Grand Valley State University

&

Cracow University of Economics

40 years of international partnership
In celebration of 40 years of international partnership between Grand Valley State University & Cracow University of Economics

History & timeline by Alan Walczak
Design by Mohamed Azuz & Alissa Lane
Acknowledgements

The Padnos International Center commissioned this History on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of this unique partnership. We are particularly grateful to a number of people who may not be highlighted in this narrative, but whose dedication and hard work, over decades, needs to be acknowledged. We have not listed the individual staff members at both institutions who have been essential in providing student or faculty orientations, conducting negotiations and strategic planning, paying the bills, booking the air tickets, meeting visitors at the airport, and countless other activities.

One of these individuals is the author of this history, Alan Walczak. A steward of the partnership for many years in his administrative role in GVSU’s Office of International Programs, Al did as much (if not more) than anyone else at GVSU to keep the flow of students and faculty going. Likewise, we would like to thank our friend and counterpart, Ms. Agnieszka Nawrocka, who has been a rock for this partnership—solidly managing the people and resources for Cracow University of Economics to keep the flow of students and faculty going. This dedication also goes to all the rest of our colleagues—at both institutions—who continue to carry on with this behind-the-scenes work to make this partnership move beyond middle age!

Mark Schaub
Chief International Officer
Grand Valley State University
The year 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of Grand Valley State University’s (GVSU) longest continuous international partnership: its relationship with the Cracow University of Economics (CUE) in Poland. Since 1975, hundreds of university students, faculty, and staff from each institution have engaged in collaborative study ventures, teaching, research, conferences and degree programs. As a result, many lives have been transformed through the advancement of scholarship and of careers, and through the development of a more intimate understanding of each other and of each others’ cultures. Importantly, this unique partnership and its ensuing activities have also brought about the formation of long-lasting friendships.

From its inception on, several key leaders from the two institutions were instrumental in building and nurturing the relationship between GVSU and CUE, most notably long-time GVSU President Arend D. Lubbers. President Lubbers, having established university international programs even prior to his tenure at GVSU, recognized and embraced the benefits of international partnerships, contending that “they expand the experience and minds of people involved” and “are invaluable for the development of the modern mind.” Forty years later, his sentiments proved prescient for the University as evidenced through current GVSU President Thomas J. Haas who identified two “guideposts for growth and moving ahead” for his faculty and staff – be “Michigan relevant with global impact.” In 1974, however, an opportunity to explore a partnership in Central Europe was unique.

In 1974, President Lubbers’ colleague and friend, Ezra Gearhart, GVSU’s Dean and Director of the newly established International Studies Institute, proposed they travel together to Kraków to re-engage with some colleagues Dr. Gearhart knew and to explore a potential collaboration for the universities. President Lubbers agreed and that venture, along with the cultivation of a relationship with the Polish Heritage Society in Grand Rapids, Michigan, led to the development of a proposal by Dr. Gearhart for cooperation with the Cracow University of Economics.

That initiative then prompted the commencement of a summer educational program to Kraków in 1975, comprised of GVSU faculty and staff, and members of the Grand Rapids community. GVSU Russian language professor Christine Rydel, Dean Ezra Gearhart and members of the Grand Rapids Polish Heritage Society traveled to Poland to learn
“[International Partnerships] are invaluable for the development of the modern mind.”

-GVSU President Arend D. Lubbers
of its culture and history, and to establish further contacts in Kraków. Other members of the community included Grand Rapids resident Ed Szymans, a former US Embassy cultural attaché who served in Warsaw during WWII, and Donald Wozniak, a member of GVSU’s first graduating class in 1967, and his spouse, Diane.

“The six week program, under the aegis of the School of Economics, afforded us the opportunity to experience first-hand a smattering of Polish life/culture that would later evolve into life-changing events for that part of Eastern Europe. We are grateful to have been part of that inaugural group which gave participants a most enriching experience.” (Donald Wozniak, 1975 Polish Program)

Later that same year, the initial agreement for Grand Valley State University and the Cracow University of Economics to cooperate was drafted and signed by GVSU President Lubbers and CUE Rector Antoni Fajferek at GVSU’s campus in Allendale, Michigan.

At that time, in 1975, the US and the USSR were in the midst of the Cold War. Many Central and Eastern European countries were under the influence of the Soviet Union, including Poland. A partnership between GVSU and CUE would bring together university faculty and students whose lives existed in profoundly different political, economic and social circumstances. President Lubbers admits that for western universities, relationships behind the Iron Curtain “were unusual.”

When the relationship’s potential was further explored, a new agreement was drawn up and signed in 1977 that offered the specifics for the partnership activities. Up to 15 students from GVSU were to study at CUE during the fall semester and up to five faculty from CUE would spend 10 weeks at GVSU for research and collaboration with colleagues.

GVSU Professor of Economics and Management and International Studies Institute Fellow, Kenneth Zapp, was selected as the program director and began preparations for the implementation of the fall study program to commence in 1976. According to Professor Zapp, the Polish program reflected GVSU’s unique interest in Poland: “We want our students to understand the Polish economy, how it works in practice. If we are to trade with Eastern European countries, we have to understand how their economies function.”
Professor Zapp traveled to CUE to prepare for the fall program and was met at the Rector’s office by Professor Magda Paleczny, the CUE program coordinator. The program model created was a curriculum in Polish history, culture and economics, and a series of field trips to places that would enhance students’ understanding of their curriculum. Students would visit the Wieliczka Salt Mines, Wawel Castle, the Tatra Mountains and Zakopane, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and, in the earlier years, the Vladimir Lenin Steelworks in Nowa Huta. Apart from adjustments over time that accommodated changes in Poland’s political landscape and the transition from a fall semester to a summer program for GVSU students, that model continued for almost three decades introducing the people and culture of Poland first-hand to roughly 350 GVSU students and 15 different GVSU faculty members. The actual reach of the partnership extended even further as university communities also experienced the benefits of their respective international visitors. Dormitories were shared, visiting faculty lectured to classes and met new colleagues and students, and, as relationships grew, the partnership was fostering genuine friendships.

In the earlier years of the partnership, those prior to 1990, students and faculty from GVSU who traveled to Kraków were experiencing some of the realities of life under communism. While possessing a US Passport shielded them from most of the harsher challenges, through their contacts with students in the dormitory where they lived, Dom Merkury, their program of lectures and field trips, and their own

“We are grateful to have been part of that inaugural group.”

-Donald Wozniak, 1975 Poland Program
observations and experiences shopping and living in the city, GVSU participants were exposed to an existence radically different from their own. The Soviet determination to isolate Poles from Western influences included efforts to control the media. Consequently, Polish students’ impressions of life in the US were somewhat skewed and became lively topics of conversation in Dom Merkury. GVSU students were given a tour of the Lenin Steelworks facility as heavy industry was emphasized as a potential economic boon for Central Europe, but out of concern for clandestine activity, they were not allowed to bring in their cameras.

GVSU students became familiar with the scarcity of goods that accompanied life under a centrally-planned economy. They saw the infamous early morning breadlines, clusters of shoppers pressing against shop windows when shipments arrived, and many bare shelves. Dollar stores (Pewex shops) existed, where only Western currencies could be used to buy scarcer Western goods and thus promoted the creation of a black market exchange of currency. GVSU students, with their Western apparel and gait, were immediately recognizable and approached regularly on the streets to “change money,” but were urged caution by university friends.

Bruce Klein, Emeritus GVSU Professor of Computer Science, was a faculty director of the Polish summer program on eight different occasions and describes the experience of his students: “their daily living was the greatest teacher. In the early days, pre-1990, the glaring

“She said the kindness, dignity, and respectful behavior of Poles taught her the most about life.”

-Professor Zapp reflecting on a student insight from the 1983 Poland - Yugoslavia Program
differences between the Polish and American economic systems and the even greater difference between their comparative wealth and that of their Polish colleagues had a great impact on them.” The value of the US dollar seemed limitless and students needed to learn to not be extravagant for fear of being offensive.

Despite the scarcity of material goods, Poles quickly revealed themselves to be bountiful in their intellectual traditions and in their historical depth. GVSU students were consistently impressed with Polish students’ awareness of world events, despite their suppressed media outlets, with their facility with foreign languages (dorm room conversations were held in English), and with their knowledge of history and the arts. University education was prized in Polish culture and GVSU students felt frequently humbled by their CUE counterparts.

