



ISSN 1231- 8825

# życie

UNIWERSYTECKIE

[redakcja@amu.edu.pl](mailto:redakcja@amu.edu.pl)

11/12 (182/183) • November/December 2008

**SPECIAL EDITION  
COP 14**



**POZNAŃ 2008**  
ROK KLIMATU  
I ŚRODOWISKA

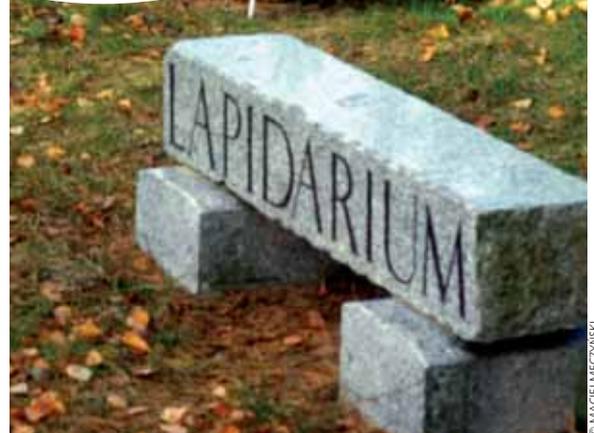




The biggest meteorite in Poland found 8th September 2006 in Nature reserve Meteoryt Morasko



Herbarium of exotic plants in Faculty of Biology



Lapidarium near Institute of Geology, piece of decorative art from Imperial Castle in Poznań made of Cararra marble



© MACIEJ MIECZYŃSKI

**Professor Bronisław Marciniak**  
Rector  
Adam Mickiewicz University  
in Poznań

## Ladies and Gentlemen,

*In the period December 1 - 12, 2008 Poznań will become a venue of a world-wide debate on climate change taking place on our planet. The meetings and discussion of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be attended by a few thousand participants, representatives of governments of 190 UN Member States, international and intergovernmental expert groups, non-governmental organisations, and the world media.*

*I am glad that our city has the honour of hosting the Convention, which will no doubt raise the level of our ecological awareness. I am also glad that Adam Mickiewicz University will play a significant role in this event.*

*Our eminent scholars dealing with climate issues will take part in the conference debates. We have prepared a series of open popular lectures for residents of the city and the region, for university and school students. These lectures are meant to promote the knowledge of climate issues. The University helps to organise many of the projects and prepares a culture programme and tourist projects for the Convention participants. Our stand located close to the debates venue will introduce our varied and extensive offer for scholars and students.*

## UAM – 170 Paths to Knowledge

An old anecdote has it that in Poland the Jagiellonian University is the oldest one, the University of Warsaw is the biggest one, and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (AMU) is... the best one. Whether this is true or not can be assessed for example by employers - one in thirty Poles with higher education is a graduate of the Poznań university.

Next year AMU will celebrate the 90th anniversary of its establishment, however its traditions date as far back as 1519, when the Lubrański Academy (Akademia Lubrańskiego), known abroad, was founded, and then the progressive Jesuit College (Kolegium Jezuickie) came into being. For various historical reasons, and because of Poland losing its independence in 1772, a university was not formally established in Poznań. At the time of partitions its role was served by a special institution, i.e. the Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences (Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk), whose members did academic work and published their works, assembled collections and gave lectures, although officially they did not teach any academic courses.

Given such traditions, it is no wonder that several months after Poland regained its independence the University of Poznań was established in May 1919. Its founders were Heliodor Świącicki, a doctor and the first Rector, Józef Kostrzewski, an archaeologist, Michał Sobieski, a philosopher, and Stanisław Kozierowski, a historian and linguist.

Twenty years of the university's rapid growth were interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War. The university was closed down by the German occupier, but it did not cease to

Next year AMU will celebrate the 90th anniversary of its establishment, however its traditions date as far back as 1519

exist. Its functions were taken over by an underground Western Lands Secret University (Tajny Uniwersytet Ziem Zachodnich), though the lecturers and students put their lives at risk while teaching and studying at the university.

After the war, especially during the Stalinist era, the university did not escape the structural and political upheavals, but its strength was demonstrated by the fact that some of its faculties were turned into other universities in Poznań: the Medical University, the University of Agriculture and the University School of Physical Education. Today, those universities liaise with AMU in numerous interdisciplinary projects.

It is worth getting to know those AMU traditions in order to understand how strongly the Wielkopolska residents are attached to the university. In autumn, when 50 thousand students return after the summer break, Poznań livens up and gets a 'facelift'. In the city and the region the university has over a hundred different addresses in the city and the region, and its locations include Collegium Polonicum in Ślubice and Collegium Europaeum in Gniezno. It also transcends borders while concluding part-

nership agreements with over 170 universities across the globe and inviting foreign lecturers. AMU is Poznań's biggest employer, with over 3.5 thousand persons on its payroll, it organises around 100 scientific conferences and issues over 3.5 thousand publications a year.

Students may choose to study at 13 faculties and may select from among 170 majors. The educational system is a two-tier one and based on the ECTS credit transfer scheme, in accordance with the Bologna Declaration. The highest grade, awarded by the Academic Accreditation Committee, was received by the Faculty of Chemistry and the School of English, whereas the most admission applications were submitted for journalism, film studies, human resources consulting and international relations. The Faculty of Law holds a very good reputation, the Faculty of Modern Languages and Literature offers a unique array of foreign languages, while European Studies or Film Direction studies respond to the needs of the contemporary world. The most gifted students can participate in interfaculty studies.

AMU serves the city and the region not only with its expert opinions and advice. It offers language courses, runs the so-called Third Age University for the elderly, organises numerous lectures and the Science Festival, the biggest one in Poland. Other unique events include Verba Sacra, an interpretation of sacred texts by great Polish actors.

We should also mention the achievements of the best academic choirs in Poland, great sport results, the University Library and the Botanic Garden... For more information please visit the university website at [www.amu.edu.pl](http://www.amu.edu.pl)

# Harmony is the Future

Summary of the laudation in honour of Mr. Albert Gore delivered on the occasion of awarding him an honorary doctorate of Poznań University

The fact that our University grants an honorary doctorate to Albert Gore is a token of recognition not only of an outstanding politician but first and foremost a sign of respect for the man whose life has been guided by clear principles and who has made the improvement of living conditions of the earth's inhabitants his lifetime commitment. He understands that his project cannot be implemented by means of enforcing his ideas on others but can evolve in the course of a long process of educating people, finding and publicizing relevant arguments with due respect to people's right to choose their own methods and pace of change in their own communities.

