

NEW OFFICE AND PARTNERSHIP FOR GMCC UKRAINE

Two years after opening its first one-person office in a Kyiv apartment, GMCC Ukraine has grown.



The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

A partnership agreement has been signed with the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and the office has moved into new quarters at the prestigious institution, which is the first independent university established in the new Ukraine. Overseeing the changes is GMCC Ukraine's dynamic new general manager, Taras Pavlyshyn, a multimedia consultant and producer from Toronto.

Set up in September 1992, GMCC Ukraine primarily offered support services to Canadian business and government clients seeking contacts in Ukraine. This was just a first step, however. As project chairperson Dr. Roman Petryshyn points out, "the mission of this institution is education. The best way to assist

in the process of social and political reform in Ukraine is through education. We felt the college had much to share in this regard in terms of curriculum, programming and teaching."

A stage two business plan was submitted to the college's board of governors proposing that the role of GMCC

Ukraine be substantially enlarged from that of a business service office. The plan which was put into effect in March called for other divisions of the college, in addition to URDC and the International Education Centre (IEC), to become

involved in Ukraine marketing their programs and developing joint educational ventures.

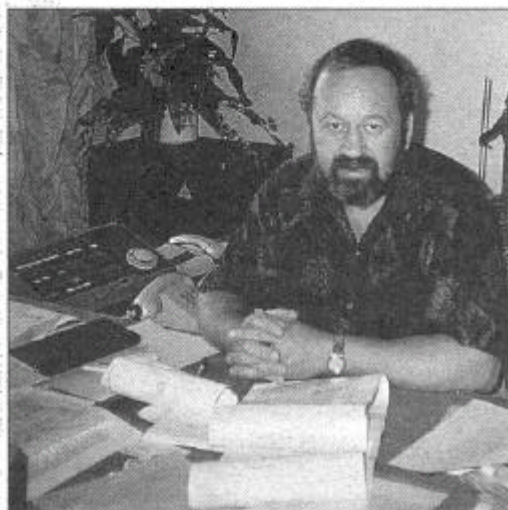
To date, three divisions — Arts and Science; Business; and, Health and Community Studies — have indicated their commitment, purchasing a share in GMCC Ukraine, which is completely self-funding, and thus contributing to the cost of the expansion.

Having secured the support of GMCC's board of directors, the International Education Centre which administers the Kyiv office was ready to enter into a partnership agreement with the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla

Academy (NUKMA). The door to the university had already been opened by a GMCC-funded study in the summer of 1993 exploring opportunities for the college to become involved in post-secondary education in Ukraine.

Presidents Dr. Gerry Kelly of Grant MacEwan, and Dr. Viatcheslav Brioukhovetsky of NUKMA signed an agreement pledging cooperation between their two institutions. GMCC Ukraine was then offered free office space at the university. "This is a real coup since rental space in Kyiv is at a premium," according to Taras Pavlyshyn.

Even more importantly, GMCC Ukraine has secured a public profile for itself in Ukraine through its partnership with a respected, progressive educational institution. The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy offers a fully bilingual Ukrainian and English liberal arts program, an international focus and a long tradition.



*Dr. Viatcheslav Brioukhovetsky,
president of the National University of
Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*

The history of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy dates back to 1632 with the founding of the original academy which for the next two centuries became the leading centre for higher education in Ukraine as well as an important intellectual influence upon the entire Orthodox world, including Russia.

After Ukraine declared its independence in 1992, the academy was revived with approval from the Government of Ukraine and funding from external sources as an alternative to existing state-run institutions.

Patterning itself after Western universities, it adopted a democratic structure and liberal arts programming with the goal of preparing a new generation of Ukrainian leaders through education in the much neglected areas of social sciences, classics and the humanities.

After requesting assistance in developing English language teaching methods, curriculum and testing, the university was invited to send a faculty member to study Grant MacEwan's English programming.

