

Summer Projects for Deaf in Ukraine Highly Successful

Dr. Liudmyla Fomicheva of Drahomanov State Pedagogical University visited Alberta in February 2000 in response to an invitation extended by Dr. Michael Rodda, Director of the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), and also Director of the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies, University of Alberta. Dr. Fomicheva's visit, facilitated by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, was extremely productive and led to the formation of the Canada Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (CUADHHP).

CUADHHP is soon to be incorporated under the Societies Act. As a registered society, it will foster educational, social and medical partnerships between organizations

working with, or for, deaf and/or hard of hearing individuals. It will also develop, among its members and society at large, an awareness of the issues and opportunities pertaining to deaf and hard of hearing people in Canada and Ukraine. In pursuit of these goals, CUADHHP will design, fund, and implement projects that address the educational and social needs of people in both countries who have experience with deafness.

This summer CUADHHP spearheaded two projects for the benefit of the deaf and hard of hearing in Ukraine.

The purpose of the first project was to fit hearing aids donated by



Dr. Rodda leads children in a game at Summer Institute 2000.



12 year old Olena Ivaniuk (middle) and her mother (left).

Starkey-Canada to 88 children from various regions of Ukraine. A team of eight professionals from across North America worked for several weeks to accomplish this task. The team was assembled by Michael O'Reilly of Thibodeau's Centre for Hearing in Edmonton whose company contributed in many ways to support the project and obtain sponsorship.

Twelve-year-old Olena Ivaniuk of Kyiv was one child who benefited from this project. Severely hearing impaired from birth, Olena expressed great excitement at receiving a new hearing aid. "Good quality hearing aids are very difficult to come by in Ukraine, and when one is available it is usually much too expensive," explained Olena's mother.



Summer Institute participants in Crimea.



Team of audologists and organizers of CUADHHP summer projects.

The second project sponsored by CUADHHP and two other major hearing aid manufacturers, GN Resound and Oticon, was "Summer Institute 2000". The Institute took place in July at a scenic camp in Crimea. 61 individuals took part including teachers of the deaf, school directors, parents, children, university professors from Canada and Ukraine, and other professionals. The Institute was part of a program requirement for Ukrainian teachers of the deaf to upgrade their credentials. It was unique in that it also

involved parents and their deaf children in a co-operative environment, an approach that is new to Ukrainian teachers and administrators.

Alexander Savchenko, a teacher and administrator at a school in Kyiv, attended the Institute in order to acquire



Above: Institute participant Alexander Savchenko, with Anastasia Bendza



Professors Fomicheva (left) and Rodda in Crimea.



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an understanding of what needs to be done to improve the lot of deaf children in Ukraine.

"I want to learn as much as possible from the Canadian team about their methods and innovations," said Savchenko.

Anastasia Bendza, project assistant and student at the University of Alberta, attended the Institute as part of Dr. Rodda's team: "The feedback was incredibly positive, and other activities are already being planned for next summer," she says. ♦

Centre for the Advancement of Deaf Education Launched in Lviv

The URDC-sponsored Centre for the Advancement of Deaf Education was launched in Lviv in October 1999. The Centre is housed at the Mariya Pokrova School for the Deaf in Lviv, and is the brainchild of Ihor Kobel, a teacher at the school. "Our institution is now the first to provide deaf children with the opportunity to learn the English language," says Kobel. Much of this is due to the generosity of Canadians such as Laurie Elkow, Principal of Delwood School in Edmonton, whose institution donated 15 computers to the Centre. Educational software, books and other materials were also donated by other Canadian sponsors and have helped to create a real possibility for the deaf in



Attendees at the launch of the new Centre.

Ukraine to get a quality education.

The Centre has also begun to promote the use of Ukrainian Sign Language. "Before, signing was practically taboo in our schools. Now we realize it is absolutely indispensable," explains Kobel.