Al Gore started his political career in 1976 serving as a representative of the State of Ten-

nnessee in the U.S. House of Representatives and since 1984 in the U.S. Senate. In 1988 Gore campaigned for the democratic nomination in the presidential election. Afterwards, he decided to withdraw from political life for personal reasons. Still, he devoted this time to serious research and analysis of the connection between environmental changes and the evolution of human societies. These reflections were expressed in the 1992 book *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*. In this publication Gore, as the first famous politician, clearly warns against human attempts to dominate the natural environment. He also emphasizes an ever-growing need for obtaining equilibrium between human activity and the state of the environment.

Al Gore visiting Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, march 2008

nessie in the U.S. House of Representatives, and since 1984 in the U.S. Senate. In 1988 Gore campaigned for the democratic nomination in the presidential election. Afterwards, he decided to withdraw from political life for personal reasons. Still, he devoted this time to serious research and analysis of the connection between environmental changes and the evolution of human societies. These reflections were expressed in the 1992 book *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*. In this publication Gore, as the first famous politician, clearly warns against human attempts to dominate the natural environment. He also emphasizes an ever-growing need for obtaining equilibrium between human activity and the state of the environment.

In 1992 Al Gore accepted the position of Bill Clinton's running mate in the presidential election. They created an excellent team and won the elections both in 1992 and 1996. Al Gore became Clinton's advisor responsible for promoting the implementation of the latest tech-

nology advances in economy. He inspired the launch of the national project for the development of information technology, which led to the boom of the Internet and its numerous applications.

After withdrawing from official political activity, Gore entered the world of business.

After withdrawing from official political activity, Gore entered the world of business.

edge of a new understanding of climate changes on the earth. Al Gore became an outstanding symbol of promotion of this new approach. In his view the earth's future depends to a large extent on the awareness of its inhabitants. However, as he points out in his publications, this awareness is largely shaped by the governments and mass media. The latest book by Al Gore, *The Assault on Reason*, expresses both anxiety and hope about the future of democracy. In the book Gore argues that television, being a one-way form of communication which evokes emotions and impressions, has created an opportunity to manipulate viewers. In his opinion people were less prone to such manipulation when they used to obtain information basing solely on written texts, which required active reading and understanding. However, he hopes that the Internet will supersede the television and turn the situation around.

The book's chapter titles indicate the main threats to American democracy. Among these are: the politics of fear, prejudice and blind faith, the politics of wealth, convenient untruths, limitation of individual freedom, lack of national security, danger of carbon dioxide emissions and too strong executive power. Nevertheless, the last chapter indicates that democracy stands a chance of being restored.

Al Gore is known and respected all over the world for his accomplishments. His achievements were inspired by personal experience and reflections acquired during his official political career. The range of his activity has been influenced by his upbringing and the values instilled, which he now also promotes in his own family. The importance of the family is emphasized in the joint publication released in 2002 under the title *Joined at the Heart. The Transformation of the American Family*. The book shows the family as a foundation of life in civil society.

In the course of his activity as well as in his publications, Al Gore endeavors to draw attention to the need for reconsidering earlier priorities and searching for ways of sustainable development. The Greek conceived the idea of harmony; however, it is Al Gore who deserves the credit for setting the aim of harmonious development as a challenge for contemporary people. The notion of harmonious development means a pursuit of greater synergy of economic and social development on the one hand and ecology on the other. It is widely known that the dynamics of each of the respective processes is different and only democracy can create a certain balance between them.



© MACIEJ MECZYNSKI

# We have to keep looking for compromise solutions



© MACIEJ MIECZYŃSKI

## Interview with Professor Andrzej Mizgajski from the Faculty of Geographical Sciences and Geology at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU), Rector's plenipotentiary for the COP14 Conference

**•• If you were to write a text entitled „AMU and COP14”, what would the first sentence be about?**

It would concern the fact that the university is involved in teaching and research activity, whereas COP14 is a political meeting. Unlike politicians, academics' opinions on issues related to climatic changes vary, and an academic dispute is actually the very essence of university life. There is thus a difference between a scientific finding, whether more or less recognised, and a view that is disseminated for political reasons. Therefore, the two areas must be clearly demarcated. Moreover, COP14 covers all aspects of climate changes, while AMU to a lesser degree deals with the issues of agriculture, technology and economy, since they are fields of specialisation of other Poznań-based universities. Our university will therefore only accompany COP14 in academic terms.

**•• So how is the university involved in this event?**

We will take advantage of the heightened social interest in this event, already before the conference by presenting AMU's scholarly achievements in the field of broadly-understood knowledge about the Earth at a series of open lectures, whereas during COP14 we are organizing a popular scientific conference called "Closer to the climate". It will include both discussions and presentations of various points of view, which I have mentioned. The thesis on global warming is corroborated by numerous data, however some scholars claim that the conclusions have been arrived at too hastily, as in the history of the Earth several dozen years is an extremely short time in the history of the Earth; one of the scholars put forward a hypothesis that the recorded temperature rise is due to the fact that in the past most weather stations were located outside cities, and now

the cities have absorbed them. AMU is also a local partner for one of scientific conferences under EU auspices, which accompany COP14. AMU stands with information materials will be present at such important events as the World Forestry Conference, the governmental exhibition entitled „Technologies for the environment” or a meeting of NGOs.

**•• Do we provide accommodation for COP14 participants at Morasko campus?**

Yes, we want to show what we have so that, as the research potential of our university could be used to a greater extent. Today, not only science, but also studying, is of an international character, so we want to promote that, too. As a university we are able to carry out many research undertakings on commission, which may be part of global projects. We are also in a position to welcome students from all over the world, and offer them interesting studies and good conditions, which our guests can see for themselves in our lecture halls, laboratories and libraries.

**•• AMU's Faculty of Geographical Sciences and Geology is a leading one in Poland. What can we be particularly proud of when it comes to climatic changes?**

We are a very strong centre for polar research, which has been conducted systematically for many years. Also, we coordinate a national system of integrated monitoring of the environment, using our own research stations. Research on incidence of heavy metals after the Tsunami disaster or on desertification of Sahara's northern edge is also an example of successful and unique scientific work. Our faculty can also boast on a popular major, tourism and recreation, which is also environmentally relevant. We also have great achievements in researching the Baltic coastal area and the changes in the landscape of Wielkopolska. All this can be used as contribution to global research projects. An international event such as COP14 is also an opportunity for the university to establish relations with major NGOs, such as the Asia-Europe Foundation, with which we liaise for the purpose of organising one of the accompanying conferences concerning the impact of climate

change s on agriculture from Asian and European points of view. It is about a dialogue between those cultures, and this topic interests us as well. The more we are involved in important research needs of the world, the more attractive a partner we become.