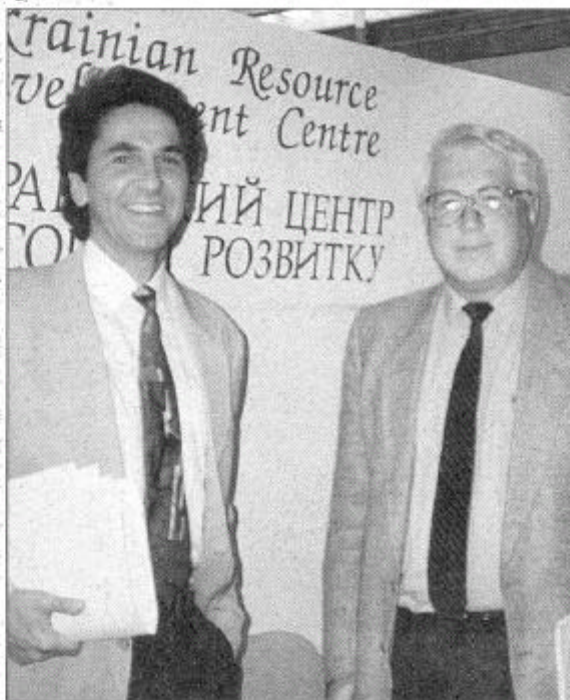
Dr. Larysa Baturka, Assistant Professor, English Department at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is currently spending three months here along with her colleague, Natalia Andrievsky, deputy director of the International Relations Department. Andrievsky, who is responsible for fund-raising at the university, will be meeting with her counterparts in Edmonton. Their stay will coincide with a three-day visit in November by university president, Dr. Brioukhovetsky.

Future plans include developing an exchange program with students from Ukraine to

study business, arts and science, and nursing at Grant MacEwan. A previous GMCC study has looked at the possibility of organizing a bilingual summer school at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy which would provide GMCC and other university students an opportunity to study abroad while fulfilling transfer requirements. Such a program would also allow students at the Kyiv university to take courses towards their degree requirements." ♦

NEW MANAGER TAKES CHARGE OF KYIV OFFICE EXPANSION

Heading the fast-paced expansion of GMCC Ukraine is Taras Pavlyshyn, a Toronto multi-media consultant and producer. Hired in May, Pavlyshyn is taking a year off from his business and creative interests to fulfill his dream of working and living in Ukraine.



Taras Pavlyshyn (l), general manager of GMCC Ukraine and Dr. Roman Petryshyn (r)



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"I've wanted to go there ever since it declared its independence," says Pavlyshyn. "I've had a long interest in Ukraine going back to my student activist days."

Pavlyshyn graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BA degree in political science and a specialty in Ukrainian studies. He served as vice-president of SUSK and co-editor of Student (the Ukrainian national university newspaper), and was active on the Committee for the Defense of Soviet Political Prisoners.

For the past eight years, Pavlyshyn has pursued an independent career as a documentary director and producer, TV feature film producer, and multimedia researcher and consultant in both Canada and the United States.

"We're fortunate to have him," says URDC Director Dr. Roman Petryshyn. "He's dynamic and very energetic, and he brings with him entrepreneurial skills that are needed. We've had a very successful first quarter with Taras."

Dr. Petryshyn credits Pavlyshyn with a great deal of the success GMCC Ukraine has had in forging an agreement with the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and moving to new quarters at the university. Pavlyshyn, in turn, is excited by the possibilities offered by the strategic partnership formed between the two institutions.

"This is a very important move for us because of the university's history and prestige," he says. "It has among the highest standards in Ukraine in terms of faculty and students, and an excellent international department. Being here puts us in the position of being the leading (Western) college in Ukraine as far as assisting with university reform. And we're here at their official invitation."

