



The remarkable talents of Nikita Titov once again illuminate the soul of our nation in the midst of adversity, vividly capturing the essence of Ukraine's spirit during times of war.

A year of strength, gratitude and collaboration

Ukraine's heartbeat echoes not only within its borders but across the globe, uniting every Ukrainian soul – young or old, residing in the homeland or scattered abroad. This collective pulse produces an awe-inspiring cadence for those attuned to its silent beat – a testament to the resilience, courage and compassion embedded in Ukraine's heart.

Within the vibrant community of MacEwan, Edmonton and Canada, we stand as guardians, cradling Ukraine. We hold its beating heart here.

Our journey throughout 2023 was marked by strength, gratitude and collaboration. We extend heartfelt appreciation to MacEwan's Team Ukraïna for joining hands with us in our shared mission. Special recognition is due to the dedication and friendship of Dr. Jeffrey Stepnisky, Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, Lindsey Whitson, Dr. Chaldeans Mensah, Dr. Michael Gulayets, Dr. Natalia Rohatyn-Martin and the late Dr. Lucille Mazo. Together, we've woven the rich tapestry of Ukraine's narrative, from academic pursuits of course offerings, research endeavours and talks, to cultural and community-engaged initiatives, for the benefit of all. We couldn't have achieved this without continued support from the university administration and the wider community.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of the past year, we also look forward to continuing this journey with you, hand in hand, into the future, here, in O-day'min, at the heart of Edmonton, Amiskwaciwâskahikan (ᐱᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ).



IN PHOTO
Dr. Jeffrey Stepnisky,
Kule Chair and
Associate Professor,
Sociology.

An update on the Kule Chair

By Jo Dawyd

Dr. Jeffrey Stepnisky is now in his third year as the Kule Chair. This endowed position at MacEwan University enables the chair to pursue research that focuses on Ukraine, Ukrainians in Canada and the relationship between the two countries.

This year, Dr. Stepnisky is continuing his work on collective memories of the 2013/14 Revolution of Dignity in connection with the Maidan Museum in Kyiv, Ukraine, the construction of which has been interrupted due to the current Russian invasion. Dr. Stepnisky and his research assistants have gathered approximately 600 Ukrainian-language newspaper articles about the commemoration of the revolution. They are now in the process of using software to code and analyze the articles from a sociological perspective. Dr. Stepnisky has recently submitted an application for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant to further support this research.

Continuing the theme of collective memory, Dr. Stepnisky and MacEwan sociology faculty member Dr. Michael Gulayets, are conducting a joint project with the University of Alberta. This project highlights sites of historical memory in downtown Edmonton that gained significance to the Ukrainian-Canadian community over the past 100 years. The team, led by Dr. Olenka Bilash, is developing

an app that will be both a Ukrainian/English language learning tool, as well as a walking tour that can be used to learn the history of Ukrainians in downtown Edmonton.

Dr. Stepnisky is also partnering with Dr. Danylo Sudyn, a sociologist from the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, to raise awareness of early Ukrainian sociologists and their theories. These important theorists have often been neglected or misrepresented as Russian thinkers in Western sociological texts. Illuminating their work will help to educate the world on Ukraine's long history of contributing to the field of sociology.

This work is made possible by the Kule Chair endowment, funded by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education.

Dr. Stepnisky's newest project focuses on the resilience of Ukrainian young people coming to Canada to escape the war. This federally funded SSHRC project is led by Dr. Michael Ungar from the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University in Halifax, and includes Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, MacEwan's current chair of International Health, and Larisa Hayduk of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC). Oksana Tashkinova, a Ukrainian sociology scholar now working at MacEwan, is managing the project.

In addition to these four research projects, Dr. Stepnisky continues to teach, integrating case studies and examples from Ukraine into his classes to illustrate theories and concepts. Events such as the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown and the current Russian

invasion of Ukraine, as well as important classical Ukrainian sociological theorists, serve to illuminate the sociological issues discussed.

Dr. Stepnisky notes that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has impacted his work, making his research both more meaningful and urgent.

“Not a lot of people in North America – in academia as well – have knowledge of the good work that’s going on in Ukraine, and how important the issues that Ukraine is facing right now are to the rest of the world,” says Dr. Stepnisky. He sees his work as a bit of a bridge that can help people make connections between what is happening in Ukraine and things that are experienced in everyday life. He wants to show Canadian scholars and citizens the important and rich work being done by Ukrainians and Ukrainian scholars – especially sociologists.

Looking to the future, Dr. Stepnisky anticipates meeting and working with the Ukrainian scholars who are scheduled to visit MacEwan this academic year.

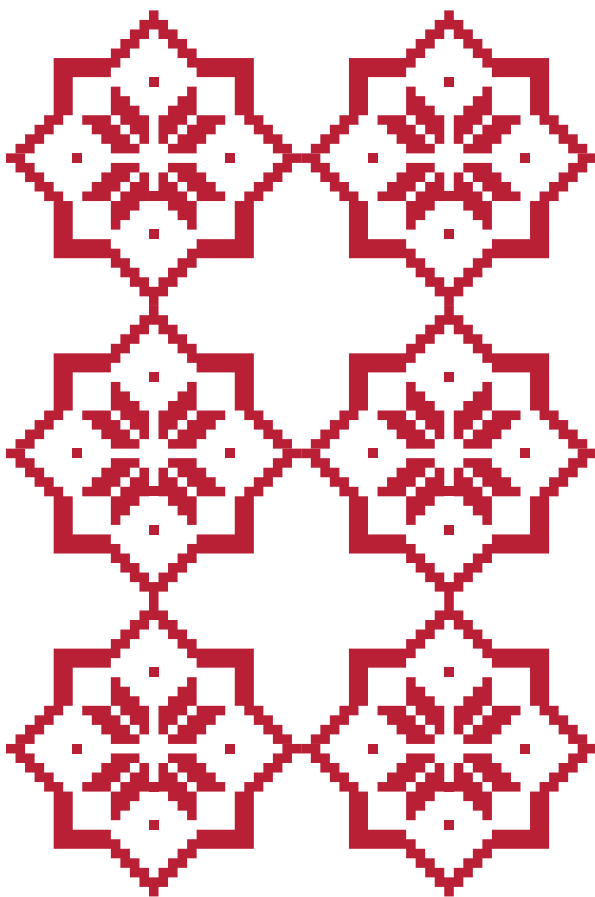


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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University is located in ᐱᐢᕐᕋᐢᕐᕐᕋᐢ ᐱᐢᕐᕋᐢᕐᕐᕋᐢ Amiskwací-wâskahikan, Edmonton, Alberta, on Treaty Six Territory and the Métis Homeland. This land is the traditional home and gathering place of diverse Indigenous Peoples, including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit and others. We honour and are learning from the cultures, worldviews and practices of these diverse communities.

Indigenous-Ukrainian relations are longstanding and complex. At URDC, we are dedicated to untangling our Indigenous-Ukrainian stories. We recognize this process is challenging and are committed to creating shared spaces where we can listen, reflect and learn how to live well together.



IN PHOTO
Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, Chair of International Health, Assistant Professor, Nursing.

Project update from the Chair of International Health

By Thomas Schwarz

This year, Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, chair of international health, continued her collaboration with MacEwan's partner institution Ternopil National Medical University in Ukraine. For three years in a row with her Ukrainian peers, Dr. Burgess-Pinto has co-designed and co-delivered a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course on global health perspectives.

Dr. Burgess-Pinto also focuses on medical assistance during disaster situations, including natural disasters—landslides, floods, wildfires, etc.—and war. In March, Dr. Burgess-Pinto hosted a speaker panel focused on the Canadian perspective on disaster situations, such as the Fort McMurray wildfire, and military operations in Haiti and Afghanistan.

While travelling to Chile during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Burgess-Pinto connected with university students and evaluated potential responses to the pandemic.

In November 2023, Dr. Burgess-Pinto was instrumental in hosting two visiting scholars from Ternopil National University's Institute of Nursing, Dr. Svitlana Danchak, director, and Dr. Lyumyla Mazur, assistant director. The visit proved to be informative and mutually beneficial for the scholars and MacEwan faculty and students.

As the world faces many difficult situations, Dr. Burgess-Pinto continues to provide future graduates with the knowledge and experience that will contribute to their development as successful health-care workers who can help in times of turmoil.



Honouring the legacy of Dr. Lucille Mazo: A colleague, mentor and friend of URDC

The passing of Dr. Lucille Mazo has left a lasting void in the hearts of everyone at URDC and within the MacEwan community. Her devotion, inner strength and determination were unmatched. Her impact extended far beyond the courses that she taught, touching the lives of students, colleagues and anyone fortunate enough to cross paths with her. Her leadership was truly inspiring. Larisa Hayduk recalls Dr. Mazo saying, “If I ever feel tired, I do not lie down to relax. Instead, I get up and go for a walk.” Those two sentences truly capture Dr. Mazo’s character – always pressing forward, no matter the challenge.

As we mourn the loss of a cherished colleague and friend, we know that Dr. Mazo’s legacy lives on through the numerous projects she created at MacEwan and in her contributions as a member of Team Ukraïna. We will not forget her passion for education, unwavering support for her students and profound dedication to preserving and sharing Ukrainian culture with the world. Dr. Mazo’s impact continues to resonate through the halls of MacEwan and within the hearts of those she inspired.

IN PHOTOS

Dr. Lucille Mazo and students.
Photo by Hanna Leonard.

Dr. Lucille Mazo

By Hanna Leonard, student of Dr. Mazo

Dr. Mazo encouraged people to think outside the box, live up to their potential and achieve what most think is impossible. She frequently kept in touch with graduated students, making herself available to help them in any way she could, whether it was writing letters of recommendation, tracking down funding opportunities or connecting them with the perfect master’s or PhD program.

