

## Anthony Bukoski Visits Loyola



The Polish American writer Anthony Bukoski, who lives in and writes about his hometown of Superior, Wisconsin, took part in a reading and discussion session on Loyola's campus on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The visit coincided with a course on Polish American Literature, which was taught by Dr. John Merchant and is the first of its kind at Loyola to focus exclusively on Polish American literature. Mr. Bukoski's visit allowed Dr. Merchant's students the opportunity of listening to a living writer read his work and asking him questions on topics such as his writing process, his motivations for writing the way he does, and his origins as a writer. The visit amounted to a kind of symmetry for Mr. Bukoski as both the class and his short stories attempt to capture the experience of the "children of strangers," the Polish American community that has for too long suffered from invisibility in American society, literature, and academia.



Mr. Bukoski also gave a formal literary reading at the Chopin Theatre in Wicker Park the following day on November 11, 2017, during which he read the title story from his short story collection *Children of Strangers* and took questions from members of the Polish American community, which included figures from the local media and the Polish Consulate General in Chicago. The discussion, which was both lively and meaningful, spoke not only to the chord that Mr. Bukoski struck with his audience, but also to the thoughtfulness and solemnity that Mr. Bukoski brings to his writing. Mr. Bukoski is currently completing work on two manuscripts of short stories, which will hopefully appear in print before Dr. Merchant's next Polish American Literature class in the fall of 2018.



John Merchant, Bozena McLees, Anthony Bukowski