**•• What are your expectations concerning COP14?**

It is a known fact - as this was the assumption - that COP14 is only a further step in preparation for next year's conference in Copenhagen, so nobody expects great breakthroughs. Unexpectedly, however, it is the first meeting of such great significance which is taking place in the shadow of the economic crisis. We will then be able to gauge on the basis of politicians' statements to what extent the crisis will influence the thinking about climate changes, as while scholars are concerned with research findings, politicians calculate the costs which result from such findings and this is what they are guided by. Another important aspect of COP14 may be better international recognition of Poland, recognition that we are one of the 20 percent of the most affluent countries and this affluence imposes certain obligations on us. I also hope that this will help us in breaking the ice and communicating as regards further actions within the European Union, although here too I would not expect surprising results. It is not easy to find common ground between such country as France, where 70 percent of its power industry relies on nuclear energy and - for example - Poland whose power industry relies on coal in 90 percent. So we will have to keep looking for compromise solutions.

**•• How is it possible?**

Let me give you an example of CO2. There are no clear calculations how curbing the emissions will contribute to climate improvement. However, irrespective of the fact how controversial this problem appears to us, we know that any restrictions on CO2 emissions are good for people and the environment, as they mean reduction of emissions of dust and other gases, they lower the consumption of raw materials and fuels, contribute to implementation of new technologies and use of renewable sources of energy.

# The virtue of moderation is most important



An interview with Professor  
Piotr Tryjanowski from the  
AMU Faculty of Biology

•• **Why is the observation of animals so important as a source of knowledge about climate change?**

Because animals are apolitical. Seriously. They are independent of views and opinions in their decisions, they do not watch TV news, nobody tells them what to do. Thus, we can use their example to identify pure reactions to climate change.

•• **I thought that it was because a human being is also an animal...**

This is also true. We can use the example of animals and state, after some considerations, how we would react if we did not have this culture and the related adaptive skills. I sometimes think that we are awful monkeys for most of the time and we become human beings only for a moment, usually in extreme situations.

•• **You were one of the experts who prepared the Nobel Peace Prize winning IPCC Report. Please, remind us what you were involved in?**

I worked as an expert of Working Group 2 and Chapter 1. I was happy because this chapter is purely scientific, devoid of any speculations, predictions and politics. It is pure analysis. We analysed all long-term observations (lasting more than 25 years) from all over the world, starting from glaciers, blooming times, appearance of foliage, through bird mating seasons and up to migrations of large African animals - we simply analysed everything that was happening in animate and inanimate nature. This abundance of data included phenomena that proved and rejected

the thesis about change. We had to identify dominant trends and their causes. All changes turned out to be more or less related to warming, which in turn stems not only from natural fluctuations, but also from human activity.

•• **Was there anything in the research that came as a surprise to you?**

Not when it comes to the character of the above phenomena. I knew many of such data before and I knew what to expect. The only true surprise was the abundance of well collected analysis materials. I did not think that there would be people all over the world who have had reliably and patiently observed nature in the same locations for at least 30 years, using the same methods and frequently without any remuneration. They are the anonymous heroes of science. I can give you an example from Wielkopolska - Dr. Stanisław Kuźniak from Leszno, who is a retired teacher and has skillfully observed birds for 50 years. He goes for a walk every day and writes down what he sees. These are fantastic data. It is a great pleasure to cooperate with such a man. Brain is important in the naturalist's job, but love and passion are even more important. Scholars depend on grants and it so happens that observations are discontinued when a grant is not awarded - but it is difficult to obtain a grant for 20-30 years. On the other hand, amateurs never give up their passions.

•• **Is there a movement of nature observers in Poland, as well?**

Yes. When it comes to birds - the strongest movement is in Silesia. Miners, steelworkers and affluent managers - they all do that.

When it comes to Poznań, we have recently received very interesting observations from the period of 35 years from the Botanic Garden. We will discuss results of many Poznań studies at a scientific conference that will accompany COP14. We will focus on two themes: whether climate influences biodiversity...

•• **...and does it?**

Of course, we should rather ask how. There will always be losers and winners. To give you a Polish example straight from the plate - maize will be the winner and potato will be the loser. The other theme of our conference will be the influence of climate on the agricultural landscape. It is not about agricultural production, but about the whole picture, from the balance of carbon dioxide, through the condition of small water reservoirs, up to wild plants and animals. It is very important since the agricultural landscape takes up two thirds of Poland's territory.

•• **Has anything changed since the publication of the IPCC Report?**

We have new data and they confirm the trends identified in the Report. I myself am now passionate about changes in the appearance and behaviour of birds resulting from climate change and I am wondering if males and females in their new plumage are still attractive to one another...

•• **What are the characteristics of the Poznań scientific community when it comes to climate research?**

What we are good at and internationally renowned for is phenology, or the analysis of

recurring trends. It involves not only data per se, but also specific analytical methods and a critical approach. We have published a few studies that are well known and have set a standard for analysing data and evaluating their value. In other words, we know what the "noise" in the information that reaches us can be. For instance, when we have a warm spring we get information that birds have flown in earlier. But notice that when it is warm we are more willing to go for a walk and this is why we see those birds. Or weekends - when people have free time they make more observations. We have discovered the so-called weekend effect together with Professor Tim Sparks, an English biostatistician, my great friend in science, but not only. I lost many acquaintances because of one of my studies where I critically analysed data in various scientific reports. This is a joke, of course, but the evaluation of data reliability is crucial in such studies.

**••Will nature cope with global warming?**

Nature will cope with it, I am absolutely sure of that. The problem is if that will still be the nature as we like it. A malaria germ that travels to new locations with a mosquito is also part of nature...

**••Do you think that COP14 will bring any real solutions to the problem of global warming?**

Frankly? Not really. But I do support all meetings where people talk to one another, and this is the essence of COP14. At the same time it will become clear that not the whole world is included in the data collection system. We definitely lack information from Africa, South America, Asia - people have other problems there. But governments of affluent countries should help create conditions for collecting such data. If we are to observe global phenomena we have to have data from the whole globe. This might be the key to understanding climate change.

**••You don't believe in activities of politicians too much. But, on the other hand, you see that climate change is serious, because this is what stems from your research. What should be done?**

For safety reasons, it is worth to be prepared for the pessimistic climate scenarios. It is also important to educate. Nothing will change if human thinking won't change. I held an open lecture yesterday with over 400 attendees followed by a great discussion. People think and want to listen. This was a great mental support for me. But the most important thing, in my opinion, is to make moderation a virtue. People throw away so much clothing, food, equipment... Maybe the economic crisis will enforce the virtue of moderation...

# Science knows no limits



© MACIEJ MECZYŃSKI

Science as such knows no limits. Participation in international research programmes is not only about obtaining the funding but also about joining mainstream European and worldwide research projects, and engaging in solving problems that trouble the entire world. It is also a chance to work in a bigger team - today there is no success without team effort. This means that those who fail to engage in such projects quickly lose their scientific potential. Therefore, international cooperation is a matter of honour for every ambitious institution of higher education.

