

The Friends of Polish Art Awards Scholarships for 2011

The Friends of Polish Art proudly announces its scholarships for 2011. The Scholarship Committee consisting of Elzbieta Mscichowska, Dan Samul, Walt Stasinski, Jane Wojtan and Carolyn L. Meleski, Chair, met on April 14th and has chosen the following students as recipients for the Frank Filipek Scholarships as well as for the Lillian and Chester Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarship.

These scholarships will be awarded on Friday, May 20 at 7:30 pm at the General Meeting of the Friends of Polish Art which will be held at the American Polish Cultural Center located on Maple and Dequindre Roads, Troy, MI. All are welcome to attend the meeting as well as the reception.

At the time that the Filipek Scholarships were initiated with the Friends of Polish Art, Mr. Filipek asked that the five \$ 1,500 scholarships be awarded in the memory of designated individuals. The well-deserving recipients are noted as follows:

Anna Cwalina is receiving a scholarship in the memory of *Frank and Sophie Filipek*.

Anna is a student at Oakland University and pursuing a major in elementary education. One of her instructors states that she is an “unassuming individual who leads by her actions thus making her words that much more powerful” as stated by one of her instructors. Her goal as a teacher is to make a difference in someone’s life. Anna acknowledges the need for students to question the world around them in order to grown personally, intellectually and as citizens.

Since 2006, Anna has volunteered at the New Haven Elementary School in Ray Township. She is also an active member of SMEA (Students of Michigan Education Association), a member of an honor fraternity, Alpha Lambda Delta, and of the Michigan Reading Association as well. As a Polish Girl Scout Troop Leader for girls in the 6-11 year age group, she has organized activities and worked with other members of the troop to assure that the scouts receive a rewarding and memorable camping experience.

Piotr Buniewicz has been designated to receive a scholarship in the memory of *John and Pauline Filipek*.

Piotr is a student at MSU majoring in Elementary Education and History. He expects to graduate in 2013 and has an exceptional interest in Poland’s history especially during the occurrence of WWII.

As for Piotr’ activities, he was a student at the Adam Mickiewicz Polish School for ten years and is a long-time member of the Polish Boy Scouts and has served as a Troop Leader as well as a camp counselor at Bialowieza for the past three years. At MSU, he is the Polish Club Secretary and is a Level III Student Supervisor. Other activities include Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Track and Travel Soccer.

Piotr hopes to realize his life-long dream of becoming a teacher and pursuing his interest in Polish History.

Alena Zabawski is receiving a scholarship in the memory of *Ted and Chester Wojdasik*.

Alena is a student at Uof M-Dearborn majoring in Elementary Education with a focus on teaching mathematics. She is the daughter of FPA members, Christa and Leonard Zabawski.

Alena's activities focus primarily on Polish Dance. She was a member of the PNA Centennial Dancers from 1994-2010 and is currently a member of the Wawel Dance Ensemble. Focusing on her interest in art, she participated in the FPA Szopka Competition in 2008 and is an usher at St. Thomas a' Becket Parish.

As a teacher, Alena would like to help her students learn and understand multiculturalism. She dreams of visiting Poland and is interested in being involved in the Polish Community.

Michal Halon is the recipient of a scholarship in the memory of *Joseph and Lillian Samul*.

Michal is a Pre-Med/Nutrition & Food Service major at WSU and hopes to receive a BA by 2013.

Besides being an employee and volunteer at the Cultural Center, Michal has numerous credits in the area of volunteerism. He is a Troop Leader of the Polish Boy Scouts, Hamtramck, a member of the WSU Slavic Club. Culturally, he is a member of the Polanie Dance Ensemble and will be attending the Polish Folk Dancing Festival in Rzeszow this summer.

One of Michal's references states that: "He never seems to subside to peer pressure" and that "Any Polish organization would be privileged and benefit to have him working for the propagation of Polish culture".

Michael Chrusciel is a recipient of a scholarship in the memory of *Lt. Col. Matt Urban*.

Michael is enrolled at WSU in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a major in Pre-Med.

Michael speaks French and is majoring in Slavic Languages. An instructor in the Irwin D. Reid Honors College says he is "Passionate in his pursuit of knowledge in the liberal arts and languages. Plus, he is exceptionally talented, motivated, focused and independent and well-organized. He is a superb student."

Michael's activities include being the current WSU Slavic Club Treasurer. An Honors Student associated with the Irwin D. Reid Honors College. At the Riverview Public Library, he completed 250 volunteer hours which led to his being hired as a part-time library page and also took part in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program sponsored by the Library. Plus, he is a volunteer at St. Joseph Catholic Church Athletic Club since 2002.

In addition, Michael is applying for an Undergraduate Research Grant to travel to Poland this summer to study the relationship between medical education in Polish medical students and their willingness to promote transplantation in Poland. In the end, he wants to become a successful family doctor. Someone noted that he is "perfection personified".

Nicholas Krol is receiving the *Lillian and Chester Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarship*.

Nicholas is currently a senior at WSU's College of Fine Arts with a major in Drawing. A second major is in Slavic Studies.

Currently, Nicholas is a member of the WSU Slavic Club and has been a member of WSU's Cross Country Team, 2007-2009. Other activities include the cleaning and reopening of WSU's Slavic Department's Study Lounge; mentoring children with LINK (Local Intervention Network for Kids) and volunteering at the Detroit Free Press Marathon. He is also a tutor in Polish Language, European History, Art History and Polish History.

Nicholas' goal is to become a language professor with enough leisure time to pursue his interests in art. Plus, he plans to attend a year-long language program at the Uniwersytet Wroclawski or Uniwersytet Jagellonski.

Professor Klin states that in addition to being talented, driven, diligent and hardworking, he is also enthusiastic about the things he studies and has a superb work ethic. And, another professor, Izabela Nychter, says that "Mr. Krol has a great talent worth nurturing".

The Friends of Polish Art congratulates all scholars and wishes them the best in the pursuit of their educational and personal goals. Anyone interested in applying for one of the Friends of Polish Art scholarships is encouraged to do so. Applications and publicity for the 2012 scholarships will be available in December, 2011. For a membership application, information on activities and for a calendar of events, please go to: www.friendsofpolishart.org