



EXCHANGES FOSTER DEMOCRATIC GOALS

When Kyiv-Mohyla Academy — at one time Ukraine's leading centre for higher learning — was resurrected a few years ago, its goals were ambitious.

The historic institution, founded in the early 17th-century and now renamed the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), aimed to become the first autonomous, democratic university in post-Soviet Ukraine. It also wanted to offer a fully bilingual Ukrainian and English, liberal arts education — an area neglected by the Soviets in favour of the sciences.

Trying to accomplish these goals in a country accustomed to authoritarian, state-run education

has been no easy task, however. Fortunately, NaUKMA has been able to rely upon a number of international partners, among them Grant MacEwan Community College, for practical assistance in fulfilling its mandate.

In the spring of 1996, the college, through the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), organized an exchange visit of two NaUKMA administrators and a student council representative to Edmonton. Dr. Sophia Pokhodnia, Vice-President for University Relations and Development, and her colleague, Natalia Shumkova, Head of Public Relations, spent four weeks studying GMCC's administration. Orest Logounov, Vice-President of NaUKMA's Student Collegium, observed the workings of GMCC's Students' Association during his eight-week stay.

"We're trying to help our partner create an infrastructure that works," explains URDC Director, Dr. Roman Petryshyn. "Despite its historic roots, NaUKMA is very young — only four years old — and its decision-making and financial structures are still highly centralized."

Switching over to a more Western, decentralized system, with self-governing units responsible for their own budgets, has been a challenge for the university. But after studying GMCC's administration, Natalia Shumkova and Dr. Pokhodnia went home determined to try new initiatives.

Dr. Pokhodnia had pinpointed several areas in NaUKMA's administration that could be improved: guidelines defined more clearly, reporting structures streamlined, concise job descriptions laid down,

and more planning and continuity. After conferring with GMCC's research and planning staff, she was convinced of the importance of planning programs on the basis of enrollment trends. It's a "strikingly new idea" for Ukraine, where the Ministry of Education has traditionally been responsible for planning, she says. But it will be a "key development factor" for post-secondary institutions in Ukraine as well as in Canada.

Dr. Pokhodnia noted that English as a Second Language (ESL) and Business are the most popular programs with international students at GMCC and with students in Ukraine. GMCC and NaUKMA have a number of important things in common, above all the same vision of "lifelong continuing education which serves the needs of community."

NaUKMA has to become more financially self-sufficient instead of relying upon the government for most of its funding, she says. It must also meet the educational needs of the community. Dr. Pokhodnia would like to see NaUKMA work with GMCC's Arts and Science Division in developing language programs for the wider community, and perhaps run them jointly. Business Ukrainian and computer courses could be added later.

Dr. Pokhodnia's colleague, Natalia Shumkova spent most of her time with GMCC's community relations and fundraising divisions, areas that are her direct responsibility at NaUKMA. PR and fundraising are new to the university, and to Ukraine in general. As Shumkova pointed out in her report: "The culture of fundraising has been



Orest Logounov (centre) with (l to r) GMCC Students' Association Vice-President, Aaron Schmidt; executive assistant, Terri Larson; Vice-President, Brian Lawrence; and President, Susan Klassen

totally unknown in Ukraine, moreover the taxation system doesn't favour it in principle."

At this point, the university relies upon state financing for two-thirds of its budget while the rest comes from tuition and private sources. Most of the latter support came from the Ukrainian community abroad when NaUKMA was first founded on the heels of Ukrainian independence. Now the university has to put a more systematic fundraising program in place.

Describing her stay at GMCC as a rewarding internship, Shumkova was able to get first-hand fundraising experience by taking part in regular events organized by the college. These ranged from the annual golf fundraiser, *Tournament of Aces*, put on by GMCC Foundation to the *Kyiv Konnection* banquet organized by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education. NaUKMA student rep Orest Logounov was impressed by the autonomy enjoyed by GMCC's Students' Association. NaUKMA may be one of the first universities in Ukraine to have a democratically elected student body, but in practice students have little control over their own organizational affairs.

