

New Kule Chair, Dr. Svitlana (Lana) Kryś, cultivates and expands the footprint of Ukrainian Studies at MacEwan



Dr. Svitlana (Lana) Kryś

Dr. Svitlana (Lana) Kryś, the new Kule Chair at MacEwan University, who replaced Roman Petryshyn following his retirement last June, spent the past several months introducing the discipline of Ukrainian Studies to MacEwan. Dr. Kryś's academic appointment is in the Department of English. Through her position she is able to offer courses with Ukrainian content, assist interested faculty members in introducing the study of Ukraine to their courses where it benefits MacEwan's curriculum, and establish scholarly outreach with Ukraine.

As the Kule Chair, Dr. Kryś aims to spread awareness about Ukraine among MacEwan faculty, students, staff and

the Edmonton community at large through a series of academic events such as invited talks, film screenings and panel discussions. She is also committed to working with students from the Ukrainian Students Club by helping organize educational events, centered on Ukraine, which would complement students' programs at MacEwan.

Dr. Kryś's academic research is devoted to Ukrainian literature and culture. At present, she is studying the development of the Gothic genre in Ukrainian literature, a subject that inspired her course on the Slavic vampire myth. In addition, she is working on her book manuscript, tentatively titled *At the Origins of the Ukrainian Gothic*. The goal of the manuscript is to explore expressions of Gothic literary sensibility in Ukraine over a 200-year timespan and trace the manner in which Ukrainian authors imported, developed and modified this West European genre, adjusting it to the cultural and socio-political needs of their time. At the time when Ukraine sets its course towards integration into the European Union, Dr. Kryś's research serves to point to Ukraine's long-standing cultural connections to Europe through the works of its 19th-century Romantic authors.

Dr. Kryś is also participating in a three-year project, titled "Research Initiative on Democratic Reforms in Ukraine."

She is part of the cluster on language and culture, and her main focus is on the set of policy reforms in the area of culture promised by the Ukrainian government. Through it, she aims to examine the new, post-Euromaidan view on culture that these reforms articulate, and the impact they have on Ukraine's visibility internationally (more specifically, Ukraine's presence in the global literary market).

Finally, Dr. Kryś's focus this year has been on increased awareness and broader dissemination of Ukrainian activities at MacEwan through social media. All announcements for current and future events are available on URDC's newly created Facebook page. All are welcome to visit and follow the page.

Dr. Kryś holds a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Alberta (2011). For the past 10 years, Dr. Kryś has worked with Canadian Slavonic Papers at the University of Alberta, and she currently serves on the editorial board of East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies. Furthermore, she is a member of other scholarly committees, including the Executive Committees of the Canadian Association of Slavists and Canadian Association of Ukrainian Studies, the planning committee of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, and the Advisory Council for the Kule Institute for Advanced Study, University of Alberta. Her scholarship has been recognized by the American Association for Ukrainian Studies.

This newsletter consists of two parts: Part I was prepared by Dr. Kryś and outlines academic activities of the Kule Chair. Part II was prepared by Yuri Konkin, URDC, and focuses on the development activities of the centre and its community outreach.

Part I: Entries prepared by Dr. Lana Kryś, the Kule Chair

URDC Advisory Council discusses URDC's scholarly activities

On Thursday, October 15, 2015, the newly-established URDC Advisory Council held its first meeting to map out plans and strategies for the upcoming operating year of URDC. Various research and scholarly activities with regard to URDC's involvement were discussed, including the centre's plans to work with specific scholars, community groups and academic institutions to achieve its current and future strategic goals.

The current-year membership, approved by the Arts and Science Faculty Council at MacEwan, comprises the faculty, administration and community members:

- Olenka Bilash, Faculty of Education (Secondary Education), University of Alberta
- Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, MacEwan University



URDC Advisory Meeting

- Gordon Gordey, Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)
- Mona Haimour, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, MacEwan University
- Larisa Hayduk, Program Services, Faculty of Arts and Science, MacEwan University
- Valerie Henitiuk, executive director, CAFÉ, MacEwan University
- Kimberley Howard, director, MacEwan International
- Svitlana (Lana) Kryś, Kule Chair
- Lucille Mazo, Bachelor of Communication Studies, MacEwan University
- Craig Monk, dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, MacEwan University
- Alla Nedashkivska, Dept. of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta
- Ernest Skakun, president, Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)
- Jeff Stepnisky, Sociology, MacEwan University
- Rob Wiznura, associate dean, Students (Faculty of Arts and Science dean's designate), MacEwan University