Her absence is profound, but her impact will endure for years to come. May we never fail to associate the echoing sound of clicking heels with Dr. Mazo.

Dr. Lucille Mazo was a changemaker. She played a pivotal role in the establishment of MacEwan’s Department of Communication and served as department chair for several years. MacEwan University and the Bachelor of Communication Studies program would look very different without her hard work and dedication.

Although she was widely known among students and colleagues in the communication program, her influence was apparent throughout the entire university. If you’ve ever had to wander or leave Allard Hall with Dr. Mazo, you’ll know she was frequently stopped in the hallways. No matter how busy or rushed she was, she would always stop to chat.

One of her passions was research, and she was able to share that passion and knowledge with students in BCSC 411: Advanced Research Methods. Before every class, she would pose the question: “What have you noticed in your world today?” These day-to-day observations and discussions were often the foundation of student research.

Dr. Mazo didn’t only talk about research, she lived it – and she never failed to include her students. She frequently brought students overseas to conduct their own research, present research findings and/or assist her in her own projects. Her last trip was to Edinburgh, Scotland, where she brought six students to Queen Margaret University to conduct research studies and experience a new culture and environment.





Partnerships with non-profit organizations make a difference for Ukrainians

By Jo Dawyd

In March, MacEwan celebrated a partnership with two non-profit organizations in Edmonton that focus on helping those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Firefighters Aid Ukraine (FFAU) was established in 2014 and works to provide equipment, donations and training to emergency responders in Ukraine. Having already built trust and a network of contacts, FFAU was able to quickly deliver supplies where they were needed the most when Russia began the current conflict in early 2022.

The Free Store for Ukrainian Newcomers was started in April 2022 as a response to the growing numbers of Ukrainian people arriving in Edmonton after fleeing the hostilities at home. Due to the situation they left behind, these families were unable to bring many of their own belongings, and the Free Store stepped in to provide the items and clothing necessary to help them set up their new lives in Canada. The organization is run by volunteers, many of whom are newcomers themselves who give their time to assist the organization that helped them when they arrived in Edmonton.

MacEwan's contribution to both partnerships involves providing space in a university-owned building near its campus. For the Free Store, this new location offers a larger space to continue growing their organization. For FFAU, a space near campus allows them to continue working to provide aid and equipment to Ukraine, while participating in work-integrated learning projects with MacEwan students.

The URDC, FFAU and the Free Store would like to thank MacEwan University for its donation of space in support of Ukrainian communities, both in Edmonton and in Ukraine, as they navigate a difficult time.



TOP LEFT

Live art and music during the initiative launch.

TOP RIGHT

(From left) Larisa Hayduk (Director, URDC), Orysia Boychuk (President, UCC-APC), Oleksandr Danyleiko (Consul General of Ukraine in Edmonton), Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk (Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Fort Saskatchewan Vegreville), Dr. Annette Trimbee (President, MacEwan University), Andrew Boitchenko (MLA, Drayton Valley), Janice Krissa Moore (Founder of Free Store for Ukrainian Newcomers), Jorgia Moore (Founder of Free Store for Ukrainian Newcomers); back row: Joe Zatylny (EFRS Fire Chief), Kevin Royle (Founder of Firefighter Aid Ukraine).

MIDDLE RIGHT

Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk (MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville) and Dr. Annette Trimbee (MacEwan President and Vice-Chancellor).

BOTTOM RIGHT

Live art and music during the initiative launch.

MacEwan marketing students support Firefighter Aid Ukraine

By Jo Dawyd

During the 2023 Winter term, MacEwan marketing students worked with Firefighter Aid Ukraine (FFAU). Several community partners presented to the marketing class during the first weeks of the semester, but the students chose FFAU. When asked why, fourth-year marketing major Colton Lavin said he was drawn in by FFAU Project Director Kevin Royle's presentation. "I could tell he's very passionate, and cares a lot about what he's doing," Dawson Carriere, who also worked on the class project, agrees. "The dedication alone was pretty inspiring." Both students selected the organization because they wanted to do work that would help people and make a difference in the real world, rather than focusing only on metrics, bottom lines and key performance indicators.

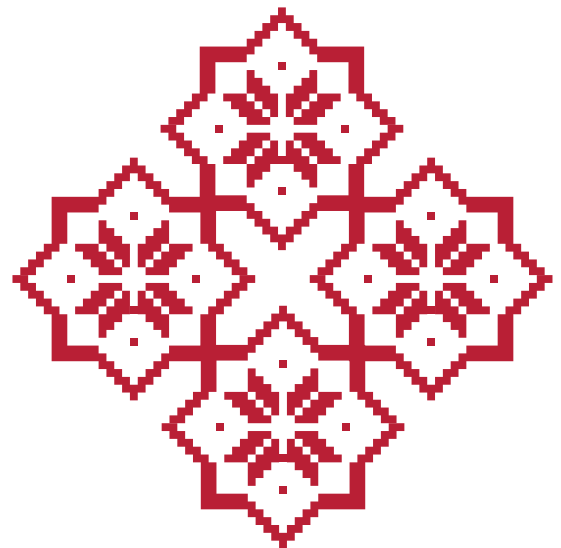
During the project, students worked closely with Royle and FFAU's Communications Manager Nikki Booth. Both Royle and Booth work demanding jobs in addition to their roles on the board of directors for the organization. However, they generously provided support to the students, taking time to meet for discussions, or to provide necessary information as the project progressed. Lavin recalls their willingness to help students be successful, and Carriere credits this support for allowing their group to effectively manage the project.

Another important source of support came from the course instructor, Dr. Fernando Angulo-Ruiz. "Fernando is an excellent professor," Carriere says, and recalls feeling like her professor "really wanted to get to know you on a personal level and make sure that you have what you need to be successful in that course." The students appreciated Dr. Angulo-Ruiz's regular meetings with each group to offer suggestions and feedback, and his willingness to help navigate any issues. Lavin says he felt very supported throughout the semester.

This work-integrated learning project provided the students with hands-on experiences, allowing them to apply the theory and concepts they had learned in earlier courses in a situation close to what they will experience in their future careers. Both Carriere and Lavin say the experience gave them a real-world market research problem to solve, and the support and guidance they needed to solve it. Lavin says that working for a real-life client reinforced the principles taught in his studies so far, and helped prepare him for life after graduation. Carriere notes that "being able to see a concept in action" allowed him to see how his degree will be applied, reaffirming that the effort is worth it.

The opportunity to work with FFAU also gave the students deeper insight into the issues facing Ukraine with the ongoing Russian invasion. Lavin and Carriere recalled the videos that Royle and Booth shared from their time in Ukraine, and how these firsthand accounts were impactful and allowed students to see events unfiltered by news agencies or social media bias. Lavin says it was an eye-opening reminder, noting that a relatively comfortable life in Edmonton makes it "easy to forget that a lot of the world goes through stuff like that ... it's really easy to kind of tune out or scroll past it. But when you have that prolonged interaction with people who are trying to help those people and people who have been there to see it ... it drives home that reality." Carriere concurs. "It really opened my perspective," he says.

In addition to the hands-on marketing research experience they gained from the project, students could see how their work can make an impact where it is needed most. Carriere particularly valued the opportunity to build personal and professional connections, saying, "It's been awesome to be able to develop those within this course." Lavin noted that "no matter what you're doing in business, communications or marketing, or whatever path you take, you always have the ability to make a bit of an impact."





IN PHOTO
 Ukrainian National Model UN (NMUN) delegation with Sergiy Kyslytsya (Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations) in New York at the Ukraine – Crucifixion exhibition.

Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations project makes it to New York

By Thomas Schwarz

In April, sponsored by URDC, a Ukrainian delegation of students from two of MacEwan's partner universities, Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, once again attended one of the biggest global youth conferences. At the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York, students interacted with UN secretariat members, learning to become future diplomats and the voice of Ukraine. They were placed into real-life scenarios representing a country and defending its interests in UN committees. This year, the Ukrainian delegation represented Liechtenstein.

The opening ceremony mentioned the war in Ukraine, and the honorary speaker Linda Thomas-Greenfield, permanent representative of the USA to the UN, spoke about the challenge Russia's war on Ukraine poses to world security.

On the second day of the conference, the Ukrainian delegation (along with 16 American students from Manhattan College) met with Sergiy Kyslytsya, permanent representative of Ukraine in the UN. The meeting took place at the United Nations Plaza, which

was also the venue for the Ukrainian Exhibition: "Tribunal. Crucifixion," which included artifacts from the battlefield in Ukraine that truly convey Russia's war crimes and demand for international justice.

At the conference, two students from UCU won awards for best position paper – Oleksandra Mudrak with UCU's School of Law and Khrystyna Dmytryshyn with UCU's Faculty of Social Sciences. This was a huge achievement, showing that the youth of Ukraine are on the path to a successful future that will benefit their country.

The 2023 conference was one of the largest ever, with more than 2,000 student delegates and 130 university teams from 24 countries around the world.

TOP

Student participants in the Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations project.

BOTTOM

At the Canadian Bureau for International Education Awards.

Canada Ukraine Model UN receives 2023 New World Award

Originally published in November 2023 at MacEwan.ca/News

The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) has named the Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations project team the winner of its 2023 New World Award. The team involves the MacEwan Model UN Club, as well as students from Ukrainian Catholic University and National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

The project began in 2019, when Dr. Chaldeans Mensah teamed up with Larisa Hayduk in the URDC to connect the post-secondary institutions and give Ukrainian students the opportunity to learn about international diplomacy and the UN.

“In the beginning, we truly did not understand what we could accomplish,” says project co-founder and MacEwan alum Ashlee Rolheiser, Bachelor of Commerce '19. “This distinctive project and its growth through collaboration has made noteworthy contributions to the internationalization of MacEwan and our Ukrainian institutional partners.”