During his year as GMCC Ukraine general manager, Pavlyshyn will be spending most of his time working out of the Kyiv office which as of September had desks but no chairs. "We're constantly fund-raising," says Pavlyshyn. He's also been busy doing market research into post-secondary educational needs and opportunities, and raising the profile of GMCC Ukraine through the Ukrainian media. His personal objective is to set up a scholarship fund to allow "the best and brightest" Ukrainian students without financial means the opportunity to study at Grant MacEwan. ♦

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT "A JOY TO WORK WITH"

Suzanna Sidlar, a former University of Waterloo political science student, has been hired as administrative assistant for the Agri-Business Learning Project for one year.

"A very precise, hard-working, motivated individual," is how Dr. Roman Petryshyn describes his new assistant. "She's a joy to work with. I see her as one of the new generation of up-and-coming Ukrainian community leaders."

Assigned to attend meetings of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) while Dr. Petryshyn was away in Ukraine, Sidlar characteristically got herself involved on the board after forking out \$100 to become a charter member first.

Her official duties at URDC include providing secretarial and administrative support for the Agri-Business Learning Project, office support for GMCC Ukraine and assisting URDC staff with general office duties and correspondence. "I do a lot of running around," she concedes with a laugh. Sidlar thoroughly enjoys the people she meets on the job, such as Victor Batyuk, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, whom she shepherded around town during his recent visit to Edmonton.

The 22-year-old Mount Forest, Ontario native was enrolled in the Arts Applied Studies Co-op at the University of Waterloo, a five-year program alternating four terms of studies with four terms of employment. She arranged a placement with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) to work as an intern with an Ottawa MP as part

of her program requirements. Assigned to work with Jim Edwards, MP for Edmonton South West, Sidlar had an opportunity to spend four months in this city in the summer of 1991.

I fell in love with Alberta the moment I stepped off the train," she says. "I love the landscape, the sky, and the people — especially the progressive, community-minded Ukrainian groups I've met here."

She crossed paths with Dr. Petryshyn while researching a study on the effects of Ukraine's independence on the Ukrainian Canadian community, *An Opportunity and A Lifetime*, as part of her parliamentary internship requirements for UCC. "I asked whether there was any chance I could come out here and work." Offered the URDC contract position this spring, Sidlar wrapped up her job in Toronto and was riding the rails to Edmonton two weeks later.

Both her parents were committed activists within the Ukrainian community and kept their four children involved as well. As a teenager, Sidlar, her older sister and two younger brothers would get up at 5:30 on Saturday mornings to drive to Toronto more than two hours away to attend Narodna Shkola (Ukrainian Heritage School). Every Friday after school, the Sidlar siblings would be driven to Hamilton, a three-and-a-half hour commute from their rural home, to attend Ukrainian dance classes.

Although she no longer teaches Ukrainian dancing, Sidlar sings alto in the Verkhovyna choir and is taking two evening courses per semester at the University of Alberta. She enjoys playing the piano and dog sledding. Her future plans include working in education in Ukraine. ♦



Suzanna Sidlar

OTTAWA APPROVES AGRI-BUSINESS PROJECT

Federal government funding has come through for a project put forward by URDC to develop learning materials for Ukrainian farmers.

The 15-month project costing \$553,905 will provide Ukrainian farmers, who are having to make their own business and marketing decisions for the first time, with an invaluable agricultural learning resource. During the course of the Agri-Business Learning Project, as it's called, approximately 500 pages of Canadian agricultural business material will be translated and adapted to local needs.

Translating the material is an interesting challenge in itself, as Dr. Roman Petryshyn, URDC Director and overall project manager points out. "Many terms that are commonly used in Western economics simply don't exist in Ukrainian post-Soviet society. Basic concepts like 'marginal risk,' for example, were never used by the Soviets in their centrally planned economy."

Translators have to create words to get Western economic concepts across in a meaningful fashion, says Dr. Petryshyn. The next step is to create a glossary of terms to standardize business language from text to text.

