

## Making Strides for Inclusion and Choice in Ukraine

Until very recently, the only options for educating children with disabilities in Ukraine was to send the child away to a segregated boarding school; integrate the child into a mainstream school (but with little accommodation, and with only parents as a support); or simply allow the child to languish at home. As a result, a project known as "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine", (funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), was developed to initiate change. The project hopes to provide Ukrainian parents and their children with choices, and integrate children with disabilities into mainstream Ukrainian society, supported by teachers and specialists.

The Inclusive Education project was established as a partnership of two Canadian organizations cooperating with three national organizations in Ukraine. In Canada, the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies (CCDS) in Winnipeg and URDC at Grant MacEwan College each accepted responsibility for financing their portions of the project. The project overall is valued at \$6.84 million with \$4.69 million having been contributed by CIDA.

CCDS is the project's executing agency, which coordinates partners and reports to CIDA. URDC MacEwan coordinates the participation of member organizations belonging to the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT), namely, faculty from: Drahomanov National

Pedagogical University; the Institute of Special Pedagogy of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine; the Psychology Department, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta; and individual professors from several other universities in Canada and Ukraine (Calgary, Victoria, Edmonton, Lviv, Simferopol).

The National Assembly of Invalids of Ukraine, and the Institute for National Upgrading of Teachers are also partners in Ukraine, while the Ukrainian Foundation Step by Step is a partner and project coordinator.

The project has three main program components: civil society, education and policy development (to advance civil society and inclusive education initiatives). Working with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Social Protection of Ukraine (among others), in building

an inclusive education system requires: 1) legislation and policy; 2) preparing school administrative leaders and providing ongoing education for personal and professional development; 3) university training for teachers and service providers to learn to support children with disabilities in the classroom; 4) a barrier free environment and necessary communication tools; and 5) methods for assessing and planning.

The project will be implemented between April 2008 and March 2013 within two pilot regions in Ukraine: Lviv and Simferopol. Other locations are invited to participate in the dissemination of project results. The mission of the project is to strengthen the capacity of targeted institutions to develop inclusion policies for children with disabilities under the age of 18,



*Project participants  
in Simferopol (l to r)  
Yulia Naida, Oksana  
Taranchenko,  
Lilia Shkolnyk,  
Alla Kolupayeva,  
journalist  
Natalia Zukova,  
Oleh Myskiv,  
Tetyana Panasyshyn.*

along with their families, to establish inclusive education programs and strengthen civil society to advocate and deliver services.

However, research shows that fundamental change with regard to issues involving the disabled comes bottom-up from the grass-roots level, working in partnership with top-down changes. “For the first time national and regional levels of government will bring on board the most motivated partners – the parents of children with disabilities,” says Yuri Konkin. “The whole community will change to accommodate such children. It will become more tolerant.”

Although inclusion can be more costly and Ukraine is not a wealthy country, the Ukrainian government has consistently shown support for the principles of this project. It knows that integrating children with disabilities into school and society, and helping them get employment is more efficient in the long-term.

## Wife of Ukrainian President Offers Encouragement

From September 18 to 21, 2008 the Artek International Children’s Center in Crimea, Ukraine hosted the Artek Dialogs Annual Educational Forum, organized by Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, with official support from UNESCO and the Ukrainian government. The goal of the Forum is to create a system of annual communication between representatives of Ukrainian educational institutions and educators from countries around the world. The two groups work together to analyze trends in education, and develop recommendations for best practices in Ukraine. This year, the forum included discussion about the challenges of inclusive education for persons with disabilities in Ukraine.

Among the participants of the sessions were Head of the Supervisory Board of the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation Kateryna Yushchenko,

wife of the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, along with 350 participants representing the education, business, public, youth and charitable organizations from Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Poland, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Great Britain, Germany, Turkey and Canada.

