### POLISH-AMERICAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

**FOUNDED** 



In 1934

#### P.O. Box 241, Northbrook, IL 60065-241, USA • www.polishengineers.org

All members and friends of Polish-American Engineers Association are cordially invited to attend our meeting.

DATE: Friday, March 18th 2016

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Copernicus Center

Kings Hall

5216 W. Lawrence Avenue

Chicago, Illinois

SPEAKER: Adam Para, PhD

**TOPIC:** Direct Observation of Gravitational Waves



# Adam Para, PhD

Dr. Adam Para received his PhD in Physics in 1977 from Warsaw University, Poland. In the following years he worked at CERN (European Center for Nuclear Research in Geneva, Switzerland, CEN (Center for Nuclear Studies) at Saclay, France and at the Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland. Since 1985 he has worked at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, IL. His scientific interests are in the area of the physics of elementary particles. The past several decades have witnessed the formulation, testing and coronation of the "Standard Model"- an incredibly successful theory, capable of explaining most of the phenomena in the known Universe. Dr. Para was lucky to be able to participate in several key experiments contributing to the establishment of the Standard model. Recently, Dr. Para's work has concentrated on the study of neutrinos, and research and development of new detection techniques.

### **ABSTRACT**

The recent observation of gravitational waves created some billion years ago by two colliding black holes was a spectacular event. It was a textbook event, providing a beautiful and simple demonstration of many phenomena: black holes; gravitational capture and merge of two extremely heavy objects, resulting in a distortion of the space-time fabric propagating throughout the Universe and creating an instantaneous distortion of the local space, known as a gravity wave. Whereas we believed we had an understanding of the underlying phenomena, the degree to which the observation confirms the predictions is astounding. The underlying physics

was known for about a hundred years; but it took marvels of modern engineering to make the actual observation possible.

The successful observation of gravitational radiation is a demonstration that we have achieved sufficient (incredible!) sensitivity of our instruments to open a new window onto the Universe, which may uncover new features of our Universe.

I am not an expert in any of the above; but will present the personal view of an interested observer.

## **PAEA Announcements**

### **2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Please note that the dues schedule for 2016 has not changed. **Dues are \$50 per year, senior citizens and students \$25 per year.** We strongly encourage you to pay your dues as soon as possible. Membership Cards will be provided to all those who paid their dues.

Questions? You may inquire at the meeting or send an email to: <u>administration@polishengineers.org</u>
You may send your dues directly to our Treasurer:

Mrs. Diana Kukawski 940 Beau Dr., Apt 209 Des Plaines IL 60016

You may also pay your dues at our meetings, and receive your Membership Card immediately.

### 2016 Ralph Modjeski Scholarship

The PAEA is accepting applications for our 2016 Ralph Modjeski Scholarship, which will be maintained at \$750. We are asking all members and sympathizers to publicize the scholarship.

Applications will be accepted through May 30 (postmarked), with winners announced at the September meeting.

For more information, including the Application form, please see our website: <a href="http://www.polishengineers.org/scholarships.php">http://www.polishengineers.org/scholarships.php</a>

# **May 3 Constitution Day Parade – May 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**

As in past years, the PAEA will decide whether to participate in the May 3 Constitution Day Parade (held on May 7th 2016) based on member interest and support. If enough members at the March & April meetings commit to attending, we will participate as an organization. If we do not have sufficient interest, we will skip for 2016.

## PAEA Summer Picnic – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016

It's not too early to begin thinking about Summer! We will hold our fun and well-attended annual Picnic on July 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. Please mark your calendars. More information to come...

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75-cio lecia Stowarzyszenia "Polonia Technica" – 20-22 maja 2016 – Nowy York

(This information is in Polish, as the event will also be in Polish)

Uroczyste obchody Jubileuszu 75-cio lecia Stowarzyszenia "Polonia Technica" odbędą się w dniach od 20 do 22 maja 2016 roku. w Konsulacie RP, na Manhattanie, przy 233 Madison Ave. (przy 37 Street, Jan Karski Corner), New York, NY 10016.