To accomplish this task, a team of Ukrainian translators has been hired, headed by Vitali Ovsienko, an economist who has already translated a widely-used Western economic text into Ukrainian for Osнова Publishers in Kyiv. The basic business and agricultural economic terminology laid down by Ovsienko in his previous work will be further developed in the ten texts produced by the Agri-Business Learning Project.

Based on materials put together

by an interprovincial expert committee on agriculture to train farm managers in Canada, the texts will cover three topic areas: agricultural marketing and economics, and farm management. A Canadian video on agricultural marketing will also be dubbed into Ukrainian as a pilot project. The written material will be translated, adapted (or "localized") and published by Ukrainians themselves. The idea is to train graphic designers, translators, editors, and computer inputers in desktop publishing so that they may continue to operate independently as educational publishers with project equipment.

Faculty in six Ukrainian agricultural technikums (colleges) in six regions will be trained in teaching a market-oriented, business approach to farming to their students. Ten instructors and administrators have also been selected to come to Canada as part of a two-week study tour in November to visit Olds Agricultural College and GMCC as well as Alberta farms and farm organizations.

"Although our material is most relevant to people who want to go into private farming, it is also applicable to state farms that want to run on a more profitable, businesslike basis," says Dr. Petryshyn. "The most effective way to provide assistance to Ukrainian farmers is to empower them to run their own farms and become integrated into the world market. The best way to do this is to transfer our knowledge of market economy and adapt it to local circumstances."

Bohdan Chomiak, Ukraine manager for the project

outlined some of the enormous difficulties facing Ukrainian farm producers. The vast majority of agriculture is still collectivized, a system notorious for its inefficiency and waste. More than 20 percent of crop harvests are routinely lost due to poor handling and storage. Under a state-controlled agricultural system, collective farm managers lacked incentives to re-invest resources or do any long-term planning.

"The tendency was to pull as much money out of the operation each year and spend it on consumer goods," says Chomiak. "As every good farmer knows, you can't simply squeeze the maximum out of this year's income and spend it all. You have to re-invest some of your money into your farm to keep it going."

In the past, collective farms relied heavily upon government subsidies but the State can no longer afford to make up for the chronic shortfalls, says Chomiak. In fact, the entire centrally-controlled State system of planning, distribution and marketing has broken down. Farmers are no longer told what they should grow or where and how they should sell their crops, but they lack the expertise and experience to make these decisions themselves.

The job of adapting Canadian agricultural resources to Ukrainian needs will be overseen by Don Bush, pedagogical advisor to the project. An Edmonton-based educational consultant, Bush brings a wealth of experience in compiling and adapting farm management learning resources as well as computer expertise. Funding for the program is provided by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. ♦



Bohdan Chomiak, Ukraine manager of the Agri-Business Learning Project.

UFCE FUND-RAISER A GREAT SUCCESS

The first fund-raising event organized by the Ukrainian Foundation for Ukrainian Education drew 270 people and raised \$9,000 net for GMCC Ukraine.



Ukraine's ambassador to Canada Victor Batyuk with URDC's Suzanna Sidlar

The guest speaker, Victor Batyuk, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, drew a standing ovation at the banquet, dubbed the *Kyiv Konnection*, held at Grant MacEwan Community College's new City Centre Campus last May. Batyuk emphasized the special significance that Canada, and Edmonton in particular, have for many Ukrainians.

Ukraine needs Canada's experience with marketing, management and privatization in every sector from agriculture to the oil industry, he said. Despite the special partnership agreement signed by the foreign ministers of both countries (André Ouellet and Anatoliy Zlenko) last March, Canada and Ukraine can do better in terms of their trade and economic relations.

"This special partnership requires special efforts," said Batyuk, singling out Edmonton and GMCC for their attention to Ukrainian problems. "The college is making unparalleled contributions especially in the field of agriculture."

Greetings from Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Ouellet were relayed by John Loney, MP for Edmonton North. Loney is a director of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Association and was a member of the parliamentary delegation from Canada to observe the first round of Ukraine's legislative elections last spring.