Over the years, students from each of the three campuses met online for lessons and training, and some MacEwan Model UN students even travelled to Kyiv to meet their Ukrainian counterparts in person. Ukrainian members of the group have also successfully participated in National Model United Nations (NMUN) conferences in Germany and New York.

Hayduk found that the group’s efforts met the qualifications for the Canadian Bureau for International Education New World Award, which is awarded to Canadian

Continued...





students who contribute to the internationalization of their campus community. She worked with Dr. Mensah and Dr. Galyna Protsyk of Ukrainian Catholic University on an application that would showcase the key components of the project: peer-to-peer training of the mechanics of diplomatic practice of the UN, and a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course between MacEwan, Ukrainian Catholic University and National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

“Overall, the project enhanced the internationalization of the curriculum and promoted cross-cultural understanding between Ukrainian and Canadian students,” says Dr. Mensah.

Project member Abhijeet Singh says the award is the result of incredible collaboration.

“This award reflects the hard work and dedication many students have put in for the past five years to make the Canada-Ukraine project possible,” says Singh, who graduated from the Bachelor of Commerce program in Fall 2023. “This award is also a true testament to the commitment and excellence of the executive team that runs the club each year.”

Hayduk sees the award as a point of pride for the URDC and an example of what the organization can accomplish with the help of students. “The Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations project is a remarkable platform that encourages young minds to engage in critical thinking, diplomacy and global problem-solving,” she says. “This award encourages us to continue supporting and empowering students from MacEwan and our partner universities in Ukraine.”

Rolheiser and Singh attended the CBIE National Conference in Vancouver in November, where they accepted the award in person.

That doesn’t mean that the work of the Canada-Ukraine Model UN project is slowing down. Current MacEwan Model UN Club President Nathan Poon says that he will continue to pursue opportunities to build international relationships and help other students.

IN PHOTO
At the CBIE Awards.



Crossing borders within classroom walls

Originally published in January 2023 at MacEwan.ca/News

MacEwan is welcoming Ukrainian students into classrooms without them ever setting foot in Edmonton.

Dr. Michael Gulayets has been collaborating with Ukrainian professors for several years in his SOCI 395 sociological field school, and this year Dr. Sergiy Yakovenko added a similar virtual component to his ENGL 383 course.

Dr. Gulayets was approached by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) in 2018 with the idea of connecting with the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. He partnered with a sociology professor at the institution to create a course about social inequality and an accompanying field school. The course was first implemented during the Spring 2019 term, with 10 MacEwan students travelling with Dr. Gulayets to Lviv for two weeks to meet with UCU students and faculty.

“We had classes together and they took us to an orphanage, a drug rehab centre and a police station to see how these social institutions operate in Ukraine,” says Dr. Gulayets. “But the best parts of the course were the interactions between students, and I realized we didn’t leave enough opportunities for those connections.”

Dr. Gulayets took what he learned during that first field school and began to work on shaping the next one into something even better. Unfortunately, once the COVID pandemic hit, border restrictions caused them to cancel their trip only weeks before their planned flights. Restrictions continued to prevent travel in 2021. In 2022, the field school was expanded to include weekly online meetings between the two classes in the Winter term. However, the war in Ukraine caused a disruption of the online meetings and yet another cancellation of travelling to Ukraine in 2022.

The university in Ukraine was used as a shelter in the beginning of the war, and the Ukrainian students saw all of their classes cancelled. They were able to join in on one last virtual class to wrap up the course.

“That final class we had together, which was several weeks into the war, was one of the most powerful experiences I’ve ever had. The Ukrainian students’ strength, resilience, fear and determination all came through on screen. It was an extraordinary experience for both myself and the MacEwan students,” says Dr. Gulayets.

This year, the course is continuing online, with hopes that travel for the field school may still be an option in the future.

In the English department, sessional instructor Dr. Sergiy Yakovenko worked with URDC to develop a session of ENGL 383 that focused on Ukrainian literature. Dr. Yakovenko taught at National

University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine prior to coming to Canada, and used his contacts there to open the class to Ukrainian students. The goal was to have six students join the class remotely, but due to displacements from the war and scheduling issues, only one student was able to attend.

“She connected with us from Sicily where she was a refugee,” says Dr. Yakovenko. “And then she moved to Ireland, also to a refugee camp.”

The course also featured guest speakers from Ukraine, including the author of some of the works studied in the class and professors from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Dr. Yakovenko acted as an interpreter between the Ukrainian author Vasyl Gabor and the class to ensure that the language barrier wasn’t an issue.

“It was fascinating because they brought another perspective to the works we discussed,” says English student Erica Myles. “While my classmates and I had cultural opinions on themes and symbolism that differed, they were still comparable. The Ukrainian student saw the themes in a completely different light instead of just a variation of what is taught in Canadian education.”

“They definitely provided more context and information,” adds fellow student Ashley Alton. “Especially with translations, they were able to identify missing elements in a story and getting that clarity on what the literature really means helped a lot in my experiences and overall enjoyment in the course.”

Darren Lennartsson, another student in the class, says his eyes were opened to Ukraine and its literature. “Exploring how their cultural and historical context shaped their work was fascinating. These influences continue today, evidenced by the current state of affairs and considering that our professor and guest lecturers had all grown up under the communist Soviet Union.”

Dr. Yakovenko says that he’s interested in potentially teaching a similar course in the future. “The thought that I’m becoming kind of a representative of Ukrainian culture and a voice of Ukrainian literature here makes me proud, and feels to me like a contribution to the Ukrainian cause.”

MacEwan provides tuition support for Ukrainian students fleeing war

By Thomas Schwartz

After February 24, 2022, Ukrainian university students were faced with a tough decision: leave the country for safety or stay behind and withstand terrifying conditions.

During the 2023/24 academic year, MacEwan University and URDC provided support once again for students fleeing the war. Going abroad and enrolling in a university as an international student is an expensive option. To counteract those expenses, MacEwan was able to provide 20 Ukrainian students with domestic tuition, dropping the estimated cost from \$800 per credit to approximately \$200 per credit.

In addition to providing domestic tuition, URDC also offered 20 Ukrainian students settlement grants, each worth \$1,000. These grants were extremely helpful at the beginning of the transition from Ukraine to Canada.

URDC expresses deep gratitude to the university administration and the Office of the Provost for the continued support of students affected by the war in Ukraine.



TOP
Ukrainian students attend a meet-and-greet event at MacEwan.

BOTTOM
A students' speaker panel during Ukraine Week.



Student snapshot: Bachelor of Commerce student set on making as much money as he can, but it has nothing to do with profit

Originally published in February 2023
at [MacEwan.ca/News](https://www.macewan.ca/news)

Rory Dumelie is determined to do everything he can to fill a Whyte Avenue pub to the rafters. The Bachelor of Commerce student is set on making as much money on February 7 as possible, but this isn't about profits. It's about relief efforts in Ukraine.

For months, Dumelie has been hustling to find a partner (The Buckingham on Whyte Avenue), invite guests, put up posters on campus and Whyte Avenue and solicit donations to a silent auction. The third-year management major's passion for this cause has nothing to do with his heritage.

"I grew up surrounded by Ukrainian people, and I feel like, as Albertans, we have a tight connection to Ukraine," he says.

"I know that people here care about what is happening in Ukraine and want to do something to help, but they just might not know what."

That's exactly how Dumelie felt when he walked through the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) doors. "As a citizen of the world, sitting back and watching Ukraine get bombed isn't okay with me. I was ready to do whatever they told me I could to help."

So he signed up for the SOCI 395 sociological field school with Dr. Michael Gulayets and spent time at URDC listening and learning from Ukrainian refugee students studying at MacEwan.

"Hearing their stories firsthand is nothing like reading a Twitter thread or a news article about the war," he says. "This is a real war that is affecting real people. As we talked, the students' worries about being abandoned – that the war has become a footnote in people's minds – came through."

Dumelie wanted to do what he could to ensure that didn't happen, so he organized a benefit concert for United24, a global initiative to support Ukraine. Funds raised will help with relief efforts – medical supplies, food security and shelter for people affected by the war.

"I approached The Buckingham to pitch my idea, and they got my vision, knew how important supporting Ukraine is, gave us the venue and booked acts – all for free. And I got to work asking everyone I could think of to come to the event or donate something to our silent auction."

Dumelie hopes that the concert, hosted by Ukrainian refugee students, will be packed.

"I would love to fill the place, bring the house down and raise as much money as we can for relief efforts in Ukraine," he says. "But it's a Tuesday night, so I'm trying to temper my expectations."

Not all of Dumelie's eggs are in this one basket. This concert isn't the end – he is committed to working to help Ukraine until the war is over.

"If you had told me two months ago that I would be doing all of this, I wouldn't have believed you," he says. "This experience has taught me much – as a future business professional and a person. I don't want to be hyperfocused on making money; I want to make a positive change in the world. And I think sometimes we underestimate how much we, as individuals, can do and what working hard and talking to people can accomplish."

IN PHOTO

Rory Dumelie, Bachelor of Commerce student.



IN PHOTO
Team Ukraina hosting Dr. Halyana Protsyk of Ukrainian Catholic University.

URDC'S support for academics

Recognizing the need for urgent support of Ukraine's intellectual community in the face of Russia's war of aggression, URDC has awarded six non-residential grants to MacEwan's partner universities in Ukraine. The project supports scholars based in Ukraine as they continue their academic work in the time of war. Meet our inaugural grant recipients and their projects!

