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MacEwan President Lauds Petryshyn's Contributions

By David Atkinson

Over the past 28 years, Dr. Roman Petryshyn has been a key member of the MacEwan University team, involved in developing academic and research partnerships between Canadian and Ukrainian educators. Roman has demonstrated exceptional leadership and academic excellence by transferring Canadian expertise and best practices to facilitate the development of contemporary educational policies in Ukraine at the national, local and institutional levels. For example, Roman was a driving force in the successful implementation of a five-year Inclusive Education project, which affected the entire special educational system of Ukraine at the policy development, curriculum development, teacher preparation and school transformation levels.

Over the years, Dr. Petryshyn used every opportunity to promote MacEwan University, and has helped consolidate the university's high profile in Ukraine and raise it to a new level. I thank Roman for his distinguished service to MacEwan University. We shall miss him very much, and wish him every happiness and success in his retirement.

URDC Founder and Director Retires after 28 Years

Dr. Roman Petryshyn

Dr. Roman Petryshyn's career at MacEwan University has been dedicated to creating a system of resources, expertise and networks to link both students and faculty at the university and other universities to their counterparts in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. He is a trailblazer with incredible foresight, who facilitated several innovative projects and created a unique system of funding through endowments.

Petryshyn came to Alberta from Ontario in 1976, and joined the then-newly formed Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta. "My time at CIUS taught me that you can create a public institution, funded both publicly and by the community, without compromising its 'Ukrainian-ness'," says Petryshyn. Four years later, he was hired by the Government of Alberta as a director in the Department of Culture. At the time, multiculturalism was a recognized government policy, and it prompted Petryshyn to hatch an idea to begin a resource centre at a post-secondary institution, whose driving purpose was to involve the Ukrainian community in Alberta and Canada.

And so, in 1987, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University (formerly College) was born. Petryshyn knew that as he worked with the community, its priorities would emerge, and URDC's purpose would be solidified. In due course, the Centre became a well-respected resource on Ukrainian culture for Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian communities alike, as well as for the internal college community. This focus on community engagement made URDC different from Ukrainian centres at other Canadian universities, which focused more exclusively on research and publishing.

To fund the good work of URDC, Petryshyn proved very adept at capitalizing on endowments. Unique to Alberta government, endowment funds were offered at different times, wherein it agreed to match donor gifts. Petryshyn saw this as a great opportunity to create permanent sources of funding for URDC. "I'm a firm believer in endowments. They

give equal opportunity for access to funds to all cultural groups, and are fair because they mirror a community's desire to support and develop their culture," he says. As URDC director, Petryshyn has facilitated the establishment of four endowment funds totaling more than $6 million.

Under Petryshyn's guidance, URDC has provided MacEwan University with an excellent resource for grants, expertise, networking and research opportunities to all faculty and students. The recently formed URDC Advisory Council (see article in this newsletter) is comprised of individuals from all areas of study at the university, making URDC a key conduit to the Ukrainian community for everyone at the institution.

In the early 1990s, when Ukraine gained its independence, URDC engaged the MacEwan community in assisting post-secondary institutions in that country, thereby earning itself a reputation as an international project development centre. This flowed nicely with MacEwan's development of an international strategy, and together they have been active in Ukraine since 1992 with projects in agriculture, nursing, business education, language studies and inclusive education.

URDC has made a significant impact locally as well. Several organizations owe their existence to the Centre. Petryshyn is a founding member of the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF), an organization he envisioned as a public institution for Canada/Ukraine relations. The Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association (AUDA) was created based on research done by URDC, which showed that Alberta was Canada's biggest hub for Ukrainian dance. The Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) was also initiated with the help of URDC. It developed the capacity of the community to be a part of public society, and not just a self-sustaining private organization. Finally, Petryshyn helped to establish the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education

(UFCE), whose purpose is to raise funds to carry out Ukrainian education projects.