Particular attention is paid by the new AMU governance to internationalisation. It constitutes one of the five priorities of the current Rector's team and it is supervised by Professor Jacek Witkoś, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation. He is aided by a recently launched European Programmes Division whose main responsibility is to support the process of applying for external funding. The application process is not simple - it is common knowledge that the requirements are so detailed that they almost lay down the rules for placing a comma. In fact, sometimes as a result of minor formal mistakes applications are not accepted. The success rates, depending on the programme, often do not exceed 20 per cent, says Professor Jacek Guliński, AMU Vice-Rector for European Programmes, which is to say that only one out of five correct applications obtain funding. But without applications there is no chance for success. The European Pro-

grammes Division have prepared a comprehensive publication listing all the major European research projects that correspond to the research interests at AMU.

There are going to be more joint projects but even now, apart from the ongoing small or big scale individual cooperation between Polish and foreign scientists, AMU participates in twenty-five major European Programmes, such as the research project on allergenic pollen (AEROTOP), quiet road surface solutions (SILENCE), combating social inequality (EUREQUAL), and a study of the climate in Europe (MILLENIUM).

Thanks to European funding, two large inter-university centres are being built. The former is the Wielkopolska Centre of Advanced Technologies (Wielkopolskie Centrum Zaawansowanych Technologii), envisaged to be in charge of research and its practical application in an innovative economy. Cutting-edge technologies will incorporate the latest advances in physics, biology, medicine and agricultural sciences. The latter is the Inter-University Nanobiomedic Centre (Międzyuczelniane Centrum Nano-biomedyczne) whose mission is to serve modern didactic purposes for interdisciplinary MA and PhD studies since the centre is composed of AMU, the University of Medical Sciences, the University of Life Sciences and the University of Technology. Both inter-university centres will cooperate widely with renowned scientific research centres of the European Union.



# Poles on Spitsbergen

Dr. Grzegorz Rachlewicz speaks about research on climate change conducted at the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences

## Climate change:

It is obviously a very complex issue, researched by geographers, geologists, biologists and chemists. Research at the Faculty is bi-directional. On the one hand, it is concerned with current processes in the natural environment which may facilitate predicting the future. Such activities are carried out at e.g. the Department of Climatology by Prof. Alojzy Woś, Prof. Leszek Kolendowicz, Dr. Ewa Bednorz, and Dr. Katarzyna Szyga-Pluta. Equally important for the understanding of climate change and its cyclic character is the analysis of past processes recorded in rocks. It is the area of expertise of geologists like Prof. Stanisław Lorenc, Prof. Jerzy Fedorowski, Prof. Tomasz Zieliński, and Prof. Wojciech Stankowski. Finally, the Institute of Paleogeography and Geocology, where I work, is preoccupied with the dynamics of geographic environment in the Quaternary Period. Scholars active in this field include Prof. Andrzej Karczewski, Prof. Andrzej Kostrzewski, Prof. Karol Rotnicki, and Prof. Kazimierz Tobolski. The Institute examines various aspects of inanimate nature and plant cover of the last centuries.

## The Arctic and the Antarctic

Due to a clarity of results and little human intervention, the polar regions constitute

a very good research area. Scientists from Poznań have participated in polar expeditions for almost 50 years. In the Southern Hemisphere they carry out research at the Henryk Arctowski Polish Antarctic Station, located on St. George Island, South Shetlands. Arctic research concentrates around Spitsbergen. At the beginning, Polish Polar Station Hornsund was the most frequent destination, but since the 1980s private expeditions have been organised. Two years ago, hydrologist Prof. Marek Marciniak obtained interesting results while examining underground waters on Spitsbergen. The outcome revealed that lowering the thawing level of the ground intensifies dryness and leads to desertification, which cannot be prevented even by increased precipitation. Not only the faculty of the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, but also biologists and chemists take part in expeditions; e.g. Prof. Janina Borysiak from the Botanic Gardens or Prof. Jerzy Siepak from the Department of Water and Soils Analysis and Prof. Andrzej Katrusiak from the Department of Materials Chemistry.

## International Polar Year

Years 2007-2008 have been announced the 4th International Polar Year (IPY). It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the International

Geophysical Year and provides an opportunity for international teams to integrate. IPY Secretariat made an effort to join the participants of similar projects into working groups, so that they could exchange experience and avoid repeating ideas. A Polish-Swedish project, which was one of the initiatives, attempted to revive the Kinvika Polar Station established on the occasion of the International Geophysical Year.

## Cyclic character

I am convinced about the cyclic character of nature. Not long ago, the most dramatic predictions announced the melting of Arctic ice within a few years. In the meantime, in 2007 it turned out that ice surface had slightly expanded. Under no circumstances does it mean that we can pay no attention to the impact of human activity on the environment. We observe continuous increase in anomalies: hurricanes, snow storms, dramatic temperature changes and greater dynamics of the environment, which must raise concern.

## Expeditions

I took part in my first expedition as a student in 1987. In the 1990s, I spent winter on St. George Island and have since joined other expeditions to Spitsbergen, where our comprehensive studies examine the influence of climate change on the functioning of coastal system. Supervising students, I try to encourage them to take part in research trips. Since 2001, students have participated in all Spitsbergen expeditions, which have led to 10 MA dissertations. Currently, we are preparing to set off at the turn of June and July. Personally, I love mountains, hiking and speleology, and my professional activity naturally helps me to pursue these interests.

## Polar tourism

The Arctic and the Antarctic are becoming popular tourist destinations, attracting those bored with traditional sunbathing. Currently, in the season, 4 tourist ships arrive at Spitsbergen every day. In 2000, during the expedition with Dr. Witold Szczuciński, we did not meet anyone for a month. Now, even in more distant areas it is possible to spot tourists or yachts and pontoons at the sea.



Collecting Sediments from the Bed of Hornsund Fjord



© MACIEJ MECZYŃSKI

# Climate Change: Are Cities Safe?

Interview with Professor Waldemar Ratajczak,  
Director of the Institute of Socio-Economic Geography  
and Spatial Development

•• I was intrigued by the title of your lecture. Are cities safe?

The 20th and 21st centuries have witnessed rapid urbanization. It is expected that by the year 2100 60 percent of the Earth's population will live in cities. Today, as much as 30 percent of the people live within a 50-kilometre radius of the seashore. Should the water level rise by 50 meters, it might result in the reshaping of continents' coastline. For example, Poznań would become a port city, whereas Szczecin, Gdańsk, Sopot and Gdynia might completely disappear from the map of Poland. Of course, not everything is going to be flooded. We must not forget that the total surface area of the Earth is 510 square kilometres, 150 square kilometres of which is land.

