



the way the field is taught and studied in the same way that Rochester has transformed the study of political science. We anticipate that this development will engage the faculty in the activities of the center, generate enthusiasm and research ideas among graduate students, and attract a new generation of students and scholars to Rochester to study this important region.

The center's primary activities to this point have had the goal of enriching the undergraduate curriculum; the Skalny Center of the future will play an expanded role in undergraduate education. Indeed, we believe that developing a robust research program will significantly enrich undergraduate education, because excellent undergraduate teaching grows out of a serious engagement with academic research. In turn, it is impossible for us to train the kind of future faculty members we seek to produce in our graduate programs without involving them significantly in undergraduate teaching.

The College is providing a substantial infusion of new support for the center and an expanded University commitment to development, which will allow us to enrich our undergraduate offerings while simultaneously expanding our programs to include graduate and postgraduate initiatives. The thematic focus of the center will remain connected to Poland, but will shift to engage more deeply the issues in political science in which Poland figures prominently, particularly international relations, the politics of economic reform, and consolidating democratic institutions. The center will play an important role in one of the most significant curricular innovations in the College's strategic plan, which is to develop a new major in international relations. The new major will include coursework in political science, history and economics, foreign language, and study abroad. During the academic year 2006-2007, we continued a number of programs that have come to be favorites in the Rochester community: luncheon talks, evening lectures, a Polish Film Festival, and concerts. In addition to sponsoring a few new ones.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the acting director of the Skalny Center this spring, and I am pleased to announce that I will become the new director as of July 1. The former director of the Skalny Center, Professor Ewa Hauser, was on leave this spring as a senior Fulbright Fellow. I would like to congratulate her on this honor and on receiving an extension of her Fulbright grant for the academic year 2007-2008. Professor Hauser conceived of the idea for the Skalny Center, wrote the first grant proposal, forged an enduring partnership between the University of Rochester and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and built the center into an important part of the undergraduate curriculum at the University of Rochester. During the coming years, I plan to build upon and expand the existing programs of the Skalny Center. The objective is to strengthen scholarly presence here in the field of Polish and European studies, which can play an important role in transforming the

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Greetings from Mykolayiv, Ukraine

By Ewa Hauser
By Ewa Hauser



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SKALNY CENTER

for Polish and
Central European Studies

**Department of Political Science
University of Rochester
P.O. Box 270147
Rochester, NY 14627-0147**

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Randall Stone, Director
randall.stone@rochester.edu

Contact Information:
Bozena Sobolewska,
Administrative Assistant
(585) 275-9898

skalnycpes@mail.rochester.edu

Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies
101 Harkness Hall
Box 270147
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627-0147
Fax: (585) 276-1952

AVC Studio Ltd.
254 West Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14615
(585) 647-2656
info@avcstudio.com