MLA Ed Stelmach brought greetings on behalf of Deputy Premier Ken Kowalski and the Alberta government while greetings from Mayor Jan Reimer were read by head of ceremonies, Barbara Koziak. Also attending the banquet were GMCC's Vice President of Student Services Bob Cowan, and Dr. Bert Hohol, UFCE President and former Minister of Alberta Advanced Education.

The evening featured a silent auction of art from Ukraine contributed by Bohdan Tsvenar, Audrey Uzwyshyn and Dr. Roman Petryshyn. A draw for a case of wine was won by GMCC's former Dean of Health and Community Studies, Liz Dawson. The audience was also treated to a video presentation of the GMCC Ukraine office in Kyiv, narrated by URDC Director Dr. Petryshyn and the office's new general manager, Taras Pavlyshyn. Entertainment was provided by Edmonton soloist Lilea Wolanska accompanied on the piano by Michael Massey.

The evening set a high standard for UFCE to aspire to next year, commented Dr. Hohol after the event. Heading the program committee that put together the successful fund-raiser was Bill Pidruchney, secretary of UFCE. Dr Hohol heaped praise on board member John Shalewa for his "superb" ticket sales. "We were teasing him that we hoped he hadn't assaulted anyone."

The UFCE board has already set May 25, 1995 as the date for its next fund-raising banquet and is short-listing potential guest speakers.



Warm welcome offered Batyuk by the Vegreville Cultural Association.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education may send a \$10 cheque payable to: UFCE c/o the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre Grant MacEwan Community College Box 1796 Edmonton, AB, T5J 2P2

For further information, you can phone URDC at 497-4374 or UFCE President Dr. Bert Hohol at 481-5431 or any other board member.

To become a charter member requires a \$100 contribution. There are two spaces available. ♦

GMCC TO ASSIST REFORMS IN UKRAINE'S HEALTH EDUCATION

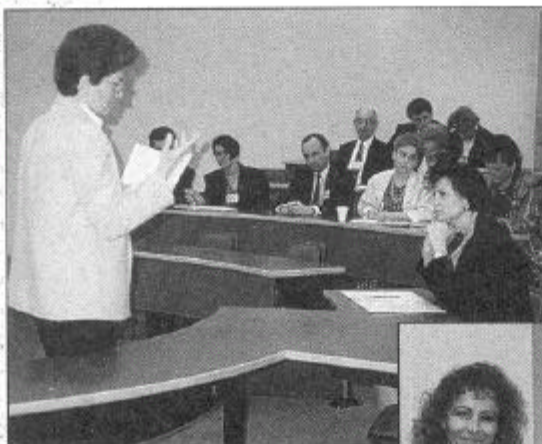
Grant MacEwan Community College and Ukraine's Ministry of Health exchanged letters of intent pledging to continue cooperative efforts to improve the education of health care professionals in Ukraine.

The Ministry of Health listed detailed, specific priorities and objectives which the Government of Ukraine would like to pursue with the help of Canadian health care institutions and professionals. Upgrading nursing education to meet international standards was one of the priorities given. Although the prerequisite for entering nursing training has been raised from Grade 9 to Grade 11, there are still no degree programs in nursing, and nurses in Ukraine continue to function more like aides providing basic care and comfort skills rather than as professionals.

The letters of intent were exchanged within weeks of the conclusion of a conference organized at GMCC last spring entitled *Canada's Strategy for Education of Health Professionals in Ukraine*. Canadian health care professionals, government officials and non-governmental agencies involved with health care projects in Ukraine had their first opportunity to meet with each other.

About 80 participants—among them physicians, nurses, physical therapists, dentists, social workers and hospital workers, mostly of Ukrainian origin—shared their experiences and discussed long-term strategies for future assistance to Ukraine.

