



President Byrne poses with students graduating from MacEwan's Business Management Program in Kyiv.

College President Visits Ukraine

From May 27 to June 1, 2005, MacEwan President Dr. Paul Byrne made his first visit to Ukraine. The trip's main objectives were to review the College's strategy and partnerships, and explore opportunities for business linkages between Alberta and Ukraine.

Dr. Byrne's first stop was at the International Institute of Business (IIB) in Kyiv, where he met with IIB officials and attended the graduation of the sixth class to complete MacEwan's Business Management Program in Ukraine.

He then met with participants of the "Partners in Health" project at Kyiv Medical College #2. MacEwan has been involved in this project by translating nursing manuals into Ukrainian originally developed by the College for nurses wanting to upgrade their skills and knowledge. The project also includes the dubbing into Ukrainian of instructional nursing videos. All materials were printed or produced in Canada, and shipped for distribution to nursing schools throughout Ukraine.
(continued on page 2)



President Byrne meeting with Dr. Ogneviuk,
Deputy Minister of Education and Science.

(continued from page 1) Finally, Dr. Byrne attended a workshop at the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. Organized by the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT), the workshop helped facilitate the development of a proposal in the area of special needs education. (see CURT story in this newsletter).

Tour organizer, MacEwan's Yuri Konkin, says Dr. Byrne's visit served to reinforce the College's commitment to programming in Eastern Europe. "During the visit, our Ukrainian partners made it clear that MacEwan is uniquely positioned to spearhead and increase much needed support in many areas, especially now that Ukraine is harmonizing its educational system with the West. I think the President was impressed by the quality of the students and instructors at our partner institutions. It was a very rewarding experience both for our Ukrainian hosts and visiting Canadians," says Konkin.



(clockwise from above) Directors of Ukrainian nursing schools and participants of MacEwan training programs; Dr. Byrne and Dr Kreminj - President of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences; Hearty welcome for the MacEwan delegation at Kyiv Nursing College #2; Meeting with nursing students; President Byrne shakes hands with Professor Brioukhovetsky, President NaUKMA.



Elsie Elford speaks at graduation ceremony

Business School Dean Explores New Opportunities in Ukraine

Accompanying President Byrne to Ukraine was Elsie Elford, Dean of MacEwan's Business School. She too attended the graduation ceremony of students from MacEwan's Business Management Program in Ukraine. With a total of 187 graduates to date, the Dean took the opportunity to explore the possibilities of expanding this successful program to other regions of Ukraine.

As a show of support for international projects, the Dean's visit further strengthened the ties between Edmonton and Ukraine. She continues to sit on the board of the Ukrainian Management Foundation in Kyiv and on the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education in Edmonton.



Iryna Kushchenko and Svetlana Litovchenko, visiting graduate students from Kyiv, at the University of Alberta, November 2005



One view of the touring exhibit.

Avramenko Exhibit Marks Provincial Centennials

With the assistance of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, the Shevchenko Foundation is celebrating Alberta's and Saskatchewan's centennials by touring the Avramenko Exhibit. "Alberta and Saskatchewan – Heart and Soul of Ukrainian Dance in Canada" depicts the legacy of Vasile Avramenko, the founder of the Ukrainian dance form in Canada and the United States. The exhibit features over 180 photographs, introductory text in English, French and Ukrainian, and numerous facts and images reflecting the development of the Ukrainian dance expression in Alberta and Saskatchewan over the past century.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, copies of the exhibit will be toured across four regions of Canada including Alberta/BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario/Quebec. Regional planning committees and tour coordinators have planned the exhibit tour within their respective region, which will reach nearly 68 communities and approximately 300,000 Canadians. The exhibits will be located in public buildings, cultural centres, festival sites, and libraries to allow for full public access without an admission fee.

Exchange of Researchers Continues

In early 2004, Grant MacEwan College and the University of Alberta struck an agreement with the Institute of Special Education in Ukraine to assist them in promoting equality in education, with a focus on inclusive education for students with disabilities. As a result, the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT) was formed.

Part of CURT's mandate is the exchange of researchers between the two countries to gather information and exchange ideas. One such exchange occurred in November 2004 with the visit to MacEwan of Dr. Natalia Chemerkina and Oksana Miakushko of Kyiv. Dr. Chemerkina, a pediatric physician, focused on fetal alcohol syndrome in children, and how Ukraine might adopt Canadian standards to its pediatric practices. As an educational psychologist, Ms. Miakushko's interest was in new perspectives in special education and in exploring prospects for Canada-Ukraine cooperation.

Four months later, Dr. Alla Kolupayeva and Dr. Oleksander Savchenko of the Institute of Special Education in Ukraine visited Edmonton. As leaders of inclusive education in Ukraine, they gave a presentation on how selected elements from Canadian education could be applied to Ukrainian education. They see special education in Ukraine as being constantly in the process of searching, renewing and improving, and indicated Canada's support is key to the success of this process.

During five weeks in October and November 2005, MacEwan and the Faculty of Education at the U of A hosted Iryna Kushchenko and Svetlana Litovchenko. Both are students at the Institute of Special Pedagogy.