"We are the first independent, democratically elected student government in Ukraine," Logounov commented. "This sounds good, but in reality, the absence of experience prevents us from succeeding in our goals."

He was surprised to discover that GMCC's Students' Association, which represents 35,000 students, is able to set its own budget from a student fee. Like most college and



(l to r) Dr. Sophia Pokhodnia, NaUKMA Vice-President, with Natalia Shumkova, Head of Public Relations

university student associations in Canada, it is directly financed through a percentage of student fees. The association also has a paid staff of seven which gives the executive much useful knowledge and experience while tending to students' needs.

GMCC has been involved in a number of student exchanges and projects with NaUKMA in the past. Last year, the college helped to set up a job and career centre at NaUKMA to assist the first graduates in competing in the job market — something students in Ukraine have never had to do before. Four senior NaUKMA students also took part in a two-month work study placement at GMCC in 1995. They worked in different administrative areas within the college, including community relations, career development, fundraising and computer sciences. The idea was to give them practical administrative experience which they could then put to use at NaUKMA.



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For a free subscription or for further information about URDC, please call or write:

UKRAINIAN RESOURCE AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Grant MacEwan
Community College
Box 1796
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2P2

Phone: (403) 497-4374
Fax: (403) 497-4377

URDC Director
Dr. Roman Petryshyn

Administrative Assistants
Alice Chamer
& Suzanna Sidlar

Writer & Editor
Olenka Melnyk

Layout
Community Relations Department,
GMCC

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Logounov's visit was financed by GMCC's Students' Association and by URDC. The association hopes to send one or two of its own representatives to NaUKMA to visit their student counterparts in 1997. Dr. Pokhodnia's and Shumkova's costs were covered by the federal government's Reform Through Knowledge program, administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. ♦

ENGLISH DEPARTMENTS FORGE PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP

North Americans tend to be prompt, and they like to get down to business as quickly as possible. Ukrainians are routinely late for appointments and meetings, but when they do show up, they'll spend hours on the business at hand.

Understanding cultural differences is imperative to success in the global marketplace. Knowing English is a definite asset too, especially since English has become widely accepted as the language of international business.

The English Departments of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Grant MacEwan Community College have jointly published an English-language, business writing manual to teach NaUKMA students the basics of business communication. *Business-Writing Specifics* deals with intercultural communication as well as writing resumes and job applications. Writing for employment is an important skill for Ukrainian students to acquire as they prepare to compete for jobs in a market economy. Under the Soviets, jobs

were assigned, or obtained through influence or bribery.

The manual is intended to be used as a companion to *Business-Writing Essentials*, by GMCC English instructional assistant Lois Drew and English instructor Laurie Morison. Written, edited and published in just seven weeks, it marks the latest collaboration between English faculty at GMCC and NaUKMA. Dr. Olena Kurovska, Head of NaUKMA's English Department and Larysa Fedoryachenko, a senior English instructor, were invited to GMCC as part of a faculty exchange in May and June 1996. They worked closely with English faculty at the college, including the Chair, Barbara North, to improve their knowledge of business writing and journalism. Courses in these two areas are in high demand in Ukraine, but there are few instructional texts available.

Dr. Kurovska and Fedoryachenko had originally intended to adapt *Business Writing Essentials* for Ukrainian use. Instead, they decided to produce a companion manual specifically geared to the needs of NaUKMA students, with the assistance of the English Department at the college. Laurie Morison, an English instructor with 26 years experience, and Lois Drew, provided the research material and edited

the book while Fedoryachenko, assisted by Dr. Kurovska, did the writing. Forty copies were produced by the Arts and Science Division which also presented NaUKMA with 40 copies of the Drew and Morison manual which is used in business writing workshops at the college.

"They did a very good job, and it was fun to help them," says Morison.

This was the most recent in a series of highly productive exchanges between the two English departments that began with the 1994 visit to GMCC by English professor Lesya Baturaska. In 1995, Laurie Morison was invited to teach Business English at NaUKMA while former reporter Alan North taught Introductory Journalism. ♦

UKRAINIAN STUDENTS LEARN MANAGEMENT SKILLS

When Tatiana Yeremenko's father suggested sending her abroad to study as a "good family investment", she jumped at the chance.

