



## 1.0 Organizational Changes

### 1.1 URDC Partners With Arts and Science

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), formerly with Grant MacEwan's International Program Services Division, has announced a new partnership with the Faculty of Arts and Science at the College.

URDC Director Dr. Roman Petryshyn, who is Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta and a member of the Advisory Council on Alberta Ukraine Relations says, "I'm looking forward to having URDC's staff work closely with the people in the Arts and Science Division. The alignment of the URDC with the Arts and



*(above, left to right) Roman Petryshyn, Lida Andrushko, Bohdan Horich, Ludwig Marianych, Alice Chumer at new office opening.*



Science Division will no doubt lead to new faculty and student exchanges, new research, and the start-up of some joint international projects with our university partners in Russia, Ukraine and other Eastern European countries."

The new partnership will help URDC continue to fulfill its mandate of facilitating local, national, and international education projects that have significant impact on the Ukrainian communities, both in Canada and abroad. Some of the initiatives facilitated by URDC over the past decade include off-

shore academic programs in Business Management, Human Resource Management, Nursing and Human Service Management, partnerships with Canadian community organizations in arts and culture, and a project in deafness studies with the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta.

## 1.2 EELT Moves to Health and Community Studies

Over the years, URDC has also led the establishment and administration of Grant MacEwan's Eastern Europe Leadership Team (EELT), which provided advice and support to

the College's divisions in setting up projects in Russia and Ukraine. EELT was once a part of MacEwan's International Program Services Division, as was URDC. In the fall of 2003, however, EELT joined the College's Health and Community Studies Division, under the guidance of Dean Gerry Nakonechny. Directorship of the EELT has now been assumed by Yuri Konkin, Director, and Veronica Iszak, Administrative Assistant.



(left to right): Yuri Konkin, Roman Petryshyn.

## 2.0 Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal (UKiP) Consortium Association

### 2.1 URDC Manages Contract for Groundbreaking Internet Project

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) is one of six educational and community organizations who recently formed the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal (UKiP) Consortium Association. This group is dedicated to the development and delivery of Ukrainian-English bilingual resources for learning and appreciating Ukrainian language and culture. Their goal is to acquire, develop and deploy these resources via the World Wide Web in a convenient variety of formats to benefit teachers, students, parents, developers and general public users. The

UKiP Consortium Association is partially funded by and works closely with Alberta Learning to create and distribute quality, on-line digital materials focusing on Canadian primary, secondary and post-secondary education.

As part of its participation in the UKiP Consortium Association, URDC has taken on the role of UKiP contract manager. In fulfilling this management role, URDC has hired Ms. Kim Robinson as UKiP Projects General Manager. She is responsible for overall project management and operations including the business plan, budget, project timelines, portal infrastructure, marketing and communications, and team building among all project partners.

### 2.2 UKiP Consortium Association Launches the oomRoom.ca

On Friday, February 13, 2004, the UKiP Consortium Association hosted the launch of "oomRoom.ca" at Edmonton City Hall. The launch ceremony included remarks and official ribbon cutting by the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Alberta's Minister of Community Development and was followed by a reception where guests were invited to surf and explore the oomRoom site.

Located on the World Wide Web at oomRoom.ca, this unique educational Web site is geared to the Kindergarten to Grade 12 Ukrainian language and culture learning audience. It provides

on-line access to a range of Ukrainian language and cultural tools and activities for students, teachers and parents. Features of the site will include stories, text, streaming audio and a chat area for students; teaching resources and access to the latest research for teachers; a discussion forum and other resources to help parents be active participants in their child's education; and a variety of other interactive resources to make learning and teaching of Ukrainian language and culture easier and fun for everyone involved.

[www.oomRoom.ca](http://www.oomRoom.ca)



*Deaf Students in Kharkiv, holding the Canadian flag.*

### 3.0 Canada Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons

#### 3.1 Professor Honoured for Work with Ukraine's Deaf

In the summer of 2000, Dr. Michael Rodda went to Ukraine to change the way the recently independent country educates its deaf.

Three years later, Dr. Rodda, a University of Alberta (U of A) Education professor and director of the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness at the U of A, was given one of Ukraine's highest academic honours for his work. In March 2003, he was elected as a Foreign Member of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine in the Division of Psychology, Physiology, and Special Education. The Academy, with

only about 120 members, represents the pinnacle of academic achievement in Ukraine; it was created in 1992, just after Ukraine won its independence, to oversee the nation's education system.

"I never thought that anything like this would happen," said Dr. Rodda, who is not Ukrainian and can only speak a few phrases of the language. Ukraine "is an incredible place to work because everybody's so excited. You don't have to fight for change--everybody wants improvements and a new Ukraine."