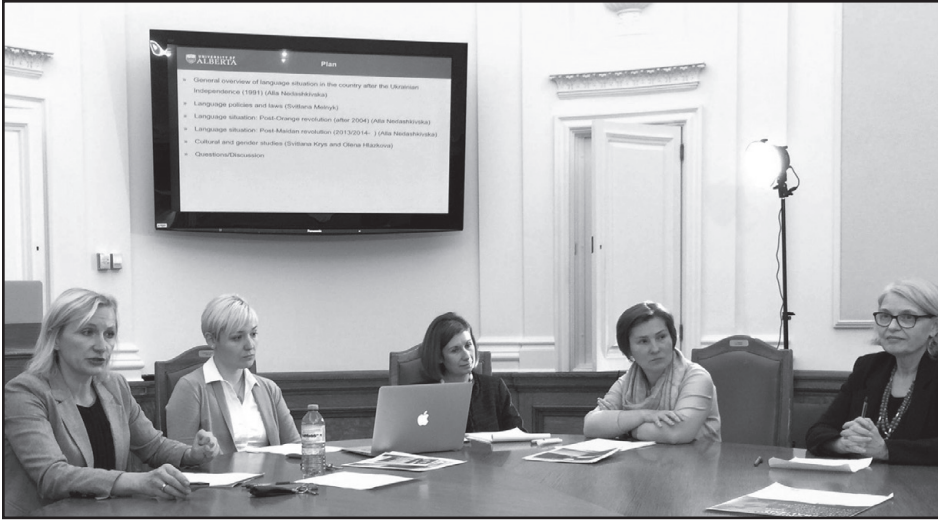
Dr. Lana Kryś chaired the meeting and outlined the mandate of her position as the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies. The attending members of the URDC Advisory Council expressed their ideas and recommendations regarding future scholarly activities, research and

development projects with Ukrainian partners. All members engaged in fruitful discussion with regard to URDC's past, current and future role at MacEwan.

URDC joins University of Alberta on three-year research project

At the beginning of 2015, URDC joined a team of scholars from the University of Alberta to work on a three-year research project, titled "Research Initiative on Democratic Reforms in Ukraine (RIDRU)." The project, sponsored by the University of Alberta's Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and lead by Dr. Olenka Bilash (University of Alberta), explores three dimensions in the democratic reforms of the government of Ukraine: good governance and the rule of law, post-secondary education reform, and language and culture policies. All three topics are being investigated both as they emerge in Ukraine and as they impact the Diaspora in Canada and beyond.

On November 27, 2015, scholars from the field of Ukrainian Studies presented their KIAS-funded research at a seminar, devoted to "Language Situation in Ukraine after the Maidan." As one of the researchers for the cluster on language and culture, Dr. Kryś provided an overview of "Culture 2025," a post-Maidan civil society initiative, aimed at developing a strategy for comprehensive cultural reform through a country-wide process of public consultations.



(L to R Dr. Alla Nedashkivska (UofA), Ms Olena Hlazkova (PhD Candidate, UofA), Dr. Svitlana Kryz (MacEwan), Dr. Svitlana Melnyk (Indiana U), and Dr. Olenka Bilash (UofA)



The project, launched in 2014, has been implemented as a country-wide face-to-face and online dialogue that has brought together thousands of participants representing different stakeholder groups, ranging from independent artists and civic activists, to MPs and government officials at the national, regional and municipal levels.

Inevitably, the country-wide discussion around a national strategy has been difficult. The first draft, released by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine in summer of 2015, was met with criticism. Hence, three civic groups, "Culture 2025" among them, joined their efforts under one common initiative, "Alliance of Culture," to improve the document and promote the cultural reform agenda further. At present, Dr. Kryz dialogues with a team of Ukrainian experts who lead the work of this alliance.

Ukrainian Students Club and the Kule Chair host Ukrainian Halloween film event

In October, the Kule Chair teamed up with the Ukrainian Students Club at MacEwan to organize a Ukrainian Halloween film event. The film "Shtol'nia" [The Pit, 2006; dir. Liubomyr Kobyl'chuk] was shown in Ukrainian with English subtitles, and, in keeping with the context of Halloween, it was a horror film!

The main purpose of the event was to introduce students at MacEwan to contemporary Ukrainian culture through film, as well as give them an opportunity to hear live, teenage Ukrainian, spoken from the screen, and pick up Ukrainian vocabulary. Prior to the screening, Dr.

Lana Kryz provided an overview of Ukrainian cinematography, focusing on the history of Ukrainian cinema and its current trends, and pointed to the film's role as a post-Orange Revolution cultural product that helped shape contemporary youth today.

For more information on the film, please see Dr. Kryz's review in KinoKultura: Special Issue on Ukrainian Cinema <http://www.kinokultura.com/specials/9/shtolnia.shtml>

Participants also made cash donations to the Charity Drive, spearheaded by MacEwan's Ukrainian Students Club. This year, the club has launched a fundraising campaign to support the Help Us Help Children organization that aids children affected by war in Ukraine.