The conference was sponsored by URDC, GMCC's Health and Community Studies division and the International Education Centre as well as by the Canadian Society for International Health. The non-governmental agency has just completed an 18-month pilot project placing more than 40 volunteers in short-term health projects in Ukraine through Partners in Health (PIH).



ABOVE: Zirka Kohut, an Edmonton physio-therapist addresses workshop

RIGHT: (l to r) Dr. Sherry Rainsforth, GMCC's Vice-President, Academic, Dr. Tatiana Chernychenko, Ukraine's Ministry of Health, Medical Education Specialist, and Gerri Nakonechny, Dean, Health and Community Studies

Myroslav Kohut, a health care consultant for the World Bank and keynote speaker, pointed out the challenges facing Ukraine as it struggles to restructure health care delivery as well as its entire economic and political system. In addition to grappling with the after-effects of Chernobyl, Ukraine is plagued with health problems caused by heavy industrial pollution, alcohol abuse and smoking, inadequate nutrition and a lack of basic preventative care

such as immunization and birth control.

Having inherited a bloated, inefficient health care bureaucracy from the previous Soviet regime, Ukraine has wound up in the ironic situation of having one of the highest ratios of doctors and hospital beds per capita in the world but a poor level of health care and a shorter life expectancy compared to other industrialized European nations. (Ten years less for men and seven for women.)

André Potvin, deputy director, Bureau of Assistance to Central and Eastern Europe, outlined various primary health care and other assistance programs to Ukraine funded by the federal government. Since July 1991, Ottawa has committed \$27-million to development

in Ukraine. Health programs have included a \$3.5-million contribution to UNICEF for vaccines to help bring polio and diphtheria under control, \$600,000 to



Partners in Health for short-term placements, and \$2.5-million to the Medical Project Osvita administered by the University of Alberta to set up a 20-bed maternal and pediatric care teaching hospital and laboratory quality control facilities in Kyiv.

Participants also heard about projects initiated by health care professionals themselves, notably the Ukrainian Medical Textbook Publishing Project. Dr. Orest Talpash described how 25 Edmonton-area doctors raised the necessary funds to translate two widely-used medical textbooks into Ukrainian, and to print and distribute 10,000 copies of each.



(l to r) Myroslav Kohut, André Potvin, Dr. Tatiana Chernychenko, Gerrit Nakonechny and Dr. Roman Petryshyn

The conference was scheduled to coincide with the two-month visit to Grant MacEwan Community College of Dr. Tatiana Chernychenko, Medical Education Specialist with the Ministry of Health in Ukraine. Dr. Chernychenko reminded participants that health care education reforms in Ukraine must be generated by Ukrainians themselves. "You must understand that even when Canada picks up the tab, these developments are taking place in Ukraine. Every householder knows best what's going on in his own home." She also pointed out that Canadian-funded health care projects have tended to focus upon Kyiv and Western Ukraine, and suggested that future efforts be broadened to include Central and Eastern Ukraine as well.

The weekend ended on a positive note as participants agreed upon the imperative need to continue working together to coordinate programs and develop future strat-

egies. Physicians agreed to organize a Canada-wide committee to assist the Ministry of Health in Ukraine in upgrading doctors' education and professional standards to meet international levels. Nurses in Alberta have formed a province-wide network to communicate with each other and work with their counterparts in Ukraine.

Anyone who would like to receive a copy of the conference proceedings should send a cheque or money order for \$25.00 (plus 7 percent for GST) payable to:

*Grant MacEwan
Community College
at: GMCC, Health and Community
Studies Outreach, A164,
10700-104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB T5J 4S2*

For further information you may also phone Health and Community Studies Outreach at (403) 497-5707. ♦

NOVEMBER DEADLINE FOR AWARD APPLICATIONS

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre is calling for applications for five \$500 awards in the categories of writing, video arts, museum programs, performing arts, and educational exchanges.

The application deadline is November 30th. Application forms and guidelines are available from URDC.

