

Tomasz Kryda

The University of Rzeszów Academic Society of Political Scientists activity report 2006

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF RZESZÓW ACADEMIC
SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS ACTIVITY
REPORT 2006/2007**

The report covers activities undertaken by the University of Rzeszów Academic Society of Political Scientists (Koło Naukowe Politologów [KNP]) during the academic year of 2006/2007. The Society continued to be supervised in the period by Dr. Wojciech Furman. During the first meeting a new council of the Society was elected:

chairman – Tomasz Kryda (II year student)
Vice- chairman – Michał Pisarek (I year student)
treasurer – Grzegorz Przybek (II year student)
secretary – Oliwia Pawluś (II year student)

A National Scientific Conference dedicated to „Media regionalne – sukcesy i porażki” (Regional mass media – successes and failures) was the first important event in which the KNP representatives participated in the academic year of 2006/2007. The Conference took place on the 17th–18th of October in 2006 in Rzeszów to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Studium Dziennikarstwa UR (The Journalism Unit of the Rzeszów University). The event attracted several eminent specialists in media science, public relations etc. The KNP members participated actively in discussion panels and workshops, raising many questions.

The KNP members are interested in current political events. As a result they could not miss a debate of candidates running for the office of President of Rzeszów which took place just before the local government elections. Our representatives were not limited to passive listening to the debate. They took part in it actively asking the candidates difficult questions.

Another major event attended by the KNP members was the National Scientific Conference „Polska i Ukraina w kształtowaniu bezpieczeństwa europejskiego” (Poland and the Ukraine to shape European security) which was held under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defense. The Conference took place on the 8th of March in 2007 in Przemyśl, organized by Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Wschodnioeuropejska in Przemyśl, Akademia Obrony Narodowej in Warsaw, Stowarzyszenie Młodego Społeczeństwa Obywatelskiego in Warsaw. Several eminent speakers delivered papers at the Conference, such as Paweł Kowal – vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Jankowski – a Minister Cabinet expert at the Department of the European Union, Professor Jarosław Moklak, representing Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University, Professor Jury Shirko – a city councilor of Równe, and Professor Mykhailo Kirsenko of the National University of the Kiev-Mohyla Academy. Both papers and discussions at the Conference were of high quality, which made the event an extremely useful experience from the vantage point of the KNP members.

On the 24th–25th of March in 2007, the KNP delegates were invited by the Uniwersytet Warmińsko-Mazurski (UWM) to take part in the IV Student Scientific Forum dedicated to the issues of „Bliskie sąsiedztwo, dalekie sojusze” (Close neighbourhoods, distant alliances). The event took place in Olsztyn. The KNP members delivered a paper entitled „Polska polityka zagraniczna wobec państw rozwijających się” (Polish foreign policy regarding the developing countries). The KNP participation in the Olsztyn event continues the multi-year tradition of fruitful co-operation with the Koło Politologów (Society of Political Scientists) of UWM.

The 27th of March in 2007 was a special day for political science students in Rzeszów. In the premises of the Department of Political Science, a seminar of Janusz Fedriko, MA was organized who represented the Department of the Middle East and the Far East of the Jagiellonian University. The seminar, entitled „Dzień afgański” (An Afghan Day) included two lectures: „Afganistan – tło kulturowe” (Afghanistan – the cultural background) and „Polacy w Afganistanie” (Poles in Afghanistan). Apart from the lectures, an exhibition of Afghan souvenirs, weapons and every day objects was held as well as a presentation of photographs showing life in Afghanistan. Mr. Fedriko vividly described the life in Afghanistan, basing on his own numerous visits to the country. He willingly and exhaustively answered the

students' questions. The event had been possible owing to the efforts by Dr. B. Wróblewski of the Department of Political Science in Rzeszów and the involvement of the KNP members.

Invited by Forum Młodych Dyplomatów (The Forum of Young Diplomats), the KNP delegation took part in a conference entitled „Między Wschodem i Zachodem – rola Polski w tworzeniu polityki wschodniej Unii Europejskiej. Polityczne, kulturowe i duchowe konsekwencje położenia Polski na wschodnich granicach UE” (Between the East and the West – the role of Poland in the creation of the European Union policy towards the East). The event took place on the 17th of March, 2007 at the Kardynał Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. The conference proceedings were streamlined in panels dedicated to politics, culture and spiritual life. Andrzej Cieszkowski from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hubert Knirsch from the German Embassy in Poland featured among the invited speakers.

On the 24th – 25th of May in 2007 in Opole, a National Scientific Conference dedicated to „Perspektywy polskiej polityki zagranicznej” (Perspectives of Polish foreign policy) was organized. Invited by the Studenckie Koła Naukowe (Student Academic Society) of the University of Opole, the KNP representatives participated in the Conference. Dr. David Sacko of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs featured among the invited conference speakers. The Rzeszów KNP members delivered at the Conference a paper entitled „Polska jako pomost pomiędzy Unia Europejską a Europą Wschodnią – realna szansa czy polityczne mrzonki? (Poland as a bridge between the European Union and Eastern Europe – a real chance or political wishful thinking?”

The KNP co-operated with Europejskie Forum Studentów (European Student Fom) AEGEE in Rzeszów and Forum Inicjatyw Europejskich (Forum of European Initiatives), affiliated at Regionalne Centrum Informacji Europejskiej (Regional Centre of European Information) of WSiIZ at the organization of a conference „Europa to my” (Europe it's us) which was held on the 24th of May, 2007 at Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki i Zarządzania (WSiIZ) in Rzeszów. The invited conference speakers included *inter alia* Professor of the University of Rzeszów Elżbieta Dynia and Jacek Nowocien, representing Podkarpacki Urząd Marszałkowski (Podkarpacki Marshal Office). The delivered papers were followed by an animated discussion.

The University of Rzeszów Academic Society of Political Scientists' activities were facilitated by encouragement from Dr.

Wojciech Furman, assistance offered by the Chair of Political Science Professor Henryk Cimek (who is to be thanked, *inter alia*, for enabling modernization of the KNP computer equipment), as well as a supporting attitude of the Rzeszowski University authorities. The KNP appreciates also extremely helpful assistance offered by Anna Mazur, the secretary of the Political Science Department and by Katarzyna Cwynar, the head of the Department IT laboratory.