•• So, it is better to stay away from cities, especially those located 50 kilometres from the seashore.

Take New Orleans. I was once driving over the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway - at that time (1995) the longest bridge in the world - and it was an unforgettable feeling. One moment and all that could cease to exist. Hence the title. As a matter of fact, the city is man's greatest invention and it wasn't long before they settled down that people developed a division into urban and rural population. In socio-economic geography those two types of settlement are referred to as centralising and decentralising processes, respectively. Centralising processes are on the rise.

For the first time in history, more than 50 percent of the world's population live in cities (in some countries, such as Belgium, the rate of urban population is almost 100 percent).

•• In what way are cities threatened by climate changes?

This question concerns science and the possibilities of prediction. So far, none of the long-term predictions have come true. For instance, the widespread use of computers. In 1957 Thomas Watson, an IBM Director, when asked about his predictions as to the demand for computers in the following 10 years, answered that he did not expect to sell more than 5 machines all over the world. From time to time we take such prophecies for granted. Predicting future is, after all,

nothing more than prophesying. The most reliable predictions are, however, based on scientific insight. Yet another example is provided by the conflicting reports of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and NIPCC (Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change). NIPCC contradicts IPCC's accounts and claims that global warming is not that significant. And now we can pose a question about the consequences of climatic change. There are around 160 thousand mountain glaciers on the Earth, not to mention the amount of water frozen in Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets. Climate warming causes the ice to melt. However, we should not assume that this process will result in a catastrophe. The planet has already experienced several periods of climate warming and cooling, which is borne out by paleoclimatic studies. Still, there were greater catastrophes, such as the extinction of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. The Earth is 4.5 billion years old and in the last 2-3 million years it has gone through 17 warming or cooling cycles. The periods within the ice ages are called interglacials. While interglacial periods typically take 15-20 thousand years, glacials last 120 thousand years. Taking into account the regularity of nature and the fact that we live in the Quaternary Period, the Holocene, which has continued for 11,000 years, we can risk the statement that glacialization will not be avoided in 10,000 years.

•• It is not, then, that human activity alone is responsible for climate change...

What's happening to glaciers and ice sheets may be caused by the anthropogenic factor. However, there must be also other factors that brought about the periods of climate warming and cooling. Then again, those are unknown to us. One of the hypotheses is Milutin Milankovic's theory (1938), which is being re-evaluated by contemporary scientists. He distinguished 3 factors. First, the elongation or eccentricity of the Earth's orbit. The Earth revolves around the Sun along the path of an ellipse and every 100,000 years is at its maximum distance from the Sun. Hence, the amount of solar energy reaching the Earth is smaller. The second factor is the change of the

Earth's axial tilt. Finally, the vernal point also changes and it takes around 21,000 years. That explains why spring and winter differ in length.

•• Do we need to worry that winters are continually becoming warmer?

Certainly, there is some regularity in nature. On the other hand, there is no apparent reason why we should think that winter will always follow autumn. What has been observed throughout centuries, is just a part of some greater regularity. What does one human life mean? It is a short moment on a geologic time scale. Global warming is an unnatural phenomenon. In the past, people used to wear sheepskin coats on the 1st of November. Today, thermometers show 13°C. A sudden temperature drop was noticed in Europe in the 16th century. One could say that it was a short ice age. Texts and pictures from that period show a polar landscape. For instance, from 1610 to 1680, the Baltic was ice-bound in winter! People crossed the frozen sea while travelling to Sweden. And, as the distance of 160 kilometres was considerable, inns were opened alongside travellers' routes. Ice broke towards the end of May. Today, we go on holiday at this time of the year! Then again, global warming gives us a chance to focus on other problems, such as environment pollution and degradation. Undeniably, forests die because of pollution. Rivers are polluted as well, and 80 percent of them does not meet the bacteriological criteria. These are negative effects of human activity.

•• Coming back to the lecture's title: is Poznań safe?

I think that Poznań is safe. City's economy is changing. Industry is being regulated, which will result in reducing the release of pollutants to the environment. Neither is flooding a threat to our city. However, some problems concerning the exploitation of the environment may be encountered. As more and more people will move to the city, a greater need for space will arise. This, in turn, can lead to the further degradation of our environment. This situation, though, is a scientific vision rather than a consequence of climate change.

# Studying in Esperanto is possible only at Adam Mickiewicz University

Amu-Pie: Adam Mickiewicz University - Programme For International Exchange



tional European Masters MA programs, which allow people to study at several universities. For instance, they could take the first semester at AMU and the following one at a university in other EU Member States. We cooperate with Viadrina and other foreign institutions of higher education”.

University lecturers provide assistance to the Centre. Thanks to their engagement and creative suggestions of new subjects and ways of attracting students, the course offer is becoming more and more interesting. According to Dr. Mausch, the lecturers particularly involved in AMU-PIE projects are Prof. Michał Bukowski (Faculty of History), Prof. Ewa Kraskowska, Prof. Marek Hendrykowski (Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology), and Dr. Grzegorz Rachlewicz (Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences).

Dr. Mausch believes that AMU-PIE is an investment. As such, it cannot be expected to immediately attract vast numbers of foreign students. Therefore, in order not to waste lecturers' efforts the courses should be available to Polish students, too. They could be seen as classes preparing for studies abroad and as an alternative to foreign language courses. It would be perfect for the development of science if Polish students at AMU could spend at least one semester at a partner university abroad. Such a system is virtually widespread in the West, and AMU's cooperation with foreign academic centres should provide similar opportunities to Polish students.

According to Dr. Mausch, at present the Centre should concentrate on providing a comprehensive offer for foreign Ph.D. students.

University International Education Centre was established in 2004 by Prof. Marek Ziółkowski and Dr. Hanna Mausch.

The Centre is a virtual, interfaculty platform informing Polish and foreign students about courses lectured in English. The Centre coordinates permanent seminar series in English. „We offered seven courses in the humanities and social sciences in the winter semester 2004, and 21 students from 9 countries expressed interest in them”, says Dr. Hanna Mausch from the Institute of Linguistics at AMU. „Next year the offer included as many as 12 courses attended by 46 students. Last year it was expanded to 50 courses which were attended by 177 students”.

This year, already 92 students from 21 countries have benefited from the offer in the winter semester. They are joined by Polish AMU students. The range of subject on offer

as proposed by different Faculties is varied and diversified. Humanistic courses may already be considered a fixed offer that includes AMU-PIE in European Cultures and AMU-PIE in European Societies. Courses on EU Politics and Politics are in preparation.

50% of foreign students at AMU benefit from AMU-PIE within the framework of Erasmus. Students coming to a particular Faculty often choose AMU-PIE courses at other Faculties, therefore the AMU-PIE offer must be of interfaculty character.