(above) New members of AULA
 (right) Think tank participants discuss ideas and listen to presentations



Think Tank Helps Shape Future of Ukrainian Education in Alberta

A visioning exercise about Ukrainian education in Alberta for the next 25 years was held on May 6 and 7, 2005 at the University of Alberta. Sponsored in part by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, the event was attended by forty leaders in Ukrainian education from rural and urban environments, representing the views of parents, students, teachers, principals, school boards, and post-secondary institutions. The group's focus was on shaping the future of Ukrainian education, of both Ukrainian language learning and English language study of Ukrainian topics.

Through the process of group discussions, presentations and friendly debate, participants set goals that are seen as critical for the continued success of Ukrainian education for the next generation. These goals include increasing awareness and availability of Ukrainian language and culture education, ensuring that it is of the highest quality, and establishing Ukraine as a valued partner in the process.

Having formulated a vision, "Ukrainian – a winning language and culture", participants agreed to help form an umbrella agency to unite all those involved in Ukrainian education. The result is the Alberta Ukrainian Learning Agency (AULA), whose aim is to increase choices available in Ukrainian education, to use new technology for self-study, and provide services to smaller communities within the province. Currently, AULA is working with both Alberta Education and Advanced Education in preparation for the government's second-language learning initiative.

All Alberta education administrators, technologists, curriculum designers, faculty, teachers and others interested in Ukrainian education are invited to become members of AULA. For further information call (780) 497-4375.



Barbara North (right) introduces Yaroslava Fedoriv (left) and Lidiia Ratushna (centre)

Orange Revolution Experiences Recounted.....

Two faculty members from the National University of "Kyiv Mohyla Academy" (NaUKMA) spoke at MacEwan about their experiences with the Orange Revolution. After visiting with the Faculty of Arts and Science for a month in May and June 2005, Yaroslava Fedoriv and Lidiia Ratushna drew a large audience to hear about their personal experience and see video and photographs of the historical events in Kyiv. Barbara North, Chair of English at MacEwan, introduced the visitors as the 15 and 16th NaUKMA faculty members brought to the College under an exchange arrangement established a decade ago.

Four More Ukrainian Business Students Learn from Albertans

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 taught in Kyiv. This year, four students visited our province and completed practicums at the Royal Bank of Canada, Crowne Plaza – Chateau Lacombe, Westside Mitsubishi and the City of Edmonton.

The students were invited to a dinner hosted by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) where the organization awarded each of the visiting business practicum students a \$1,000 bursary to assist them with their studies.

Part of the practicum students' trip to Alberta included a visit to a Ukrainian language class at Archbishop Jordan High School. There, teacher Stephanie Dowson divided her class into four groups and each spoke to a practicum student about their interests, home life, pets, job, Orange Revolution, etc. This exercise gave the Alberta students an opportunity to use their language skills and gain insight into the lives of Ukrainians. The four practicum students found their visit to a Canadian classroom both interesting and fulfilling.

At the end of their practicum, the students attended the convocation ceremony at MacEwan on April 30, 2005.

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



Practicum students at MacEwan convocation ceremony



Peter Kule (seated in front) with Doris standing behind him celebrate with University of Alberta Ukrainian Studies colleagues and friends.

Kules Receive Honorary Doctorates from the U of A

On June 8, 2005, Peter and Doris Kule became the first couple to be awarded joint doctoral degrees by the University of Alberta. Long recognized as community leaders and philanthropists dedicated to supporting education, the honour is another in a long list of accolades the Kules have received for their valuable work.

The Kules have supported education at all levels. They helped fund the "Bright Futures" stay-in-school program for new immigrants, have given generously to MacEwan's Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, and funded two chairs in Eastern Christian Theology at St. Paul's University in Ottawa. They have also supported the University of Alberta, most recently by endowing the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Ethnography.

Through their philanthropic efforts, the Kules have sought to advance not only education, but also the recognition of Canadian multiculturalism in general, and Ukrainian Canadians in particular. The degrees awarded to the Kules help to further that goal by bringing recognition to the entire Ukrainian community.

Study Looks at What Our Kids Are Like

The characteristics of Alberta high school students registered in Ukrainian Language Arts was the subject of a recent study released by the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF). The study focused on students in grades 9 to 12, and asked questions about their interests and motivations, their cultural background knowledge, their Ukrainian language ability and strengths and weaknesses.

Among other things, researchers found that students consider Ukrainian grammar to be their biggest challenge. They desire more language learning strategies, and they want to learn about Ukrainians in Canada, the history and culture of Ukraine, as well as contemporary Ukraine. Ultimately, the study helps students by making them more conscious of their learning and benefits teachers by allowing them to better consider students' needs in future planning and instruction.

The study was sponsored by Alberta Education, and authored by Dr. Olenka Bilash of the University of Alberta with the assistance of CUF's Bohdan Horich.



Ukraine's Minister of Health, Dr. Polishchuk (left) with Veronica Izsak and Dr. Paul Byrne.

Medical Convention Held in Edmonton

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 38th Biennial Conference on June 29-July 3, 2005 in Edmonton. Nearly 100 health care professionals from the United States, Canada and Ukraine attended the event. The four-day event included two days of scientific presentations and a variety of social activities.