Dr. Rodda has been encouraging Ukrainian educators to move away from Soviet modes of educating deaf students and toward more Western methods. For example, Dr. Rodda is trying

to get educators to incorporate Ukrainian Sign Language (USL) into the classroom, where previously USL wasn't even recognized as a language in the Soviet system.

Though now officially retired from the U of A, Dr. Rodda plans to continue his work with the deaf as an instructor at Grant MacEwan College.

#### 3.2 Grant MacEwan a Partner in Important Research for the Deaf in Ukraine

Since 1999, Grant MacEwan College and the University of Alberta (U of A) have had an ongoing relationship with partners in Ukraine to support and facilitate the development of

educational practices and research. In order to formalize the relationship, the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT) was established in September 2003 between Grant MacEwan College and the U of A's Department of Educational Psychology.

One of CURT's goals is to improve the education of special needs students in Ukraine through joint research, exchange of information and faculty, and implementation of special projects. One such project, led by Dr. Michael Rodda and supported by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, involves research on the psychology and teaching of sign language. In the course of his research, Dr. Rodda and his colleagues have videotaped the spontaneous use of sign language by the deaf in Ukraine, who in the past were discouraged from using this method of communication. Next, Dr. Rodda plans to use this research to codify sign language in Ukraine.

In early 2004, CURT invited Dr. Vitaly Bondar, Director of the Institute of Special Pedagogy of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine to visit Alberta. The purpose of Dr. Bondar's visit included work on a program of cooperation between his institute and MacEwan/U of A, as well as discussing special education practices and perspectives of research with his Canadian colleagues.



*Participants at the signing ceremony of the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT). Right to Left: Academician Vitaly Bondar, Professor Michael Rodda; Dr. Linda MacDonald; Executive Vice President Dr. Janet Peterson-Weir; Dr. Stewart McDonald; Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Larry Beauchamp; Ihor Kobel PhD student, and Dr. Roman Petryshyn.*



*Academician Dr. Bondar, Institute of Special Pedagogy, watches Dr. Janet Peterson-Weir, Executive Vice-President of Grant MacEwan College sign a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2004. Dr. Linda McDonald, chair of Educational Psychology, University of Alberta looks on.*

### 3.3 Summer Camps for Deaf in Ukraine Continue

A main focus of the Canada Ukraine Alliance for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (CUADHHP) is the now-annual summer institutes for the deaf in Ukraine. Under the direction of CUADHHP President Ihor Kobel, two summer institutes took place in June 2003, one in Kharkiv, the other in Khust. A total of nearly 200 people attended the institutes, including students, educators, administrators and a psychologist for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Participants took part in discussions, lectures and games on the topics of deaf culture and identity, self-esteem of deaf persons, and communication. One activity, called "Deaf Deaf World" has become a tradition at the summer institutes. In this activity, the deaf students create an interactive environment for their teachers and parents based solely on the use of Ukrainian Sign Language and gestures. Students provide services to participants, such as hairstyling, massage or tea service, all without the use of voices. Mock punishment for using your voice includes going before a judge and paying a fine for your transgression.

Summer institute participants had high praise for the event, calling it an important step in the integration of the deaf and hard of hearing persons into Ukrainian society.



*Deaf Deaf World*  
A student with a hearing loss is using her 'beauty school skills' to cut the hair of a hearing child. The mother was only allowed to articulate her preferences through gestures and sign.

*Kharkiv Classroom*  
A classroom in the Kharkiv School for The Deaf. The purpose of this equipment is to remediate the hearing and speech of children with hearing loss.



## 4.0 Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)

### 4.1 UFCE Solicits Scholarship Funds from Alberta Learning

One of the highlights of a stellar year for the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) was facilitating the establishment of the International Education Awards in association with Alberta's Department of Learning.

The International Education Awards bursary was based on a proposal by UFCE and created in 2003 by an endowment of \$500,000 from the Department of Learning in support of the ministry's international education strategy. This program is designed to promote and strengthen international relationships between Alberta and Ukraine, and recognize the accomplishments of students and faculty in both countries.

Five awards of \$5,000 (CDN) each are available per year in perpetuity. Applicants must be a post-secondary institution student or faculty member or an apprenticeship student taking a practicum, internship or apprenticeship program in either Ukraine or Alberta.

Application forms will be available from the Alberta Scholarship Programs' office and website ([www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships)), Alberta colleges and universities, the Canadian Embassy on Kyiv, and the Ministry of Education of Ukraine.

### 4.2 UFCE and Shevchenko Foundation Agree to Fund URDC

On May 24, 2003 Shevchenko Foundation President Andriy Hladyshevsky announced a donation of \$150,000 to benefit the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC). The donation comes with a proviso that UFCE match the amount with a further \$150,000, bringing the total amount to \$300,000.

These funds will assist the URDC in continuing to carry out its mission to develop and implement programs in both Canada and Ukraine. Among other things, these programs serve to promote Ukrainian Canadian culture, produce bilingual educational materials, carry out community development projects, conduct research, sponsor artistic works and organize and offer courses.