As Dr. Mausch points out, „Strange as it may seem, the problem is caused by ineffective information flow. That is why I would like to encourage students to visit the English version of AMU website. Not everybody knows that AMU offers postgraduate courses in Esperanto, the only such programme in Europe and possibly even worldwide. Moreover, AMU provides education at 6 interna-

## Chemistry is the best



The high position of the Faculty of Chemistry not only at AMU but also in Poland and in Europe has now been confirmed with reliable certification: our university chemists have been awarded the Chemistry Eurobachelor® and Euromaster® Labels. For a period of five years they will constitute proof that the faculty holds a high and prestigious position.

The European Chemical Society is one of the most integrated ones, it was emphasised during the Poznan meeting with Richard Whewell, Secretary General of the Administrative Council. The different actions and activities undertaken by the ECS are often „well ahead of their times”. Within the framework of the Bologna Process, the faculties of chemistry in Europe have developed many model solutions which are now becoming standard solutions for other fields.

As a result of co-operation between the ECTN and ECTNA, international standards for Bachelor's and Master's degrees were developed: Chemistry Eurobachelor® (EB) and Chemistry Euromaster® (EM). Those standards are much higher than the so-called minimum requirements. Once they are met, it means that a given entity provides courses at a truly European level. The Faculty of Chemistry at AMU is one such entity among the Poznan institutions of higher education. And this is why it has been awarded those certificates.

# Youth travels across Europe

It has been a great challenge for me to manage the programme. But it has also given me a lot of satisfaction, says Professor Tomasz Kaczmarek, Erasmus Programme University Coordinator. I have been involved in the programme for 10 years. I saw it develop. Now I can see the effects of our efforts. This is fantastic - this awareness that you have created an opportunity for thousands of young people to go abroad.

Celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Erasmus were held in a few cities. The festival commenced in Poznań. It is not enough to hang a poster or publish information online to reach students today. You have to encourage them to participate. The form of an anniversary festival has worked well so far to disseminate information and encourage students to study abroad and invest in their education. Unfortunately, we still have to compete with trips abroad to earn money, said Professor Kaczmarek.

Fortunately, grant programmes are winning in this competition. There are approx. 1,000 applicants every year. AMU is in the top three Polish universities, together with Warsaw University and the Jagiellonian University. It sends abroad more students than other Poznań universities and colleges taken together. This means that we don't let grass grow under our feet and that we are developing robustly, says Professor Kaczmarek. This development and the continued growth in the number of students interested in studying abroad was appreciated by the



Foundation for the Development of the Education System, which awarded AMU with the title of the Mobility Friendly University.

A tenth anniversary is conducive to some summaries. The programme is very popular and successful. The university has now 350 contracts with over 220 foreign universities and colleges. Thus, AMU students have a lot of choice. Thanks to Erasmus, the internationalisation of studies was conducted much faster. The programme enforced quicker introduction of ECTS, a system that makes it possible to study in any European location and transfer credits. Lectures in English were introduced when the first foreign students came to AMU. AMU PIE, which coordinates such activities, has operated for three years. Before such courses, approx. 20 foreign students studied at AMU. They were mainly people passionate about Polish. Now, the number of foreign students has increased to 140 and it might exceed 200 in the next semester, said Professor Kaczmarek. If we increase the number of lectures held in foreign languages, we stand the chance of becoming a university popular among foreign students. We should not have any insecurities. Those who have been to Poznań stress its nice atmosphere and a unique climate in the city. Faculty coordinators and ESN take care of incoming foreign students. They organise attractive trips to Kórnik, Gniezno or further to Kraków and Zakopane. The role of a mentor is of key importance. The mentor assists the student throughout his/her stay at AMU. The students require some taking care of, starting from picking them up at the train station, showing them around the city and the university, up to opening a bank account and registering their place of residence in the city office.



© XX MACIEJ WĘCZYŃSKI

# The Researching Dutchman

An interview with University Professor **Hans Bluijssen** of the AMU Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

**••What is the difference between conducting research in Poland and in Holland?**

I lived in many cities in my home country, for example in Rotterdam, where I defended my PhD thesis at Erasmus University, but also in Amsterdam and Utrecht. Unfortunately, the salaries are the main difference. In Poland on the other hand you are more independent in your research. And there is this little thing that really upsets me as Head of the Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics. It may take weeks for the university to purchase some items for the laboratory so it really takes some anticipation, you have to plan in advance what you may need in a couple of months. And I really like your habilitation. We don't have this system in Holland.

**••This year an idea was put forward to do away with it...**

I do not agree with it. We write a postdoctoral dissertation in Holland and it's similar to your habilitation. Still, I believe that a two-stage system motivates you better. I would change the conditions of habilitation though because there seems to be too much time to write it and this can be demotivating.

When I first came to Poland two years ago I wasn't sure whether I wanted to stay here. The Institute was based in an old building. The summer was hot, there was no air-conditioning, simply horrible. Fortunately, we soon moved to the campus in Morasko, where the conditions are excellent

**••What made you come to Poland?**

First and foremost, it was my wife, Asia Wesoła, who is also a biologist. We met at a university in Holland and at first we had no intention of moving to Poland. We were finally convinced by Professor Zofia Szwejkowska-Kulińska, Head of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. She offered to set up a Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics. When I first came to Poland two years ago I wasn't sure whether I wanted to stay here. The Institute was based in an old building. The summer was hot, there was no air-conditioning, simply horrible. Fortunately, we soon moved to the campus in Morasko, where the conditions are excellent. And finally, we moved here because we found a house that we wouldn't be able to afford in Holland. We bought some land about 20 km outside Poznań, very close to the Zielonka Forest. We started construction a year ago and it hasn't been finished yet but we have four horses and a sizeable plot of land near the forest.

**••How to attract international researchers?**

It is all about the salaries which are much lower here than in the West. For the time being, the only way to increase salaries is

by obtaining European grants. You should remember that the current salaries are not enough to keep talented graduates in Poland. Money is also the main reason for the differences in standards between Polish and foreign institutions of higher education. Thanks to European funding, Professor Szwejkowska-Kulińska was able to attract foreign researchers who in turn introduced new techniques to the staff. The grant also enabled us to purchase research equipment. The more money, the more possibilities so I believe we are slowly attaining the European standard.

**••How about the students?**

Students are the same everywhere. I am in a good position because I work at the Faculty of Biology where until recently mainly plants, insects, and birds were studied but there was no research on human diseases. This is why the new laboratory attracted many students and we were able to pick the best. The majority speak English well and English is our working language in the laboratory.