Dr. Dmytro Sherengovsky, *senior lecturer in global politics, Ukrainian Catholic University*

Dr. Artsiom Sidarchuk, *lecturer in global politics, Ukrainian Catholic University*

"The neo-Gramscian Constructivism: The Russo-Ukrainian War, Hegemony, and Identity of Predominance"

This project started as an attempt to arrive at a more nuanced empirical image of the societal mechanisms associated with regional and global hegemonic orders. However, subsequently, it has evolved into an attempt to frame those societal mechanisms in substantial terms. Our project hinges on a peculiar theoretical intersection of constructivist and neo-Gramscian perspectives. This intersection allows us to conceptualize the identity of predominance as a sub-element of state identity, conceived as a set of articulations aimed at rhetorically justifying and legitimizing one's transgression of the rules and norms of international politics. Moreover, we theorize that the stability of any hegemonic order and/or the success of one's bid for hegemony (global or regional) depends heavily on the discursive resonance between the latter identity of predominance and the mass common sense across the international system.

Hence, we approach the Russo-Ukrainian War as a failed bid for a full-blown regional hegemony on the side of Russia, putting forward a working hypothesis regarding the lack of a discursive fit between the latter's meta-narratives regarding the rationale for the War and the elements of the common sense of the major Great Powers' public. Currently, we are into empirical operationalization of our theoretical framework. We employ the "Making Identity Count" project's database to empirically identify the elements of the Russian identity of predominance already present in Russia's public discourse right after the collapse of the USSR and during the years of Vladimir Putin's presidency. With this approach, we aim to highlight the continuity of these discursive elements within Russia's public sphere, hence pointing to the former's crucial role in rhetorically substantiating an almost decade-long aggression against Ukraine. However, we do not limit ourselves to the case of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Substantially, our analysis of the identity categories constituting the Russian identity of predominance equally applies to other cases of Russian geopolitical claims, military involvement, and asymmetrical warfare within the narrow region of Russia's "near-abroad," and that of the EU's "Eastern flank."

With the support of non-residential grant from URDC, we had the pleasure to present our theoretical framework and working hypothesis at the European International Studies Association (EISA) Convention (PEC 2023), as well as at the "600 Days of the All-Out War" Conference organized by the Charles University in Prague and the University of Vienna.

Dr. Oleksandr Kashchuk, *sociology instructor, Department of Theology, Ukrainian Catholic University*

"Ukrainian Identity as a Threat for Russian Ideology of Power: Medieval and Modern roots of collision."

The purpose of the proposed project is to explore the origins of Ukrainian and Russian ideologies of power and to describe both their specificity and their influence on the formation of social and political identity. The military invasion initiated by Russia against Ukraine appears to have not only political but also, and maybe predominantly, ideological background in accordance with the ideology built on the rejection of the model of identity based on the liberty of the individual. This liberty is characteristic of people formed under the Western ideology of power. One of the elements that supports Russian imperial ideology is a concept of the Russian world, according to which Orthodox countries, especially those of Slavic formation, make a sphere of influence of the restored Russian empire. While the ideology of power accepted and developed by Moscow is an outgrowth of Byzantine influence, that one accepted by Ukrainians was formed under the influence of Western Christian ideology which goes back to Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. The originality of the project seems to consist of an attempt to prove that different ideologies of power in the course of history formed kinds of societies with different values.

Dr. Danylo Sudyn, *associate professor, Sociology Department, Ukrainian Catholic University*

“Early 20th century Ukrainian Sociology: Unrealized Project of Alternative Sociological Ontology and Epistemology.”

This research project is focused on studying ideas from the late 19th – early 20th century – Mykhailo Drahomanov, Bohdan Kistiakivsky, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, Olgerd Bochkovsky. On the one hand, they were deeply connected to Western sociological tradition: Drahomanov’s works were read by Karl Marx, Kistiakivsky was a friend of George Simmel and Max Weber, Hrushevsky was considered to be Durkheimian sociologist by Ukrainian academia in the 1920s-1930s. On the other hand, being representatives and members of a stateless nation, as Ukraine was part of the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires, or Soviet Union and Poland at that time, they were very sensitive to questions of human rights, relations between individual and collective, but also state and society. In the theoretical dimension, they offer a view on sociological ontology, different from the contemporary sociological ideas of Western sociologists. In the social dimension, they perceived sociology as a part of the liberation program. And that constitutes the main challenge for understanding this sociological tradition: often it presents social reform programs, ‘skipping’ some theoretic or methodologic works, despite all authors relying on the system of sociological ideas, elaborated by them. Therefore, now the main work is focused on the reconstruction of the sociological ideas of Drahomanov, as he was the first to introduce sociology to Ukrainian academia, and he influenced the social ideas of all three other authors. His works often present political ideas, but they are built on a solid sociological background. Reconstructing these sociological ideas is the first part of the project that will help understand the evolution of Ukrainian sociology during 1900–1930.

Dr. Larysa Chovnyuk, *head, International Office and vice-president, foreign Cooperation, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*

“European and Global Response on the Full-Scale Invasion on Ukraine in the Sphere of Education and its Immediate Impact on the Teaching and Learning Practices and Policies of the Ukrainian Universities (on the example of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy).”

In the course of 2023, the main focus of research was mostly concentrated in the main three directions:

1. Collection and preliminary analysis of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) students’ experience at the partner universities, which hosted them for temporary studies in 2022 and the first half of 2023. Starting from February 2022 more than 800 NaUKMA students moved to different NaUKMA partner institutions, mostly in Europe and North America, escaping from the full-scale invasion of Russia on Ukraine. This was the highest number of students who were abroad simultaneously in the history of NaUKMA and is the ground for comparing and possibly revising the NaUKMA study practices. Students’ experiences were collected in the format of questionnaires with the focus on

the teaching and learning practices, the students have come across abroad, which could be fully or partially implemented at NaUKMA. All the responses for this period will be analyzed by the end of 2023 and presented at the NaUKMA Academic Council.

2. First-level analysis of the new international teaching and learning practices, introduced at NaUKMA after February 2022 as initiatives to support high level of the NaUKMA academic standing have been looked at from the perspective of the students and teachers experiences. These practices are the tandem courses with Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany; block of Sciences Po, France courses taught exclusively for the NaUKMA students; English Language Legal Writing Peer to Peer Writing Workshop for the NaUKMA Law students and students of the US universities, etc.
3. One of the NaUKMA responses to the full-scale invasion was the development of the Kyiv-Mohyla Global initiative, which envisaged the launching of the NaUKMA mini-campus at several locations abroad, supported by international partners and different financial instruments. In the context of discussion on its perspectives of these campuses’ comparable practices of other Ukrainian universities were defined and analyzed.

It is important to mention that the analytical work went in line with the direct involvement of the researcher in most of these initiatives.

Dr. Yakiv Tsvietinskyi, *senior lecturer, Jazz and Popular Music Department, M. Lysenko Lviv National Academy of Music “Institute of Improvisational Music (IIM). A project is an aspiration to modernise Ukrainian music education and make it more accessible.”*

The IIM project is an aspiration to modernise Ukrainian music education and make it more accessible. The first and most important step of the IIM is to create an accessible educational base that would help teachers and students learn the basics of improvisational music on their own. Another area of work is holding lectures, master classes, and concerts in various cities in Ukraine. Such events and materials will serve as an impetus for the development of improvisational education, which is very necessary for Ukrainian culture and its integration into the international community.

Dr. Dmytro Mazin, *chair/instructor, English and literature, English Language Department, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*

“The War in Ukraine in Global Public and Media Discourses: Language, Memory, Perception.”

The research goal is to identify the impact of the war in Ukraine on changing public and media discourses by exploring the involved linguistic and rhetoric strategies based on intertextual allusions and collective memory.

Visiting scholars from Ukraine at MacEwan

By Polina Budyanska

At URDC, we proudly support global academic collaboration with our Visiting Scholars Program, which has academics from MacEwan's Ukrainian partner universities visit our campus for a few weeks. This initiative promotes cultural exchange and enriches MacEwan's academic landscape, as visiting scholars engage with our university community through presentations, lectures, collaborative research and valuable relationship-building.

This fall, URDC hosted four groups of visiting scholars.

Dr. Gayana Yüksel (Journalism)

Dr. Gayana Yüksel is an associate professor in the Department of Slavonic Philology and Journalism of the Institute of Philology and Journalism at the Volodymyr Vernadsky Taurida National University. She is a Crimean Tatar and a member of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (the single highest executive-representative body). During her visit to MacEwan, Dr. Yüksel took part in the Indigenous-Ukrainian Relationship Building Initiative, created connections with the university's Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications and kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre for potential joint research projects, and gave a lecture to BCSC 411: Advanced Research Methods students, among other initiatives.

The highlight of Dr. Yüksel's time at MacEwan was her visiting scholar presentation, entitled "Russia-Ukraine War: Crimea and Crimean Tatars." She shared the perspectives and views of the Indigenous Ukrainian population on the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the invasion of Crimea in 2014, which resulted in Dr. Yüksel's family being banned from her homeland by the occupiers.

Dr. Yüksel's major research areas include hybrid information war, state information policy, journalists' rights, radio and TV expertise, journalism types, journalism specializations (human rights,

international law, etc.), journalism and war, world history, media and journalism history (including Ukrainian and Crimean media), internet journalism, communication theory, genres and journalistic theory. Dr. Yüksel has also developed an interest in the Indigenous cultures in the land now called Canada.

Dr. Yuliya Krylova-Grek (Psycholinguistics)

Dr. Yuliya Krylova-Grek is an associate professor at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) who also works as a forensic psycholinguist, providing expertise on journalists' and media outlets' activities. Her methodology for psycholinguistic text analysis is used in a wide range of areas. During her visit to MacEwan, Dr. Krylova-Grek made connections with the Department of Communication, gave lectures to students in the department's Advanced Research Methods course and shared her media research findings in a visiting scholar presentation on Russian media in the context of the war in Ukraine.

Dr. Krylova-Grek's major research areas include media communication, psycholinguistic aspects of mass media's influence on worldviews, language as a political tool, forensic psycholinguistics, strategic communication and media literacy. She is currently conducting research on the specifics of media activity during crises and conflicts.