Kobel also sees improvement in post-secondary education for the deaf in Ukraine. As evidence he points to a program being developed at Ivan Franko University in Lviv that is specifically designed to facilitate the needs of people with disabilities, including the deaf. ♦

Ukrainian Students' Practicum in Alberta

As a requirement of Grant MacEwan College's Business Management Program in Ukraine, students must complete a work experience component at the end of their program of studies. Ten of the 33 students in the first graduating class were selected to complete this requirement in Canada.

The students arrived in Edmonton in early July 2000 for a week of orientation. The week's activities included a Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)-sponsored "Meet and Greet" reception for the employers and students.

The practicum placements took place over a six-week period from July 10 - August 18, 2000. Joanne Christie, Field Placement Coordinator at Grant MacEwan College, arranged for the majority of placements with employers that included The Royal Bank, TD Canada Trust, The Bank of Montreal, Hong Kong Bank of Canada, The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza and Enbridge. The goal was to expose the students to Canadian business and management practices, and to provide them the opportunity to integrate their program learning with industry realities.

Iryna Horzhevska, who was placed at the Bank of Montreal, found her practicum to be a great learning experience. "The attitude toward the customer is very different in Canada. Here, the customer is treated as number one. It is a perspective I would like to bring back to the banking industry in Ukraine," says Horzhevska. The

Ukrainian students also had several networking opportunities that resulted in each now having many Canadian business contacts.

The outcomes for the business organizations were equally positive. "They felt the experience provided them with an enhanced corporate image from having worked and



Practicum students, employers, and program organizers at "meet and greet" reception.

succeeded on an international education project," says Joanne Christie. The employers also welcomed the opportunity to play a significant role in mentoring a student, and considered the practicum a process by which they could affirm the practice of their day-to-day operations. ♦

Students Aided by Scholarship

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) has created a scholarship that will assist Ukrainian and Canadian students to participate in educational exchanges in one another's countries. The Canada Ukraine Scholarship Fund was introduced on July 31, 2000 at a reception at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. The recipients of scholarships from this fund will use their awards to decrease the costs of participating in programs such as the Canadian business fieldwork placement.

First Business Management Program Class Graduates

On October 7, 2000 a class of 33 students became the first to graduate from the Business Management Program in Ukraine and receive a diploma from Grant MacEwan College.

The students, who began the program in February 1999, have now acquired Western business skills in accounting, finance, marketing, management and communication at the middle-management level. Their expertise is essential to developing a democratic market economy in Ukraine, and helps enable the country to compete on a global scale. Two program graduates have already been recruited as interns by the accounting firm of Ernst and Young in Kyiv.



First graduating class at Business Management Program ceremony.

The graduation ceremony, held at the International Centre for Privatization, Investment and Management (ICPIM), was attended by Derek Fraser, Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, Janet Riopel, Chair of the Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan College, Cathryn Heslep, Director of Student Services and Registrar for Grant MacEwan

College, Ted Sadlowski, Chair of Management Studies, Margo March, Executive Assistant to the President of Grant MacEwan College, and other dignitaries.

The ceremony was conducted in English and Ukrainian, and was executed in the traditional manner of Grant MacEwan College graduation ceremonies held in Edmonton. ♦

New System of Governance for Business School – UMF Inaugurated

The International Centre for Privatization, Investment and Management (ICPIM), an educational institution created out of a directive by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, and financial support from the Soros Foundation, has changed its name to the International Institute of Business (IIB) and is under new ownership. The newly formed Ukrainian Management Foundation (UMF), a legal charitable entity under Ukraine's laws, now governs the International Institute of Business as a self-funding business school, no longer dependent on Soros funding. At its inaugural meeting on

October 24, 2000, the Foundation's first item of business was to accept three new founders into its membership. The new founders include Grant MacEwan College represented by Dr. Roman Petryshyn, the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation), represented by Dr. Newton Smith, and the University of New Brunswick, represented by Professor Henryk Sterniczuk. The American Chamber of Commerce represented by Mr. Jorge Zukoski, and Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, Vice Rector of Ukraine's Academy of Public Administration are among UMF's original visionaries, including several other high-ranking representatives of prestigious institutions such as the London School of Business. The combined skills, experience and reputations of the Foundation's supervisory and governing bodies will be instrumental in generating ongoing

local and international financial support for UMF's activities.

