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**TOP POLISH UNIVERSITY AWARDS U.S. PHILANTHROPIST TAD TAUBE
WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE**

First Philanthropist in Award's 200-Year History Receives Highest Honor



Rector Wojciech Nowak awards Tad Taube an honorary doctorate from Jagiellonian University
(Photo Credit: Jagiellonian University)

KRAKÓW, POLAND – Tad Taube, founder of Taube Philanthropies, has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Jagiellonian University in Kraków for his work rebuilding Jewish life and culture throughout Poland. Mr. Taube is the only philanthropist among very few non-academics — including the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and President Woodrow Wilson — to receive this honor in the course of the award's 200-year history.

"I am delighted that the most important of titles conferred by the Jagiellonian University will be bestowed upon a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of Jewish Studies in Poland," wrote university rector Prof. Wojciech Nowak, MD, PhD, in a letter congratulating Mr. Taube.

The custom of awarding the honorary doctorate dates back to the 1810s; the university, founded in 1364, is the oldest in Central Europe and one of the most esteemed universities in Europe. Each honorary doctorate nominee goes through a rigorous selection process that includes vetting by faculty committees and an external peer review.

Mr. Taube's journey to Kraków marked a return to a place with major significance for his family. His father earned a law degree from Jagiellonian University in 1928, a few short years before Mr. Taube's birth in Kraków in 1931. Less than a decade later, his family fled to the safety of the United States just before the start of World War II. Family members who remained in Krakow were tragically caught up in the Holocaust.

“There are almost no words to describe what it means to stand in the very hall where my father received his law diploma almost ninety years ago, in a country he loved, at a university that gave him the chance to lead a successful life in Poland and the United States,” said Mr. Taube. “This award is a gift, and I am humbled and grateful to the Jagiellonian University for honoring me.”

Mr. Taube’s mission in Poland through Taube Philanthropies began more than two decades ago. In 2003, the foundation established the Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland (JHIP) to strengthen the institutional life of Polish Jews, further awareness and appreciation of Jewish heritage and contemporary Jewish life among Jews and others, and foster positive interest in Poland among American Jews.

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Note to Editor

Tad Taube’s remarks upon receiving his honorary doctorate from Jagiellonian University are available on the final page following this release. Photos from the event are available [here](#). For high resolution photos, please contact rhoward@bergdavis.com.

About Tad Taube

Tad Taube was born in Kraków, Poland, in 1931 and immigrated to the United States in the summer of 1939, just months before the outbreak of World War II. He is the founder and chairman of Taube Philanthropies (Taube Family Foundation and Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture), president emeritus of the Koret Foundation, and chairman and founder of the Woodmont Companies, a diversified real estate investment and management organization. He was a chairman and CEO of Koracorp Industries from 1973 until its merger with Levi Strauss in 1979. Mr. Taube is one of the Founding Benefactors of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. He has dedicated his legacy to strengthening civic and cultural life in the San Francisco Bay Area, Israel, and his native Poland. Mr. Taube established the Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland, which has disbursed \$30 million through 450 grants to more than 100 programs and organizations since 2003. In 2004, the President of the Republic of Poland awarded him with Poland’s highest civilian medal — the Commander’s Cross, and in 2007 he was appointed Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Poland in the San Francisco Bay Area. Also in 2007, the Forward newspaper recognized Mr. Taube as one of its Forward Fifty most influential Jews in America. In 2009, Mr. Taube initiated a Sister City relationship between San Francisco and Kraków. In 2015, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski awarded Mr. Taube with the Commander’s Cross with Star of the Order of Merit.

About Taube Philanthropies

For more than 30 years, Taube Philanthropies has been a leader in supporting diverse educational, research, cultural, community, and youth organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, Poland, and Israel. Founded by businessman and philanthropist Tad Taube in 1981, and now led by Tad and his wife Dianne Taube, the organization works to ensure that citizens have the freedom and opportunity for advancement of their goals and dreams. Taube Philanthropies makes this a reality by issuing grants through its two foundations, the Taube Family Foundation and the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture. For more information, visit <http://www.taubephilanthropies.org>.

Tad Taube's Remarks

Good afternoon. It is an honor for me to be with you today on the beautiful Jagiellonian University campus. It is always a blessing to return to Poland, the place my family called home for generations, and the place to which I have dedicated a major chapter of my life's work. I am humbled and grateful to Rector Norak, Dean Mach, the faculty, the selection committee, and the university for bestowing me with such an honor. I will treasure this moment forever.

Before I go on, I'd like to acknowledge my wife and partner, Dianne Taube; my sons Travis and Zak; Shana Penn, executive director of Taube Philanthropies; and her husband, Paul Milne, who all made the trip from San Francisco to join me on this special day.

Many of you may not know that in 1928, a few short years before I was born in Krakow, my father earned a doctor of law degree from this marvelous university – in fact, almost 90 years ago to the day. There are no words to describe what it means to me to be able to stand in my father's footsteps, in a country he loved, at a university that gave him the chance at a successful life in Poland and in the United States, and in the very hall, indeed in the exact same place where he received his law diploma.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to dedicate the last twenty years of my life helping to restore Jewish life and culture in Poland, efforts that have flourished through strong academic, community, and government partnerships – including those with Jagiellonian University. Our partnership with the Center for Holocaust Studies and the Institute for Jewish Studies ensures that the history of our ancestors remains alive, even as the last survivors of the Holocaust will soon no longer be able to tell their own stories.

Through my Foundations' philanthropic initiatives, we, and our partners have connected – and continue to connect – people to their heritage. To know ourselves truly, we must know where we come from. When my family and I fled Poland decades ago, we never thought we would see our homeland again. I am incredibly blessed to be able to return today with my wife Dianne, with my sons Travis and Zakary and with my valued partner Shana Penn to the country of my birth and its rich heritage.

Thank you.