Dr. Svitlana Danchak and Dr. Lyudmyla Mazur (Nursing)

Dr. Svitlana Danchak is director of the Academic and Scientific Institute of Nursing at Ternopil National Medical University (TNMU) and associate professor in the Department of Higher Nursing Education, Patient Care and Clinical Immunology. She teaches family nursing, community and public health nursing, health assessment and clinical nursing.

Dr. Lyudmyla Mazur is deputy director of the Academic and Scientific Institute of Nursing and associate professor in the Department of Higher Nursing Education, Patient Care and Clinical Immunology at TNMU. She teaches clinical nursing and advanced courses in internal diseases and

nursing theories and processes.

During their visit, Dr. Danchak and Dr. Mazur engaged in various academic events organized by Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, MacEwan's chair of International Health, that sparked new connections and growth opportunities for both universities. Dr. Danchak's lecture on crash syndrome was well-received by MacEwan students, with lots of positive feedback. While at MacEwan, Dr. Mazur also began developing a course on 2SLGBTQ+ health for TNMU, thanks to the helpful meetings with the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity.

Dr. Danchak's major research areas include global health, community and public health nursing, thyroid disease, obesity, metabolic syndrome and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Dr. Mazur's major research areas include endocrinological disorders of autoimmune origin in patients with chronic hepatitis, clinical and experimental studies of comorbid pathology to establish the mechanisms of their combined course, sleep disorders and optimizing the professional training of nurses.

Dr. Halyna Protsyk (Political Science)

Dr. Halyna Protsyk is deputy vice-rector for Outreach and Social Engagement (for Internationalization) at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). She holds a PhD in political problems of international systems and global development. She teaches courses on international organizations and global governance for undergraduate students in ethics, politics, economics as well as European integration for master's students in public administration. She is also a faculty advisor for the Ukrainian student delegation to the National Model United Nations (New York, USA). Dr. Protsyk specializes in the area of internationalization of higher education and has been a member of the European Association for International Education since 2020. Her research interests include multilateral diplomacy, global solidarity and community development, EU diplomacy, and EU common foreign and security policy.

TOP

Dr. Svitlana Danchak and Dr. Lyudmyla Mazur with MacEwan and Edmonton community members after their *Nursing in War* presentation.



MIDDLE

Dr. Halyana Protsyk (centre) with Dr. Melike Schalomon (left) and Dr Chaldeans Mensah (right).



BOTTOM

Dr. Yuliya Krylova-Grek.

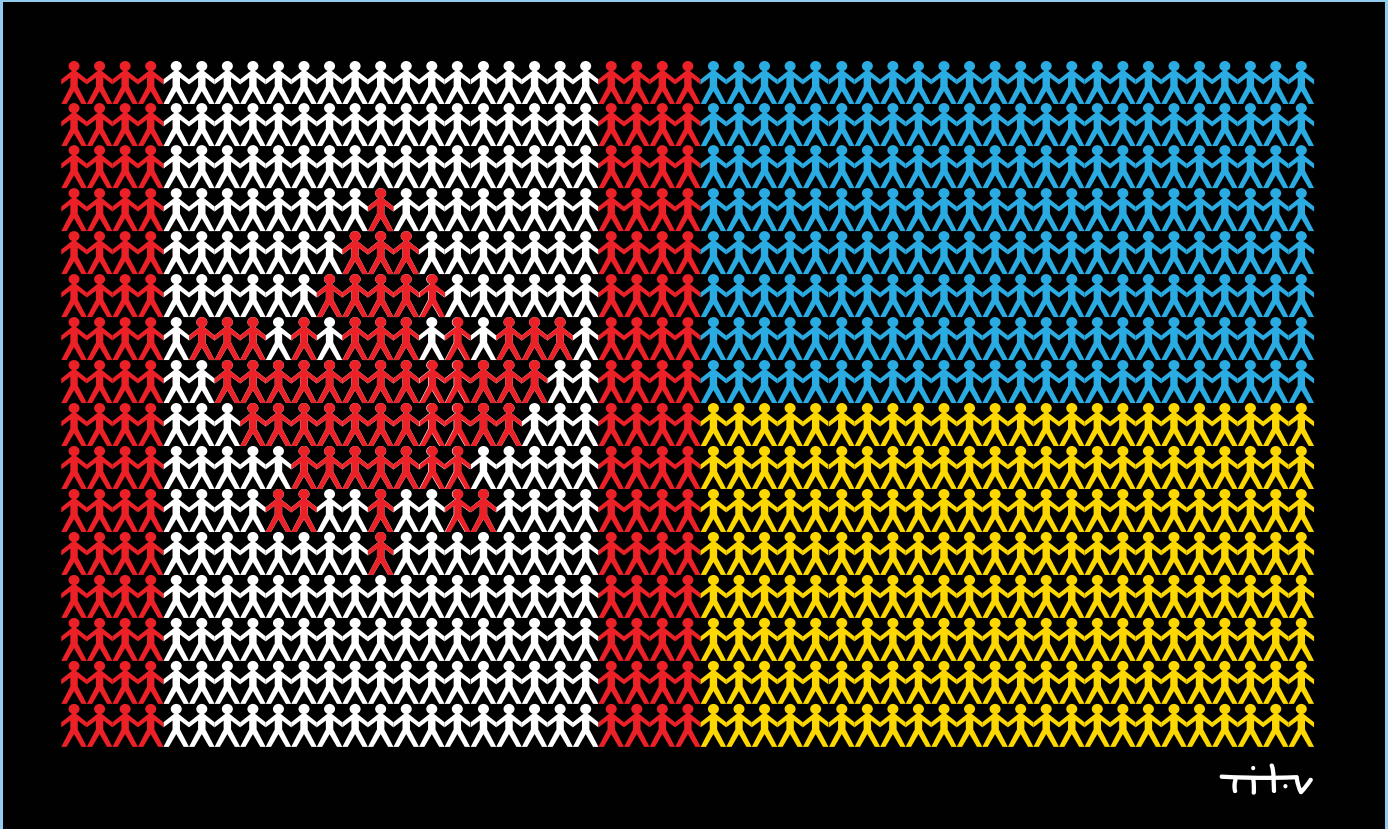
MacEwan has been actively collaborating with Dr. Protsyk for over five years. From COIL courses to international conferences, this partnership has been promoting the internationalization of both MacEwan and UCU campuses.

Dr. Protsyk’s contribution to MacEwan cannot be overstated and was especially clear when MacEwan political science students recognized her while she was walking along our pedway.

Together with MacEwan colleagues, Dr. Protsyk attended the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) Conference 2023 in Vancouver, where our joint NMUN Canada-Ukraine project received the New World Award.

During her brief yet very impactful visit to MacEwan, Dr. Protsyk made connections with various departments, presented at the MacEwan United Nations Club meeting, and gave a public talk for with Dr. Dmytro Sherengovsky (vice-rector for Outreach and Social Engagement and Political Science Professor at UCU), who joined her virtually. Together, the scholars discussed “Russian Hegemonic Decline in Central Eastern Europe: Security Challenges and Opportunities for the Region” and “Higher Education in Ukraine Amid War: Resilience and Road to the Future”.





Art by Nikita Titov.

Community stories: Ukrainian newcomers in Edmonton

Recorded by Thomas Schwarz

YULIYA S.

Yuliya came to Edmonton on a free flight sponsored by a Polish airline, leaving from Warsaw on March 30, 2022. She faced the early periods of the war in the capital city of Kyiv, a city she realized she must leave as tensions continued to rise, and the sound of alarms continued incessantly.

Not alone in this though, she was faced with large crowds when trying to catch a train out of the city. Families were trying to hoist their children onto trains to get them out of the city safely, and the trains were packed with as many people as they could carry. It was common to see people sitting in the aisles, or near the bathrooms, causing people to step over one another.

Yuliya's trip to Warsaw from Kyiv, usually a 10-hour drive, took more than two days. During a stop on the west side of Ukraine, the train was met by the locals who offered sandwiches, tea and coffee to the passengers. Yuliya remembers this moment with fondness, recollecting how nice it was to have the support from fellow citizens in Ukraine.

Yuliya's oldest daughter moved to Edmonton in 2014, and her younger daughter in 2019. They organized a free flight for her out of Warsaw, and after nine-and-a-half hours in the air, she touched down in Canada and reunited with her family.

Yuliya says she now enjoys Edmonton, after a difficult beginning, when her days were filled with longing for home. That was until she was lucky enough to be introduced to the Freestore for Ukrainian Newcomers, where she was met with support from people who understood her journey. Yuliya says that this "made her life easier." After becoming more

comfortable, she started taking English classes, and started to fully settle into living a life in Edmonton.

ANASTASIIA S.

Anastasiia came to Canada on June 2, 2022 at the young age of 15. A dancer from the small city of Kropyvnytskyi, she left her home on March 6 for Prague, where she stayed for a few months before coming to Edmonton. She was a dancer for nine years, so when deciding which school to attend, she chose Vimy Ridge Academy to continue her love for dance.

Anastasiia knew some English before coming to Edmonton, but was challenged by the full English-speaking culture, and says it was hard to get used to the Canadian accent. Now, Anastasiia speaks great English, so good in fact that it would be difficult to figure out it isn't her first language. She has now transferred to Jasper Place High School, and continues to thrive.

Anastasiia spends a lot of her time hosting fundraisers. In her first year, she hosted a fundraiser at Vimy Ridge, where she raised \$1,500. This fundraiser gave her a chance to meet other Ukrainians who moved to Edmonton since the beginning of the war, and she was lucky enough to be offered a job at the Ukraine's Kitchen.

She says, "Edmonton feels like a completely different world," and that the people of Edmonton being nice and offering help has made it easier to adjust. The environment of the kitchen and being around people with a similar background has helped make her feel more comfortable, especially after going through such a dramatic period in her life.

