust journals, Latin American testimonial writing, and the war poetry of Lucien Stryk. A recent and parallel attempt to give voice to the voiceless was the conference she directed in Rome in 2009, "The Changing Face of the Mediterranean: Migrant Women's Creativity & Constraints."

Her interest in Jan Karski stems from the unforgettable image of the Polish resistance fighter in Claude Lanzmann's film, *Shoah*, which she saw as a graduate student at the University of Chicago and was never able to forget.

**DR. MARCIN KALDUNSKI** is an Assistant Professor of Law at the Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Torun, Poland. He has been engaged, in particular, in public international law as well as international economic law. He received his Ph.D. in law from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in 2005. His Ph.D. thesis was also published as a monograph in 2006 entitled *The Most Favoured Nation Clause*. He has published several books on international law. Since 2005, along with Dr. Balcerzak, he has been one of the faculty coaches working with students who take part in the Jessup International Law moot court competitions. His teams won the Polish National competition in 2006 and 2007 and competed at the international level in Washington, D.C. both years. Also, since 2005 he has been conducting research at The Hague Academy of International Law and in the World Trade Organization. He is a member of the International Law Association. He teaches International Law at Nicholas Copernicus School of Law and Administration in Torun, Poland.

**MR. JOHN J. KUROWSKI** is an American lawyer who has been engaged in the private practice of law in the United States for over 30 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) degree in History from Loyola University of Chicago and attended the John Felice Rome Center in 1973-1974. He received his Juris Doctor from the St. Louis University School of Law. Mr. Kurowski has a broad legal background, having experience and interests in litigation, trials, local government and human rights. He is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Missouri and several federal district courts in the United States. He is a member of the Congress of Fellows of the Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg and the Society of Fellows of the Aspen Institute. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of legal and other topics at programs throughout the United States. In 2006, he was invited to attend the Justice and Society program of the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado. In the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2010, he served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the School of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. While teaching in Torun in 2006 he began this

symposium in cooperation with Professor Bożena Gronowska and NCU faculty Dr. Michal Balcerzak and Dr. Marcin Kaldunski. Loyola University of Chicago presented Mr. Kurowski with its John Felice Award at the university Founders Dinner in June, 2013 in recognition for his contribution to the John Felice Rome Center, as well as to business and his community.

**PROFESSOR ARKADIUSZ LACH** is the Vice Dean for International Cooperation and Informatization at the Nicolaus Copernicus School of Law and Administration in Torun where he also serves as a Researcher and Lecturer. He is a member of the advisory committee of the Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection on implementation of European Union law in the areas of freedom, security and justice in the context of protection of human rights (2008-2010)). He is considered an independent expert of the European Commission in the area of criminal law. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review. He is the author of numerous books concerning criminal law and procedure and is a practicing Adwokat (attorney) in Poland.

**MS. BOŻENA NOWICKA McLEES** is a Polish language and literature instructor at Loyola University Chicago. She earned her M.A. in Polish Language and Literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Ms. McLees is experienced in teaching and developing Polish language, literature and culture curriculum. She has taught at the University of Illinois and Harper College. Her academic interests include advanced Polish language courses and 20<sup>th</sup> century Polish literature. Ms. McLees has focused on connecting the evolving academic programs in Poland with the existing network of schools, educational institutions and Polish American organizations in Chicago to promote interest and understanding of Polish culture and the acquisition and maintenance of heritage language skills. She collaborates with Poland's State Commission in providing examination for the Certification of Proficiency in Polish as Foreign Language and with the Chicago Sister City Warsaw Committee in leading the Educational Exchange Subcommittee. In 2008, Ms. McLees was appointed the Director of Interdisciplinary Polish Studies at Loyola University to further develop an academic program that meets the needs and aspirations of the Polish heritage students as well as non-Polish students who are interested in Polish history and culture. She initiated the University's Poland Study Abroad program, which offers students the opportunity to study and earn academic credits in international studies, political science, sociology, anthropology and urban studies in Poland during the summer.