Canada’s Grant MacEwan College was represented at the Forum by Anna Horban, Director of MacEwan’s Representative Office. In her speech on the problems of quality education for children and youth with disabilities, Horban introduced the new Canada/ Ukraine project, “Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine”, funded in part by CIDA and implemented by the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies and MacEwan, as two Canadian partners. She also reminded participants of the more than 12 years of MacEwan involvement in Ukraine through different educational projects, such as the Business Management Studies Diploma program in Kyiv, which has graduated over 250 students thus far, and has become a great promoter of the western style of business education.

*Sitting: Darcy MacPherson, Chair of the Project Steering Committee and CCDS Vice-President; Mykola Swarnyk, National University “Lvivska Politechnika”, Lviv City council elected Deputy; Valeriy Sushkevych, member of parliament of Ukraine and chair National Assembly of Invalids of Ukraine; Yaroslav Hrybalsky, Deputy elected to the Lviv oblast parliament and a leader in the National Assembly of Invalids of Ukraine.*



*Meeting at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, June 25, 2008 with Deputy Minister Pavlo Poliansky. Attending were project representatives from Kyiv, Lviv, Crimea, NGOs, Pedagogical Universities, schools, Institute of Special Pedagogy of Ukraine and Canadian participants from Edmonton and Winnipeg.*





Mrs. Yushchenko expressed her hope that the next Artek Dialogs Forum will be marked by the same freedom and openness, and wished participants luck in solving the problems of the educational system and the strength to make it happen. As First Lady of Ukraine and Chairperson of Ukraine 3000 Foundation, Kateryna Yushchenko is active in charitable, historical and cultural activities. One of her main priorities is to address the difficult social issues currently troubling Ukraine, particularly health care for children, education, homeless and orphaned children, and integrating the disabled into society. Her Foundation, Ukraine 3000, a non-governmental charitable organization founded in 2001, is dedicated to encouraging the revival and development of a tradition of charity and community responsibility in Ukraine.



MacEwan representative Anna Horban speaks at the Forum with Drs. Zasenko and Kolupayeva at table.



First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko speaking with Dr. Alla Kolupayeva (with microphone), Institute of Special Pedagogy.

## Government Grant Brings Two More Ukrainian Specialists to Alberta

In the fall of 2008, MacEwan and the University of Alberta again welcomed a pair of specialists from Ukraine, who came to study inclusive education for six weeks. As with the two specialists who visited the province in 2007, they each made the journey thanks to receiving a \$5000 Alberta International Educational Award.

Yuliya Kolomiets is a nurse with a Masters of Education degree, and a lecturer at the Drahomanov National Pedagogical University in Kyiv. Her particular focus is on education for children with severe speech disorders. Vladyslav Tyschenko has a Ph.D. from the Institute of Special Pedagogy, Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. His special interest is the intellectual component of speech development in children with cognitive delays, and Ukrainian Language Arts for children with severe speech disabilities.

The two specialists familiarized themselves with the system of special education in Canada by visiting a variety of schools and rehabilitation centres. They visited MacEwan, the University of Alberta and Concordia University College, where they were able to study both how Alberta trains its special education experts and how students with special needs are supported at post-secondary institutions in the province.

“The Canadian experience of support for students with special needs is very important for Ukraine. There are many different forms of special education, excellent equipment and broad opportunities for students here in Alberta,” said Kolomiets. “We had a great experience and got a lot of information, which we shall use in

our work with Ukrainian students in the Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, and in our research in the field of special education,” added Tyschenko.

While in Alberta, they also had an opportunity to visit the Rocky Mountains and the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller. Kolomiets and Tyschenko were particularly impressed with the local Ukrainian community for their great work in maintaining and developing Ukrainian language and culture in Canada.



Tyschenko and Kolomiets with Dr. Tim Loreman at the U of A



Ukrainian specialists meeting with Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, Dr. Zenon Kohut, and Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky

## Chair of International Health Launched at Ukrainian Centre

### College Recognizes First Donor by Naming Lecture Theatre

On December 9, 2008 Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton launched an endowment fund for a Chair in International Health at its Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC). This is the first such medical endowment in the Ukrainian diaspora.