Such sentiments were shared by a GVSU student who traveled with Professors Zapp and Paleczny in 1983. On two separate occasions, Professors Zapp and Paleczny, who were married in Kraków just prior to the arrival of GVSU students in 1978, took GVSU groups to both Yugoslavia and to Poland to study their economies and social systems. Several students participated in both programs. Professor Zapp recalled that “one woman shared an insight I have often remembered. Though living standards were higher in Yugoslavia, she preferred her experience in Poland. She said the kindness, dignity, and respectful behavior of Poles taught her the most about life.”

Many other lessons occurred on the streets. Walking through the Rakowicka Cemetery from the dorm to the University was a 10-minute historical tour as so many Polish notables were buried there and the elaborate monuments along its tree-lined paths encouraged exploration. Touring the Old Town in Kraków with their university hosts would transport US students through time. David Waterstradt, a GVSU participant in 1984, remarked that getting off the bus in Kraków’s Old Town was like stepping back into the middle ages with its centuries-old architecture enveloping the largest medieval town square in Central Europe.

GVSU students returned home with a greater awareness of history, of the cultural depth of Poland and of life in a communist satellite, but with the additional appreciation for the inventiveness and resourcefulness that its citizens exercised in their attempts to pursue
a fruitful and meaningful life. The complexities of becoming more globally competent were being impressed upon students in ways only possible through the partnership.

In reciprocation for the GVSU study program in Kraków, Polish scholars were able to attend GVSU under the auspices of the agreement, allowing them to openly pursue research and engage with their US colleagues. Resources at the CUE were not particularly strong during the earlier years and as President Lubbers learned, university personnel “were eager for faculty to come to GVSU.”

Once the GVSU community became accustomed to the visiting scholars and more aware of their desires and goals, and after experiencing the hospitality of their hosts and colleagues in Kraków, GVSU began to organize a suitable program for their CUE visitors. It included introductions to colleagues around campus and in the community, visits to businesses in Grand Rapids, tours to Chicago, and Northern Michigan, and when possible, to Niagara Falls. Because of limited mass transportation options in West Michigan, it also included driving lessons. The faculty also graciously accepted invitations into their colleagues’ homes such as the Kleins’, and those of Emeritus Professors Allan TenEyck and Ron Poitras, both faculty directors and supporters of the program. CUE faculty appetites were also voracious for the GVSU Library where they consumed copious research and gathered book donations. For many, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to accelerate their scholarship and enhance their careers.

Dr. Susan Martin, former GVSU Professor of Accounting and current President of Eastern Michigan University, served as a faculty program director and co-organizer and chair of accounting theory conferences with a colleague at CUE. She recalls the CUE faculty visits to GVSU:

“…the GVSU exchange for three faculty to visit the university each fall was transformational for many careers that led to their final success in receiving the Habilitation degree….. GVSU played a pivotal role by inviting faculty to come to our campus and stay for a few months to enjoy library materials and interaction with colleagues to ignite their research…. I sent many boxes of donated desk copies of textbooks and journals to my colleagues for their use in teaching and research.”
Along with the GVSU International Office, GVSU faculty program directors were the official hosts of CUE fall semester scholars. The ensuing summers, when leading GVSU student groups to Kraków, GVSU faculty would again have opportunity to meet their CUE peers. Faculty were welcoming each other into each others’ homes and learning more intimately about each other, each others’ circumstances, and each others’ scholarship. As President Lubbers remarked, “the partnership created an atmosphere where friendships could be made.”

Sharing lives outside the university setting encouraged more relaxed relationships and furthered an appreciation for each other. Recalls Professor Klein, “My wife Georgianna (Emeritus GVSU Professor of Mathematics) and I helped host the visiting scholars from the mid 80s through the fall of 2000. In the early years, taking them to Meijer mega-store when they first arrived was always an interesting experience. The plethora of choices was overwhelming to many of them.” Even when on US soil, the CUE faculty would host dinners for their GVSU colleagues, one of which evolved into a tradition: the preparation of a Polish bigos dinner at the end of their stay for all those they met.

Relationships with rectors too were “natural, open and friendly” recalls President Lubbers. Their respect and appreciation for each other and for the developing partnership was also demonstrated by invitations to each others’ homes, and, officially, in the awarding of honorary doctoral degrees. Four were bestowed upon CUE Rectors: Antoni
Fajferek (1981); Jerzy Altkorn (1987); Jerzy Mikulowski Pomorski (1993); and Roman Niestrój (2010). President Lubbers received an honorary doctorate from CUE conferred by Rector Altkorn in 1989. In 2015, current GVSU President Thomas J. Haas will receive an honorary doctorate during the 40-year partnership anniversary celebrations in Kraków. President Haas explains that his degree “comes at an interesting milestone in my family’s lives,” making the experience “very personal” for him. He will receive his degree at the 100-year anniversary of his maternal grandparent’s emigration to the US from Kraków.

At the time President Lubbers received his honorary degree from CUE, the 1989 revolutions were occurring in several communist states throughout Central and Eastern Europe. These events, which started in Poland, all utilized civil resistance in opposition to the one-party communist rule. Strikes in Poland led to the re-legalization of the Solidarity Trade Union and then to a parliamentary election where Solidarity won an overwhelming victory. The first non-communist government in the Eastern Bloc resulted in the fall of communism in Poland. Other demonstrations led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Cold War was ending. Poland was transitioning from a communist party rule to a more Western-style democratic system and was adopting a form of a market economy.

In the years following, GVSU participants in the partnership program began learning about the challenges of the transitions Poles were making. Over time, they also witnessed changes occurring on the streets of Kraków as characteristics of a market economy began to appear in the form of new businesses, restaurants, building renovations, advertising, and availability of material goods.

These historical events and the continuing desire to maintain and enhance the partnership compelled the emergence of new program innovations. The easing of travel restrictions for Poles allowed for the eventual attendance of CUE students at GVSU. Partnership terms were defined accordingly and the first CUE students arrived at GVSU for a semester of study in fall, 1992. Anna Karwińska, CUE Professor of Sociology, was invited to GVSU for a longer-term one-year appointment by Don Williams, Chair of the Sociology Department. The CUE International Programmes Office created an English language track program in business and shortly after, two GVSU students attended CUE for a semester.
Rector Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski visited GVSU for the first time in 1991 and conducted the lecture “Post-Communist Europe.” He recalls being impressed by the holdings in the GVSU library and became a great supporter of the GVSU-CUE partnership, recommitting his own institution to its expansion. He developed a close working relationship and friendship with President Lubbers and in 1993 was awarded an honorary doctorate by GVSU.

In 1995, on the occasion of the 70th Jubilee anniversary of CUE and the 20th anniversary of the GVSU-CUE partnership, President Lubbers committed a monetary gift for books to commemorate the opening of the new CUE library and led a delegation of GVSU colleagues and West Michigan community members to CUE. During the official celebration he presented an engraved plaque to CUE Rector Mikułowski Pomorski, commemorating 20 years of a successful cooperation.

The next several years were a continuation of the visiting scholar programs and new GVSU faculty took interest in the partnership and became faculty directors. Growing numbers of university faculty and students were enriching their lives through the relationship. In 2000, the 25th anniversary year of the partnership, a sizeable contingent of GVSU representatives led by President Lubbers that included the University Provost, the Dean of the School of Business, several faculty, and the Chair of the Board of Control, traveled to Kraków to honor the relationship. On that occasion, the first of three international accounting symposiums were held, co-organized by GVSU accounting faculty, Sue Martin, and CUE accounting faculty member, Mieczysław Dobija. They collaborated on two more accounting symposia in 2002 and 2005.

Dan Balfour, GVSU Professor of public administration and Director of the School of Public and Non-Profit Administration (SPNA), attended the 25th anniversary celebration as a member of the GVSU contingent. Professor Balfour’s interest in Poland stemmed in part from a course he had been teaching since 1996 in the Honors College on the history of the Holocaust.

Professor Balfour recalls: “I really had no idea what to expect and imagined a landscape of Stalin-era architecture and concentration camps. I was pleasantly surprised to discover the depth of my ignorance of Polish culture and history and quickly came to appreciate the beauty
of Kraków and its many historical and cultural treasures. Little did I know that this first trip to Poland would lead to many more visits, as a study abroad director, teacher, and scholar.”

