Solidarity’s Secret is the first book to record the crucial yet little-known role women played in the rise of an independent press in Poland and in the fall of that country’s communist government. Piecing together a decade of interviews with the women behind the Polish pro-democracy movement – women whose massive contributions were obscured by the more public successes of their male counterparts, Penn reveals the story of how these brave women ran Solidarity and the main opposition newspaper, Tygodnik Mazowsze, while prominent men like Lech Walesa were underground or in jail during the 1980s martial law years. The same women then went on to play influential roles in post-communist Poland. Solidarity’s Secret gives us a richly detailed story-within-a-story -- unheard of not only in the West, but until recently even within Poland itself -- from one of the most important eras in modern history.

Thursday, October 20, 2005
at 2pm in 6275 Bunche Hall