Zasadniczym punktem obchodów Jubileuszu będzie Sympozjum Naukowe ujmujące tematykę z zakresu najnowszych osiągnięć polskich inżynierów, określenie perspektyw współpracy naukowej pomiędzy USA i Polską oraz profesjonalny dorobek polonijnych inżynierów. Hasło Sympozjum:

"Polscy Inżynierowie Ameryce i Polsce, oraz ich profesjonalne osiągnięcia".

Więcej informacji: mail@polonia-technica.org

http://www.polonia-technica.org/

## III Światowy Zjazd Inżynierów Polskich – 16-18 czerwca 2016 – Wrocław

(This information is in Polish, as the event will also be in Polish)

Zgodnie z przesłaniem II Światowego Zjazdu Inżynierów Polskich (Warszawa, 26-28.06.2013) jego organizatorzy zapraszają na kolejne wielkie spotkanie polskich inżynierów zarówno tych mieszkających i pracujących w kraju, jak i poza jego granicami.

III Zjazd odbędzie się we Wrocławiu razem z XXV Kongresem Techników Polskich (16-18 czerwca 2016 r.). Decyzją Unii Europejskiej Wrocław będzie w 2016 r. Europejską Stolicą Kultury.

Kongresy Techników Polskich (KTP) organizowano od XIX w. Pierwszy Zjazd Techników Polskich miał miejsce w Krakowie w 1882 r. Zjazdy i Kongresy Techników Polskich gromadziły polskich inżynierów z kraju i rozproszonych po świecie. Dziś powracamy do tradycji i organizujemy wspólnie III Światowy Zjazd Inżynierów Polskich i jubileuszowy XXV Kongres Techników Polskich.

Ważnym celem inżynierskich zjazdów była i jest integracja środowiska i wymiana wiedzy oraz doświadczeń. Zarówno integracja środowiska technicznego, jak i wymiana doświadczeń i przepływ wiedzy są nam, w dobie globalizacji, potrzebne i dziś. I temu służyć będzie zarówno III SZIP, jak i XXV KTP.

W globalnym świecie spotkanie polskich inżynierów mieszkających, pracujących i odnoszących sukcesy poza granicami Polski z tymi, którzy tu i teraz dążą do tego by nasz kraj nadrobił cywilizacyjne opóźnienia jest sprawą o fundamentalnym znaczeniu dla przyszłości Polski oraz jej miejsca w Europie i w świecie.

Więcej informacji: http://www.szip.org.pl/

## Documentary about Ralph Modjeski – Words from Basia & Leonard Myszynski

To all our Participants and Special Supporters,

We are very proud to announce the World Premiere of our documentary about Ralph Modjeski and his signature bridges, hosted by Sponsor National Steel Bridge Alliance.

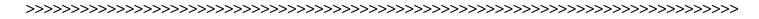
<u>https://www.facebook.com/AISCdotORG/?fref=ts</u> Please let us know in advance if any of you will be attending.

Invitations to future screenings and private receptions will be sent as we move forward and organize each event, city by city. Stay tuned for updates.

We look forward, with great joy, to finally share the work, taking you through a cinematic journey across America.

Thank you again for your part in making the film possible!

Basia + Leonard Myszynski
Filmmakers
Bridging Urban America
The Story of Ralph Modjeski
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/bridgingurbanamerica">https://www.facebook.com/bridgingurbanamerica</a>
www.bridginguamericafilm.com



### Sad News – Passing of Mr. John Joseph Rzyski

As indicated via separate email, we regret to inform of the passing of one of our brothers, Mr. John Joseph Rzyski on February 21, 2016.

Mr. Rzyski became a member of the PAEA in the 1960s, where he found a friendly and helpful atmosphere needed for arriving immigrants. Aside from his activity in the PAEA, he was Treasurer of Klub Warszawiakow, and a member of the Board of the Polish Scouts in Chicago.

Jan and his lovely wife Jadwiga had been married for 69 years. In addition to raising and educating two daughters, they have been active in the Polish Scouting Association and the Polish Women's Alliance. One of their daughters Kinga, has been active in the Polish Scouting Association and was for several years of the Polish Girls Scouts program in the USA. The daughter Magdalena, has her own firm, Commercial Art, in Boulder, Colorado.

He was a person interested in people and the world- above all a family man, peaceful and kind to all. He will be deeply missed.

