

## NASA at 50 Exhibit Opening in Gdansk

January 28, 2011

It's a great honor for me to represent the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw at today's opening of the exhibit on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NASA, staged in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous citizen of Gdansk, Jan Heweliusz. I'd like to convey the congratulations and best wishes of Ambassador Lee Feinstein, who is not able to be in Gdansk today, but who had the pleasure to preview the exhibit two days ago.

We consider that this exhibit demonstrates how the universe and a passion for learning and exploration have the power to bring us together, and also the great extent to which the discoveries of Heweliusz four centuries ago continue to be important and influential today. I'd like to encourage you all to visit NASA's web site – [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov) – where the frequent references to Heweliusz and his work confirm the continued significance of his astronomical achievements. Just two days ago NASA announced that the Hubble telescope had just discovered the farthest candidate galaxy ever found in the universe – the light from this potential galaxy had traveled 13.2 billion light years before reaching the telescope's lens. An achievement of this kind would not be imaginable without the astronomical research and remarkable telescopes designed by Heweliusz in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

I also have the great pleasure to convey to you special greetings from George Zamka and the NASA space crew, who sent the following letter for today's events:

“On the occasion of the 400 year anniversary of Johannes Hevelius' birth, we at NASA send greetings and hope the fine people of Gdansk will enjoy this exhibit of NASA's achievements over its 50 years of existence. Hevelius' investigations and achievements have led thousands to follow in his footsteps, including those who walked on the moon that he charted centuries before. Today's explorations of the heavens, to include those by the Hubble Space Telescope, are an extension of the vision and spirit of exploration of Johannes Hevelius!”

Please allow me to wish the City Museum of Gdansk and the organizers of the exhibit about “The Modern Era of Discovery” every success with this undertaking!

Lisa Helling, Counselor for Public Affairs