"I agreed immediately," says the daughter of the Kharkiv petroleum engineer. "I had always dreamed about it, but there was not much opportunity to do so even five years ago."

The Yeremenkos decided to check out Grant MacEwan Community College after hearing a radio interview with the director of GMCC Ukraine. They contacted



Tatiana Yeremenko, a first class honours accounting student from Kharkiv



(l to r) Dr. Olena Kurovska; GMCC English Chair, Barbara North; and Larysa Fedoryachenko.

Photo courtesy of GMCC Arts and Science



Ilona Lemeshko (r) and her Homestay "mother", Audrey Ross

the Kyiv office to find out more and liked what they heard. Tatiana, a computer science graduate from Kharkiv's Institute of Radio Electronics, was accepted directly into GMCC's Management Studies program. Her high scores on the TOEFL test (Test of English as a Foreign Language) indicated that she was fluent enough in English to handle the academic workload.

This spring, Tatiana, 25, will be the second student from Ukraine to graduate from GMCC. About a dozen have enrolled at GMCC since the Ukrainian Development and Resource Centre (URDC) began recruiting students in Ukraine for the college more than two years ago. Four new students began their studies here this fall, and the first one graduated in June 1996.

Grant MacEwan is the only Canadian college recruiting students in Ukraine. URDC Director Dr. Roman Petryshyn lists the advantages of having students from Ukraine study at the college. To improve its economy, Ukraine has to develop business and trade

internationally, as well as at home. To do so, it needs skilled entrepreneurs who can speak English — the language of international trade. As Ukraine moves from a state-run to a democratic, free-market system, it will require trained middle-managers who can effectively manage people and budgets in everything from hospitals to factories.

GMCC has developed many first-rate programs in these areas, including ESL and business and health management training. Ukrainian students who acquire these skills will find their futures secured. Their understanding of Canada will also strengthen business and trade relations between the two countries.

The college offers a good entry into post-secondary education in Canada. It has programs specifically geared to foreign students (like ESL) as well as many university transfer programs. Smaller classes at the college (less than 30 students versus 300 or more in university introductory level courses) enable students to get more individual

attention. Tuition and living costs here are also highly competitive as compared to college costs for foreign students in Europe or the U.S.

"This is an ideal environment," says Dr. Petryshyn.

Students like Tatiana Yeremenko are well aware of the big investment their families have made in sending them here, and they're determined to make the most of it. After her classes every day, Tatiana puts in another five to six hours at her books and has been rewarded for her diligence with a first class honours standing. She suffered less from homesickness and culture shock than many of the younger students who arrived speaking very little English.

Ilona Lemeshko, 19, an economics student from Poltava, admits she found the first month difficult when she arrived in Edmonton in January 1995. The middle of nine children, she desperately missed her large, closely-knit family. Fortunately, for Ilona, she found a substitute family in Audrey and Ian Ross, the Homestay couple with whom she boarded. The Rosses, a retired couple with three grown children, took her under their wing as their "Ukrainian daughter."

Ilona and her roommate, Marina Burlachenko, a student from Donetsk, were taken to family birthday parties and church youth group socials. Every evening, their hosts made a ritual of after-dinner English conversation. Ilona relied heavily upon her dictionary at first, but her English improved rapidly with all the practice. She completed her ESL levels at the college and was accepted into the accelerated Management Studies program. When Ilona graduates, she plans to return home to help run her family's dairy processing export business. ♦

URDC TACKLES HEALTH REFORM IN NOVOSIBIRSK

The Canadians figured the best way to explain our health care system was to put the Siberian delegation through a simulated medical emergency.

The group leader was persuaded to play the role of a heart attack victim. 911 was dialled. Two ambulances arrived within minutes, and whisked the "patient" and his colleagues away to the emergency ward at Calgary's Foothills Hospital. The patient was "revived" and "operated on", taken to intensive and post-operative care, put through rehabilitation and then discharged under home care.