**••So you don't have to speak Polish?**

When I came here I decided to learn Polish within 5 years. The most motivating factor for me is that I want to take part in the Faculty Council which is in Polish. At the Institute Council they decided to speak English to make things easier for me at meetings. I take Polish lessons and I already know some basic vocabulary but the grammar is really difficult for me. Asia speaks fluent Dutch and so we speak Dutch at home because she wants to keep her hand in. But I think we are going to have to come to some linguistic compromise soon...

**••Was there anything in Poland that came as a surprise to you?**

Yes, the fact that without any knowledge of Polish it was impossible to get any administrative matters done. I was most surprised when I was informed it was impossible to open an account without a PESEL number. And in order to get it I had to fulfil some more requirements. But I am not complaining much as my social life is pretty good here. And, most importantly, I am independent in my research.

**••Do you miss anything?**

I miss the cheese! I also lack variety a bit because in comparison to Poland, Holland is a cultural melting pot. But we have a good social life here. Whenever we need some cultural entertainment, we go to Poznań. We go horse-riding a lot, we take walks in the forest. I sometimes miss my family but Holland is not so far away and they come to visit us here as well.

**••What are your plans?**

With time I would like the laboratory to turn into a department but for that to happen you need more staff members with an academic degree. As for my private life, I would like to finish decorating the house because right now its major part is still under construction. And I would like to be able to speak Polish well enough so as to have a chat with my neighbours.

# Grand piano, Pele and Amazon water

An interview with **Semitha Cevallos**, a second year Musicology student at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU)

**•• Thanks to Erasmus, many foreign students come to Poland. But you came from as far away as Brazil...**

I was born in Curitiba, in the state of Paraná. Many of your compatriots live there so I already tried pierogi in my childhood and I never thought of Poland as an exotic destination. I learned about the possibility of travelling to Poland while working at the municipal authorities office after graduating from my music studies. Every pianist dreams of studying in Europe so I was very happy about starting my studies in the land of Penderecki, Lutosławski and Górecki. I am planning to write my MA about the influence of 20th century Polish composers on the music in Brazil because this issue hasn't been researched yet. But when I arrived here in the autumn of 2003, things were not that easy.

**•• Am I right in thinking that you were surprised by the weather?**

Contrary to all appearances, not really. I had never seen snow before but the winters in the south of Brazil are not that warm either. On the other hand, Poznan is a small town where everything can be reached by bike compared to the south American reality. Right now I actually like it that it's enough to go out in the street and see familiar faces. But I still can't get used to the way people are here. In Brazil people are very open and friendly - amigos, you know what I mean. And here people called me their chum, pal or colleague but not their friend and that made me feel sad. I was also surprised by the red tape, the number of documents that have to be signed in order to get something done.

**•• At the university as well?**

Yes. In Brazil the society is less hierarchical. When I was leaving Curitiba, the clerk responsible for my travel came to my place to help me with the packing. In Poland that would be unheard of. The lecturers in Brazil were also more open and accessible than here. What's more, there wasn't such a thing as credit books or oral exams in Brazil. When it comes to studying at the Academy of Music in Poznan, it wasn't really that tough because musicians practice in more or less the same way everywhere in the world. But it was only when I started

my musicology studies at AMU that I learned what cramming was! I have never studied as intensively as I do now. At the same time, this really makes me happy as it indicates a very high level of academic quality.

**•• And what do you do in your spare time?**

I host a radio show in Radio Merkury about Latin-American music, I give Portuguese lessons. I also passed a Polish Language Certificate exam, which was a big challenge for me. I had a gap year, during which I worked for the TBA Group, a production company. I worked as an assistant to Michael York in the production of Testimony (Świadectwo), a documentary which has recently been released in Poland. And of course I am a great fan of football! In football, it's all about beating

I host a radio show in Radio Merkury about Latin-American music, I give Portuguese lessons. I also passed a Polish Language Certificate exam, which was a big challenge for me

Argentina. When our national team play a match, people do not go to work or university. Even at work, they have a break to watch the game. And remember: Pele is the best football player in the world, not Maradona!

**•• We are having this conversation just before the Climate Change Conference in Poznan. What is your attitude to environmental issues in Brazil?**

There is a lot of concern about the environment among common people. As children we learn that when we run the tap, we use water from the Amazon. I always switch off lights as I leave a room. In Brazil, spray deodorants are not very popular, and when the bottle with the washing-up liquid is half empty, we fill it up with water. I think the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 has changed our way of thinking about the environment.

**Wydawca:**

Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza  
Rektorat, 67-712 Poznań,  
ul. Wieniawskiego 1

**Editor in Chief**

Jolanta Lenartowicz len\_media@gazeta.pl

**Text** Adam Barabas, Marcin Plechocki,  
Ewa Woznińska, Magdalena Ziólek, Maria Rybicka

**Photos** Maciej Męczyski, Maciej Nowczyk  
dr Witold Szczuciński

**Translation** Agnieszka Chmiel, Iwona Mazur,  
Katarzyna Nowicka, Marcin Turski, Maria Tymczyńska

**Address** 61-734 Poznań,  
ul. Nowowiejskiego 55,  
tel./fax 061 829 39 60

**Office** Marta Dzionek  
**Design editor** Agata Rząsa

BEL Studio Sp. z o.o.  
ul. Powstańców Śląskich 67 b  
01-355 Warszawa

# Active students

They design posters, win ecology contests, do voluntary work and organize flash mobs and conferences. Students from Poznan are often underestimated, however, they constitute a group which is actively involved in The Poznan Climate Change Conference.



© MACIEJ NOWACZYK

Volunteers, who are mainly students, will be wearing blue ponchos and large bags filled with city plans and brochures promoting Poznan. „The total number of volunteers is 500, 100 of which are high school students”, says Eliza Malarecka of the Regional Department of Education. „The main criterion for recruiting volunteers was their knowledge of English (as well as other foreign languages), familiarity with the city plan and past participation in similar events”, adds Mrs. Malarecka.

„I'm a volunteer, because I'm proud of the fact that The Climate Change Conference will be held in Poznan. I wish the guests from all over the world would see the best side of Poznan”, claims Gosia, a biology student at Adam Mickiewicz University. „I hope to broaden my knowledge of climate change issues. Hopefully, the Conference will also help me to come up with the subject of my M.A. thesis. Possibly, I will run into some famous people?” says Gosia with a smile.

All volunteers were obliged to participate in first aid training, had to show their knowledge of public transportation in Poznan and familiarise themselves with the city's cultural offer. Participants were divided into 10 groups supervised by leaders. Volunteers will offer their help on the WTC premises, where the conference will be held, as well as at the train station, tourist information centres (CIM) and police stations. „I'm happy that I'll be able to practise English and help people. I took part in sim-

ilar events in the past, but these were on a much smaller scale. I hope to use the experience obtained during the conference in the future”, states Radek, an economics student. „I've already met some interesting people who are into ecology”, he concludes.