UMF was created to promote and support the modernization of Ukraine's management practices. According to its mission statement, the Foundation will "play a key role in making Ukrainian management and business development more productive, ethical and closer to standards and concepts valid in well-developed countries." In its role as a founding member of UMF, Grant MacEwan College will benefit from an enhanced ability to promote its business management programs and courses throughout Ukraine.

In its short history, IIB (formerly ICPIM) has succeeded in attracting approximately 4000 students per year to its wide range of short-term business courses and academic programs. Grant MacEwan's courses are now part of the offerings available through IIB. ♦

Canadian Learning Centre Established in Ukraine

On January 27, 1999 International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi opened the first of a new generation of Canadian Learning Centres in Kyiv. The opening took place during Prime Minister Jean Chretien's first official visit to Ukraine.

The Canadian Learning Centre (CLC), established and operated in part by Grant MacEwan College in Kyiv and Confederation College in Ivano-Frankivsk, uses an Internet system to showcase Canadian learning opportunities as well as education training in Ukraine.

"Putting a Canadian Learning Centre at the International Centre for Privatization, Investment and Management in Kyiv is a good match because our Business Management Program is housed there and provides the CLC with a built-in clientele," says Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at MacEwan.

Gerry Brown, President of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges of Canada is pleased with the opening of the CLC in Kyiv and with the involvement of Grant MacEwan College. "The colleges of Canada have been looking for a marketing vehicle that would help provide more ground support for our on-line facilities. With the establishment of the CLC, we think we've found it," says Brown. ♦



MacEwan Developing ESP and TOEFL Courses



Grant MacEwan College is exploring the possibility of developing a course of English for Special Purposes (ESP) to help Ukrainian students. Other courses in development hope to help prepare students for the TOEFL (Teaching Of English as a Foreign Language) exam in Kyiv.

The TOEFL exam is the world-wide standard required for studying abroad. Currently it is estimated that ten students write the TOEFL exam in Kyiv each business day. While many are successful, some students find the exam difficult to pass without any formal preparation.

In May 2000, GERALYN St. Louis, teacher of English as a Second Language at Grant MacEwan College, travelled to Kyiv to study how English is taught there. "It is my estimation that there is a large number of students looking for a course that will help them reach their goals. Launching ESP and TOEFL preparation courses using quality instructors, modern technology, relevant course content and accessible facilities could prove very successful," says St. Louis. ♦



Post-secondary English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instructors gather in Kyiv with visiting Grant MacEwan instructor GERALYN St. Louis.

10th Annual Scholarships Awarded

Mrs. Anna Hanushevsky of New Westminster, B.C. was awarded the 1999-2000 Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers for her collection of poems in Ukrainian entitled "Podarunok z Neba" (A Gift from Heaven).

Mrs. Hanushevsky was born in Ukraine, and as a young girl loved to explore the natural beauty of the region where she grew up. It was during one of her frequent hikes through the forests, hills and valleys of Zakarpátya that Mrs. Hanushevsky first felt the clear, strong and unmistakable presence of God. Since that time, the presence has remained with her, in good times and in bad. Now a wife, mother and resident of Canada for several decades, Mrs. Hanushevsky also credits this special presence with several miracle medical cures for herself and other family members.

Mrs. Hanushevsky's poetry is written in many styles, but always with the underlying theme of gratitude and respect for the special presence in her life.

The Heruvymy (Cherubim) female quartet of Edmonton received the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts Award for the release of their

second recording, "Pryidite Poklonimsya" (Come, Let Us Worship). This recording features a 17th century setting of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

The Heruvymy quartet, whose members include Andrea Leader, Melanie Turgeon (Hladunewich), Patty Tachynski and Kathy Tachynski, was formed six years ago and is known for its repertoire in Byzantine Liturgical Music. It has performed at charity concerts, holiday celebrations, professional sporting events and at over 100 weddings to date. The quartet has toured throughout Canada and the United States and has additional tours planned for this fall and winter to promote the new recording.