After experiencing the different levels of patient care first-hand, the Siberian medical experts were briefed in more detail about the personnel, mandate and budget of the different hospital departments and the out-patient programs.

The Canadians had a harder time trying to understand how the Siberian system works.

"That's because it doesn't, as they admit themselves," says Bob Bolton, Vice-President of the Siberian Business Development Corporation. The Calgary-based company is involved in a \$100,000 project to study how to reform the health care system in Novosibirsk. Its partners in the project are URDC, the Siberian Branch of the Russian Medical Academy of Science and MEDSIB (a Siberian consortium of hospitals, banks and pharmaceutical companies.)

The Siberian Business Development Corporation (SBDC), run by geophysicist Bob Bolton and his lawyer son Chris, has been

advising the Russian government on its oil and gas industry for more than a decade. Most recently, SBDC managed a large project, involving several Canadian, U.S. and Australian companies, to help the oil-rich Western Siberian district of Khanty Mansiysk establish a regulatory agency comparable to Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board.

The company was approached by the nearby province of Novosibirsk for assistance in revamping its ailing health care system. SBDC applied to the Gorbachev Foundation (set up by the Mulroney government to finance projects that further

Novosibirsk system can be reformed cost effectively. The project ends in March 1997.

"This study will be very instructive in generating ideas that may be applied to health care reform in Ukraine," says Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of URDC. "We're pleased to be involved with the project."

Canadian medical experts working on the project are: Gerri Nakonechny, GMCC's Dean of Health and Community Studies; Dr. Heather Andrews, former Vice-President of Nursing at the University of Alberta; Bonnie Zwack, former Director of Nursing and Surgery for the Calgary District Hospital Group and a private consultant; and Dr. Gerry Bonham, former medical officer for Calgary and Burnaby. Dr. Bonham has extensive experience drafting health care policies for Ontario, B.C. and Alberta, and has worked on public health projects in China.

The health care system in Novosibirsk, a manufacturing, processing, and research and development-based region, is chaotic and fails to meet the basic needs of its three million people.

"Their solution is put dollars into more doctors and hospital beds rather than identifying their health problems and then figuring out how best to deal with them," says Chris Bolton.

Poor sanitation, bad food and untreated water are the causes of some of the main health problems. Preventative public health care measures would do more to improve the health of the general population than high tech medicine. Novosibirsk children suffer from a high incidence of TB and rickets, for example. These problems can be



Heart attack "patient" Pavel Sergevich, adviser to the Novosibirsk Council of Deputies, is whisked away to hospital



(l) Dr. S. Shergin, Director of MEDSIB signs protocol agreement with Bob Bolton, SBDC.

largely eliminated by pasteurizing milk and enriching it with vitamins. "It costs less to give the dairy industry a subsidy than to build new pediatric wards," notes Bolton. ♦

FUND-RAISING BANQUET SETS NEW RECORD

More than 300 people turned out for *Kyiv Konnection '96*, the third annual fund-raising banquet organized by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), and raised a record \$16,500 for GMCC Ukraine.

Proceeds from the event support the day-to-day operations of the GMCC Ukraine office, located at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), and its programs.

Keynote speaker was Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations, Anatoli Zlenko, who reaffirmed Ukraine's commitment to education in the face of its current economic problems. The ambassador was visibly moved when the crowd, led by Liberal MLA Gene Zwozdesky, sang *Mnohaya lita* in honour of his 58th birthday.

"It was definitely one of the

highlights of the evening," commented Bill Pidruchny, master of ceremonies and one of the organizers of the event, held at the Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre on May 30th. "It was the ambassador's first visit to Edmonton, and he was surprised by the size of the community here and by its interest in Ukraine."

Dr. Sherry Rainsforth, GMCC Vice-President Academic, talked about the partnership forged between the college and NaUKMA during the past two years. Exchanges between the two institutions have played an important role in the developing relationship. Two NaUKMA faculty members, Dr. Olena Kurovska and Larysa Fedoryachenko, and assistant to the president, Natalia Shumkova, described their activities while at GMCC and their work at NaUKMA.