Professor Balfour and his GVSU colleagues imagined an opportunity where participation in the partnership could result in an academic credential for students. Interested in expanding the relationship between the School of Public and Non-Profit Administration and the CUE, as a gesture of invitation during a visit to GVSU, CUE Rector Ryszard Borowiecki and Vice-Rector Janusz Teczke were inducted as honorary members of the SPNA Honor Society. In 2005, during the 30th anniversary celebration in Kraków, GVSU Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Gayle Davis, and CUE Rector Ryszard Borowiecki, who first visited GVSU on the faculty program in 1987, signed a renewed agreement. Due to the considerable efforts of the SPNA faculty and the CUE, the renewed cooperation allowed for GVSU public administration faculty to lecture and teach at CUE and for two CUE graduates per year to enroll in GVSU’s Masters of Public Administration program (MPA). This new feature allowed for the potential of an academic credential for partnership participants.

During the occasion, Dr. Davis, was asked to sign the CUE visitor’s book on behalf of GVSU. “It was an honor to write in the same journal in which Pope John Paul II had extended his greetings,” she said. Dr. Davis was also able to meet some of the Polish faculty who had taken
part in the program in the earlier years. She recalled, “I was so proud to be at a school like Grand Valley where that support for them was forthcoming.” Since then, Dr. Davis has supported many faculty and students who have gone to CUE from both the College of Business and the School of Public and Non-Profit Administration.

The success of the MPA program component led to its renewal in 2010 after discussions regarding the collaboration were held by GVSU Associate Professor Mark Hoffman and Łukasz Mamica from CUE. That year, during the 35th anniversary of the GVSU-CUE partnership, GVSU President Thomas J. Haas and CUE Rector Roman Niestrój signed a renewed agreement for collaboration that continued the MPA cooperation. From this signing, GVSU students in Kraków were now invited to participate in the MPA courses taught by visiting faculty there. Later that year, Rector Niestrój traveled to GVSU where he received an honorary doctorate during the celebration marking the 50-year anniversary of GVSU. It was December, and during a visit to President Haas’ home they both appreciated each others’ holiday ties, which they then promptly exchanged. President Haas noted how the relationship between institutions “starts with individuals.”

As of 2015, 20 CUE students have earned their MPA degree at GVSU. According to Professor Hoffman, who also conducted his sabbatical in 2012 teaching at CUE, many CUE students have gone on to successful career opportunities made possible through their scholarship and experiences at GVSU. Former CUE student, and MPA graduate Wojciech Solak, concurs:

“GVSU opened a new door for me. During my time at GVSU, I gained an insight into the NGO sector in a country where that sector has very strong roots... The experience gained at the GVSU helped me get my first job in the NGO sector in Spain. The next step for me was to work in non-profit sector in my own country – Poland. I am convinced the GVSU experience determined my career path.”

Iwona Gruszka, also a CUE graduate attending GVSU spoke of her opportunity during the MPA program:

“Thanks to a project I was doing for a class, I landed an internship at the office of Energy and Sustainability at the City of Grand Rapids and thanks to participating in the Project Management Competition,
I was offered a job at Stryker, a medical device company... I know that if not for Grand Valley, the world of business would be a scary place for me. Working in multi-national teams is now plain sailing thanks to all the skills I learned at Grand Valley.”

Like so many others before him, Professor Balfour developed a fondness for the partnership that exceeds professional scholarship: “Kraków is the first location outside the US that I got to know so well that each return trip evoked a deep familiarity and fondness for the city, the university, and the many friends I made there.”

The Chief International Officer at GVSU, Mark Schaub, is responsible for maximizing existing partnerships at GVSU that help advance the university’s mission. He has been to CUE more times than to any other GVSU partner. In 2006, he was the first Fulbright scholar from GVSU to teach at CUE, spending six months there with his family. He says there is “no greater satisfaction than fostering the life-changing international experiences of others, especially in the next generation.”

CIO Schaub was aware of a shift in the interest of students in the partnership program. Summer program enrollments were declining and he had solicited feedback from faculty for solutions. Simultaneously, an English-Language Track Program further developed by the International Programmes Office (IPO) at CUE provided GVSU students opportunities for extended semester study in Kraków and was attracting more interest. At the time, several students had already chosen the semester option and as of the approach of the 40th partnership anniversary, more than 25 had done so.

During his next visit to CUE in 2007, Mark Schaub met with Katarzyna Pawlikowska of CUE’s International Programmes Office. She suggested that GVSU and CUE collaborate on an application for an Atlantis EU-US grant that is meant to support the creation of dual degrees between US and EU institutions. GVSU Professor Polly Diven, who is also the Director of the GVSU International Relations Program, was teaching at CUE at the time and joined the discussions. For the next several weeks they communicated about areas of focus and satisfying the parameters of the funding sources. Two EU partners were necessary and they settled on the University of Debrecen. They also determined that international relations (IR) would be the academic focus. As Schaub put it “mostly because of the immediate and enthusiastic support of the IR director, Polly Diven.”
The following fall, a meeting was held at GVSU and attended by Michał Patkaniowski from CUE, and Tamas Mihalydeak, VP for External Relations from Debrecen. The final funding application completed by Pawlikowska and Schaub was sent to their respective agencies in Brussels (EU) and Washington, D.C. (US Dept. of Education). The proposed program was to be called STAIR – Studies in Trans-Atlantic International Relations. Eventually, as Mark Schaub recalls, news arrived that would further enhance the evolving GVSU-CUE partnership:

“After we got the word that our project would be funded with $408,000 (to GVSU, from US Department of Education) and with 408,000 Euros (to Debrecen and CUE, from EU), over four years, we were elated,” said Schaub. This would mean a great opportunity for our students—to earn full bachelors degrees on two continents. These dual degrees would launch them on promising academic and professional careers.”

The objectives of the STAIR Program were to provide opportunities for students of International Relations for study abroad thereby personalizing trans-Atlantic international issues and events and enhancing their global competence. Students would study at each of the three participating institutions and potentially earn dual degrees. A faculty component offered STAIR faculty opportunities to lecture abroad and collaborate with colleagues through joint teaching and
research. All three university communities would benefit from the additional exposure to the visiting participants.

The STAIR Program commenced in 2008. GVSU international relations majors lived in Kraków in the spring term and studied international business and economics. Many of them wrote theses under the direction of the CUE STAIR Advisors, Professors Krzysztof Wach and Piotr Stanek, and thus received dual degrees from CUE and GVSU. Furthermore, as noted by Professor Diven, because of the external funding available for participants, “students went abroad who wouldn't normally go.”

One of the objectives of the STAIR program was to make international relations more personal to the participants. Anna Marotti was a GVSU student and STAIR program participant in 2010-11, who earned a dual degree. “The biggest thing,” she said, “is the people.” “It is bigger than just an exchange. I learned how to learn differently. It’s not over in 6 months.” “Now when I hear something about Poland, I listen and try to find out and maybe even what my friends know; people may be immediately affected. It's real!”

Along with Anna, two other GVSU STAIR students, Emily Brown and Megan Thatcher, were asked to present their research projects from the STAIR program based on their CUE theses at the annual conference of the Midwest International Studies Association in St. Louis, Missouri. They were accompanied by Professor Diven. According to Professor Diven, even for GVSU students who did not participate in the exchange, it was a great advantage to have Polish students in their International Relations classes: “I added a couple of group projects to the US foreign policy I teach and made sure that the GVSU students and CUE students worked together in teams. They really learned a lot from each other.”

Barbara Załoga is a CUE student who attended GVSU for the STAIR Program. She identifies what she learned during her classes at GVSU: “Poland is more focused on theory, where here I have a lot of classes about what is actually going on in the world right now. I understand what students in America actually go through and how they are prepared for the job market.”

“The STAIR project, in particular, is one way that dozens of students from both institutions have been deeply impacted by this exchange,” says Mark Schaub. “I love ‘selling’ students on the idea of semester-long
study at CUE and even guarantee that they will fall in love with the school and city. They do!”

The faculty mobility component of the STAIR program existed to offer faculty similar experiences abroad, to entertain different teaching methods and cultural perspectives and to collaborate on research. “In the past year, my GVSU colleague John Constantelos and I have published an article in the Polish journal that Professor Wach edits” says GVSU Professor Diven. “The collaboration continues!”