The William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts is given annually to a novice writer for work promoting Ukrainian-Canadian identity through a visual medium. All genres of film or video are acceptable.

The Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers is given annually to a novice writer for a work on a Ukrainian-Canadian theme. All literary genres are acceptable. Submissions for this year's award must be in English.

The Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178 awards include: Museum Programs for work in a Ukrainian-Canadian museum or a museum project on a Ukrainian-Canadian theme, Ukrainian Performing Arts for educational pursuits in Ukrainian dance, theatre or music, and Educational Exchanges for an educational exchange between Canada and Ukraine.

Winners will be announced in the spring of 1995.

*For more information, write:
Ukrainian Resource and
Development Centre, Grant
MacEwan Community College,
P.O. Box 1796
Edmonton, AB T5J 2P2,
or phone (403) 497-4374
Fax (403) 497-4377. ♦*

WILLIAM KOSTASH MOURNED BY UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

William Kostash, an educator and a well-loved, respected member of the Ukrainian community in Edmonton, passed away in August.

Born in Royal Park, Alberta in 1906, Kostash was one of eight children of Anna Svarich and Fedor Kostash, one of the earliest Ukrainian pioneering families to homestead in Canada. His early experiences in the one-room country school houses in the area engendered a life-long love of education.

Kostash graduated from the University of Alberta with both commerce and education degrees. After a false start in the world of accounting, he turned to teaching, first at Hairy Hill and at other rural schools, then in Edmonton high schools. After his retirement in 1971, he continued to be active in education, serving on the

University of Alberta Senate.

In 1939, Kostash married Mary Maksymuk, also a teacher, and the couple had three children, Linda who died in infancy, then Myrna and Janice.

A man with a strong sense of service, Kostash received many awards for his contributions to the education, Ukrainian church, pioneer and Ukrainian professional communities. Among the recognition he received was the Alberta Achievement Award in 1976 for outstanding service.



Kostash preferred to work quietly and unassumingly behind the scenes rather than taking on high profile roles, recalls John Gregory, a long-time friend, and also an early student of Kostash's at Kolomea School in Royal Park in the 1920's. "He was always the secretary or treasurer in any organization. He was the

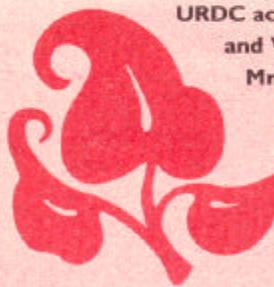
work-horse while other people took the credit up front."

Until his recent illness, Kostash was to be found regularly in the university library stacks, researching his myriad personal projects and interests, according to Gregory. He also liked to have morning coffee at Lister Hall and to write surrounded by the lively hub-bub of young people whose presence he found so invigorating.

"Both Mary and Bill were deeply committed to helping Ukrainian young people," says Dr. Roman Petryshyn. "It's hard to talk about them independently because they were so much of a team. They were always interested in discussing intellectual ideas with young people and taking an interest in their careers."

This interest was exemplified by the endowment established by the Kostashes to award aspiring young filmmakers endeavouring to promote Ukrainian Canadian identity. The William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts is handed out annually through URDC. ♦

BOUQUETS



URDC acknowledges the contributions made to the William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts by Serge Cipko, John and Lillian Gregory, Mrs. Olga Homochko, Mr. and Mrs. Lepchuk, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson, Ms. Josephine Salamandick, Ms. E. Svarich, Ms. Joan Janis, and Nellie Seniw, all of Edmonton; Mrs. Helen Raycheba and Ms. Marion Raycheba of Toronto; Ms. Sylvia Shortliffe of Ottawa; and the staff at the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, Hull, Quebec.

A special thanks also to the following new charter members of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE): Mr. William Fedeyko of Kelowna, B.C.; Dr. Lorne J. Kott, Dr. Michael Schubyn, and Ms. Suzanna Sidlar, all of Edmonton. Charter members contributed \$100 each to register UFCE.