Of all these impressive achievements, Petryshyn says he is most proud of using the partnership model and enabling the community to play a role with the university. "For example, UFCE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MacEwan University, where UFCE – representing a minority group – has a say in the business of URDC and the university. This is remarkable," says Petryshyn. He is also very proud of playing a role in empowering groups representing the disabled in Ukraine, and especially of his contribution to deaf studies. "We were able to take contemporary knowledge from the West and transfer it to families and institutions in an effort to improve the lives of the disabled. It is very satisfying to see that this has resulted in concrete benefits for people."

Petryshyn says his future after retirement will include spending more time doing research into reforms by the Government of Ukraine. In particular, he will focus on reforms in that country's post-secondary institutions. The search for his replacement is currently underway, with the successful candidate expected to be in place by July 2015.

Advisory Council Now a Permanent Structure

In September 2013, Dr. Craig Monk, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science MacEwan University, authorized the establishment of an ad hoc faculty committee to develop updated Terms of Reference for URDC. The Terms of Reference include the URDC Advisory Council, which provides approval of major directions of the Centre, and provides feedback and advice on specific projects.

The Advisory Council is now in place and comprises the URDC director as

Participants of the URDC Advisory Council meeting on October 8, 2014

chair, as well as representatives from nursing, economics and sociology programs. It may also include content experts from other university programs, as needed.

The Council decided to choose a theme each year, around which to implement a cycle of academic and research activities at MacEwan University and its partner universities in Ukraine. The theme for the 2013/2014 academic year was "EuroMaidan", and all research, seminars and videoconferences were built around this theme to effective and tangible results. The group has continued using the same approach in 2014/2015 with a new theme, "Conflict and the Social Body", which was announced on November 25. It is hoped this topic will generate a broad spectrum of submissions from Canadian, Ukrainian and international perspectives ranging from domestic disputes to major military conflicts experienced by the people of Ukraine and other parts of the world.

The Advisory Council has a five-point program:

(1) to create a reading network on the year's theme in the areas of social, health and communications studies;
(2) to facilitate a faculty and student exchange;
(3) to hold a symposium during this exchange;
(4) following the symposium, to hold a digital conference on the year's theme, opening it up to the world; and
(5) to publish the best articles in an international undergraduate peer-reviewed journal.

URDC Helps Link the Nursing Programs in Ternopil and Edmonton

May 5, 2014 MOU signing between MacEwan University and TSMU

In May 2014, a five-year cooperation agreement was signed between MacEwan University and Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) in Ukraine. Facilitated by URDC, the agreement will develop a deeper relationship between the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at MacEwan University and the English language stream of nursing at TSMU. On hand to sign this agreement were MacEwan University's president, Dr. David Atkinson and Sharon Bookhalter, former dean of the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, as well as Dr. Svitlana Yastremska, director of the Institute of Nursing, Dr. Mykhaylo Korda, dean of Foreign Students, and Dr. Igor Mysula, all from TSMU.

The agreement foresees annual faculty exchanges, conferences and a jointly published journal. The program is funded by revenues from the Kule Visiting Scholar Fund managed by the MacEwan University Foundation.

Visitors from Ternopil Speak at Kyiv Konnection 2014

On Tuesday, May 6, 2014, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) hosted its 21st annual Kyiv Konnection fundraiser banquet at St. John's Cultural Centre in Edmonton. Three guests from Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) were on hand to lend support to the evening's

TSMU visitors at Kyiv Konnection banquet

focus of facilitating the connection between nursing programs at MacEwan University and TSMU.

Following greetings from the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and Dr. David Atkinson, MacEwan University president, banquet attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner and were entertained by the musical offerings of Viter Choir.

After dinner, UFCE President Dr. Ernest Skakun presented the annual President's Award to Ivan Kupchenko for his outstanding commitment and service in support of the educational and community projects implemented by UFCE. "Ivan, we acknowledge your dedication and your exceptional contributions to fostering the growth and identity of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education Trust, the URDC, and greater Canadian Ukrainian community," said Skakun. Finally, Drs. Mysula and Korda of TSMU gave the keynote presentation on "Health Care in Ukraine: Current Trends and Issues."