Although the STAIR funding cycle ended in 2012, study abroad grants from the Padnos International Center are dedicated for student support and relationships exist that will maintain the framework for dual degrees. The intentions are to forge ahead.

The 40-year partnership between Grand Valley State University and the Cracow University of Economics witnessed both evolution and stability. The official agreements have been renewed, re-designed and enhanced to accommodate changing populations, desires, histories, and evolving institutions, all while retaining the core goals of academic development and the provision for transformative learning experiences for the two university communities.

While the willingness and ability to adapt accounts for the successful longevity of the relationship, proper leadership played a most significant role. At GVSU, from the very first visits to CUE, President Lubbers acknowledged the generosity and hospitality with which members of GVSU were treated while there: invitations to homes, dinners, and receptions were regular and pleasurable as were the many meaningful conversations throughout. “Boy would they treat us well,” he recollected. Back at GVSU, acting on his own understanding of hospitality and respect for relationships, President Lubbers was clear his university too would act in kind. President Lubbers empowered his faculty and staff – those who teach and those who negotiate and act upon important partnership details – to extend the hospitality and kindness to CUE guests at GVSU that they deserved. As he indicated, the goals of the partnership would best be obtained through “good relationships and caring about people.”

GVSU faculty and staff involved in the 40-year partnership concur. Regarding the program goals, Bruce Klein reflects that “it is a cliché,
but for many students, being immersed in a different culture helped them understand and even question aspects of their own culture. I believe that many came away from the program with an understanding of folks with backgrounds different from their own and more sensitive to the people around them.” That enhanced sensitivity was not lost on the faculty either. Professor Klein, speaking for himself and his wife, Georgianna, continues, “we made friendships that have lasted to the present day. We have watched their children grow up, start careers, get married and become parents. We have visited Kraków several times after retiring so we could keep up these very important relationships.”

Similar sentiments have been expressed by so many who have both contributed to and benefitted from the ongoing partnership. Mark Schaub, for example, also understands the unique value of the GVSU-CUE partnership: “Cracow University of Economics has changed my life. Rather, it’s not so much the institution that has done so, but the individual relationships, the friendships, that have changed my life.” Provost Davis describes her most memorable experiences as the relationships that she characterizes as “warm and productive” adding, “I have valued their collegiality.”

President Haas, when looking back at the evolution of the partnership that begin back in 1975, while now providing for its leadership 40 years later, reflects that “[m]any commonalities bring us together - we may have a limited understanding of language but have a clearer understanding of values. Real and lasting friendships have been formed and sustained. From this, the world becomes a better place. I am pleased that current efforts will continue to enable others to participate.” President Haas maintains that the GVSU-CUE partnership is “exemplar for other relationships.”

President Lubbers has been recognized for his foresight and leadership with this special partnership on many occasions including an honor bestowed by the Polish Consulate for his contributions in Poland and, most recently, in 2014, as a “Hometown Hero” by the American Red Cross when he accepted the Henry Dunant Global Impact Award. As acknowledged, he “set the tone for compassionate internationalization [through] infusing global understanding as part of the educational mission for GVSU” His own faculty and staff have presented him with an ermine robe obtained from Kraków, the traditional academic regalia worn by Polish university rectors during formal academic
assemblies, in full appreciation of his leadership, his fondness for the partnership he initiated, and for all the lives that have been enriched. When he reflects on the precedent he had set and the scores of GVSU and CUE faculty, staff and students who have gained professionally, academically and personally through the partnership, he says that its most valuable and distinguishing accomplishment is its ability to “join academic development with professional achievement and satisfying personal relationships,” and then adds, “getting outside your culture to develop friendships changes your life.”
Ezra Gearhart, GVSC’s dean and director of the newly established International Studies Institute, follows up on previous contacts in Kraków, and travels to Kraków with GVSC President Arend D. Lubbers. That trip and the cultivation of a relationship with the Polish Heritage Society in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Lubbers and Gearhart, leads to the initiation of a summer program in Kraków in 1975 comprised of Grand Rapids community members accompanying GVSC faculty and staff and to an academic collaboration.

Upon return from Kraków, Ezra Gearhardt develops a proposal for a collaboration with the Academy of Economics, later known as the Cracow University of Economics (CUE).

1975

GVSC Russian language professor Christine Rydel, GVSC Dean Ezra Gearhart and members of the Grand Rapids Polish Heritage
Society travel to Poland for a cultural program and establish further contacts in Kraków. Other members of the community include Ed Szymans, Cultural attaché staff member of US Embassy in Warsaw during WWII, and Donald Wozniak, a member of GVSC’s first graduating class in 1967, and his spouse, Diane.

“The six week program, under the aegis of the School of Economics, afforded us the opportunity to experience first hand a smattering of Polish life/culture that would later evolve into life-changing events for that part of Eastern Europe. We are grateful to have been part of that inaugural group which gave participants a most enriching experience.” (Donald Wozniak, 1975 Polish Program)

Initial cooperation signed between Grand Valley State Colleges (GVSC) and Academy of Economics (AE) by GVSC President Arend D. Lubbers and CUE Rector Fajferek. Agreement was signed at GVSC’s campus in Allendale, Michigan, USA.

**Historical context:** Grand Valley State Colleges is comprised of the College of Arts and Sciences, Seidman College of Business, College IV, and the less traditional colleges, Thomas Jefferson College and William James College. The total enrollment is 7,340. By 2015, the 40th anniversary of the partnership, enrollment at Grand Valley State University reaches over 25,000.

Gerald R. Ford, a native of Grand Rapids, is President of the United States. The Fall of Saigon to communist forces occurs in April and President Ford declares an end to the US involvement in the Vietnam War. However, the US and the USSR with their profound political and economic differences, remain in the midst of the Cold War (1947-1991). Many countries in Central and Eastern Europe are under control of the Soviet Union, including Poland. The partnership between GVSC and the Cracow University of Economics bring together university faculty, students and staff whose lives existed in profoundly different circumstances.

**1977**

**May 26**

New agreement is signed between GVSC and Academy of Economics (AE) by GVSC President Arend Lubbers and AE Rector Antoni Fajferek:
• Covers period of 1977 – 1980
• Students – 15 from GVSC to study at AE for 10 weeks in fall semester
• Faculty – 5 scientists from AE to spend 10 weeks at GVSC for research and collaboration with faculty colleagues
• Terms defined include stipends, accommodations

Summer
GVSC Professor of Economics and Management, and International Studies Institute Fellow, Kenneth Zapp, is selected as program director and travels to Kraków to meet with AE for group preparations for the fall. Professor Zapp is met at Rector’s Office by Professor Magda Paleczny, the AE program coordinator.

According to Professor Zapp, the Polish program reflects GVSC’s interest in Poland. “We want our students to understand the Polish economy, how it works in practice. If we are to trade with Eastern European countries, we have to understand how their economies function.” (Kenneth Zapp, GVSC Professor)

To enhance enrollment of GVSC students for the AE program, President Lubbers releases scholarship funds. Fall enrollment grows to 12 students.

Fall
First GVSC faculty-led student program to Academy of Economics arrives for 10-week program; faculty director, Kenneth Zapp.

Historical context: GVSC in Poland in the early years: Students and faculty from GVSC who traveled to Kraków were experiencing some of the realities of life under communism. While possessing a US Passport shielded them from most of the harsher difficulties, through their contacts with students in the dormitories (Dom Merkury) where they lived, faculty lectures, and field trips, along with their own observations and experiences shopping and living in the city, GVSC participants understood a lifestyle radically different from their own.

Government efforts to isolate Poles from Western influence meant media was controlled by the State. Polish students impressions of life in the US were sometimes bizarre and based upon what
the State allowed to be televised from the West – e.g., *Kojak* and *Dynasty* – which portrayed the West as crime ridden, wealthy and decadent. Under communism, religion was suppressed, but in Poland, where Catholicism was practiced fervently by over 90% of the populace, and, after 1978, whose Pope in Rome was a native son of Poland and former bishop of Kraków, communist authorities permitted its practice out of fear of retaliation. Churches were sanctuaries and ideas were freely expressed within their walls. Some displayed Solidarity trade union banners within their walls, even after the union was outlawed in 1981. Demonstrations against the authorities were held near or at churches, such as those in Nowa Huta outside the Lenin Steel Works where many of the residents worked. GVSC students were given a tour of the facility as heavy industry was emphasized as a potential economic boon for Central Europe, but were not allowed to bring in their cameras.

