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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Professor Andrzej Kaminski  
 Uczelnia Łazarskiego  
 ul. Świeradowska 43  
 02-662 Warsaw, Poland

June 14, 2012

Dear Professor Kaminski,

Greetings from Maine. I want to thank you, your colleagues at the Uczelnia Łazarskiego, and your generous donors for a stimulating conference.

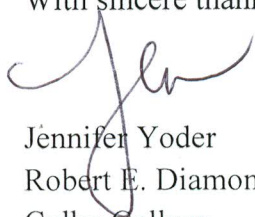
This was my first time attending "Recovering Forgotten History." I found the conference to be a unique combination of intellectual discussion and experiential learning. The conference exceeded my expectations as a forum for learning more about local, East-Central European perspectives on my book topic, political-administrative decentralization after 1989. The two experts who reviewed my manuscript provided me and my editor, Susan McEachern, with numerous insights and important critiques. What I did not expect was to have the opportunity to engage in wide-ranging discussions of history, culture, politics, and economic developments in Poland and the East-Central region in general. The time set aside for discussion over meals and coffee breaks and the planned excursions enriched my understanding of the impact of the past on current developments and perspectives.

My book will benefit tremendously from this conference. What is more, the conference will invigorate my teaching of undergraduate political science students at Colby College. In the coming fall semester I will teach a course on "Post-communist Transformations" and will assign two memoirs that I learned about through my conversations with you, Professor Kaminski, and a Polish film recommended by one of the experts. The experiences of exchanging ideas with colleagues, establishing new contacts, and spending time in the "microcosms" of East-Central European history and culture were incredibly valuable for my scholarship and professional development.

My manuscript, *Crafting Democracy: Regional Politics in Post-communist Europe* will be published in the next several months, and I am eager to continue to examine the politics of East-

Central Europe. I hope the conference will continue in future and provide a valuable service to the English-language scholarship on East-Central Europe.

With sincere thanks and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Yoder', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Yoder  
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