Official greetings were delivered



Gene Zwozdesky (l) leads the crowd in singing *Mnohaya lita* for Ambassador Anatoli Zlenko's birthday

by John Loney, MP for Edmonton North, Andrew Beniuk, MLA for Edmonton Norwood, and Larry Langley, City of Edmonton councillor. The audience gave the loudest welcome to Dave Semenko, Wayne Gretzky's former Oiler teammate.

Telus Corp., official sponsor of GMCC Ukraine, presented a cheque for \$5,000 through company representative Larry Len. Thirty businesses, community groups and individuals donated a variety of items for the evening's silent auction, ranging from Trappers' season tickets to two prints by Victoria artist Peter Shostak and



Larry Len of Telus presents cheque to UFCE President Dr. Bert Hohol

an original water colour by Edmonton's Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn.

As a result of the generous community and business support, *Kyiv-Konnection '96* turned out to be the most successful UFCE fund-raiser to date. Banquets held in 1994 and 1995 raised approximately \$24,000 for GMCC Ukraine.

"The Edmonton community recognizes the important role GMCC and URDC have played in strengthening the bridge with Ukraine," says Pidruchny, a UFCE founder and current board member.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education is invited to send a cheque for \$10 payable to UFCE to:

Suzanna Sidlar, URDC/GMCC,
Box 1796, Edmonton, AB,
T5J 2P2. ♦

GMCC HELPS UKRAINE UPGRADE NURSING PROGRAMS

Twelve senior nursing instructors from Ukraine are participating in an intensive, five-week study program organized by Grant MacEwan Community College this winter to help nursing schools in Ukraine upgrade their training.

The instructors will study the Canadian health care system, the role of nurses, the development of nursing curriculum and teaching methodologies — as well as English medical terminology.

Most nursing research literature is in English, explains Gerri Nakonechny, Dean of Health and Community Studies at GMCC, and coordinator of the program. "So it's really important for them to understand the terminology."

The instructors, who represent nine nursing colleges throughout Ukraine, will split their time between GMCC and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Nursing.

The study program is the most recent in a series of collaborations between GMCC and the Ministry of Health in Ukraine over the past three years to raise nursing in Ukraine to industrialized world standards. Two of the key players have been GMCC's Nakonechny and Dr. Tatyana Chernychenko, a top education specialist with the Ministry of Health in Ukraine.

Dr. Chernychenko identified upgrading nursing education as a prerequisite to raising the nursing profession in Ukraine during her keynote speech at a medical conference held at GMCC in the spring of 1994.

Nurses in Ukraine are half a century behind Canada in terms

of status and training. They're looked upon as doctors' helpers with no distinct professional status and poor pay. Until recently, Ukraine's 110 schools of nursing offered two years of training as compared to the four-year university programs standard in Canada.

On her return from Edmonton, Dr. Chernychenko continued to work with Nakonechny, coordinator of nursing projects for Partners in Health, a volunteer position she manages on top of a demanding full-time job as head of GMCC's Health and Community Studies.



Dr. Roman Petryshyn (l) goes over schedule plans with Dr. Yuriy Voronenko (c) and Dr. Vasyl Pishak (r)

Nakonechny and a colleague were invited to Ukraine to help plan the first nursing conference held in Chernivtsi in the fall of 1995. Four nursing schools have now upgraded to four-year degree programs; two others are scheduled to follow.

In April 1996, Dr. Chernychenko, accompanied by the heads of two colleges that have developed degree programs, visited Edmonton and Ottawa to learn more about nursing standards and educational curriculum in Canada. Along with Dr. Volodymyr Tarasiuk, Director of the Mid Medical College in Vinnytsia and Dr. Ina Hubenko, Director of the Cherkasy Mid Medical College, she spent time with nursing faculty at GMCC and U of A, and met with the Canadian Nurses Association, Health Canada



Dr. Tatiana Chernychenko takes a call at the college

and the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing in Ottawa.