GVSC students became familiar with the scarcity of goods that seemed to accompany life under a planned economy. They saw the infamous early morning breadlines, where Polish residents lined up outside of neighborhood bakeries for their daily share, clusters of shoppers pressing against shop windows when shipments arrived, and many bare shelves. Students were given meat and dairy ration coupons upon arrival to the University to use when shopping for food. Many would eventually give them over to the Polish students and the women who worked in the dormitory. The variety that existed in US stores was in stark contrast to the simplicity in Polish stores. There were no brands to compete with each other. Milk was milk and prices were fixed. Dollar stores (Pewex) where US currency could be used to buy scarcer goods existed and promoted the black market exchange of currency. Students were approached regularly on the streets to “change money.” The value of the US dollar seemed almost limitless and students needed to learn to not be extravagant for fear of being offensive. GVSC male students about to graduate bought tailored wool suits for job interviews for $5.00.

Despite the scarcity of materials goods, Poles were bountiful in their intellectual traditions and with their historical depth. GVSC students were impressed with Polish student’s awareness of world events, despite their suppressed media outlets, with their facility with foreign languages, and their knowledge of history and the arts.
University education was prized in Polish culture and GVSC students were frequently humbled by their counterparts in Poland.

Professor Zapp, program director: “In 1983 Magda, Tara and I took groups to Yugoslavia and to Poland to study their economies and social systems. Several students participated in both programs. One woman shared an insight I have often remembered. Though living standards were higher in Yugoslavia, she preferred her experience in Poland. She said the kindness, dignity, and respectful behavior of Poles taught her the most about life.”

Simply touring the Old Town in Kraków with their university hosts was a lesson in history. David Waterstradt, a GVSC participant in 1984, remarked that getting off the bus in Kraków was like stepping back into the Middle Ages with its centuries-old churches and structures in the medieval town square.

GVSC students would come home with a greater awareness of life in Poland and in a communist Poland, but with an even greater appreciation for the inventiveness and resourcefulness that its citizens exercised in their efforts to pursue a rewarding and meaningful life. The complexities of becoming more globally competent were impressed upon students in ways only possible through the partnership opportunity.

**1978**

**January**

Arrival of first AE (CUE) faculty scholar to GVSC – Magda Paleczny. Stays from January through May.

**Fall**

Wedding of Magda Paleczny, AE, and Kenneth Zapp, GVSC, takes place in Kraków. Attended by President Lubbers and Nancy Lubbers. GVSC students arrive 3 days later.

Second GVSC Faculty-led student program to the Academy of Economics arrives for 10-week study program; directors are GVSC professor Kenneth Zapp and AE professor Magda Paleczny.

**October 16**

**Historical context:** During the second 10-week program at CUE,
the former Archbishop of Kraków, Karol Wojtyła, is elected as Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and takes the name Pope John Paul II. Karol Wojtyła was born just south of Kraków and has resided in Kraków as a young priest and later as the Bishop and Cardinal of Kraków. Cracovians consider him their native son and their excitement over his election to the papacy changed the course of their lives. Poles were fiercely Catholic and Communism is officially atheistic. He is widely attributed as being a significant cause behind the collapse of communism, inspiring the formation of Poland’s Solidarity movement and the bravery and steadfastness of his fellow Poles. His visits to Poland, including to Kraków, drew ecstatic crowds of millions. In 1987, during a summer program in Kraków, GVSU students and faculty were able to see Pope John Paul II in person along with a crowd of roughly 2 – 3 million devoted followers, when he held an open air Mass and preached in a meadow near Kraków’s Old Town.

1979
Faculty-led study program to the Academy of Economics. Faculty leadership is assumed by John Batchelder, Professor of Political Science.

1980
Faculty-led study program to the Academy of Economics. Faculty leader - John Batchelder, Professor of Political Science.

1981
February 25
Honorary Doctorate Degree is bestowed upon Professor Antoni Fajferek, Rector, CUE, by President Arend D. Lubbers, GVSU.

December 13
Historical context: General Wojciech Jaruzelski, last communist leader of Poland, declares martial law in Poland to suppress Solidarity Trade Union activities that demand greater freedoms for Poles. Military troops and tanks are sent into Polish cities.

For the next seven years the Solidarity Trade Union remained formally outlawed. Leaders were arrested, public gatherings were forbidden, publications were censored, and many schools and universities were closed. Curfews were imposed and Polish borders were temporarily sealed. GVSC program activity temporarily ceased.
In succeeding years, beginning in 1982, GVSC students and faculty who participated in the program in Kraków learned about and witnessed first-hand the unique circumstances in which their counterparts in Poland lived, especially under martial law.

Bruce Klein, GVSU Professor of Computer Science and eight-time faculty director of summer program for students:

“But, more than lectures, their daily living was the greatest teacher. In the early days, pre-1990, the glaring differences between the Polish and American economic systems and the even greater difference between their comparative wealth and that of their Polish colleagues had a great impact on them. Most became sensitive to the differences and lived dorm life accordingly. They did without some things, like bananas, because to buy them was equivalent to showing off. Of course, much of this changed as Poland made the transition to a market economy. “(Klein, 2015)

Polish scholars, but not students, were able to attend GVSC under the auspices of the agreement, allowing them to openly pursue research and engage with their US colleagues. Many contacts were to result in long-lasting friendships.

Dr. Susan Martin, former GVSU Professor of Accounting and current President of Eastern Michigan University:

“…the GVSU exchange for three faculty to visit the university each fall was transformational for many careers that led to their final success in receiving the Habilitation degree….. GVSU played a pivotal role by inviting faculty to come to our campus and stay for a few months to enjoy library materials and interaction with colleagues to ignite their research.” (2015)

President Lubbers, in retrospect, suggests that the opportunity for members of a communist society and a free western society further motivated relationships that were already natural, open and friendly.

1982
Faculty-led study program to the Academy of Economics. Faculty leader - John Batchelder, Professor of Political Science. Program is cancelled. Martial Law is declared in Poland.
1983
Faculty-led study program to the Academy of Economics: faculty co-directors – GVSC professor Kenneth Zapp and CUE professor Magda Paleczny

1984
May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by GVSU political science professor John Batchelder

Fall Semester
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSC: Stanisław Bełniak and Zofia Dach

1985
60TH Jubilee anniversary of the Academy of Economics and 10th anniversary of GVSU/AE partnership.

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by GVSU political science professor John Batchelder

Fall Semester
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSC: Tadeusz Kudłacz, Jacek Purchla, and Leszek Kozioł (Professor Kudłacz’s son, Michał, became a CUE professor and visited GVSU in 2013 – the first second-generation CUE scholar to participate in the partnership)

1986
Jan-April
Inauguration of a course designed specifically for the participants of the summer Polish program: *The Language, History, and Culture of Poland*. Designed and taught by Alan Walczak, the course is designed to allow students and faculty to gain a more in-depth knowledge of Poland. The student learning enhances the program’s success and the course leads to the creation of the sequence of Polish Language course offerings at GVSU.

April 26
**Historical context:** The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster
occurred on April 26, 1986, in Ukraine, a country bordering Poland. The accident released large quantities of radioactive particles into the atmosphere and a plume drifted over parts of the Soviet Union and Europe. Concerns over the safety of travel to the region led to the withdrawal of many GVSC students planning to participate in the Polish summer program scheduled to depart in May. Though at the time of departure the US State Department and the CDC determined it was safe to travel to Poland. Of twenty-four students scheduled to participate, only six chose to go. GVSC did not cancel the program and the six students with two directors proceeded.

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSC students in Kraków led by Professor of Psychology David Bernstein and GVSC staff member Alan Walczak.

Fall Semester
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSC: Andrzej Adamczyk, Andrzej Malawski, Wacław Wajda, Jolanta Kubała, Ewa Krzyściak

1987

**Historical context:** Michigan Legislature passes a law renaming the college Grand Valley State University.

May 9
Honorary doctorate is conferred upon Professor Jerzy Altkorn, Rector of the CUE, by President Arend Lubbers, GVSU.

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by Geography Professor Ron Poitras and Director of International Studies, Alan Walczak.