Melanie Turgeon received the Maria Mae and Sergei Eremenko Music Award for her outstanding contributions to the promotion of Ukrainian music to the community. A graduate of the University of Alberta with a Masters of Music degree, Melanie has promoted Ukrainian music via concerts, recitals, music arrangements, presentations, and membership in musical groups such as the Heruvymy quartet. Melanie is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Illinois where she has begun work on her dissertation on the topic of Eastern European sacred choral music. ♦

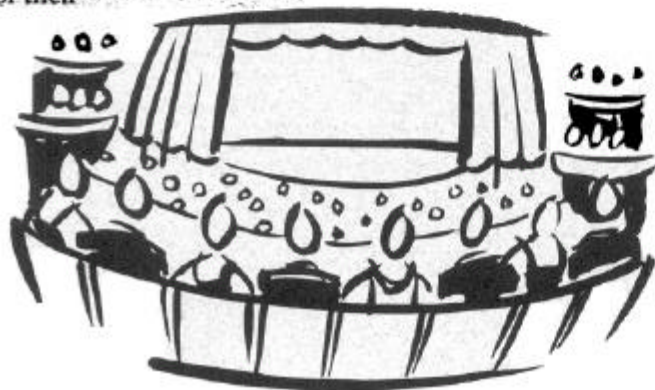
Kyiv Konnection Fundraiser Largest Ever

With a record attendance of over 360 people, Kyiv Konnection 2000 was the largest to date. The 7th annual fundraising banquet presented by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) was held on May 11, 2000 at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex. This year's keynote speaker was former Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon.

Filmon's keynote address included a call to his fellow Canadians of Ukrainian heritage to continue to build and strengthen diplomatic and economic ties with Ukraine. "I believe that it is absolutely critical that we continue to find opportunities for two way trade and investment. Countries will strengthen faster and more securely through trade than they ever could through foreign aid," he said. While Premier of Manitoba, Filmon's government took a leadership role in establishing initiatives that facilitated cooperation between Canada and Ukraine in areas of economic development, education, culture and judicial exchanges.

The UFCE President's Award, presented each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the objectives of the organization, was given to Suzanna Sidlar. Suzanna has served on the UFCE Board since its inception in 1994. UFCE President Steve Kashuba considers Suzanna's contributions invaluable. "She is a person you want on your team if you want to get things done. She helps UFCE function like a well-oiled machine, and there is no one more deserving of this award," says Kashuba.

Funds raised at Kyiv Konnection 2000 will go to support programs that address healthcare education, business education and English language education in Ukraine. ♦



UFCE Supporter Passes Away

Mr. Richard Samoil, a strong supporter of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), passed away on June 12, 2000 at the age of 84 after a courageous battle with cancer.



Richard Samoil

As a former teacher and school principal, Mr. Samoil had a life long commitment to learning. He was particularly passionate about Ukrainian studies, and wrote and published "Ukraine-Past and Present" - a book on Ukrainian history and the land and people of modern Ukraine.

Mr. Samoil was also a strong supporter of various Ukrainian organizations. UFCE was a particular favourite because it combined Mr. Samoil's passion for learning with his belief in positively contributing to his community.

Richard Samoil is survived by his wife Mary, six sons and one daughter. ♦

URDC Now at City Centre Campus



Alice Chumer, URDC office administrator, surrounded by moving boxes.

This summer the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) relocated from Grant MacEwan's Jasper Place Campus to its City Centre location. The move is a result of an initiative by the College to create more classroom space for its ever-growing student population.

"Our new location provides us with a better opportunity to interact with college divisions involved

in joint Alberta-Ukraine programs. We're also more visible to students and college staff and more accessible to the community," says Suzanna Sidlar, URDC Projects Administrator.

