

Бюлетень Українського
центру засобів і розвитку

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www.MacEwan.ca/URDC

An Update on the Canada-Ukraine Project for Inclusive Education in Ukraine

The five-year Canada-Ukraine project for inclusive education in Ukraine has reached its half-way mark. It is sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the project's partner organizations in Canada and Ukraine, spearheaded by the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies (CCDS), Grant MacEwan University, Step by Step, Institute of Special Pedagogy, and the National Assembly of Disabled.

Through its integrated "Policy/Learning Institutions/Civil Society" thrust the project affects the entire educational system at the policy development, curriculum development, teacher preparation and school transformation levels in concert with relevant systemic changes at the national, regional and local levels that impact other ministries, civil society sector, and Ukrainian society at large.



Parent Empowerment Seminar in Lviv, Ukraine

At MacEwan the project is managed by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Over the past year Canadian and Ukrainian partners involved in the educational component of the project continued to work in the following four areas: pilot schools transformation, parent empowerment, psychological assessment, and teacher preparation.

Pilot Schools

School transformation is an ongoing process that involves a number of aspects including architectural accessibility, learning aids, school policies, school practices and classroom strategies. The two pilot schools were equipped with sound and learning systems to benefit hard-of-hearing students. Crucial structural changes were made to the schools to enhance accessibility and safety, and to facilitate rehabilitation programs. In addition, through local government funding support,



Parent Empowerment Seminar in Crimea, Ukraine



Lviv summer seminar

one of the pilot schools was able to hire 6 professionals (such as speech therapists, psychologists) to work with special needs children.

Significant progress has also been made in terms of increasing the competence level of the pilot schools' teachers. A 60-hour training course based on Canadian materials, *The Development of Inclusive Practices in Education*, was delivered in the pilot schools in 2010.

Parent Empowerment

With a goal of empowering parents of the disabled, a group of local Edmonton experts and parents of special needs children travelled to Lviv and Simferopol to facilitate a summer seminar for teachers and parents. The Canadian Coalition for Inclusive Education was trained and lead by the wife and husband team of Heather Raymond and Paul Kohl, whose backgrounds with Edmonton Public Schools and Alberta Children's Services respectively, helped to make the trip a big success.

A total of 80 individuals from all over Ukraine participated in the seminars, many of whom are considered to be the strongest

advocates for the disabled in that country. From June 6 – 18, 2010, seminar participants learned more about parental engagement in securing inclusive education, and were provided with examples of practical strategies to integrate disabled children into an inclusive school. The Ukrainian parents now feel more confident and better equipped as advocates and champions of inclusive education. They learned how to use the "Inclusion Card", a document designed to offer parents a set of inclusive education best-practice indicators, and a framework to guide inclusive programming. Meaningful connections were also developed between parents in Ukraine and Canada to facilitate information exchange.

Raymond and Kohl believe that as a result of the seminars, Ukrainian parents and educators have a deeper understanding of one another, and found ways to collaborate on creating an inclusive school system. Equally important, good friendships developed between Canadian and Ukrainian participants, particularly among the parents.

Next steps for this initiative include having a parent delegation from Ukraine travel to Alberta to learn more about our province's inclusive society and to further empower them. Also on the agenda is the development of a network through Skype between parents in both countries to facilitate continued communication.

Assessment

During the summer of 2010, Professor Michael Rodda from MacEwan and UFCE President Dr. Ernest Skakun worked together with Ukrainian professionals in Lviv and Kyiv to assist psychological professionals in Ukraine in their transition from a purely medical assessment model to a comprehensive 360 degrees assessment of children with disabilities. The workshops offered opportunities to the participants to examine and inspect selected tests and assessment tools for psycho-educational assessment of children, adolescents and young adults. Canadian consultants demonstrated the use of contemporary assessment tools and strategies, as well as collaboration of schools, psychologists and parents in providing holistic assessment of children with special needs.