During the program, GVSU faculty and students witnessed another significant historical event for Poles as Cracovian native son, Pope John Paul II conducted an open-air Mass and preached to millions of attendees in Błonie, a vast meadow just outside of the Old Town. Large Solidarność (Solidarity) banners unfurled in the meadow, though illegal, as people were emboldened by the Pope’s presence.
Fall Semester
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Ryszard Borowiecki, Bogdan Ludwiczak, Adam Szalkowski, Andrzej Szopa, Tadeusz Wilusz

1988
May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by GVSU Political Science Professor John Batchelder

Fall Semester
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Ryszard Szewczyk, Janusz Raganiewicz, Michal Woźniak, Anna Karwińska, Marian Kuraś

1989

Historical context: Revolutions in the communist states of Central and Eastern Europe in 1989 resulted in the fall of communism. Events began in Poland and continued to other Central and Eastern European nations. Common among those developments was the use of civil resistance in opposition to the one-party communist rule. Waves of strikes occurred in Poland in 1988 demanding the re-legalization of the Solidarity trade union. General Jaruzelski, who declared martial law in Poland in 1981, supported negotiations with Solidarity that led to its future legalization. On June 4, 1989, Solidarity won an overwhelming victory in a partially free parliamentary election. On August 24, 1989, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a supporter of Solidarity, devout Catholic and anti-Communist, was made the first non-communist prime minister resulting in the first non-communist government in the Eastern Bloc and the peaceful fall of communism in that country. Mass demonstrations in other cities in the East led to the fall of the Berlin Wall, another powerful symbol of the collapse of communism. Communism’s collapse along with the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, led to declarations that the Cold War was over. Poland transitioned from Communist Party rule to a more Western-style democratic political system and adopted a form of market economy.

In the years following, GVSU participants in the partnership program began learning about the challenges of the transitions Poles were experiencing. Over time, they also witnessed changes occurring on the streets of Kraków as characteristics of a market economy began to appear in the forms of new businesses,
restaurants, building renovations, advertising, and availability of material goods.

The easing of travel restrictions for Poles allows for the eventual attendance of CUE students at GVSU. Partnership terms were defined and the first CUE students arrived to GVSU in fall, 1992.

**May-June**
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by Professor and Chair of Computer Science, Bruce Klein and Professor of College of Education, Allan TenEyck.

**May 17**
Honorary doctorate conferred upon President Arend D. Lubbers, GVSU, by Rector Jerzy Altkorn, Cracow University of Economics

**Fall Semester**
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Jacek Wołoszyn, Mieczysław Dobija, Andrzej Wojtyna,

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**1990**

**May-June**
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by Professor of Computer Science, Bruce Klein

**Fall Semester**
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Wanda Sułkowska, Jerzy Skrzypek, Andrzej Iwasiewicz

Anna Karwińska, CUE Professor of Sociology, arrives for one-semester teaching appointment at GVSU in Sociology Department. Invited by Don Williams, Chair of Social Sciences, GVSU.

**1991**

**April 18**
Rector of the Cracow University of Economics, Professor Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski, conducts a lecture at GVSU on post-communist Europe.

**May-June**
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by Professor of Computer Science, Bruce Klein
**Fall Semester**
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Jan Steczkowki, Piotr Małecki, Czesław Mesjasz

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**1992**

**Fall Semester**
First semester exchange students from CUE arrive to GVSU: Łukasz Piechowski and Tomasz Ronikier. New feature of GVSU/CUE agreement defines terms and includes scholarships.

AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Krzysztof Kosiec, Anna Malina, Andrzej Żaliwski

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**1993**

**May-June**
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students in Kraków led by Professor Susan Martin, Accounting, and Professor Allan TenEyck, College of Education

**August 31**
Honorary doctorate is bestowed upon Rector Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski, CUE, by GVSU President Arend D. Lubbers.

**Fall Semester**
AE visiting faculty scholars at GVSU: Jolanta Kurkiewicz, Małgorzata Bednarczyk, Anna Walkosz

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**1994**

Communication from Bruce Klein and Sue Martin, faculty program directors, begins for family and friends of summer program student participants (how to contact students abroad, the Office of International Affairs at GVSU, emergencies, what to expect...)

**May-June**
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students at CUE in Kraków co-directed by professors Bruce Klein, Computer Science, and Sue Martin, Accounting.

**Fall Semester**
AE visiting scholars at GVSU: Anna Karwińska, Adalberta Walden-Kozłowska, Krystyna Przybylska
1995
70th Jubilee anniversary of CUE and 20th anniversary of GVSU/CUE partnership

President Lubbers communicates the following to Rector Mikułowski Pomorski:

- In recognition of anniversary GVSU will provide a gift of $1,000 for books to commemorate the opening of the new CUE library coinciding with the 70th anniversary
- GVSU will provide a plaque to CUE commemorating the 20th anniversary of a successful cooperation between the schools
- Presence of Rectors Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski, Jerzy Altkorn, and Fajferek requested for the ceremony

May
GVSU delegation to CUE: President Arend Lubbers; Sue Martin, School of Business; Michael Mitchell, visiting professor, School of Business; Chuck and Stella Royce, Grand Valley University Foundation Board; Alan Walczak, GVSU Director of International Studies.

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students at CUE in Kraków led by Professor Bruce Klein, Computer Science

Fall Semester
AE visiting scholars at GVSU: Aleksy Pocztowski, Lucia Karpiel, Andrzej Gajewski

1996
August
CUE contingent visits GVSU—Rector Grabiński, Prof. Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski, Staszek Gac (administrator), Marek Frankiewicz (administrator).

AE visiting scholars at GVSU: Regina Klimkowska, Marta Gollinger-Tarajko, Adam Sagan. Two CUE semester students (exchange)
GVSU hosts – Alan Walczak, Director, International Affairs; Brenda Robinson, Dean; Bruce Klein and Ron Poitras, faculty directors; Jean Enright, Executive Assistant to the President.
1997
March 3
CUE University Senate determines that the Academy of Economics official name be changed to Cracow University of Economics. The change reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the institution.

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students at CUE in Kraków directed by Professor Cathie Jones-Rikkers, College of Business

Fall Semester
AE visiting scholars at GVSU: Marek Dziura, Andrzej Chochół, Piotr Stefanow

1998
May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students at CUE in Kraków led by Professor Bruce Klein, Computer Science

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Alicja Miś, Mariusz Grabowski, Przemysław Kiskiel

1999
Jan 3 – May 25
CUE Sociology Professor, Anna Karwińska, teaches for Sociology Department at GVSU

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students at CUE in Kraków led by Professor Tom Sinclair

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Lidia Mesjasz, Tomasz Smolen, Zbigniew Rudnicki

2000
75th anniversary of CUE and 25th anniversary of GVSU/CUE partnership
May
75th anniversary of CUE and 25th anniversary of GVSU/CUE partnership: GVSU Delegation to CUE: Don Lubbers, President, and Nancy Lubbers; Glenn Niemeyer, Provost, and spouse Betty; David Mielke, Dean, Seidman School of Business; Dan Balfour, Director, School of Public and Non-Profit Administration; Sue Martin, Professor, Accounting and Taxation and Dr. Lawrence Martin; Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science and delegation leader; Georgianna Klein, Associate Professor, Math and Computer Science; Donna Brooks, Chair of Board of Control and Jim; Allan TenEyck, Professor, School of Education and spouse, Gloria; Ron Poitras, Associate Professor, Anthropology and Sociology; Jean Enright, Executive Assistant to the President; Patricia Renucci, Community volunteer; Marie McKendall, Associate Professor, Management.

May-June
Faculty-led summer study program for GVSU students at CUE led by GVSU Professor, Marie McKendall, Management. Later assumed by Alan Walczak, former Director of International Studies at GVSU, who was temporarily residing in Kraków.

May 16-20
GVSU/CUE International Symposium, “Contemporary Problems in Accounting” co-organized by Sue Martin, GVSU, and Mieczyslaw Dobija, CUE. Symposium chair, Bruce Klein, GVSU.

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Agnieszka Hajdukiewicz, Zbigniew Stańczyk, Grażyna Paliwoda

2001
Professor Dan Balfour visits the CUE to prepare for the study abroad program in 2002

May-June
GVSU faculty-led program is cancelled

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Danuta Kabat, Bożena Pera, Dariusz Fatula
October 15
CUE faculty member panel presentation at GVSU: “Poland; The Transition for a Planned to a Market Economy”.

2002
International Accounting Theory Conference – co sponsored by Professors Sue Martin, GVSU, and Mieczysław Dobija, CUE.