Despite the move, the phone and fax numbers for URDC remain the same. The new office address is Room 7-156, 10700-104 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4S2. ♦

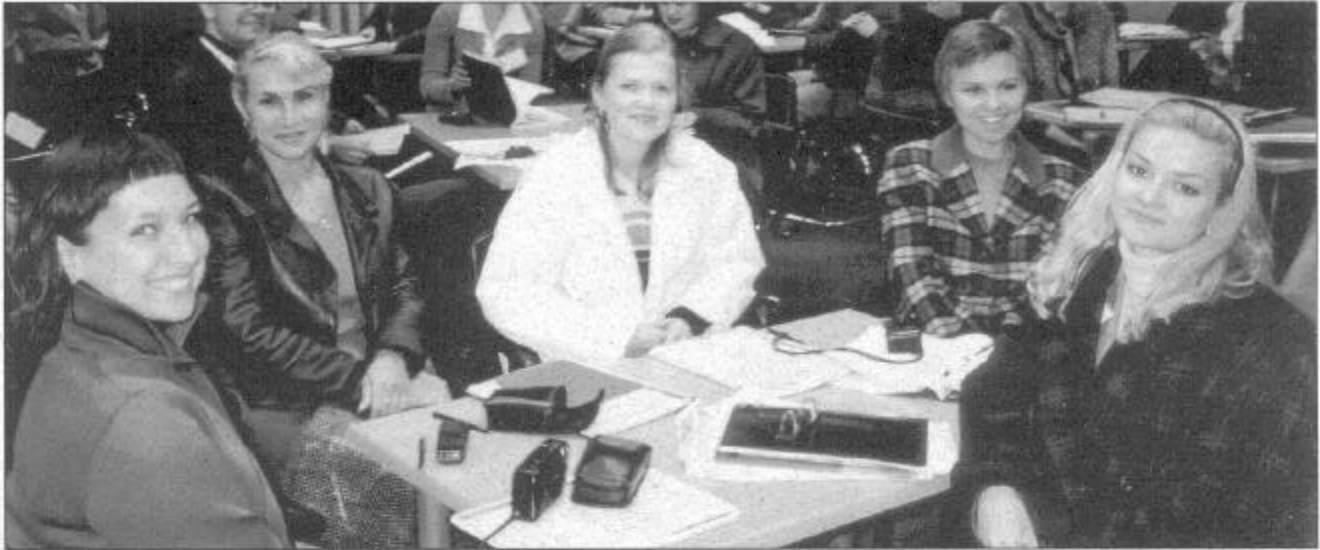
Canada Ukraine Foundation in Lviv

Professor Ostap Hawaleshka, President of the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) based in Winnipeg met with V. Kuibida, Mayor of Lviv, in November to initial an agreement establishing a CUF projects mission in that city.

The Lviv Projects Mission will focus on educational projects. It will be carried out by a consortium of five CUF members. They are the: Ukrainian Language Education Centre, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta; and the Ukrainian

Resource and Development Centre, Grant MacEwan College - both from Alberta; the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Saskatchewan Provincial Council; the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Manitoba Provincial Council; and the Institute for the Professional Development of Teachers, located in Toronto.

Renovations are currently underway for the Mission's offices, to be located at 2 Kostyushko Street in downtown Lviv. Two of CUF's initial projects are being carried out with Canada World Youth and Alberta's provincial ministry of education, Alberta Learning. ♦



EA Workshop in Ukraine Exceeds all Expectations

From October 11-13, 2000, Margo March, executive assistant to the college president and the Board of Governors, facilitated a workshop for executive assistants in Ukraine.

The workshop, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, was designed to share knowledge about professional development, planning, professional ethics, customer service and effectively managing a CEO's time.

Workshop organizers originally planned for 25 participants, but due to very high demand ended up accepting 39. These 39 executive assistants from across Ukraine eagerly accepted the opportunity to learn from their Canadian colleagues, and found their experience to be invaluable.

"I can't get over what an experience it was," March said of the workshop. "It was a real triumph, one the Business Division is proud to have been a part of." ♦



Top: Executive Assistant Training workshop participants.

Middle: Margo March (seated, 2nd from left) with Janet Riopel, Chair of MacEwan's Board of Governors (foreground), and Cathryn Heslep, Director of Student Services and Registrar (far right) in Ukraine.

Bottom: Margo March presents a student with a certificate of participation.