

# Annual Dekaban Lecture features Zbigniew Brzezinski

The Third Annual Dekaban Lecture organized by the Piast Institute was held Friday, September 23, at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Former National Security Adviser, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski was the special luncheon speaker. He is arguably the best-known Polish American political figure in our times.

The Dekaban Lecture Series was initiated at Saint Mary's College at Orchard Lake in 2001 in honor of the work of the three foundations created by Dr. Anatole Dekaban and his wife Pamela Liddle Dekaban to assist in the development of Polish science and technology between the years of 1982-1993. In 1998, Dr. Dekaban asked the President of Saint Mary's College, Dr. Thaddeus Radziłowski, to establish a committee to provide oversight of the work of foundations for the Dekaban family. An endowment was established to support his work. Any funds not used for administration of the programs were to be expended for lectures, conferences and publications on the history and culture of Poland and Polish communities abroad. Dr. Dekaban agreed to use a part

of the endowment earning for an annual Dekaban lecture by a prominent scholar and to have the lecture published and distributed to scholars, university libraries and interested persons. After the absorption of Saint Mary's College into Madonna University the oversight committee became part of the Piast Institute. The Institute also assumed the responsibility for the Dekaban Lecture.

This year's Dekaban Lecture's guest speaker Zbigniew Brzezinski talked mostly about today's global domination and leadership, as well as Poland's position in today's world.

Dr. Brzezinski is currently a counselor for the Center for Strategic and International



Above: Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski during his 2005 Dekaban Lecture; left: Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski (right) with (l. to r.): Virginia Skrzyniarz, Tomek and Kasia Shemanski and Dr. Thaddeus Radziłowski.



Global Leadership," a critical analysis and guide for U.S. foreign policy in the 21st century.

This year's Dekaban lecture also featured a commentary by Andrew Raczowski and Janusz Wróbel as well as by the Piast Institute Associate, Douglas Skrzyniarz.

Skrzyniarz presented an initiative of forming a Congressional Polish Caucus to better represent the issues of the Polish American community within the US Congress. "The Piast Institute has been in private discussions with a few key members in Congress to form a Congressional Polish Caucus. Through this initiative, the Piast Institute hopes that Polonia, and the PAC, will have a stronger voice to support national public policy issues. The Piast Institute will work over the next few months with members of Congress and our colleagues across Polonia and hope to make a formal announcement soon," said Skrzyniarz. He also briefed the audience on some of the public policy issues that are important to Polonia, among them the visa-free travelling. "The U.S. State Department currently allows citizens of 24 countries to enter the U.S. without a travel visa. Poland is not one of them. A citizen living in Slovenia, with a valid passport, can come to the U.S. for up to 90 days relating to business or pleasure. Conversely, the citizens of Poland are required to apply for a visa, are charged \$100 and many times are denied. Even when they are approved, numerous Polish travelers are rejected at the border and asked to return to Poland. This makes it very difficult for many Poles who have relatives in the United States," Skrzyniarz said. "Many times, they can barely afford the airline flight, which makes the \$100 application fee impossible. It is sad that Poland has lost 17 lives on the battlefield in Iraq, but yet a Polish citizen has many roadblocks in coming to America to visit family or solicit economic opportunity".

The Piast Institute was founded in 2003, as an independent, non-profit institution, whose goals are to develop and disseminate knowledge of the people, culture, history and interests of Poland and Polish American community. It is a think tank for policy and other studies as well as a research center. The Piast Institute president is Dr. Thaddeus Radziłowski, and the executive director is Ms. Virginia Skrzyniarz. The office of the Piast Institute is located at 2926 Caniff St. in Hamtramck (tel: 313-664-0321).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 9

The Polish Army Veterans of America and the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 95 in Wyandotte invite everyone for a celebration of "Pulaski Day". It will include a Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (12:00 Noon), a parade from the church to the Pulaski Park (1:00 pm), celebration at the statue of Gen. Casimir Pulaski (1:30 pm) and a lunch at Post 95.

SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 16

Stanley Banas, Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Bohdan Grodzki, Jerzy Jablonski, Hon. Judge Walter Jakubowski, Feliks Kolodziej, Emil Kornacki, Władysław Laska, Wiesław Mackiewicz, Susan Ostrowski, Rev. Walter Ptak, John Surma (posthumous), Stella Szczesny, Zbigniew Wallag and Ludwik Zabicki are this year's Polish American Central Citizens Committee's Pulaski Award honorees. Details - page 3.

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 22

Club Filarets invites everyone for their 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy. Details - page 5.

SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 30

The 12th Annual Chopiniana (Dinner-Concert-Ball) will take place at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy. Call: 248-641-1752.

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 5

"Polish Wedding - Without a Bride" - a Fundraiser for the Hamtramck Rotary Club - will be held at the PNA Council 122 Banquet Hall. Details to follow.



## Polish American Central Citizens Committee cordially invites you to the 2005 Annual Pulaski Day Award Banquet

to honor members of our Polish American community  
for their outstanding service over the years to Polonia,  
both here and abroad.

Honorees for this year are:

Stanley Banas, Bohdan Grodzki, Jerzy Jablonski,  
Hon. Judge Walter Jakubowski, Feliks Kolodziej,  
Emil Kornacki, Władysław Laska,  
Wiesław Mackiewicz, Susan Ostrowski,  
Rev. Walter Ptak, John Surma (posthumous),  
Stella Szczesny, Zbigniew Wallag, Ludwik Zabicki  
and Gov. Jennifer Granholm

Sunday, October 16  
Polish National Alliance Banquet Hall  
10211 Conant - Hamtramck

2:00 pm Reception (open bar) - 3:00 pm Dinner

Tickets \$40 per person.

Make checks payable to: Polish American Central  
Citizens Committee and send to: Julia Solecki,  
Treasurer, 2521 Donna, Warren, MI 48091

For more information, call: 586-758-5934

Studies and Robert Osgood Professor of American Foreign Policy, the Paul Nitzi School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. He continues to advise major U.S. and global corporations and is a frequent public speaker, commentator on major domestic and international television programs and a contributor to domestic and foreign newspapers and journals.

Brzezinski was in Gdańsk at the end of August to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of Solidarity and spoke on Polish television. During his lecture he briefly talked about his experiences during that visit to Poland.

Dr. Brzezinski was born in Warsaw into a distinguished family with a long tradition of service to Poland. He spent the war years in Canada where his father served as the Polish Ambassador. He took his undergraduate and graduate degrees at McGill University and his Ph.D. at Harvard. After teaching at Harvard for seven years he was appointed to the faculty of Columbia University where he served for twenty years (1960 - 1980). His most famous work, "The Soviet Bloc: Unity and Conflict" was one of the most influential studies of the Soviet system written in the post-war period. It shaped the views of two generations of scholars and foreign policy analysts and helped to develop an understanding of the meaning of totalitarianism.

Since 1980, Dr. Brzezinski has written numerous studies of global politics including a very perceptive study of the fall of Communism, The Grand Failure. His most recent study is "The Choice: Global Domination or