Anastasiia is now starting another fundraiser for a girl who is in need of cancer treatment. She continues to provide a great representation of the Ukrainian people who have been affected by the war.

ANASTASIIA K.

After escaping a Russian-occupied village, Anastasiia was one of the first Ukrainians affected by the war to come to Canada. She is originally from Kyiv, the capital city of Ukraine. As tensions continued to rise between Ukraine and Russia in February 2022, Anastasiia felt unbothered in the capital city, assuming that it wouldn't escalate any further, often telling her peers that the idea of a war starting was "stupid."

Her mind quickly changed not long after, as explosions could be heard from another district within Kyiv. At this point, Anastasiia and her company were confused and not sure about how they should act. Eventually, they decided that they needed to head toward the western border of Ukraine. On only the second day of the war, they left Kyiv, packing next to no supplies, thinking this would be a temporary departure.

During their journey out of Kyiv, they had their first personal experience with the effects of war on citizens. When they stopped at a gas station filled with vehicles, gunshots were heard nearby and the pumps were shut off and doors closed.

This problem with getting gas was repeated throughout their journey, often causing long travel times for very short distances. Their designated route would normally have taken 15 to 20 minutes, but amidst the chaos of war, it took them nearly five hours.

When they arrived at a small settlement west of Kyiv, nothing seemed out of the ordinary. They settled in and went to sleep, only to wake up to the town occupied by the Russian army.

At this point, Anastasiia realized that the bigger cities are better to stay in during wartime, since the smaller cities lose access to essential services, such as electricity. Houses that ran on electricity instead of gas were hollow shelters. Luckily, Anastasiia was able to stay in a house that still functioned on gas and had a well for water. They used cars to charge batteries, which they then used to charge anything that required power, including their phones.

During the week that Anastasiia was in this smaller city, she witnessed Russian tanks passing through. Fortunately, it was a city that the Russian soldiers weren't worried about, which, according to Anastasiia, was due to the lack of Ukrainian soldiers present in the city. A nearby city with Ukrainian soldiers was frequently bombed, until there was next to nothing left.

Only a few buildings were damaged in the city where Anastasiia found herself living, one being the school that was set up as a designated shelter.

At first, Anastasiia ignored the idea of evacuating since the Ukrainian government had told citizens that it was not possible. The only road out of the city was set up as a Russian check stop, where other Ukrainians had supposedly been stopped and handled by the Russian officers. But after the constant explosions and alarms, Anastasiia and her company decided to risk it. They put white flags on the car, along with pictures of the children they were travelling with. After a long four hours on a single-lane highway surrounded by Russian tanks, they arrived at the check stop.

Anastasiia was scared for her life, but luckily was met with a Russian soldier who only asked for her phone, in search of any information about the Russian army in the area. At this point, emotions were running high and Anastasiia could not stop herself from crying. The Russian soldier was taken aback, even going so far as to comfort her by telling her not to worry, staying polite through the whole interaction. They were let through with no problem once it was known that they had no information about the Russians on their phones.

After leaving Ukraine, Anastasiia went to Warsaw, where she was able to get a flight out of Europe. Her mother and grandma are still in Kyiv, and she misses them dearly. Anastasiia has now lived in Edmonton for more than a year, and has found a job in information technology that matches well with her educational background. She is still getting used to the cold weather and cost of living in Edmonton, and slowly finds herself more comfortable.

Anastasiia says that Janice, the manager of the Free Store for Ukrainian Newcomers, has provided her with much support, and "feels like her family now." She has connected with many Ukrainians in Edmonton, all of whom have helped her feel more at home. She is now taking the path towards becoming a permanent resident and currently has no plans to return to Ukraine.

Empowering education: MacEwan's Health and Nursing Technology Fund

By Thomas Schwartz

For 10 years, the Health and Nursing Technology Fund at MacEwan has enabled the university and URDC to provide direct support for medical education at Ternopil National Medical University's (TNMU) Nursing Institute. Several projects have been implemented that use educational equipment to give students a chance to learn with hands-on materials.

In September 2022, MacEwan gifted TNMU a multifunctional Nursing Kelly mannequin with a SimPad system, which greatly increased opportunities for students to practice their skills. Nursing Kelly is a realistic simulation-based mannequin platform that enables students to perform patient assessment and basic care nursing procedures. This gift inspired TMNU to create a simulation lab, funded by and named after MacEwan.

In 2023, MacEwan's Health and Nursing Technology Fund provided TMNU with laptops to support their faculty's academic work – critical tools in a time when war conditions require them to complete assignments outside their offices.

MacEwan University and URDC are proud to provide help for the TNMU during these dire times.



TOP

Ternopil National Medical University's Clinical Simulation Laboratory, funded by MacEwan.

BOTTOM

Computers donated to TNMU by MacEwan.



Highlights of Ukraine Week

By Jo Dawyd

From January 30 to February 4, 2023, URDC hosted the first Ukraine Week to allow MacEwan students, faculty and staff to learn about Ukrainian culture and current events in a way that didn't focus solely on the ongoing hostilities in the country. Instead, Ukraine Week celebrated an inspiring, vibrant country. Throughout the week, students stopped by information booths in different locations around the campus for free giveaways and to pick up brochures about the week's events.

On the first day, URDC hosted an open house in their offices to answer questions about Ukrainian current events. They also collaborated with MacEwan International to provide a photo booth with Ukraine-focused props. Passing students took advantage of the booth to take fun photos with their friends, and this served as a light-hearted introduction to the other events and features planned for the rest of the week.

Students from Ukraine took part in a student speaker panel, and gave short presentations on their home country, followed by a Q&A time with the audience. Ukraine Week also featured the launch of a podcast by two Ukrainian students who came to MacEwan when their post-secondary education in Ukraine was interrupted in early 2022. Sabina Mamedova and Maksym Kohutiak created the *Imagine Ukraine* podcast to share context and background on what is happening in their home country.

One of the features of Ukraine Week was a poster exhibition. This display highlighted real-life social media or text conversations between Ukrainians translated into English that shared what living in Ukraine is like, along with details about the current difficulties and how things have changed. The poster exhibition was shown in the Library and Allard Hall.

MacEwan's Library staff partnered with URDC to curate a display of books about Ukraine, both historical and modern. This collection provided an evocative overview of Ukraine as a country and a culture.

The creatives in MacEwan's MakerSpace were eager to support Ukraine Week and designed "Support Ukraine" pins that students could make. This hands-on activity included several designs to choose from and was set up at a table in the Library.

Current Kule Chair Dr. Jeff Stepnisky organized a screening of *Don't Worry, The Doors Will Open*, an award-winning Ukrainian-Canadian documentary released in 2019 that highlights everyday Ukrainians on their commute by train in Kyiv and surrounding areas.

Another highlight of the week was a hybrid event featuring a lecture from Dr. Dmytro Sherengovsky, who called in from the Ukrainian Catholic University. Dr. Halyna Protsyk spoke about the global implications of the war in Ukraine for in-person attendees as well as online guests.

Ukraine Week wrapped up with a fundraiser concert by ShockolaD on Saturday, February 4. URDC invited the renowned Ukrainian jazz band, including band leaders Igor Hnydyn and Anastasia Litvinyuk from Lviv National Music Academy, to visit Edmonton. During their time at MacEwan, Hnydyn and Litvinyuk held a songwriting masterclass for music students that focused on techniques and composition, and finished with a jam session. The ShockolaD concert was well-attended and raised funds for the support of students affected by the war in Ukraine.

IN PHOTO
URDC's Polina Budyanska with students during Ukraine Week.

ALL PHOTOS
Ukraine Week booths
and exhibitions.





Gene Zwozdesky Artist-in-Residence Program

By Jo Dawyd

The 2023/24 academic year marks the first year of the Gene Zwozdesky Artist-in-Residence Program at MacEwan. A collaboration between URDC and the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications (FFAC), the program was announced at URDC's 35th-anniversary celebration in 2022 to honour the memory of Gene Zwozdesky, an Albertan politician and longtime supporter of Ukrainian culture and arts in the province.

Gene Zwozdesky served six terms as the MLA for Edmonton-Mill Creek and was elected the 12th speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. He was beloved both within and beyond his political sphere for his friendly and welcoming demeanour. Zwozdesky's lifelong passion for music and dance was reflected in his work. After performing as a dancer with Edmonton's Ukrainian Shumka Dancers in the 1960s, he served as the company's musical director and composer for 25 years. He was also a writer, publishing several Ukrainian children's books over the years. As an active and influential member of Edmonton's Ukrainian community, his sudden passing in 2019 was a profound loss.

The artist-in-residence program is funded by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) in recognition of Zwozdesky's influence and legacy. In



addition to UFCE's annual donation of \$15,000 for the next five years, the inaugural year of the program also benefitted from a significant contribution from FFAC. Each year, an artist from a different discipline will be invited for a one- to six-month residency at MacEwan to promote Ukrainian culture, engage with Edmonton's Ukrainian community and work with MacEwan students and faculty. For 2023/24, the focus is visual arts, and the program received 43 applications for the residency. This program is MacEwan's first artist-in-residence program.

Slinko, a multi-disciplinary artist born in Bahmut, Ukraine, and now living in the United States, is the resident artist for 2023/24. Slinko's work is informed by her experiences growing up in the Donbas region during the final years of the Soviet Union and touches on themes as varied as the media she works with, such as political commentary, history, power and culture.

During her time at MacEwan, Slinko will research and create works for her project *Motherless Nation*. The project will focus on questions of national identity, belonging and homeland.

TOP LEFT

Slinko.

TOP RIGHT

Elisabeth Belliveau introduces Slinko at MacEwan.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Slinko with members of the MacEwan and Edmonton community after her artist talk.