The first two donors giving \$100,000 each were Drs. Peter and Doris Kule and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE). Their \$200,000 gift was tripled to \$600,000 by the Grant MacEwan College Foundation, using finances provided by the Alberta Access to the Future fund. This represents 20% of the \$3.0 million target to be raised for the endowment. Annual revenue from the endowment will provide a budget for the health projects to be administered through MacEwan's Faculty of Health and Community Studies (HCS), in partnership with various universities and other health institutions in several countries.

The growing health crises in Ukraine and other countries of the world was the stimulus for UFCE and URDC to have taken this unique initiative. Life expectancy among men and women in Ukraine is declining. More than one-half of these premature deaths could be prevented if people changed their lifestyle and/or had better access to medical care.

Health leaders in Edmonton felt that they can make a difference by sharing knowledge, conducting joint research and projects and sharing their best practices in health management. Providing Ukrainian health institutions easier access to information and partners in North America will help mobilize health protection efforts in

Ukraine. The Edmonton leadership team includes: Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny, former Dean of HCS; Dr. Wayne Tymchak, cardiologist at the University of Alberta Hospital and President of the Medical Project Osvita Foundation; Shirley Galenza, MacEwan director of the Professional Centre for Nurse Upgrading; Ann Semotiuk, Danin Bodnar, Donna Kowalishin, Roman Petryshyn and Dr. Lesia Boychuk.

Planners have begun defining a number of projects to be undertaken by URDC's Kule Visiting Scholar Fund and the new endowment for the Chair of International Health. Dr. Roxolana Horbovyj has agreed to be the first speaker sponsored under the program and will be part of MacEwan's annual Speakers Series in Health and Community Studies. She will speak to an Edmonton audience on March 31, 2009 on the topic of tele-health education activities between health care workers in North America and those in Ukraine.

On December 9, executive Officers of MacEwan gathered along with about

100 family and friends to recognize the generosity of Drs. Peter and Doris Kule. Provost Dr. Janet Paterson-Weir, Chief Financial Officer Brent Quinton, Vice-President of Fund Development, Dale Bailey, Dean of Health and Community Studies, Sharon Bookhalter, and Dean of the MacEwan School of Business, Elsie Elford, all attended.

In addition to being the first donor to the Chair of International Health, the Kules also contributed \$250,000 to the Endowment for Nursing Technology in the Faculty of Health and Community Studies. Dr. Paterson-Weir, MacEwan Provost and Executive Vice-President Academic, greeted the Kules and welcomed their initiative.

Speaker Dr. Ernie Skakun, Vice-President of UFCE, committed UFCE's contribution and described how Peter Kule had challenged UFCE to match the Kules' gift. Dr. Tymchak greeted the Kules from the University of Alberta, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) and the Osvita Foundation.



Dr. Peter Kule circled (l to r) by : Sharon Bookhalter, Dean, Faculty of Health and Community Studies, Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny C.M., Dr. Janet Paterson-Weir, Provost and Executive Vice President Academic, Dr. Doris Kule, Eric Young, Q.C., Chair, Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan College, Shirley Galenza, Chair, Faculty of Health and Community Studies, Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director, URDC



As this is the Kules' third major endowment at URDC, Dr. Roman Petryshyn thanked the Kules for their continued support to the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at MacEwan.

Master of Ceremonies, Richard Cook from the MacEwan Foundation, explained that the Kules' two gifts represent a total gift of \$1,050,000 when tripling of the gifts is taken into account. Peter and Doris unveiled the plaque naming the Kule Health Lecture Theatre located in the world-class Robbins Health Centre. The Kule Health Lecture Theatre is an international communication facility and the largest lecture hall in the Robbins Centre.

Of particular note on this auspicious occasion was the gathering of academics from various universities where there already exist Kule endowments. The following individuals were introduced to those present, and together, had pictures taken with Drs. Peter and Doris Kule: Dr. Andriy Chirovsky, Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Dr. Natalie Kononenko, Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Dr. Serge Cipko and Jars Balan.