Meeting with representatives of Lviv Regional Education Administration. From left to right: M. Bregin, H. Raymond, D. Mazin, V. Skakun, Y. Kashuba, C. Leung, M. Swarnyk



Drs. Loreman, Crocker, and McGhie-Richmond with workshop participants

Preparation of Teachers

In April 2010, Drs. Tim Loreman, Donna McGhie Richmond and Cheryl Crocker conducted a workshop in Kyiv on methods of differentiated instruction for over 40 teachers/faculty representing the pilot schools, the Institutes of Professional Upgrading of Teachers and two pilot Universities.

An 18 hour course “Fundamentals of Inclusive Education” developed by the Institute of Special Pedagogy based on Canadian learning materials has been approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The course will be integrated into the country-wide system of in-service teacher preparation in 2011.

In addition, consultants have been effectively adapting 5 courses designed by a group of Canadian consultants spearheaded by Dr. Judy Lupart and Dr. Tim Loreman to develop Ukrainian courses on assessment, differentiated instruction and leadership that fit local context and requirements. These are scheduled to be introduced into existing pre-service and in-service teacher preparation programs in 2011.

Business School Associate Dean Visits Ostroh

Mike Henry, Associate Dean of MacEwan’s School of Business visited the National University “Ostroh Academy” on October 4-6, 2010, accompanied by Roman Petryshyn, URDC Director. At the Academy they met with Rector Ihor Pasichnyk, as well as Eduard Balashov, Head of Ostroh’s Foreign Relations Department

and Liudmyla Kozak, Chair, Economics Department and ten faculty members. Associate Dean Henry lectured to a mixed class of economics, finance, and marketing students. Both visitors toured the campus and generally acquainted themselves with the campus and town of Ostroh.

Ostroh Academy is a university in the town of Ostroh, Rivnenska oblast (province) that offers baccalaureate, some masters and limited doctoral programs. The Academy draws its history from its first existence during the period 1576 to 1636. While preserving that heritage, the Academy has developed significantly in the past fifteen years since being re-established in post-Soviet, independent Ukraine. The Academy operates in two languages—Ukrainian and English—and currently has approximately 2500 students.

The university has a strong academic and administrative base and offers programs in a wide range of disciplines. The university does not currently operate a business school, but there is a desire to move in that direction.

The Academy receives substantial government support for student education and tuition fees for students are low compared to many other Ukrainian institutions. The institution has also secured funds to provide financial-need based bursaries for students. The Academy’s facilities are excellent, including fully wi-fi capable classrooms, a modern library (and e-library), contemporary lecture theatres, faculty and guest accommodation, student residence and recreation facilities.

There is a long-term objective to building a merit-based academic institution with a strong academic base and commitment to international engagement. The Rector is a visionary who is committed to building the Academy’s reputation as a small, but well-respected academic institution.

The Academy’s main international relationships are with Polish institutions, although there are some small exchanges with Belarus. The institution has been a partner with Canada World Youth for the past fourteen years and hosts four groups of Ukrainian and Canadian students involved with community programs, using local home-stays. Henry and Petryshyn were impressed with the level of English comprehension, the engagement and the perceptive comments and inquisitiveness of the students.

Rector Pasichnyk and Associate Dean Mike Henry have agreed to seek funds in support of student and faculty interaction and exchange between Ostroh and MacEwan. The intent of supporting these initiatives is to build the relationship between the two institutions.



Roman Petryshyn and Mike Henry in Ostroh



Roman Petryshyn, Natalia Adamiuk, Lesia Leschenko and Debra Russell at an evening presentation by the Ukrainian visitors



Ukrainian Sign Language experts Adamiuk and Leschenko at the CUF-COE meeting in Edmonton

First Kule Visiting Scholar Award Recipients Visit Canada

Natalia Adamiuk and Lesia Leschenko, both members of the deaf community in Ukraine, are the first two recipients of the Kule Visiting Scholar Award. This Award enabled them to travel to various cities across Canada for a period of three months in the fall of 2010 to learn about education for the deaf, sign language instruction and how the Canadian deaf community is organized. Adamiuk is a former teacher who now works researching Ukrainian Sign language. Leschenko teaches at one of 58 Schools for the Deaf in Ukraine.