Adam Mickiewicz University students are the largest group among the volunteers, probably due to the fact that the University called off all the classes. However, the students were involved in other projects as well. The team Demoscene Spirit, whose members are Agata Czapracka, Szymon Majewski, Łukasz Michniewicz, Wiktoria Szydło, Agata Majewska and the supervisor Tomasz Gdala, won the 1st prize at the Imagine Cup organised by Microsoft. The leitmotif of 'software design' category was „Imagine the world in which technology helps to protect the environment”. The winning team presented Spirit LifeTracker program, which enables real-time observation of the endangered species. Other students also showed their activity. For instance, Aneta Szukała, a Technical University student, won the Bayer Young Environmental Envoys contest. Her thesis on vehicle recycling in Poland in the light of EU law proved to be the best. By organizing several exhibitions, the students from the Academy of Fine Arts also became actively involved in the issues of ecology. Krzysztof Marciniak, a graduate of the Academy, designed a series of posters that were hung outside the Biology Department building.

High school and secondary school students had a chance to take part in the Youth Climate Change Conference on the WTC premises. Teenagers participated in a series of lectures with e.g. Professor Zbigniew Kundzewicz and Professor Piotr Tryjanowski of IPCC. The motto formulated by the participants of the Youth Conference is to be read at the 'adult' Climate Change Conference.

AEGEE group visited Poznań on the 14-17th of November and invited everyone to participate in the International Student's Day. „We wanted to give Student's Day an ecological tinge, because of the Climate Change Conference that is to take place in Poznan”, explains Marta Kurek from AEGEE. The event began with flash mob at Plac Wolności. During the weekend AEGEE members organised a collection of glass waste. Anti-alcohol campaign motto 'You've been drinking? Don't drive!' was paraphrased into 'You've been drinking? Segregate!'. „I just didn't imagine how many empty glass bottles students can have”, says Marta. I was collecting glass in front of the one of the dormitories and the record was broken by the group which brought 733 bottles! The Technical University collected the greatest amount of glass and was awarded with a Golden Bottle, which is a challenge trophy and will change the owner in the following editions of the contest. The last day was devoted to the meeting entitled 'Let students speak!'. „We want to make students think about the ecology”, assures Marta. „Generally, I think that students are favourably disposed towards the environment and to all kinds of eco-initiatives. It's the role of the authorities, however, to make sure that students can lead an eco-friendly life”.



# Wellcome to Morasko

The biggest anechoic chamber in Poland

Today Morasko Campus is considered the most beautiful university center in Poland and it seems that only the new Jagiellonian University campus in Krakow can measure up to it. Morasko Campus buildings, which accommodate five different faculties of Geography and Geology, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, and Political Science, are surrounded by a forest. The forest is a natural habitat of many bird species and of... biology faculty and students. Every year the meadows surrounding the Campus become a splendid venue for The Great Students' Barbecue during the spring university students' holiday.

The cornerstone of the Campus was laid already in 1974 by the then Minister of Education Sylwester Kaliski. However, nothing more was accomplished for many years to come. Several years passed before actual work on the building the site started. The delay was caused, among other reasons, by the reluctance of scientists, who did not want to move far away from the city center. Poznan University President in the years 1996 - 2002, Prof. Stefan Jurga, a persistent advocate of Morasko, was also faced with such opposition. Nevertheless, during his term of office a long-term project of the Campus development was created and the number of students increased from 30 to 50 thousand. This proved the key argument in favour of this project.

The first faculty to move to Morasko was Geology (the owner of the building which the faculty had occupied evicted them). They were followed by physicists. In those days Collegium Phisicum stood in the midst of a muddy building site. Students were advised to use the back entrance to the building not to carry mud when entering through the front gate.

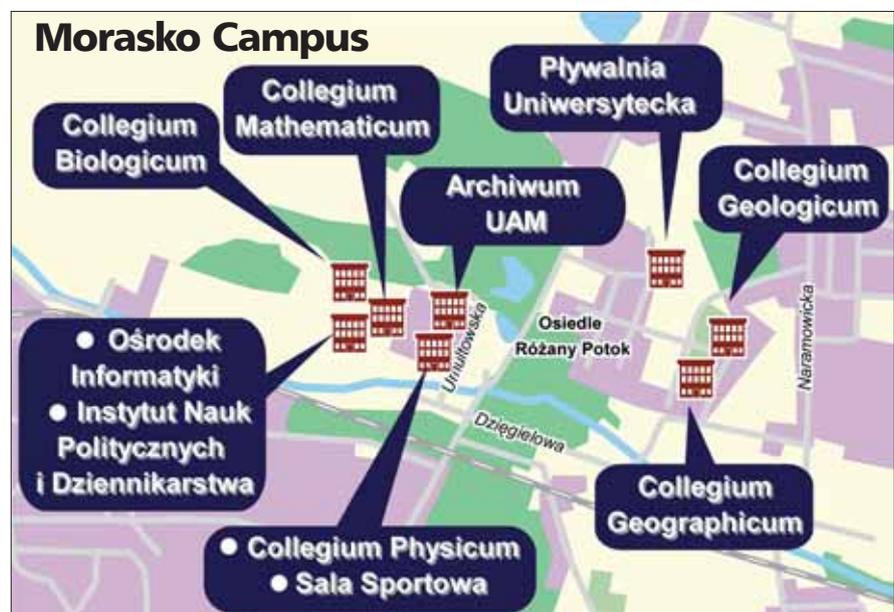
Nowadays everyone wants to settle down in

Morasko. Two faculties, Chemistry and History, are anxiously waiting to be moved here. Foundations are already being laid for the two respective buildings. Morasko offers silence, space and state-of-the-art equipment which enables lecturers to conduct classes with the use of various audiovisuals. Biologists have here a collection of nature exhibits, a project unique in Europe, physicists - the biggest anechoic chamber, specialists in political science - a fountain, geologists - an interesting stone collection, geographers - a wind research laboratory. There is also a university film studio and a swimming pool.

Regrettably, the eventful history of the Campus in Morasko has not been published in book form yet. This is a pity since it abounds in

anecdotes. One of them features Deputy Prime Minister Zyta Gilowska who lost her chance for reelection to Parliament because of Morasko. During the inauguration of the Political Science Faculty she boasted of having always supported the construction of the Campus. However, media disclosed that when Polish Parliament voted on a subsidy for the development of the Campus she abstained from the vote. This news outraged Poznan inhabitants.

There are also some pleasant memories, though. For instance, in 2003 the black-and-yellow building of the Mathematics Faculty received the national prize of the Polish Architects' Association (SARP) for the design which „blends it excellently with its surroundings”. maj



# Expedition on Spitsbergen