## UFCE Holds Visioning Retreat

On September 12 and 13, 2008, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) held a visioning retreat whose purpose was two-fold: to review UFCE's past accomplishments and discuss its vision and goals for the future; and, to explore new fundraising initiatives so that UFCE can provide a greater level of financial support to both URDC and the Ukrainian Canadian community.

The timing of the visioning retreat was particularly appropriate in light of the fact that UFCE has a number of new members, who benefitted from the close examination of UFCE's past and present, and were able to contribute to planning the organization's future.

The focus of attention was on UFCE's new campaign to raise \$1.0 million for the new Chair of International Health endowment at URDC. Speakers making presentations at the retreat included: Dr. Peter Kule, Dr. Wayne Tymchak, Dr. Roman Petryshyn, George Zaharia, Mike Henry and Daria Luciw. A report with presentations was prepared and distributed to UFCE Board members.

## Alberta Boy Makes Good, Plays it Forward

Gene Kinasewich, in whose name the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) has created a new fund, was a soft-spoken Alberta orphan who became one of the most celebrated student-athletes in the history of Harvard University.

The second-youngest of 13 children of Ukrainian immigrants, Gene was raised in Thorsby, Alberta. Both his mother and father died when he was 10. By the time he was 13, Gene was selling newspapers and running errands for a grocery. He also played a lot of hockey. College was something he never gave a thought to until one of his brothers spoke to a Harvard scout. When Gene was asked if he'd like to go to Harvard, he had to ask where it was. He soon found out!

While at Harvard, Gene earned a master's degree and doctorate in education. In the meantime, he became a college hockey legend famous for both his skill and his sportsmanship. "It was as if his skates never touched the ice, like he was flying," said one of his opponents' coaches. Adds a former Harvard teammate, "He was one of the most amazing men I've ever met. He was all about helping others, not looking out for himself."



*Kule Chairs, from left to right: **The Right Reverend Dr. Andriy Chirovsky**, Peter and Doris Kule Professor of Eastern Christian Theology and Spirituality, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Saint Paul University, Ottawa; **Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky** Director, Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore, University of Alberta; **Jars Balan** Administrative Coordinator, Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta; **Dr. Natalie Kononenko**, Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta; **Dr. Serge Cipko**, Co-ordinator, Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative, Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta; **Dr. Roman Petryshyn**, Kule Chair of Ukrainian Community and International Development, Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, Grant MacEwan College*

Gene later held the position of dean at Harvard before moving back to Alberta to help with the family business. Upon his retirement, he returned to live in the Boston area. Before he died in February 2005, Gene became devotedly and passionately involved in the lives of 19 youngsters from Kharkiv, Ukraine. Gene introduced the idea of combining education opportunity with sport to these hockey-playing youngsters – opportunity that would not be available to them back in Ukraine. The Eugene Kinasewich Fund was subsequently established, enabling the 19 youngsters to come to the United States to complete high school, and then attend a post-secondary institution, while continuing to play and grow in the sport of hockey.

Gene’s younger brother, Bob Kinasewich, a retired lawyer, negotiated with Boston to set up a branch of the Eugene Kinasewich Fund in Edmonton. The Fund’s Canadian branch has now been identified as a Designated Fund within the framework of the UFCE Trust.

As a result, two of the original 19 students brought to the U.S. by the Eugene Kinasewich Fund are now attending their first of four years at MacEwan and playing hockey for the Griffins. Oleg Koval and Artem Zemelyev are immensely grateful for the opportunity that the Eugene Kinasewich Fund has provided them, and they hope to continue Gene’s legacy of giving. “I remember Gene as a modest person who needed nothing in life but to help others,” says Koval. “And in the future, we plan to give back to our country men in the same way Gene gave to us,” adds Zemelyev.

Kinasewich explains that although the Fund from Boston has and will continue to provide substantial support for Koval and Zemelyev, another \$15,000 is required to enable these students to complete their first year of studies and get ready for their future years. Donations to the Fund are most welcome, as are any employment

opportunities for the boys while they are in Alberta, so that they can earn and provide some of their own financial support. The provision of living accommodations for the students is also welcome. Your financial and other support will help give these and future Ukrainian students a wonderful opportunity to obtain a world class education in Canada.