Film screening (Lana Kryz and Kimberley Howard; and Alicia Slusarchuk with a jar of donations)



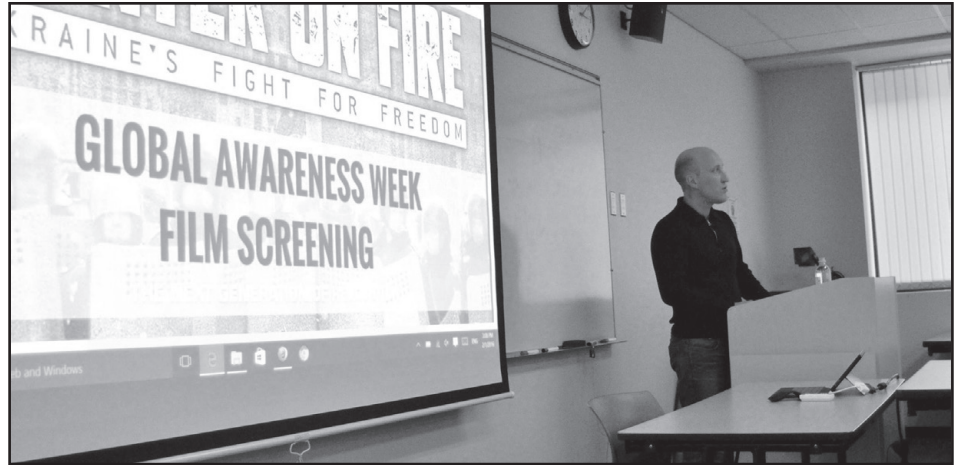
The Kule Chair's activities during Global Awareness Week at MacEwan, Feb. 1–5, 2016

Following her mandate to introduce Ukrainian Studies to MacEwan and the community at large, Dr. Lana Kryś organized two academic events as part of MacEwan's Global Awareness Week, which took place February 1–5. The events also marked a two-year anniversary of the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity.

The first was a documentary film screening and discussion of *Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom* (2015, dir. Evgeny Afineevsky). Dr. Ivan Kozachenko, Stasiuk Postdoctoral Fellow at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (University of Alberta), a participant himself at the Euromaidan Kharkiv, introduced the film. His areas of expertise include contemporary social movements, social impacts of information and communication technology, nationalism and transnationalism. In his introduction, Dr. Kozachenko addressed the pre-conditions of the revolution in Ukraine and highlighted the main events that were happening during the Euromaidan Revolution outside of Kyiv. A lively discussion followed.



Lana Kryś presenting



Ivan Kozachenko presents Winter on Fire film as part of GAW at MacEwan

The second event was a panel, hosted jointly by the Kule Chair and the Institute for Innovation in Management Education (IIME) at MacEwan's School of Business. Titled "Grassroots Revolutions in the Digital Age: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives," the panel examined the phenomenon of the Revolution in the 21st century, focusing mainly on the events of the Arab Spring in Egypt (2011) and the Euromaidan (Revolution of Dignity) in Ukraine (2013–14). The panel included four MacEwan academics: Dr. Jeff Stepnisky (Sociology), Dr. Lucille Mazo (Communication Studies), Dr. Ali Taleb (Business/IIME), and Dr. Lana Kryś (English/URDC), who explored the role that identity, business, communications and culture play in the development and outcome of grassroots revolutions, including their global impact.

Jeff Stepnisky drew upon arguments developed by sociologist Manuel Castells to compare the 2013–14 Ukrainian Revolution with new social movements, like the Arab Spring and the Occupy Movement, in order to examine a distinct identity of the Ukrainian Revolution. Ali Taleb discussed the behaviour of two Canadian Multinationals, Metanex and Agrium, in the context of Arab Spring events to show how unstable socio-political conditions reconfigure outer institutional arrangements and shape



Panel Discussion - Lucille Mazo, Ali Taleb, Jeff Stepnisky

firms' strategies and postures over time. Lucille Mazo examined communication strategies of online English- and Ukrainian-language news media sites that reported on the Euromaidan in 2014. She discussed how news media are responsible for presenting truthful and factual accounts of events, such as the Euromaidan, that change how people's behaviours are perceived, and therefore understood internationally. Finally, Lana Kryś explored the cultural reforms promised by the new Government of Ukraine as a result of demands voiced during the Euromaidan/ Revolution of Dignity. She focused on the manner in which they touch upon the literary sphere and help facilitate Ukraine's course toward integration into the European Union.

MacEwan delegation visits partner universities in Ukraine

At present, URDC facilitates joint programming with MacEwan's two official partner universities in Ukraine: the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and the Ivan Horbachevsky Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU). A MacEwan delegation, comprised of Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto (Bachelor of Science in Nursing), Dr. Lucille Mazo (Bachelor of Communication Studies), Dr. Roman Petryshyn (URDC) and Mr. Yuri Konkin (URDC), visited both universities in Ukraine in May 2015.