May - June
GVSU Faculty-led summer program at CUE led by GVSU faculty Dan Balfour, SPNA

GVSU Economics Professor, Gerry Simons, begins sabbatical at CUE.

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Beata Buchelt, Andrzej Slabon, Katarzyna Glinka

2003
May – June
GVSU Faculty-led summer program at CUE led by GVSU faculty Dan Balfour, SPNA

Oct 1 – 3
Dan Balfour, GVSU SPNA faculty, visits CUE for Convocation

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Henryk Czubek, Ryszard Węgrzyn, Adam Figiel

2004
International Accounting Theory Conference – co sponsored by Professors Sue Martin, GVSU, and Mieczysław Dobija, CUE.

April 15-21
CUE Rector Ryszard Borowiecki, Vice-Rector Janusz Teczke and Professor Michał Patkaniovski, Chair, International Management visit GVSU:

- Extend ongoing agreement
- Development of newest exchange with CUE and GVSU School of Non-Profit Administration (SPNA)
• Induction of Rector Borowiecki and Vice Rector Teczke as honorary members of the School of Public and Non-Profit Administration Honor Society.
• GVSU President Mark A. Murray signs agreement with CUE establishing a joint MPA program and faculty/student exchange

Hosts from Padnos International Center: Mark Schaub, Assistant Dean, International Education; Rebecca Hambleton, Director of Study Abroad and International Partnerships; Ela Rossmiller, Coordinator of Global Programs; Kate Stoetzner, Director of International Student and Scholar Services.

May-June
GVSU Faculty-led summer program at CUE led by GVSU faculty Yatin Bhagwat, Seidman School of Business

June 28
Communication from Sue Martin, GVSU Faculty, to Mark Murray, GVSU President: concerning participation in the 80th Jubilee of CUE in Kraków and background of activity: i.e., collaboration between Sue Martin and Prof. Dobija, CUE, on International Accounting Theory conferences in 2002 and 2004. Participation in previous ceremony (75th anniversary of CUE and 25th anniversary of partnership in 2000)

Oct 4 – 7
Piotr Buła, CUE Director, School of Management, visits GVSU

October 11
GVSU Professor Dan Balfour co-presents paper with Dominika Salwa, CUE, at 1st International Conference on International Management in Light of Geopolitical Changes in Europe and the World -- “Globalization and the Erosion of Community.”

Fall
Professor Balfour attends Fall CUE Convocation. Received Padnos grant to discuss implementation of exchange agreement for the MPA.

Fall
Sue Martin, GVSU Professor of Accounting and Taxation, conducts sabbatical at CUE and presents papers in Kielce and Warsaw.
Fall Semester  CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Renata Papież, Agnieszka Pichur, Dominika Salva

2005
80th Jubilee anniversary of CUE and 30th anniversary year of partnership

March
Invitation to Mark Schaub, GVSU CIO, to attend 80th Jubilee anniversary of CUE on 3 June, 2005.

May
GVSU Professor of Accounting, Sue Martin, teaches principles of accounting to CUE and EU students in Kraków.

May 28-31
General Accounting Theory III – GVSU/CUE joint conference: Co-chairs Mieczysław Dobija, CUE Chair of Accounting and Finance, and Sue Martin, GVSU Professor of Accounting. Conference sessions held in Zakopane.

June
80th anniversary of CUE and 30th anniversary of GVSU/CUE partnership. GVSU attendance at CUE with photos. Mark Schaub, GVSU CIO; Gayle Davis, Provost – lead delegation.

June 20
Renewal GVSU/CUE Agreement signed by Provost Davis, GVSU, and Rector Borowiecki, CUE, with following features:

- Semester exchange of undergraduate students
- Faculty and staff exchange
- Summer study abroad for GVSU students at CUE (over 275 students from start to 2005)
- Scholarly activities (joint research, lectures, symposia…)
- Fall scholar exchange – CUE to GVSU in fall (active since 1975)
- Visiting scholars – 1 GVSU faculty to CUE for lecture
- MPA cooperation
- GVSU guest lecturers for 2 – 3 weeks at CUE
- GVSU visiting scholars – semester or year at CUE
- Student exchange – 2 from CUE for GVSU MPA program for 1 year
From this cooperation, as of 2015, 20 CUE graduates have completed their MPA GVSU.

**Oct 14 – 20**
Tomasz Kusio, CUE International Office, visits GVSU

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Jerzy Szakiel, Agnieszka Zając

**December 11**
GVSU Professor Dan Balfour presents paper at 1st International Conference at CUE on International Management in Light of Geopolitical Changes in Europe and the World -- “Ethical Issues for International Business and Organizations: The Challenge of Masked Ethical Failure.”

**2006**

**February – March**
Piotr Buła, CUE Director, School of Management, at GVSU

**February - June**
Mark Schaub, GVSU Chief International Officer and faculty member, receives Fulbright and teaches Business Communication at CUE for one-semester sabbatical.

**July 24 – 28**
Delegation from CUE visits GVSU: Andrzej Szromnik, Vice-Rector of Students and Teaching; Jarosław Kaczmarek, Chancellor; Tomasz Rojek, Director, Office of the Rector; Piotr Buła, Director, School of Management

**Spring**
Steve Lipnicki, GVSU Staff member in Students Services, visits CUE

**Fall Semester**
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Ewa Cierniak-Szostak, Dorota Kuder, Bartosz Kurek

**Oct 26-29**
Janusz Teczke, CUE Vice-Rector, visits GVSU
2007

Spring
Initial discussions and groundwork for STAIR Program (Studies in Trans-Atlantic International Relations) CUE/GVSU meeting in Kraków, attended by Polly Diven, Director of GVSU International Relations Program, Mark Schaub, Chief International Officer, GVSU, and Katarzyna Pawlikowska, from CUE’s International Programmes Office.

May - June
GVSU Professor Balfour travels to CUE on Padnos International Center Partnership Sustenance Grant to sustain GVSU/CUE activity between GVSU School of Public, Non-Profit and Health Administration (SPNA) and the CUE.

Polly Diven, GVSU International Relations Faculty, teaches at CUE

June 28
Memo from Mark Schaub, GVSU Chief International Officer, to faculty: concerns over summer program declining enrollments, and solutions to solicit and consider.

Fall
STAIR Program Proposal final discussions at GVSU: attended by Michał Patkaniowski (CUE) Tamas Mihalydeak (University of Debrecen, Hungary) and Mark Schaub, GVSU. Funding proposal applications are prepared and submitted to US Department of Education and an Atlantis EU-US grant by Mark Schaub, and Katarzyna Pawlikowska.

2008

February 20
Communication from Dan Balfour, Professor, School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration, GVSU, to Mark Schaub, Chief International Officer, GVSU, regarding extension of MPA agreement with CUE

March 7 – 17
Prof. Balfour is guest lecturer at CUE for 12 MPA students and meets CUE alumni from GVSU programs for discussions on forming an alumni association.
August
Commencement of STAIR agreement (Studies in Trans-Atlantic International Relations): GVSU/CUE/University of Debrecen, Hungary.

STAIR Program: The objectives of the STAIR Program are to provide students of International Relations opportunities for studying abroad thereby personalizing trans-Atlantic international issues and events and enhancing participants’ global competence. Students study at each of the three participating institutions potentially culminating in dual degrees. STAIR faculty exchange present opportunities to lecture abroad and collaborate with colleagues through joint teaching and research. University communities benefit from the additional exposure to the visiting participants and virtual conferences. International Relations is determined to be the academic program “mostly because of the immediate and enthusiastic support of the IR Program Director, Dr. Polly Diven” (Schaub, GVSU).

According to Schaub, “After we got word that our project would be funded….we were elated. This would mean a great opportunity for our students – to earn full Bachelors degrees on two continents. These dual degrees would launch them on promising academic and professional careers. And they have!” (Mark Schaub, GVSU, November 20, 2014)

March 18-20
Initial STAIR summit at GVSU: Administrative Board and Academic Board identify areas of student co-curricular and extra-curricular collaboration.

April 3
Final report from Dan Balfour, Professor, SPNA, to Rebecca Hambleton, GVSU identifies areas partnership programs as recipients of partnership sustenance grant.