One of the visitors' main activities while in Edmonton was working with Dr. Debra Russell of the Western Canadian Centre for Studies in Deafness, learning how to code sign language research using ELAN technology. This special software is used to change visual images into mathematical

coordinates, and finally into written words.

The pair also gave a number of public presentations, where they shared their perspective on how deaf people experience life in Ukraine. Adamiuk gave an overview of the structure of her country's Society of the Deaf. This Society performs many of the functions which are typically the purview of the government in the West. It owns 38 factories, where employees are mainly from the deaf community, and three recreational properties for enjoyment by their members. It lobbies for post-secondary educational opportunities for the deaf, and also trains and then provides interpreters for those who attend these institutions. In 2009, the Society held over 10,000 events, advancing a very active cultural agenda. Four years ago they partnered with the Ukrainian government to create a sign language lab, where— thanks to the help of Dr. Russell—they will be able to move forward with their initiative to document Ukrainian Sign Language.

Adamiuk also shared her experiences as a participant in the summer camps for the Deaf community in Ukraine. 2010 marked the tenth anniversary of these camps, and Adamiuk has been involved since the beginning. The summer camps unite all stakeholders in the life of a deaf child, especially parents who, until recently, were not offered the opportunity to be involved in their child's development.

Leschenko spoke as a member of Ukraine's Deaf Teachers' Association. Each of the 58 Schools for the Deaf there employ two or three deaf teachers, and the numbers are growing. The Association organizes study tours for these teachers to various schools to learn best practices. They are also trying to computerize as much information as possible to help parents participate more fully in their deaf children's studies.

Adamiuk and Leschenko documented their visit to Canada in detail in Ukrainian in the "Nashe Zhyttia" newsletter, which can be found at the Society of the Deaf's website at www.utog.org

URDC Director Presents Three papers

During his visit to Ukraine in September and October 2010, Dr. Roman Petryshyn gave two public presentations, followed by a third one in December to the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) in Edmonton. All were delivered in Ukrainian.

At a conference held on September 23, sponsored by the Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Centre at the National University "Ostroh Academy", Petryshyn spoke on "The History of the Canada Ukraine Foundation, 1995 to 2010". Through an inter-university agreement, the paper will be published by the Canadian Studies Centre at Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University.

The second paper was delivered to the XIII Congress of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations held in Lviv. Co-authored with Drs. Tetyana Chernyshenko and Geraldine Nakonechny, the paper is titled "Canada Ukraine Co-operation in Developing Nursing Education in Ukraine" and was delivered

on October 3. It will appear in volume 6 of the Collected Papers on Ukrainian Life in Western Canada to be published by the Edmonton branch of NTSh.

On December 5, URDC's director spoke on the subject "The System of Education in Ukraine (Based on Fifteen Years of Experience with URDC Projects)." The paper will be made available to the public in electronic form through the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Canada.

New Advisory Committee Inaugurated

On 14 September 2010, the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Chair of International Health was held in MacEwan's Faculty of Health and Community Studies. Established after more than a decade of faculty experience with international projects in various countries (i.e. Australia, India, Ukraine and Russia), Grant MacEwan University now has an ongoing leadership group to advise the Faculty on its next steps in this field.

The Advisory Committee's role is to coordinate information internally and externally and help recommend plans that will create applied research and project opportunities for faculty and students to engage with international health issues. The Committee will promote an international learning culture at MacEwan that facilitates faculty and students participation and informs the public.

The Advisory Committee will also work in relation to the Chair of International Health endowment fund created at Grant MacEwan University in December 2008. The fund will yield seed money to sponsor small faculty and student international projects.