UFCE would like to thank everyone who has supported educational initiatives by attending Kyiv Konnection, and for their generous donations over the last 21 years.

TSMU faculty visit Canada as Result of Recent Agreement

As a consequence of the MacEwan University-TSMU agreement signed in May 2014, two faculty from the TSMU's English-language nursing program visited MacEwan University for a three-week period in October. Tamara Rybalka and Dr. Natalia Petrenko spent several busy weeks at the university, attending labs and lectures, meeting with faculty

Natalia Petrenko, Tamara Rybalka from TSMU and their nursing faculty colleagues from MacEwan University

and touring the university's Clinical Simulation Centre and three major Edmonton-area hospitals. They compared the nursing curriculum course by course to find best practices in order to modernize their system. They also presented lectures of their own. Dr. Petrenko's presentation was to third-year nursing students about maternal health in Ukraine. Rybalka presented a lecture to faculty members on nursing education in Ukraine. For

Petrenko and Rybalka were hosted by Drs. Peter and Doris Kule

their enjoyment, the visitors went to Banff thanks to sponsorship from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education.

"All MacEwan University faculty members are highly qualified and highly educated, and all of them are open to sharing information and any experience," said Petrenko. "We are interested in how the educational process is organized, because in Ukraine, it's organized a different way," added Rybalka.

Many thanks to faculty members Mona Haimour and Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto for organizing the visitors' program.

TSMU delegates at a meeting with Sharon Bookhalter (left) and Mona Haimour (right)

In keeping with the academic exchange plan, MacEwan University nursing faculty plan to visit Kyiv and Ternopil in May 2015. This exchange program in nursing between MacEwan University and TSMU is the only one of its kind in Canada. Future plans may include student study abroad, where Canadian students undertake nursing projects in Ukraine.

Olga Poliukhovych comes to Edmonton to help make publishing history

Thanks to sponsorship from the Kule Visiting Scholar Fund, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre hosted Olga Poliukhovych, a PhD candidate in Philosophy and Literature at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, from November 23 to December 4, 2014.

The reason for Poliukhovych's visit was two-fold. First, she taught sessions on research methodologies to MacEwan University students, and presented a talk to the English and sociology departments on "Identity Politics in a Stateless Nation: Ukrainian Literature in the 20th Century." She spoke of the fact that writers who wanted to maintain their connection with Ukraine had to accept it as a stateless nation, and replace politics with philosophical and cultural connections.

The second reason for Poliukhovych's visit was to help launch the Social,

Olga Poliukhovych

Health, and Communication Studies (SHCS) Journal, which is a joint project of MacEwan University, Ternopil State Medical University and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Already the manager of two other academic journals, Poliukhovych has taken on the role of co-editor of the SHCS Journal, and provided the keynote address at the journal's November 25, 2014 launch at MacEwan University, organized by the Editor-in-Chief, Lucille Mazo.

From left to right: O. Poliukhovych, J. Stepinsky, L. Mazo, O. Bilash and R. Petryshyn at the journal launch at MacEwan University

The journal's theme for its inaugural issue is EuroMaidan, and its purpose was to publish rapid-response research into the social phenomenon. "It was not so easy to deal with the events of Euromaidan in terms of scholarly

Journal co-editors Poliukhovych (left) and Mazo at the Winspear Centre

activities," said Poliukhovych, adding that during the EuroMaidan events, many students and scholars tried to continue their research and studies while at the same time supporting Maidan and going to the protests.

While EuroMaidan is the focus of the journal's first issue, future issues will highlight other global themes. "Rarely do you see these three disciplines – sociology, health and communications

– come together, but doing so allows us to look at situations in the world holistically rather than one-dimensionally," said Lucille Mazo, chair of MacEwan University's Bachelor of Communications Studies. "It is this collaboration that brings strength and meaning to the Journal's first issue."

The journal's third co-editor is Dr. Mykhaylo Korda of TSMU.