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Sabina Augustyn, Rafał Morawczyński, Ksymena Rosiek and Bartosz Kurek

October
President Haas leads delegation to CUE; participates in the
installment of the new Rector, Roman Niestrój (October 2, 2008). Delegation: President Haas; Marcia Haas (spouse); Lucille Taylor, Chair of Board of Trustees; Teri Losey, Special Assistant to President; Mark Markham, GVSU Assistant Professor of Music (performed at inauguration); Mark Schaub, Executive Director of Padnos International Center.

**Oct 6- Nov 2**
Gerry Simons, GVSU Economics Faculty, visits CUE

**October 22**
Communication to Rector Niestrój from Teri Losey – sent information on faculty evaluation process at GVSU per request.

**2009**

**March 13-25**
Aleksander Surdej, CUE visitor to GVSU

**August 23-28**
Joanna Pauk, CUE staff exchange participant

**Winter**
Robert Stewart-Ingersoll, GVSU Faculty, visits CUE.

**2010**

35th anniversary of GVSU/CUE Partnership

**March**
Polly Diven, GVSU International Relations faculty, teaches at CUE for STAIR Program

Communication between Łukasz Mamica, CUE, and Rebecca Hambleton, Director of GVSU Partnership Programs concerning the granting of diplomas for students in MPA program. At GVSU CUE students will earn a second MPA

**April 2**
Draft agreement for collaborative MPA program

**May 17 – 30**
Paul Lane, GVSU Business faculty member, and John Farris, Engineering and Computing faculty member, visits CUE.
May 24
Discussions with CUE regarding MPA collaboration: Mark Hoffman, Associate Professor, GVSU School of Public, Non-Profit and Health Administration, and Łukasz Mamica, CUE.

August 18
Updated draft of GVSU/CUE agreement and commemoration of 35 years of cooperation. Signatories: President Thomas J. Haas, GVSU, and Rector Professor dr hab. Roman Niestrój, CUE.
Appendix A to agreement – articles regarding enhanced MPA cooperation

- Guest Lecture Opportunities for GVSU Scholars at CUE to teach 20 hour course in MPA program
- Visiting Scholars from GVSU invited to teach at CUE full time for semester or year.
- 2 CUE students attend GVSU for one year to earn MPA degree
- GVSU students invited to participate in the short course at CUE

August 25-29
CUE visitors for GVSU 50th Anniversary Celebration: Andrzej and Barbara Malawski

Winter
Harinder Singh, GVSU Business Faculty, visits CUE

December 11
Honorary Doctorate bestowed upon Rector Roman Niestrój, CUE, by President Haas, GVSU, during GVSU 50th anniversary celebration.

2011
January
Article in Periodical Kurier, UEK, from Kraków, concerning the honorary doctorate bestowed on Professor, dr. hab. Roman Niestrój, December 11, 2010, of degree of Doctor of Business, Honaris Causa, by GVSU President Thomas Haas.

May
Brian Phillips, GVSU Sociology Faculty member, visits CUE
May
John Constantelos, GVSU Political Science Faculty, teaches at CUE for STAIR Exchange

May 8 – 27
Christine Hernandez, Staff member in Accounting Department, visits CUE

Fall Semester
CUE visiting faculty at GVSU: Marcin Osikowicz, Monica Sady

October
CUE Convocation attended by Dr. George Grant, Dean of College of Community and Public Service, GVSU

Oct. 23-31
GVSU Political Science Faculty, Heather Tafel, teaches at CUE for STAIR exchange

November
3 GVSU students (Brown, Thatcher, Marotti) present research from STAIR program at the Annual Conference of the Midwest International Studies Association in St. Louis, MO.

2012
Feb-June
Mark Hoffman, Associate Professor in SPNA, conducts sabbatical teaching at CUE. Participated in conference with article published in the proceedings.

March-April
CUE visiting faculty at GVSU: Michał Kudłacz and Anita Modrzejewska. Michał’s father, Tadeusz, was visiting faculty at GVSU in 1985. Michał is the first second-generation visiting scholar.

April 28
GVSU Commencement shows video featuring Barbara Załoga, STAIR dual degree recipient from CUE.

May
GVSU student Anna Marotti represents STAIR and ATLANTIS at NAFSA conference in Houston, TX
May 6 – 15
GVSU Political Science Faculty, Tom Walker, teaches at CUE for STAIR exchange

October
Robert Frey, GVSU Management faculty, is exchange participant at CUE

Fall Semester
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Małgorzata Zięba and Piotr Karas

2013

April 6 – 19
CUE faculty visit GVSU for STAIR faculty exchange program: Piotr Stanek and Krzysztof Wach

Reflections on STAIR Project after final year of funding: “It was a great advantage for the students at GVSU to have Polish students in their International Relations classes. During the STAIR years, I added a couple of group projects to the US foreign policy I teach and made sure that the GVSU students and CUE students worked together in teams. They really learned a lot of from each other and enjoyed learning each other’s perspectives on US foreign policy.

“Another great benefit was enabling GVSU IR students to study abroad for an entire academic year. GVSU IR majors lived in Kraków in the spring term and studied International Business and Economics. Many of them wrote theses under the direction of the CUE STAIR advisors, and thus received “dual degrees” from CUE and GVSU.

“My GVSU colleague John Constantelos and I have published an article in the Polish journal that Professor Wach edits. The collaboration continues!” Polly Diven, Professor, International Relations, STAIR Coordinator, GVSU.

May
GVSU delegation visits CUE for continuation of STAIR discussions: Provost David and Fred Kraft; Anne Hiskes, Brooks College Dean and Rich Hiskes; Jodi Chycinski, Director of Admissions; Kate Stoetzner, PIC; Mark Schaub, PIC.
**Fall Semester**
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Agnieszka Zur and Iwona Kubica

### 2014
**April 8-11**
CUE Rector Andzrej Chochół and spouse, Jadwiga, and Anna Drabina, CUE International Office, visit GVSU

**Fall Semester**
CUE visiting scholars at GVSU: Piotr Kafel and Michał Głuszak

### October
Former GVSU Professor of Accounting, Sue Martin, currently President of Eastern Michigan University, visits colleagues at CUE and with them attends the 650th Academic Convocation at the prestigious Jagiellonian University.

### November
GVSU Outreach Coordinator for Padnos International Center, Alissa Lane, visits CUE

### 2015
90th Jubilee anniversary of CUE and 40th Anniversary year of partnership

**May 27**
Ceremonial dinner for international guests (scheduled)

**May 28**
Church service at St. Mary’s Basilica (8:00am) (scheduled)

Ceremonial session of the Senate (Słowacki Theater), film, concert and reception

**May 29**
Honorary doctoral Degree to be bestowed upon President Haas, GVSU (scheduled)

*Compiled by Alan Walczak, 2015*
1975  GVSU-community program in cooperation with GR Polish Heritage Society. Christine Rydel, Russian language professor, and Ezra Gearhart, GVSU Dean and Director of International Studies Institute, led the group.

1976  Program planning

1977  Kenneth Zapp and Magda Paleczny – first GVSC student group to CUE

1978  Kenneth Zapp and Magda Paleczny

1979  John Batchelder, Political Science

1980  John Batchelder, Political Science

1981  Program Hiatus

1982  Martial Law in Poland – Program Hiatus

1983  Kenneth Zapp and Magda Paleczny

1984  John Batchelder, Political Science

1985  John Batchelder, Political Science

1986  David Bernstein, Social Sciences, and Alan Walczak, Director of International Programs

1987  Ron Poitras, Social Sciences, and Alan Walczak, Director of International Programs

1988  John Batchelder, Political Science

1989  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science; and Allan TenEyck, Professor, College of Education
1990  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science
1991  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science
1992  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science and Richard Joannise, Social Sciences
1993  Susan Martin, Professor, Accounting; and Allan TenEyck, Professor, College of Education
1994  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science, and Susan Martin, Professor, Accounting
1995  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science
1996  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science, and Cathie Jones-Rikkers, Business
1997  Cathie Jones-Rikkers, Business
1998  Bruce Klein, Chair, Computer Science
1999  Tom Sinclair
2000  Marie McKendall & Cathie Jones-Rikkers, Business. Directorship assumed by Alan Walczak, former Director of International Programs, when McKendall and Rikkers returned early.
2001  Susan Martin (program cancelled)
2002  Dan Balfour, SPNA
2003  Dan Balfour, SPNA
2004  Yatin Bhagwat
2005  Yatin Bhagwat (program cancelled)
2008  Gary Stark
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