In June, Dr. Chernychenko's chief, Dr. Yuriy Voronenko, assistant to the Deputy Minister of Health in Ukraine and Dr. Vasyl Pishak, Rector of Chernivtsi Medical Institute came to Canada to meet with nursing faculty and administrators. Dr. Voronenko will draw up recommendations as to what assistance Ukraine would like from Canada in developing nursing degree programs and a self-governing national professional body (comparable to the Canadian Nurses Association).

It is anticipated that travel and living expenses for the 12 senior nursing instructors who will be in Edmonton this winter will be covered by Ottawa's Reform Through Knowledge program, administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. GMCC and U of A are contributing close to 200 hours of instructional time, teaching materials and other resources.

The study program will be followed by a weeklong national workshop on nursing policy development in Ukraine in May 1997. Canadian nursing leaders and faculty will assist 30 nursing experts from Ukraine as they hammer out

standards of practice and academic preparation for nurses. The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Health in Ukraine and GMCC, in collaboration with U of A Faculty of Nursing, the Canadian Nurses Association and the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing.

Individually, Canadian nursing

specialists have continued to visit Ukraine in the past year at the invitation of Ukrainian officials. Camille Romaniuk, a GMCC nursing instructor with a special interest in mental health, delivered a paper on Alberta's mental health care system at the first national conference of psychiatric nurses in Ukraine last spring.

Mental health care in Ukraine is largely custodial and medication-based, Romaniuk notes. Patients are offered little in terms of therapy or follow-up once they are discharged from institutions. In their efforts to improve care, mental health professionals in Ukraine are looking at different systems around the world. ♦

URDC PROUDLY ANNOUNCES 1995-96 AWARD WINNERS

The Mitelka Cultural Society of Fairview, Alberta was awarded the 1995-96 Ukrainian Performing Arts Award by URDC.

Sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178, the award was given to the society for its original two-hour-long musical dance theatre, *The Thief*. The production, which involves the talents of nearly 50 amateur performers ranging in age from six to 76, toured six Peace River communities last spring. It also played at Vegreville's *Pysanka Festival* during the summer. *The Thief* is the sixth original show put together by Mitelka, established 13 years ago. It represents an enormous commitment on the part of artistic director, Carol Wookey, a former elementary and junior high school



Carol Wookey (l) with daughter, Julie

teacher who runs a cattle ranch in Cleardale with her husband, Dal Wookey writes the scripts and adapts the music from Ukrainian folk songs while her mother

helps with the lyrics and daughter, Julie, a former Shumka dancer, assists with the choreography.

The families of performers volunteer hours of their time catering Ukrainian food for local functions to raise money for the shows. More than half of *The Thief's* \$49,000 budget was raised by catering while ticket sales accounted for the rest.

The Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178 Award for Educational Exchanges went to Tatiana Yeremenko, a 25-year-old student from Kharkiv, for continued studies in GMCC's Accounting Co-op program.

Orest Soltykewych received the Award for Ukrainian Art in Alberta sponsored by the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts (ACUA). Soltykewych, a music and computer teacher at M E LaZerte Composite High School in Edmonton, will design an ACUA home page on Internet. It will include a detailed description of Ukrainian arts in Alberta, an online directory of artists and information on ACUA.

The William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts went to Julia Stashuk, Vancouver producer of *Echoes of Ukraine*, a Ukrainian community series shown on cable in the lower B.C. mainland. The award will help to defray production costs for the series, which deals with Ukrainian traditions, culture, events and personalities both in Canada and Ukraine. The series has run for five

years thanks to volunteers.

The deadline for submissions for the 1996-97 awards is November 30th. Awards will be offered in the following three categories: the William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts for a novice work promoting Ukrainian Canadian identity through a visual medium, the Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers for a work on a Ukrainian Canadian theme, and the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts Award for a project which fosters a greater awareness of Ukrainian art in Alberta.

For application forms or more information, write: Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, Grant MacEwan Community College,



Orest Soltykewych directs a youth choir at St. John's Orthodox Cathedral.

P.O. Box 1796, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2P2 or phone (403) 497-4374; Fax (403) 497-4377. ♦