

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NEWS

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**Columbia University Receives a \$100,000 Donation from  
Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union to Endow Chair of Polish Studies**

*Brooklyn-based Credit Union Generously Supports  
University's East Central European Center*

**New York, August 2 2007**—John S. Micgiel, director of the Columbia University East Central European Center, was recently presented with a \$100,000 check from the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, based in Brooklyn, toward endowing a chair of Polish studies at the University.

Dan McIntyre, associate dean at the School of International and Public Affairs, also attended the ceremony with Bogdan Chmielewski, the credit union's new presiding chief executive officer. Under Micgiel's leadership, the center has raised \$750,000 during the past three years and expects to achieve the ultimate goal of \$3 million to establish the new chair within the next three years.

"The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union has been investing in education for some years now," said Micgiel. "Since 2003, Columbia University and the credit union have been cooperating on a variety of initiatives aimed at bringing Polish studies closer to members of the Polish American community, helping young adults prepare for college, and helping train Polish American educators. Columbia applauds the credit union's pro-educational policy and looks forward to working with it in the years to come."

The Polish studies program will continue to promote Columbia University's Polish studies and cultural events, assist Polish community schools in New York and New Jersey in improving academics and assist with administration of the Polish language New York Regents exam.

"You would be hard-pressed to find another financial institution that places as much emphasis on education for its members," said Krzysztof Matyszczyk, chair of the credit union. "Through our scholarships and donations, we are investing in the future success of our most gifted young members. We are committed to education and the credit union takes great pride in doing all we can to help the next generation reach its full potential."

"This is where the credit union truly shines: Our donation will directly benefit the community and help raise the prestige of the Polish ethnic group," said Chmielewski. "The voice of the credit union members will be heard where it counts the most: at an Ivy League institution. This will serve as a stimulus for many young members to strive for the best education they can get."

For more information about Columbia University's Polish studies program, go to [www.sipa.columbia.edu/regional/ECE/polish\\_studies.htm](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/regional/ECE/polish_studies.htm).

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A leading academic and research university, Columbia continually seeks to advance the frontiers of knowledge and to foster a campus community deeply engaged in understanding and addressing the complex global issues of our time. Columbia's extensive public service initiatives, cultural collaborations, and community partnerships help define the University's underlying values and mission to educate students to be both leading scholars and informed, engaged citizens. Founded in 1754 as King's College, Columbia University in the City of New York is the fifth oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. For more information, visit [www.columbia.edu](http://www.columbia.edu).

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