Two years before the outbreak of the Second World War, Jan Rzyski began his engineering studies at the Poznan Polytechnic College. With the outbreak of the war, he was assigned to work as a draftsman for the German Arms and Ammunition Company in the buildings of the H. Cegielski factory in Poznan, which was appropriated by the Germans. Because of allied bombing raids on Poznan, the factory was destroyed and he was transferred to Karlsruhe in Germany. While in the displaced persons camp in Karlsruhe, thanks to INRA, Jan Rzyski perfected his German language skills and was able to pass entrance examination for the Karlsruhe Polytechnic Institute.

At the beginning of September 1946, he returned to Poland because of the economic conditions under which his widowed mother lived, and began working as a technical director of a small private company that produced machinery parts for manufacturing cigarettes for the Polish Tobacco Monopoly in Poznan. At the same time he resumed engineering education at his old Alma Mater and finished his 3rd year of study in 1947. In the same year he married his wife Jadwiga, and was transferred to the H. Cegielski plant, where he worked as a designer engineer on a variety of projects.

While still working at the Cegielski plant, Jan and a friend open a fruit drying company. Jan Rzyski developed and built a plum dryer in the form of a tunnel that had a drying capacity of two tons per day. But

because of the pressure exerted by the communist authorities, he was forced to close his business; afterwhich he accepted position at an engineering design office for food industry in Poznan.

In 1962 he emigrated with his family to the USA. After a period of time he found work at the A. J. Boynton Co. in the machine construction division for steel melting plants. Five years later in 1967, Jan accepted a position with the Sargent & Lundy Engineers in Chicago, where he worked for 17 years leading a team of engineers tasked with design of coal handling systems for electrical power plants. Jan Rzyski closed his professional activity and retired in 1984.

### Rudolf Modrzejewski (Ralph Modjeski) Plaque Dedication - Huey P. Long Bridge

The Council of Polish Engineers in North America invites all PAEA members and sympathizers to the unveiling of a Ralph Modjeski's plaque on Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans, tentatively scheduled for October 2016, The plaque is ready (see photograph below). It was cast in Poland using a special metal alloy, sponsored by The Gotowski firm in Bydgoszcz (Poland) and The Council has permission of the bridge owners (Mr. Carl Kocur, Vice President of Engineering, New Orleans Public Belt Railroad).

More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

## **Special Interest**

### Pisanki Workshop at the Polish Museum of America

Saturday, March 19, 2016, at 9:30-11:30 am, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

The PMA will offer its annual workshop on the intricate art of Pisanki, or Polish egg decorating, on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at 9:30-11:30 am, in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Social Hall, on the first floor. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Edward T. & Ellen K. Dryer Charitable Foundation.

\$25 workshop fee per participant (includes cost of stylus & wax). Each participant is required to bring 3-4 HARD-BOILED EGGS. Children must be at least 10 years old, and parents/guardians MUST remain with the children. Space is limited. Walk-ins may be turned away. Free parking available.

For more information please call: 773-384-3352, ext. 2102. Or check our website: www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

## 2016 Outstanding Pole Abroad Contest - Deadline March 30th, 2016

The Foundation of Polish Promotion (Fundacja Polskiego GodlaPromocyjnego), in cooperation with:

- The Office of the President of the Republic of Poland
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

announces the 2016 Outstanding Pole Abroad contest!

The purpose of the contest is to:

- promote positive image of Poles living around the world,
- highlight the success they have achieved outside of their native country, and

• demonstrate and reward their accomplishments.

The National organizer in the United States is The Pangea Network, in cooperation with Consulates of the Republic of Poland in Chicago and New York.

For more information please see:

http://www.terazpolska.pl/pl/wybitny-polak-usa

### Polish Museum of America Summer Gala – June 3, 2016

Friday, June, 2016 @ 6:00pm - 11:00pm, Café La Cave, 2777 Mannheim Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60018

The Polish Museum of America warmly invites all PAEA members and sympathizers to its annual Summer Gala! The event, the largest fundraiser for the PMA, is always a wonderful evening. This year, as the name change suggests (formerly the Summer Ball), the event will both maintain its classic traditions, as well as offer more opportunities for fun!

For details please see: www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

www.polishengineers.org