Kule Institute for Advanced Studies Launched

Thanks to a generous donation to the University of Alberta of \$4 million by Drs. Peter and Doris Kule (double matched by the University for a total of \$12 million), the Kule Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities was launched in 2010.



Participants at the September 14 2010 inaugural meeting of the Chair of International Health



From left to right: Jerry Varsava (KIAS Director), Carl Amrhein (Provost & Vice-President), Doris Kule, Bohdan Medwidzky, Peter Kule

The institute will give awards to world-class experts to examine global issues, such as using famine as a political tool. It is a rarity among universities, and has the potential to become one of the University of Alberta's most prestigious institutes.

The institute is headed up by Dr. Jerry Varsava, and guided by an advisory body consisting of 13 individuals, 7 of whom perpetually will be representatives of Ukrainian institutes. This is significant because it is the first time all centres of Ukrainian studies in Edmonton have come together under one umbrella. Current advisory body members from outside of the University of Alberta include: Andriy Hladyshevsky, National President of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko; Roman Petryshyn, URDC Director; and Bishop David Motiuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Edmonton Eparchy.

Alberta Award Recipient Visits Our Province

Yuliya Derkach, an English teacher from the Pedagogical College of Lviv University, visited Alberta for a period of two months in the fall of 2010 to study how English is taught as a second language in our province. She made the journey thanks to a \$5000 Alberta International Educational Award.

Derkach says she applied for the award based on good word of mouth from previous award recipients, who benefited greatly from their Alberta experience. "More and more people in Ukraine want to learn English, so I came

here eager to gather as much additional knowledge about English-as-a-second-language (ESL) training as possible," she says.

In the summer of 2010, Derkach was asked to provide translation services for a conference on Inclusive Education in Ukraine. It was at this conference that she met Dr. Heather Raymond of Edmonton who kindly offered Derkach a place to stay while she was in Alberta. "Staying with Heather truly enhanced my visit to Alberta, because it allowed me to get a better picture of the Canadian lifestyle," she claims.

While in Alberta, Derkach sat in on ESL classes at MacEwan, and also did some teaching. It was a good opportunity to compare methodology, and experience a different student base, which is considerably more diverse than in Ukraine. Derkach says she especially appreciates how much her Canadian counterparts were willing to share their ideas and materials with her.



Yuliya Derkach at MacEwan's City Centre Campus

Ukrainian Open Golf Tournament a "Swinging" Success

by Alice Chumer

UFCE's famous annual "Ukrainian Open" golf tournament was held on August 19, 2010, and, as always, was a swinging success! Although the 60 brave participating golfers were challenged at times by the hovering smoke from B.C. forest fires, they weren't deterred from having a good time at the Fort-in-View Golf Club. Later on almost 100 attendees (golfers, spouses and supporters) enjoyed a delicious supper at the Fort Saskatchewan Legion, and everyone enjoyed the Ukrainian beer donated by Dr. Walter Buck. Those present were also treated to some excellent entertainment provided by "Zahvtra" a vocal ensemble of Paul Horpyniuk, Joanne Rudiak and Christine Mandrusiak from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. Entertaining and persuasive as well, was Live auctioneer Wes Spencer. Many enthusiastic buyers' hands were raised in response to his calls for bids. Some unique silent auction items were also on display for bidding and purchase. All-in-all, this was a fun evening and one that show-cased the generosity of all donors. Approximately \$7100 was raised for the UFCE scholarship fund.

Kudos to the organizing members of UFCE's Board of Directors, URDC staff and everyone who helped make this a successful fundraiser.

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- * Don Lutzak \$100
- * W.R. & Marusia Petryshyn \$50

Our sincere apologies if we have inadvertently missed anyone from this list.

