

PHILCON 2026 – 7th International Online Student Conference

Keynote speakers



**Nancy Rawles, the author of *My Jim*,
Seattle, USA**

Nancy Rawles is the author of several award-winning novels, and she has lectured widely on topics related to civil rights and the rights of women. In 2017, she visited Radom University as a Fulbright Specialist. Her book, *My Jim* (2005), tells the story of the fictional wife of Jim, the famous runaway slave who is a central character in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. *My Jim* was republished in 2025.

The Creole Culture of New Orleans

With her Creole family background, Nancy Rawles will speak about a distinct Creole culture, which developed when Europeans and Africans came to America. In New Orleans, a city that was colonized first by the French, then the Spanish before it became part of the United States, a vibrant Creole culture infuses every aspect of daily life. The food, music, language, religion, and customs are a mix of European, African, and Native influences, which together create a uniquely American experience. Jazz, roux, gumbo, filé, jambalaya, voodoo, Mardi Gras, and zydeco are some of the terms that will be included in this talk. *Laissez les bon temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!)



**Jean Kirschenmann,
English Language Fellow, USA**

Jean Kirschenmann, recently retired from Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) in Honolulu where she taught English, applied linguistics, and teacher education courses to students and professionals from around the world. She has also taught in elementary schools in Romania and Micronesia, high schools in Japan, and universities in China, Japan, and (currently) Poland, at the University of Jan Kochanowski in Kielce.

Writing Rites in the Polish Context

It has been more than 50 years since Donald Murray (1972) challenged his colleagues to "Teach Writing as a Process not Product." Given the differences between his world then and ours now, is Murray's "manifesto" still relevant? Attendees will assist the speaker in examining this question in the context of Polish high schools, universities, and workplaces.