You may send your donation to: Bob Kinasewich, 6507 – 132 Street, Edmonton, AB T6H 3Y8. Please make cheques payable to the UFCE Trust, with a notation that the funds are to be directed to the Eugene Kinasewich Fund.

## 2008 Golf Tournament a “Hole” Lot of Fun!!

Once again, UFCE’s Ukrainian Open golf tournament (a.k.a. Buck/Diachuk Open) was a resounding success! 72 golfers gathered on August 21 to display their expertise at the Fort-in-View Golf Club. Later that evening, over 100 people enjoyed an excellent supper at the Fort Saskatchewan Legion, after which they were treated to a display of lively, colorful Ukrainian dancing entertainment. Later, they participated in the silent and live auctions, which raised over \$8,500 for the UFCE scholarship fund.

Thank-you to the organizational efforts of members of UFCE’s Board of Directors, URDC staff and all others who assisted in making this fundraiser a success.

UFCE extends a special thank-you to the following Sponsors and Donors who helped make this year’s event a success! Your contributions made the difference, and your participation and generosity is very much appreciated.



Gene Kinasewich



A young Gene Kinasewich, lacing up his skates



Oleg Koval, Bob Kinasewich and Artem Zemelyev at the Alberta Legislature

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- Honorable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Alberta Aboriginal Relations

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- Integrated Life Care
- Peter Kruczko
- Eugene Sekora
- Chief Justice Allan Wachowich
- Waiward Steel Fabricators

URDC also acknowledges Mrs. Irene Strilchuk of Yorkton, Saskatchewan for her generous donation of \$100 toward URDC's Endowment.

## URDC Issues Annual Awards

URDC congratulates the following four award recipients for 2008:

Roman Hurko, Toronto, Ontario  
Donor: The Roman Soltykewych Music Scholarship (\$500)

Mr. Hurko received the award for submitting his study of Liturgical texts. He has now completed his Master Program at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in New Haven, Connecticut.



*Roman Hurko*

The Ukrainian Musical Society of Alberta (UMSA), Edmonton, Alberta  
Donor: The Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts Award (\$500)

UMSA received the award for its proposed Lysenko Art Songs Recording Project. The aim is to create an anthology of CD recordings of art songs by Mykola Lysenko, a well-known Ukrainian composer.

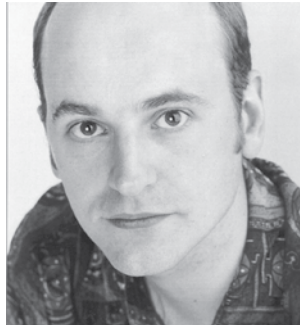


Danny Schur, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Donor: The Roger Charest Sr.  
Award for Broadcast & Media  
Arts (\$500)

Mr. Schur received this award for his submission of a Radio-Concert Special – The Strike! This is a 55-minute radio adaptation of the award-winning stage play of the same name by Danny Schur and Rick Chafe. It is available for licensing to radio and webcasts in Canada, and internationally.

Olga Logvynenko,  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Donor: The Anna Pidruchney  
Award for New Writers (\$1,000) –  
*Ukrainian language submission*

Mrs. Logvynenko received this award for her children’s illustrated story, “*Travels to a Far Land Across the Blue Sea*”.



Danny Schur



Olga Logvynenko

*Taras Kompanichenko and Jurij Fedynskyj, Ukraine’s best-versed and influential musicians in the tradition of the itinerant bards, known as kobzari, performing at the Kules Lecture Theatre during MacEwan Global College Week.*



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information about URDC, please call  
or write:

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

[www.urdc.net](http://www.urdc.net)

Phone: (780) 497-5494  
Email: [haydukl@macewan.ca](mailto:haydukl@macewan.ca)  
Fax: (780) 497-4377

URDC Director  
*Dr. Roman Petryshyn*

Administrative Assistants  
*Alice Chumer  
Larisa Hayduk*

Writer  
*Vera Krawec*

Layout  
*Faculty of Arts and Science*