Kyiv Konnection

by Alice Chumer

UFCE's 17th annual Kyiv Konnection banquet was held on Thursday, May 6, 2010. Two Hundred and twenty-eight people attended this event held at St.John's Cultural Centre. After enjoying a cocktail hour, guests were welcomed to dinner by MC Daria Luciw, who then introduced the guests seated at the Head Table.

The Opening prayer was offered by Bishop Ilarion of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, followed by greetings from the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Health & Wellness, and Dale Bayley, Vice President of Fund Development, Grant MacEwan University.

During dessert, guests were entertained by the vocal excellence of soprano, Svitlana Sech (accompanied by pianist Halyna Lazurko), who treated us to a collage of arias ranging from Italian opera to Ukrainian folk song. A brief "News from URDC" presentation by Director Dr. Roman Petryshyn was then followed by the introduction of Keynote Speaker Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn by the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky.



Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn

Although many people in the Ukrainian Canadian community are familiar with Ms. Cheladyn's artistic works, such as her traveling collections and illustrations in children's books and educational texts, it was very interesting to learn how Larisa began her journey toward becoming the artist she is today. Family, especially her father and her "baba" played a big role in her decision to develop her talent. UFCE Board Member Ms. Luba Feduschak thanked Larisa for her presentation.

A Live auction of one art piece then followed. Again, the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky displayed one of his many talents by being the auctioneer. Mr. Ron Galagan was the lucky buyer of this art piece. In addition, raffle tickets for a golf bag brought in more proceeds for this fundraising event.

Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of the "President's Award" recipient, a big secret until this evening. UFCE President, Dr. Ernest Skakun, presented the award to Dr. Walter Buck (a UFCE Board member since 2001), in recognition of his contributions to UFCE over the years. An emotionally moved Dr. Buck thanked the UFCE Board for giving him the award.

A closing prayer given by Bishop David Motiuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton ended the evening's formal proceedings.

The UFCE Board expresses its thanks and gratitude to all involved in the organizing of this year's event.

2010 Scholarship Winners

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

Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of St. Anthony, Edmonton, AB

Award: Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts in Alberta (\$500)

St. Anthony's Parish held a one-day event (Festival) featuring Ukrainian food and all-day entertainment including dance and music, as well as having church tours for interested parties.

Mila Komarnisky, Mundare, AB

Award: Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers (\$1000)

Ukrainian language submission of a family epic spanning the 20th Century; compelling storyline, 26 chapters in length plus epilogue.

Ms. Tanya Navolska, St. Leonard, Que., and Verkhovyna Choir, Edmonton, AB

Award: Roman Soltykewych Music Scholarship (\$500)

The award was pro-rated and given to two recipients for the following submissions:

Tanya Navolska for acceptance to the Master's of Choral Conducting program at Sherbrook University (QC) to study the methods of current choral pedagogy and improvement of rehearsal techniques.

Verkhovyna Choir for attending a choral workshop in Ukraine with the purpose of striving toward an improved choral chamber choir quality.

Kyiv Konnection 2011 Keynote speaker – Halya Kuchmij

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) will hold its eighteenth annual Kyiv Konnection banquet on Thursday, May 5, 2011, at the St. John's Cultural Centre.

This year's guest speaker, Halya Kuchmij, has worked as a documentary producer and director for over thirty years, and has filmed throughout the world. She has made more than seventy films, which have won over fifty national and international awards, among them: the Genie, numerous Geminis, multiple Chris Awards, the Gabriel Award, the Anik Award, and a Gold Medal from the New York Film and Television Festival. She has worked for the CBC since 1982, and prior to that was with the National Film Board. At the CBC she first worked for 'The JOURNAL', then the series 'Man Alive', 'Life & Times', 'Witness', 'The People's History of Canada', etc.



Halya is currently working on a feature docu-drama about the Ukrainian-Canadian artist William Kurelek for BRAVO/CTV.



Dr. Walter Buck, recipient of 2010 UFCE President's Award, & Dr. Ernest Skakun, UFCE President



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