Melodic diplomacy: ShockolaD's jazz journey at MacEwan

By Thomas Schwarz

2023 started off as a special year for Ukrainian jazz. The top jazz magazine based out of Poland dedicated its Jazz Forum issue to Ukrainian jazz music and its history. This issue was the first time that articles about the history of jazz in Ukraine were published in a foreign language, and the group ShockolaD was featured prominently.

MacEwan's Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, in collaboration with URDC, invited ShockolaD, one of the most successful jazz groups from Ukraine, to visit the university. Representatives of MacEwan met ShockolaD for the first time in Lviv in 2019 during an academic exchange trip with their partner university Lviv Music Academy.

ShockolaD conducted master classes for MacEwan music students, met with faculty and administration, and performed at the closing event for the university's first-ever Ukraine Week. The concert included many genres, including Ukrainian folk, American jazz, the blues, modern electronica and more. All proceeds from the concert were dedicated to the MacEwan International Crisis Fund, which provides help for students affected by the war.



IN PHOTOS

ShockolaD offers a jazz workshop for MacEwan Bachelor of Music students.

Launching *Myrna Kostash: Here*

By Kalyna Somchynsky

On October 13, 2023, the Alberta Local and International Education Association (ALIEA) in collaboration with URDC hosted the premiere of the short documentary *Myrna Kostash: Here* in MacEwan's CN Theatre. The documentary was produced by a team consisting of ALIEA, filmmakers Simon Morgan and Anthony Goertz from Lindisfarne Productions, and director Kalyna Somchynsky. *Myrna Kostash: Here* celebrates the renowned creative nonfiction writer's extensive career and dedication to exploring the complex relationships that shape our identities and the places we call home.

The film was screened to a full house, and expressions of laughter and elation filled the theatre. The 20-minute film is composed of interviews with Kostash and complemented by interviews with author George Melnyk, filmmaker Tom Radford and poet Naomi McIlwraith. The screening was followed by a Q&A led by Dr. Jeff Stepnisky, Kule Chair and associate professor of sociology at MacEwan, and the reading of a touching poem written by McIlwraith. A reception followed, giving guests the opportunity to speak with Kostash and one another.

In 2022, ALIEA began producing short documentaries about individuals who have made significant contributions to the Ukrainian-Canadian community in Edmonton. Its first film, *Mentoring Eternal Optimism: Dr. Ehor William Gauk*, was produced in collaboration with URDC and Shadow Light Productions. ALIEA's short documentaries contribute to URDC's Local Narratives oral and local history project that began in 2021 and highlight individuals, places and events that have shaped the city's Ukrainian-Canadian community. Given the success of ALIEA's first film, it was only natural to begin a new project about another dynamic and engaging individual in the community.



Work on *Myrna Kostash: Here* began in the summer of 2022, coinciding with the release of Kostash's book, *Ghosts in a Photograph: A Chronicle*. Somchynsky spent many hours reading Kostash's extensive repertoire and listening to her exciting and intriguing stories over coffee dates. It soon became evident that *Ghosts in a Photograph* and Kostash's first book, *All of Baba's Children*, functioned as bookends in Kostash's exploration of Ukrainian-Canadian identity on the Canadian Prairies, which included significant work on a myriad of themes, such as multiculturalism, feminism, Indigenous-settler relations and orthodoxy.

Raw interview footage filmed during the production of *Myrna Kostash: Here* was donated to the MacEwan University Archives URDC Fonds, where it can be accessed by students, researchers and the public.

Three versions of *Myrna Kostash: Here* can be found on the URDC *Local Narratives* website: an English language film, a version interpreted in American Sign Language and a version with Ukrainian subtitles. Watch the films at DigitalExhibits.MacEwan.ca/S/LocalNarratives.

TOP

Dr. Roman Petryshyn (Alberta Local and International Education Association, ALIEA), Dr. Jeffrey Stepnisky (Kule Chair, Associate Professor, Sociology, MacEwan), Kalyna Somchynsky (film director), Myrna Kostash (writer), and Larisa Hayduk (Director, URDC).

MIDDLE

Dr. Jeff Stepnisky moderates a Q&A session with Myrna Kostash.



IN PHOTOS

Visiting Neighbours, Learning from the Land event participants.

Learning from the land, learning from each other

By Jo Dawyd

Dr. Gayana Yüksel, a visiting scholar from Volodymyr Vernadsky Taurida National University in Kyiv and Istanbul University in Türkiye, came to Edmonton to participate in a two-day event in August organized by the Indigenous-Ukrainian Relationship Initiative (IURI). The event brought together both the Indigenous and Ukrainian communities to foster mutual understanding and illuminate shared stories and histories.

During her visit Dr. Yüksel also delivered a talk at MacEwan on the Russian-Ukrainian war from her perspective as an Indigenous Crimean Tartar who was dispossessed of her homeland with

Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. Her experience as a member of an Indigenous community led her to see the parallels with other Indigenous communities around the world. "I'm very interested in the policy of Canada towards Indigenous Peoples," she says. "We know that there are some countries all over the world that have a similar kind of experience among them, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and some European countries." The event, titled Visiting Neighbours, Learning from the Land, took place at two historic sites in Alberta – the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village (UCHV) and Métis Crossing – and was part of a participatory research project of the IURI. Both historic sites depict how their respective communities lived on and interacted with the land, which helps to show how the Indigenous people and Ukrainian settlers impacted each other in their shared history. With the goal of creating respectful relationships, new shared experiences, sharing knowledge, fostering understanding and generating new ideas, the IURI invited Elders, Knowledge Keepers, scholars, artists, community members and members of the IURI Working Group to participate.

The first day opened with a smudging prayer at MacEwan before participants travelled by bus to the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, where they took part in a guided tour of the site. The group then made pyrohy (perogies) together before sharing a meal. After lunch, they travelled to Métis Crossing for a canoe tour where they learned about Métis culture and ways of living. This was followed by a storytelling session around the fire, dinner and an evening rounded out with dance and music by both Métis and Ukrainian musicians.

On the second day, participants walked the Métis Crossing site to learn about the traditional uses of plants in the area for both medicine and food. Other activities included traditional beading and the opportunity for sharing and reflection in talking circles.

Dr. Yüksel says the event "was an opportunity to speak with the Indigenous Elders, and they talked to us about their childhood, about life stories and such. It was very interesting." As a researcher, she came away with many ideas for future projects. "I think about the history of Indigenous nations, about the history of Canadian First Nations. That is the first step," she says. "The second is about policy – the policy of Canada towards Indigenous Peoples. I would like to research it, to analyze all of them, and take the best charities, the best decision and the best issues maybe, and implement it to my people, to Crimea, because we think – Ukrainian researchers, experts maybe the government – we think about the occupation of Crimea and the situation in Crimea in the future after de-occupation. I'd like to analyze all of these situations and the situation in Crimea and use only the best ideas to rebuild."

This event fostered new and established relationships between the participants and organizations involved, and paved the way for continued collaboration, trust and reconciliation between Indigenous and Ukrainian communities in Alberta.

Learn more about IURI at StoriesofTheseLands.ca.



Creating the *Imagine Ukraine* podcast

By Jo Dawyd

Imagine Ukraine is a podcast produced at MacEwan by two students from Ukraine, Sabina Mamedova and Maksym Kohutiuk. There are two episodes currently online, with more to come.

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine brought Mamedova and Kohutiuk to Canada in the fall of 2022. They had been attending university in Ukraine when the hostilities broke out. Sabina says, “Feeling that everything was going to fall, and we were searching for the hope. MacEwan was this glimmer of hope.” They found

safety and stability in Edmonton at a time when their world at home was unstable.

Sabina had been working on her master’s degree in communications at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and was offered a creative research project under the mentorship of Dr. Lucille Mazo. She leaped at the idea of creating a podcast. “I was just like, immediately, yes, I want to do this. And I want to do something connected to Ukraine.” Maksym joined the project to round out the team with his political science background.

Dr. Mazo, Mamedova and Kohutiuk discussed what they wanted to convey about Ukraine to Canadian students.

“We all wanted to talk about Ukraine, wanted to inform about Ukraine and to say that it’s not just about war,” Mamedova recalls. “We have so many things in Ukraine that we love, that are not that common knowledge somewhere abroad. And this is why we will never surrender. And this is why we will stand for Ukraine, and we will defend our country. We will defend our people, defend our art and everything because we love it so much. And we wanted to explain why we love it.”

Kohutiuk agreed with this focus on sharing Ukrainian culture, saying, “In Canada and in Edmonton, there is a lot of Ukrainian diaspora and Ukrainian culture is cherished, but it’s mostly based on traditional Ukrainian culture. The focus was to expand what Canadians know about Ukraine and the world by explaining contemporary Ukraine and how it’s different from what can be seen through the activities of the Ukrainian diaspora, which are also great.”

The first episode of the podcast, “Unity, Dignity, and Self-Determination,” features a conversation with Dr. Jeff Stepnisky about the beginning of the modern conflict between Russia and Ukraine, touching on the Revolution of Dignity in 2014 and the values still being fought for today. In episode two, “Local Story of Global Solidarity,” Mamedova and Kohutiuk met with former Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach and former Minister of Education Thomas Lukaszuk to discuss how the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada has worked to support Ukraine.

Now back in Europe, Mamedova and Kohutiuk are looking to the future and reflect on their time in Edmonton with gratitude. Sabina calls it, “The experience that we will never forget. We miss Canadians. Really, you’re the kindest people that we ever met.”

Listen at ImagineUkraine.ca/podcast.

TOP

Imagine Ukraine podcast launch.

BOTTOM

Dr. Craig Kuziemyky and Ed Stelmach during a recording of the podcast.



International Talent and Fashion Show

By Polina Budyanska

URDC was thrilled to be a small part of a big joint project organized by the international students' offices of MacEwan University and Norquest College. The International Talent and Fashion Show took place in the Norquest Atrium on February 9 and had an impressive turnout – over 30 participants and two Atrium floors filled with spectators. International students from the two institutions were singing, dancing and showcasing their national costumes.