Modern Technology Helps Document EuroMaidan

EuroMaidan is an historical phenomenon that deserves international documentation, research and analysis. To this end, the new Contemporary Ukraine Research Forum project held its first international electronic conference on June 26, 2014. Almost 1,000 participants from around the world saw 21 presentations by faculty and graduate students from five countries. Linked by a live Twitter discussion, research

The project began in January 2014 as a six-month experiment in electronic networking with researchers from Edmonton and Ukraine. The team consisted of representatives from MacEwan University, the University of Alberta, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. Technical expertise was provided by each university. Funding was received from the Kule Institute of

Participants engaged in e-conference

clusters included folklore, culture, religion, media, communications, and social and political science. Each presentation was recorded for nine to 12 minutes and remains online in an archived format at *http://euromaidan-researchforum.ca/.*

Advanced Studies, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (University of Alberta), Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society and Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (MacEwan University).

Conference speakers traced how in November 2013, a simple, peaceful demonstration against President Yanuchovych's drawing Ukraine out of the association agreement with the European Union quickly evolved into protests. People in Ukraine immediately took to YouTube, Twitter and Facebook to share their stories with the world.

The conference was delivered livestream through the website and proved very popular. Seventy-seven per cent of respondents reported that sessions were very good to excellent. Ninety-five percent said that they liked the distance-delivery approach and would participate again. The event offered academic analysis of events in Ukraine and how they unfolded in real-time, thus marking the first such venture in Ukrainian studies.

This experiment proves the feasibility of international conferences between North America and Ukraine, and worldwide. For MacEwan University specifically, this digital conference and its engagement of students through technology supports the university as a student-focused undergraduate institution.

Call for Papers

Planning for the 2015 e-conference is already underway. It will be held in video-conference centres in Edmonton, Kyiv and Ternopil on June 11. The theme will be "Conflict and the Social Body." The deadline for submissions is April 27, 2015. More information about the Call for Papers can be found at the SHCS website *(https://shcsjournal.wordpress.com/).*

Teeing Up to Help a Great Charity

The second annual Ed Stelmach Charity Golf Classic took place on Friday, June 20, 2014 to great success.

This annual fundraising tournament was organized by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE). UFCE and the golf tournament organizing committee extend their sincere appreciation to all participants, sponsors and volunteers, who made this event a real hole-in-one!

From left to right: Ed Stelmach, Marie Stelmach and Myrna Tataryn feeding hungry golfers

The goal of UFCE is to continue to make a difference by assisting the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, which spearheads a variety of projects/programs that link MacEwan University with its counterparts in Ukraine.

One such important project is implementing student/faculty exchanges and applied research in the areas of social, health and communication studies, in partnership with the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Ternopil State Medical University.

We are pleased to inform you that UFCE's next charity golf tournament will take place on **June 19, 2015.** The tournament's new name is "United for Ukraine Charity Golf Classic," previously known as the "Ed Stelmach Charity Golf Classic."

From left to right: M. Workun, B. Olson, N. Wilkinson and T. Johnson

The tournament has three patrons: Ed Stelmach, Gene Zwozdesky and Genia Leskiw, MLA and Chair of the Advisory Council of Alberta – Ukraine Relations.

The benefactor of the 2015 event will be Ternopil State Medical University. The goal of the tournament will be to help create a training module for health-care professionals and to provide medical care to the war-wounded and their families.

2014/2015 Scholarship Winners

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

Award: Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers

This award was established in 1989, in recognition of Anna Pidruchey's lifelong commitment to encouraging and promoting the works of young writers. It is awarded to a novice writer (up to 35 years of age) for a literary work, which includes Ukrainian Canadian characters or is based on a Ukrainian Canadian theme.

The winners for 2014/2015:
1) Danee Wilson (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) - $500

Short story "They Shall Not Pass." This is the story of two Ukrainian-Canadian brothers who travel to Spain to fight with the Canadian section of the international Brigades during the Spanish Civil War.
2) Alia Wall (Smithville, ON) - $500
Poem "Nezabud'ka"

William and Mary Kostash Award for Media Arts

This award is made possible through an endowment established in 1989, on the occasion of William and Mary Kostash's 50th wedding anniversary. Both contributed significant leadership to the Ukrainian Canadian community. It is awarded every second year (i.e., 2011, 2013, 2015) for a project that promotes Ukrainian Canadian identity through the medium of film, video or multimedia (computer-generated).