For more information about the work of URDC, and to find out how you can help UFCE in its quest to match the funds donated by the Shevchenko Foundation, visit the Centre's Web site at [www.urdc.net](http://www.urdc.net).

### 4.3 Annual Golf Tournament Puts the Fun in Fundraising

The UFCE annual golf tournament, held this year on August 20, 2003 at the Fort-in-View Golf Club is being hailed as another great success.

Thanks to the organizational efforts of Dr. Walter Buck, 120 people enjoyed a great round of golf while simultaneously raising \$4,500 for the UFCE scholarship fund.

This event gets bigger and better with each passing year, so be sure to mark your calendars for the next tournament, scheduled for August 18, 2004.

### 4.4 UFCE's Work Praised at Banquet

Representatives from all three levels of government in Canada came to honour and encourage the work of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) at the annual Kyiv Konnection banquet, held this year on May 22, 2003.

In partnership with Grant MacEwan College, UFCE has supported education programs in Ukraine which offer human resource and business management programs. Canadian Health Minister Anne McLellan focused on the work of UFCE in her keynote address at the banquet, noting that Canada's Ukrainian community plays a key role in assisting government in helping Ukraine during its transformation period. "I encourage the Ukrainian Canadian community to continue to engage the government of Canada, the government of Alberta, civil society in this country, on a wide variety of issues, because in fact your engagement will help shape the future of this country and I do believe it will help shape the future of Ukraine," she said.

Representing the provincial government, Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky said the Alberta government will provide \$500,000 for an education awards program focusing on Ukraine through the Department of Learning.

On behalf of the City of Edmonton, Councilor Terry Cavanaugh conveyed his appreciation for the impressive role the Ukrainian community has played in the growth of Edmonton.

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 Ivan Kupchenko and Dennis Kowalishin of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Trust of Sherwood Park in recognition of their society's

recent \$84,000 donation.

In addition, the Queen's Jubilee Medal was presented by the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky to Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan College. The Minister called Dr. Petryshyn "a most dedicated member of our Ukrainian community who has truly distinguished himself as a leader, an innovator and a tireless volunteer."

#### 4.5 UFCE Assists Visiting Practicum Students

Each year, Alberta hosts a number of students from Ukraine who come to the province to complete the work experience component of the Canadian Business Management Program in Kyiv. This year, UFCE awarded each of

the four visiting business practicum students a \$1,000 bursary to assist them with their studies.

The Canadian Business Management Program is jointly managed by Grant MacEwan College and the International Institute of Business (IIB) in Kyiv, under the direction of new IIB President Mr. Mykhail Kruikonov. The main goal of the program is to enhance the capacity of Ukrainians to properly conduct business in Ukraine.

#### 5.0 2003 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following for their award winning achievements in the area of Ukrainian cultural arts:

Elizabeth Nestorenko Kuiken, Edmonton  
Award: Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers  
For her story, "Angles of the Sun"

St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir, Edmonton  
Award: Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) Award  
For their CD project featuring classical Ukrainian liturgical and Christmas masterpieces

Orest Romaniuk, Edmonton  
Award: Sergei Eremenko Music Scholarship  
For enhancement of his bandura-playing skills and evolution into a teacher of the bandura

Roman Hurko, Toronto  
Award: Roman Soltykewych Music Scholarship  
For his accomplishments in conducting, and composition of Ukrainian liturgical music



#### CENTREPIECES BICTI 3 ЦЕНТРЫ

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## 6.0 New Seminar Series Offered

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) has launched a group of new lectures entitled the East European Studies Seminar Series. The series' goal is to increase awareness among the college community about issues and areas of study dealing with Ukraine and the surrounding region. The URDC plans to make the series an ongoing activity at the College.

The first lecture, called "Icons and Intellectual Problems", was held on October 21, 2003. It was presented by Dr. John-Paul Himka from the University of Alberta, who discussed the many unknowns that are faced by historians and specialists interested in Eastern/Byzantine/Orthodox Christianity.

## 7.0 Exhibit Features Local Artist

As part of The Works Art and Design Festival held in Edmonton June 20-July 2, 2003, Grant MacEwan College hosted a display of photographs by local artist, Terry Malanchuk. His display, entitled "Looking at Onion Domes" is a pictorial and interpretive look at the Ukrainian and Russian churches in central Alberta.

"As an artist, I have an acute sense of proportion which is satisfied very deeply by these structures," he says.

Malanchuk's ancestors were of the Ukrainian Orthodox faith, and most likely helped to build the very churches he now photographs. The 20 photographs on display at the College will help to form the framework of a book *Looking at Onion Domes* to be published on the occasion of Alberta's centenary in 2005.



*St. Vladimir's Church, Edmonton*

*Church in Calmar/Thorsby area*