



Dr. Anna Pietraszec, Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Mr. Robert Orlando, Mr. David Kramer, Mr. Pedro Botta, Dr. Markus Thiel, Mrs. Christine Caly-Sanchez

# THE DIVINE PLAN

To commemorate the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Pope John Paul II on April 2, 2019, the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the European Student Association at FIU, in collaboration with The American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland premiered the film, *The Divine Plan: John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, and the Dramatic End of the Cold War* at the FIU campus on April 2, 2019. Mr. Robert Orlando, the writer and director of the film, was on hand to discuss how the film originated and to answer questions. Students, faculty and members of the local Polish community attended this special presentation. A luncheon followed the event.

## The Synopsis

One of the least-known historical stories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is about an unlikely pair - a President and a Pope - who shared a deep religious faith, political acumen, and high-octane star power. During their friendship, both Pres. Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II faced assassination attempts, KGB scheming, CIA intrigue, and played major roles in toppling the Sovi-

et Empire. This epic saga takes viewers behind the scenes of a partnership that changed the world, asking daring questions such as, was a pontiff and politician's work overthrowing communism the result of inexorable political and economic forces, or could it have been part of what Reagan called "The Divine Plan?" Told in part as a graphic thriller, this highly-stylized docufilm pushes beyond the boundaries of a conventional documentary and into a world where one's core beliefs can influence history.

## The Director

Robert Orlando, the founder of Nexus Media in NYC, is an award-winning film director, author, and public speaker with over 20 years experience as a storyteller. With a passion for religious and political history, he is committed to presenting factual stories about the compelling people who were central players in the key turning points of Western history. His credits include the documentaries, *Apostle Paul: A Polite Bribe* and *Silence Patton: First Victim of the Cold War*, each part of a series that also includes Caesar Augustus and George

Washington. Orlando has also provided innovative content and stylized storytelling that strengthens brands for commercial and corporate partners such as American Express, Unilever, *The Wall Street Journal* and Conde Nast.