The winner for 2014/2015:
Ariadna Ochrymovych (Toronto, ON) - $1,000
"Holodomor Survivors" - A 30-minute documentary on the subject of Holodomor produced for high schools, universities and educational broadcast.

Farewell and Welcome

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) bid a fond farewell in August to Alice Chumer, an assistant with the Centre since 1991. An event was held on November 4, 2014 at the Chateau Louis Hotel to honour Alice and celebrate her outstanding contributions to the URDC. "Alice is to be lauded for her hard work throughout the years, in particular her key role in developing community relations through events like Kyiv Konnection and the annual golf tournament," says URDC Director Roman Petryshyn. Alice was presented

Alice Chumer presented with Shostak print at retirement celebration

with a print from artist Peter Shostak as a retirement gift.

Stepping into the Alice's vacated role is Lyumyla Yavorska, who began with URDC in May 2014. Ternopil-born Lyudmyla holds a PhD in Theory and Methodology of Education from Ternopil State Pedagogical University, and with a good command of the English language, she immigrated to Canada in 2011 and was previously employed as a cultural interpreter at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

Lyumyla Yavorska, the new face at URDC

CIUS holds "Negotiating Borders" Conference

Recent events in Ukraine, when Crimea was annexed by the

Russian Federation while another part (Donbas) became a war zone, revealed a severe crisis of the existing political architecture in Europe, with potentially wider international repercussions.

These events also indicated a glaring need for analysis of the past and the present history and dynamics of border relations, foreshadowing the future course of international and regional relations.
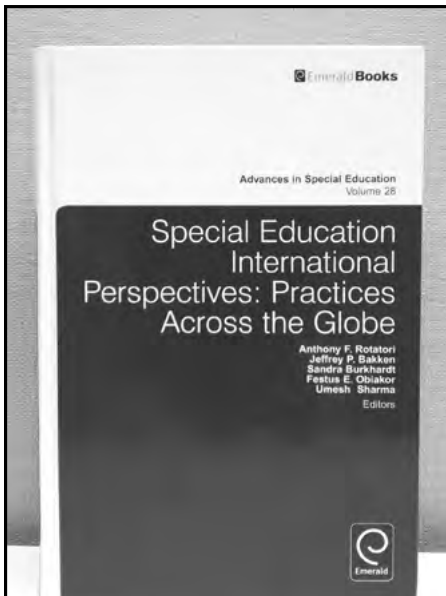

Dr. Peter Roccia speaking at the Negotiating Borders conference

On October 16 and 17, 2014, at the University of Alberta, the Centre for Political and Regional Studies at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies held an international scholarly conference, "Negotiating Borders: Comparing the Experience of Canada, Europe, and Ukraine." The event featured both early-career and established scholars, who presented their original papers on such topics as geopolitics and regional politics; all-European, regional and trans-border cooperation; borders and international law.

Dr. Roccia from MacEwan University's Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications took part in the conference as a commentator. He facilitated a session of the conference on the topic of "Ukraine and Its Neighbours."

URDC Featured in Prestigious Book

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The work done for over a decade by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) to enhance special education in Ukraine has been recognized in a book entitled "Special Education International Perspectives: Practices Across the Globe". The book was recently published by Emerald Books, a prestigious international publishing house, and contains a 45-page analysis of the special education system in Ukraine.

The article recognizes the role of URDC and MacEwan University in spear-heading long-term professional cooperation between Canadian and Ukrainian educators. In particular, it acknowledges the role of Canadian partners in facilitating the development of new policies, curriculum and teacher preparation courses aimed at establishing inclusive education for children with disabilities in Ukraine.

The book is available online at *http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/book/10.1108/S0270-4013201428*