The guest of honour and keynote speaker was Dr. Mykola Polishchuk, Minister of Health of Ukraine. In his address, he focused on how organizations in the diaspora are of valuable assistance to Ukraine at this time in its medical evolution.

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Yuri Konkin and Veronica Izsak gave presentations at the Conference regarding some of MacEwan's work in this area, including the developing programs to aid disabled children in Ukraine and translating nurse credentialing modules into Ukrainian.



CURT Takes on Partner - Project Gains Steam

While visiting Ukraine in June 2005, URDC's Director helped facilitate the development of a project proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Part of the project included creating a partnership between the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) and the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies (CCDS) in Winnipeg. The two partners have officially agreed to jointly submit a proposal to CIDA for funding of a project to promote inclusive education in Ukraine. Dr. Olga Krassioukova-Enns, CCDS Executive Director, says she is looking forward to working with the URDC to assist Ukraine in reforming its system of special education.

In the fall of 2005, CURT members from Canada, including URDC Director Roman Petryshyn, Linda McDonald, Educational Psychology Chair at the University of Alberta, and Dr. Judy Lupart, headed to Ukraine to continue work on the proposed CIDA project. Their itinerary included attending a national conference on disabilities in Dnipropetrovsk, meeting with people at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and visiting the National Institute of Pedagogy in Kyiv.

(left) Drs. Savchenko and Kolupayeva give their presentation on special education to an Edmonton audience in March, 2005.



Keynote Speaker Peter Shostak

Kyiv Konnection Banquet Features Renowned Artist

On May 12, 2005, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) hosted its 12th annual Kyiv Konnection Banquet. The event, held at St. Basil's Cultural Centre, featured artist Peter Shostak as keynote speaker.

Shostak, who was born and raised on a farm near Bonnyville, recalled his early years and how, at an early age, he had a drive to create. This inspired him to major in art and art education at the University of Alberta, after which he served as Associate Professor of Art Education at the University of Victoria. It wasn't until 1979, at the urging of his wife and the late artist William Kurelek, that Shostak embarked on a full-time career as an artist. Much of his work reflects his memories of growing up on the prairie during the late forties and fifties.

Also at the banquet, MacEwan's Dean of Nursing, Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny was presented with the UFCE President's Award. In presenting it, UFCE President George Zaharia said Dr. Nakonechny has played a central role in supporting UFCE's fundraising efforts for the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre.

Alberta's Minister of Education Gene Zwozdesky brought greetings from the provincial government, and commended the Foundation for playing an important role in forging closer and stronger ties in education between Alberta and Ukraine.



Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny, recipient of the 2005 UFCE President's Award

Ukrainian Open Golf Tournament – A “Smashing” Success!

A. Chumer

August 17, 2005 started out as a gloomy and rainy day. Who was to know that God would take pity on all the registrants and decide, after the 2nd hole, that the rain must stop? After all, let's remember, this year's tournament (sponsored by UFCE), was in honour of Dr. Walter Buck's fiftieth year (yes 50) in the dental profession, and who would want to ruin such a special occasion?

Although the clouds in the sky were ominous for a good part of the day, that didn't deter the 176 brave souls from coming out and having a wonderful time. And....to top it off, free Ukrainian beer (compliments of Chateau Louis) flowed freely during the event. Later on, some 200 people enjoyed a tasty supper, followed by entertainment by the “Vohon” dancers, and, as is now the custom, the awarding of humorous prizes (wouldn't you just treasure a pair of bright green rubber boots?).

Several honored guests were present, among them the Hon. Ed Stelmach, Drs. Peter and Doris Kule, and Edmonton's own Molly Warring, the author of the top selling Paradise Acres. A portion of the proceeds from Ms. Warring's book sales that evening were donated to UFCE's fundraising effort in support of education and Ukrainian dance programs. Thank you, Molly.

Altogether, this year's golf tournament raised over \$5,000 for UFCE's Scholarship fund.

A huge thank-you goes to Dr. Walter Buck, members of his family, and all others who so ably assisted in making this event such a success.

2005 Scholarship Winners

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

Trina Moyles, Peace River, Alberta

Award: Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers (\$800)
For her short fiction story titled "My Family Album".

Heruvymy Ukrainian Female Quartet, Edmonton

(Melanie Turgeon, Kathy Tachynski, Patty Tachynski and Andrea Leader)
Award: Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) Award (\$500)
For their recording of a capella Ukrainian Christmas and New Year's carols, and a selection of carols in other languages.

Lesia Pohoreski, Sherwood Park, Alberta

Award: Sergei Eremenko Music Scholarship (\$500)
For furthering her university studies in the field of music and Ukrainian.

Tanya Navolska, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Award: Roman Soltykevych Music Scholarship (\$500)
In support of her participation in an opera training program in Bulgaria, July-August 2005

Sasha Simcison, Gord Yaremchuk and Ivan Zubritsky

Award: William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts (\$1000)
For "Requiem for January", a short film showing the conflict associated with the mass emigration of Ukrainians after the Great War, and the resulting lost love.

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