Emelie A Kenney* (kenney@siena.edu), Department of Mathematics, Siena College, Loudonville, NY 12211. Tales from the Underground: Polish Mathematics during World War II.

Despite the oppressive and extremely dangerous conditions present in WWII Poland, scholars and students pursued, in a vast underground society, their intellectual interests. Perhaps in part because of the enormous effort expended in preceding decades to build what became known as the Polish School of Mathematics, even those scholars who had been brutalized in camps went on, after their release as the result of an international outcry, to teach and study in clandestine universities and schools. In this paper, we focus on the ordeals and triumphs of the mathematicians, mathematics teachers, and students of mathematics of Krakow, with special attention to the seven mathematicians who, along with 176 others, were arrested at the Jagiellonian University in the infamous Sonderaktion Krakau of November, 1939. (Received July 20, 2010)