



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orchard Lake Schools to Honor 2018 Fidelitas Medal Recipient: Professor Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the United States and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas



In Recognition of Scholarly Achievements and Support of the Orchard Lake Schools and Polonia in the USA

The Fidelitas Medal, first awarded in 1949, is presented in recognition of one's fidelity in serving God, country, and the Orchard Lake Schools.

Fidelitas medalists are evaluated for their realization of the religious and cultural ideals of Orchard Lake Schools founder, Rev. Joseph Dabrowski, a Polish missionary priest, who established the original education institution in Detroit in 1885.

Since 1949, members of the Orchard Lake Schools have awarded the Fidelitas Medal to an individual or group who embodies the religious and cultural ideals of our founding father, Rev.

Józef Dąbrowski, a Polish missionary priest, who established the original educational institution in Detroit in 1885. The prestigious award recognizes the recipient for fidelity in serving God, country, and the Orchard Lake Schools.

This year, it is with great joy that the Orchard Lake Schools announces Professor Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in the United States and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, as the 71st *Fidelitas* Medal recipient in recognition of his scholarly achievements and support of the Orchard Lake Schools and Polonia in the USA. He will be recognized at the annual Ambassadors Ball on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan.

Wilczek was born on April 26, 1962 in Chorzów, Poland. He is recognized throughout the world as a prolific literary scholar, intellectual historian, writer and translator, and received the title of Professor of the Humanities from the President of the Republic of Poland. Some of his accomplishments include:

University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland: Graduated (1986); received his Ph.D. (1992); Habilitation (2001); recruited for position as Professor and Faculty Dean (until 2008).

Oxford's St. Anne's College: Postgraduate research in intellectual history (1988).

Warburg Institute, University of London: Completed two postdoctoral projects (1996 & 1998).

The British Centre for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia: Visiting translator (twice).

Rice University, University of Illinois, University of Chicago: Taught Polish literature and language as a visiting professor (1998-2001).

Harvard University, University of Texas at Austin: Guest lecturer.

Boston College, Cleveland State University: Visiting scholar. Doctorate Honoris Causa (Doctor of Humane Letters), Cleveland State University (May 13, 2017).

University of Warsaw: Faculty (2008) with experimental Artes Liberales program; Founding Director of Collegium Artes Liberales (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; 2009-16); established and chaired Center for the Study of the Reformation and Intellectual Culture in Early Modern Europe; and a director of the Artes Liberales Doctoral Studies Program.

Ambassador Wilczek draws upon his scholarly experiences to demonstrate the value of his interdisciplinary approach to cultural diplomacy.

Wilczek joined foreign service in numerous capacities. As a member of the Warsaw-based non-partisan American Study Group at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, he helps bring experts, journalists and academic professionals together to collaborate on political and cultural affairs within the U.S. as they affect Poland, Europe and the trans-Atlantic alliance. Prior to his

appointment to Ambassador, he served as Poland's representative (and President of the affiliate in Warsaw) of the New York-based Kosciuszko Foundation, a nonprofit that cultivates the educational, cultural, and artistic collaboration between the U.S. and Poland.

On October 21, 2016, Wilczek was nominated to serve as the Ambassador by the President of the Republic of Poland. Since arriving in Washington, DC, he has shown a special interest in the well being of the Orchard Lake Schools. "There is hardly a more important institution in Polonia than the SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary at Orchard Lake," said Ambassador Wilczek, upon welcoming Fr. Król as the new Chancellor. "Priests educated at Orchard Lake have contributed over the years to Polish-American communities throughout the United States, cultivating Polish language, customs, traditions and faith."

Additional accomplishments:

- Author and editor of 22 published monographs and over 100 journal articles, both in English and Polish.
- These were circulated in Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Member of numerous professional groups and associations.
- Board member; variety of international academic journals, book series, advisory councils and scholarly initiatives throughout Europe and the U.S.

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