Ukraine was represented by Diana Melnychuk, Alina Melnychuk, Polina Budyanska and Vita Knyazeva (Norquest) in beautiful costumes kindly lent to URDC by Edmonton's Ukrainian Shumka dancers. They all wore their Ukrainian costumes with pride and grace. The costumes were also popular backstage, with lots of international participants asking for photos with the Ukrainian representatives.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the international student community in Edmonton to come together, show their cultures and learn from each other.

Thank you to MacEwan International for this celebration of culture. There was a great spirit of unity in the air that day, and it was a pleasure to represent Ukraine!

IN PHOTO

NorQuest and MacEwan International Talent and Fashion Show.

UFCE fundraisers rally support for URDC initiatives

By Thomas Schwarz

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) hosts two major fundraisers annually to support the work of URDC: the Kyiv Konnection banquet and the Gene Zwozdesky Memorial Charity Golf Classic. UFCE and URDC are working together to advance international scholarly and educational activities, and to establish resources connected to Ukraine and its diaspora, which includes more than 400,000 members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community in Alberta

The 28th Kyiv Konnection Banquet was held on May 4, 2023, with the theme, "From Heart to Action." The event hosted notable speakers, including Orysia Boychuk, the Honourable Ed Stelmach and Kevin Royle, who shared their stories of supporting Ukraine and Ukrainians in these challenging times.

Boychuk, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC), is an accomplished leader who navigated the Ukrainian community through some of its most challenging times. She has received many awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award, Hetman Award and Alberta Federal Council Award.

Stelmach was the first premier of Alberta of Ukrainian origin and the second person of Ukrainian descent to be elected as premier of a Canadian province. He is an active member of the Ukrainian community in Alberta, and received the Hetman Award from the UCC-APC in 2011 and the Michael Luchkovich Award in 2013.

Royle, a first-class firefighter and a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, founded Firefighter Aid Ukraine (FFAU) in 2014. FFAU trains first responders in Ukraine and was one of the first NGO's in Canada to charter a plane and send aid in response to the Russian invasion. As of March 15, 2023, FFAU has shipped 240 tons of aid to Ukraine in the form of rescue equipment, medical supplies, specialty tools and more.

George Zaharia, UFCE Trust treasurer and a long-time board member, received this year's UFCE President's Award.

The annual Gene Zwozdesky Memorial Charity Golf Classic – the United for Ukraine tournament – brings together supporters of UFCE, URDC and the Ukrainian community. It has become a tradition to start the day with "Koobie on a Bun," followed by a welcome from UFCE President Dr. Olenka Bilash, a nine-hole golf game, and a deluxe Ukrainian dinner and prizes at the Mundare Recreation Hall.

The proceeds from both events have been earmarked to support URDC's initiatives. URDC expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to the presidents of UFCE and UFCE Trust, and to each board member for their ongoing support of various initiatives undertaken by URDC. Thank you for your trust and friendship.



CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Thomas Schwarz is a Bachelor of Arts student majoring in English who completed his program at MacEwan University in December 2023. His first short stories were published in September 2023 as part of MacEwan's creative writing anthology, *The Bolo Tie Collective*. He has spent time abroad in Japan, which provided him with a love for cross-cultural learning. With a fascination for the world and a love to share stories, he hopes to become a full-time author.

Jo Dawyd is a third-year MacEwan University Bachelor of Communication Studies student majoring in Professional Communications with interests in creative writing, editing, publishing and research. When not at school or writing, she spends time with her family and friends, and reads voraciously.



TOP

Keynote speakers at the 28th Kyiv Konnection Banquet From left: Kevin Royle (Founder, Firefighter Aid Ukraine), Orysia Boychuk (President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council) and Ed Stelmach (former Premier of Alberta).

BOTTOM

Members of the Ukrainian-Canadian and MacEwan community at the Kyiv Konnection Banquet.



URDC director receives the Alberta Newcomer Recognition Award and the RISE Community Champion Award

It is our utmost pleasure to congratulate Larisa Hayduk, director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), on being awarded the Alberta Newcomer Recognition Award from the Government of Alberta and the Community Champion Award from the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (in the RISE Awards category) this year. Both awards recognized Larisa for her lifelong commitment to connecting diverse communities through education and volunteerism. We are excited to see Larisa Hayduk's outstanding contributions and leadership being recognized. Thank you to the Government of Alberta and the EMCN for highlighting the exceptional dedication and talent that URDC's director brings to our province!

TOP LEFT

URDC Director Larisa Hayduk receives the Alberta Newcomer Recognition Award.

TOP RIGHT

Dr. Peter Kule.

Celebrating the life and philanthropy of Dr. Peter Kule

On December 7, 2023, just shy of his 103rd birthday, Dr. Peter Kule, an esteemed philanthropist, bid farewell, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in our community.

Dr. Kule and his wife Dr. Doris Kule demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing Ukrainian studies in Canada, earning them recognition as eminent philanthropists. Their generous contributions extended to various educational, heritage and religious organizations, with major beneficiaries including the University of Alberta, the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto. The Kules' philanthropic vision also embraced MacEwan University, resulting in the establishment of the Drs. Peter & Doris Kule Chair of Ukrainian Community & International Development, the Drs. Peter & Doris Kule Visiting Scholars Fund, and the Chair of International Health.

Born in Stratyn, Ukraine, Dr. Kule arrived in Canada in 1938, settling in Two Hills, Alberta, with his family. In Edmonton, he built a life together with his wife Doris, embarking on a successful career as an accountant and real estate investor.

Active in Ukrainian cultural and community organizations throughout his life, Dr. Kule received numerous awards, including the prestigious Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great Proclamation by Pope John Paul II in 1993.

With the passing of Dr. Peter Kule, we mourn the loss of one of the Ukrainian community's greatest citizens, whose unwavering belief in the future of Ukrainians in Canada will be remembered through enduring philanthropic leadership.



TOP
UFCE members with Dr. Svitlana Danchak and Dr. Lyudmyla Mazur (Ternopil National Medical University).

BOTTOM
Dr. Gayana Yüksel at the Crimean Tatar cooking session in MacEwan's kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre.

TOP

Dr. Raj Narnaware and Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto with Dr. Svitlana Danchak and Dr. Lyudmyla Mazur (Ternopil National Medical University).

MIDDLE

Dr. Krylova-Grek's presentation to MacEwan on Russian media in the context of the war in Ukraine, and methods and tools used to disseminate propaganda and manipulations.

BOTTOM

Her Excellency Yuliya Kovaliv, Ukraine Ambassador to Canada, addresses MacEwan POLS 368 students and their counterparts from the Ukrainian Catholic University as part of the Ukraine-Canada Model UN project.





IN PHOTOS
Ukrainian English
class students
with their teacher,
May Yeung.





TOP LEFT

A poster exhibit, "How do you say you're ok in Ukrainian," by Kateryna Prus (BA program).

TOP RIGHT

Dr. Jeffrey Stepnisky (Kule Chair and Associate Professor, Sociology at MacEwan), the late Dr. Lucille Mazo (Associate Professor, Communications, MacEwan), Yuri Konkin (former URDC director), Dr. Serhiy Kvit (former Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine and Acting Director, National Kyiv Mohyla Academy), Larisa Hayduk (URDC Director), Dr. Roman Petryshyn (founder and former URDC Director).

BOTTOM LEFT

URDC directors (from left) Dr. Roman Petryshyn (founder and first director), Yuri Konkin (former director), Larisa Hayduk (current director).

BOTTOM RIGHT

Shelby LaFramboise, Associate Professor at MacEwan (centre) with Dr. Gayana Yüksel, Associate Professor at the Department of Slavonic Philology and Journalism of the Institute of Philology and Journalism of the Volodymyr Vernadsky Taurida National University, Kyiv, (right) and Ismet Yüksel, Advisor to the Head of the Mejlis - governing executive body of the Indigenous population of Ukraine (left).



URDC Awards

URDC SUPPORTS MUSICIANS AND LITERARY, VISUAL, MEDIA AND FOLK ARTISTS WHO EXPLORE UKRAINIAN OR UKRAINIAN-CANADIAN SUBJECT MATTER THROUGH ITS ARTS AND MUSIC AWARDS.

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR THE UKRAINIAN ARTS AWARD (\$500)

Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir

THE UKRAINIAN MILLENNIUM FOUNDATION AWARD (3 X \$1,000)

Natalia Ungstad, Faculty of Fine Arts, MacEwan University

Dominic Plamondon, Faculty of Fine Arts, MacEwan University

Lisa Kotelniski, Faculty of Fine Arts, MacEwan University

ANNA PIDRUCHNEY AWARD FOR NEW WRITERS (\$1,300)

Michaela Yarmol-Matusiak for her story
“Where Do We Find The Lost Hours?”

ROMAN SOLTYKEWYCH MUSIC AWARD (\$1,000)

Bandura band “Feyeria,” director Oksana Kolomiets

SERGE SEMENKO MUSIC AWARD (\$500)

Anna-Mariya Zagirska

WILLIAM AND MARY KOSTASH AWARD FOR MEDIA ARTS (\$1,000)

Steven Brese for his documentary
Alberta Stands With Ukraine

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With deepest gratitude

“Nothing of great significance was ever done alone.”

The Honourable Ed Stelmach at the 28th Kyiv Konnection Banquet

URDC extends our heartfelt gratitude to UFCE for its unwavering support and commitment to URDC initiatives.

The success of UFCE's fundraising initiatives plays an important role in furthering URDC's mission to strengthen MacEwan's educational and cultural connections to Ukraine.

We thank UFCE for the generosity, passion, dedication and hard work the organization's members pour into these events, and for the valuable resources they have helped create at URDC. UFCE's contributions make a notable impact on the academic and cultural community in Edmonton.

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