Between May 19-21, Yuri Konkin and Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto visited TSMU and received outstanding hospitality from both the university and the Institute of Nursing. Dr. Burgess-Pinto presented an outline of the mental health course on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to be offered at TSMU and, eventually, other nursing schools in Ukraine. This presentation was attended by the TSMU nursing faculty and also by representatives from the psychology department.



Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto and Yuri Konkin meeting with Ukrainian and international nursing students at TSMU

On Friday, May 22, the MacEwan delegation attended a symposium on "The Social Aspects of Conflict" at NaUKMA in Kyiv. Academics from NaUKMA, TSMU and MacEwan University presented papers focused on social, political, health and communication aspects of conflict. Significant discussions emerged throughout the day to enrich ideas about conflict and its social dimensions, particularly highlighting the idea that social work is not well-supported in Ukraine and the influence of religion and tradition on thinking with regard to the medical profession. Joint programming of URDC includes the publishing of the Social, Health, and Communication Studies Journal (SHCSJ), an international peer-reviewed journal. The papers

discussed at the NaUKMA symposium were submitted for potential publication in the second volume of SHCSJ for 2016.

Important collaboration between individuals and groups was established in relation to future projects and initiatives during the delegation's visit. In her post-visitation remarks, Dr. Burgess-Pinto recommended that nursing at MacEwan should establish a community of practice with nursing faculty members at TSMU. "The development of a community of practice approach would introduce collaborative processes," said Burgess-Pinto, "so that those who participate could share knowledge for problem-solving and stimulate learning." Overall, Mazo and Burgess-Pinto observed that the partnership can benefit faculty and students in the two universities. For example, TSMU has offered to provide lodging for MacEwan nursing students to attend an annual summer school program near Ternopil in future years.

"The trip to Ukraine," recalled Mazo, "was important in establishing long-term connections between institutions."



MacEwan delegation with partners from NaUKMA and TSMU at the seminar dedicated to the Social Aspects of Conflict

Venerated URDC founder and director of 28 years receives MacEwan Medallion



President Atkinson presents MacEwan medallion Award to Roman Petryshyn

On June 27, 2015, MacEwan University was proud to present Dr. Roman Petryshyn, esteemed founder and director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, with the MacEwan Medallion for his service.

The MacEwan Medallion, named after Dr. Grant MacEwan, is the highest form of recognition the university presents to an employee and is representative of outstanding service and commitment.

"The URDC is about giving MacEwan students and faculty quality learning experiences in line with the values and strategic academic plan of the university," remarked Dr. Petryshyn at his retirement ceremony in May. "Together, MacEwan and the community have created URDC as a leading example of how community-engaged learning can be accomplished." Certainly, none of this would have ever been possible without Dr. Petryshyn's undying commitment to URDC's growth and development throughout his long tenure.

Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) awarded \$15,000 Canadian grant for project

Last spring, URDC and the Faculty of Health and Community Studies at MacEwan worked together with our partners at Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) to implement a project aimed at enhancing Ukrainian nursing curriculum with a contemporary course on mental health trauma and PTSD. The course is being delivered at TSMU in 2015/16 and boasts more than 350 pages of contemporary learning materials.

This past summer, URDC assisted TSMU in preparing an application for the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) grant administered by the Embassy of Canada to Ukraine. The grant of \$15,000, awarded by the embassy last November and announced by Ambassador Roman Waschuk, will assist TSMU in organizing a national nursing conference on mental health in 2016. The plan is to have this new Ukrainian course integrated into the national nursing curriculum and proliferate it across Ukraine in 2016/17. More still, the grant aims to provide an opportunity for instructors from five other nursing schools to take part in piloting the

course at TSMU and prepare them for launching the course in their respective institutions the following year.

Mykhailo Korda, president of TSMU; Svitlana Yastrems'ka, director of TSMU's Institute of Nursing; along with local health officials believe that the need for qualified personnel with contemporary expertise in PTSD and mental health is expected to grow significantly in Ukraine following the recent dramatic events and war in the east of the country. The project, funded largely by the awarded grant, will provide an effective response to emerging crises, associated with the psychological trauma that vast groups of Ukraine's population will likely experience for several years to come, and is thus timely and necessary. "Drawing on our respective pools of experience," remarked Ambassador Waschuk, "Canadians and Ukrainians have designed a better response to short-term and long-term effects of mental health trauma, which will support competent interventions by well-trained nurses and other health professionals."

Ternopil State Medical University has expressed its gratitude to MacEwan University and URDC for assistance in developing a new TSMU course, as well as to the community groups that sponsored the development of the learning materials: the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE).



Ambassador Roman Waschuk (right) and Dr. Mykhailo Korda, Rector TSMU

Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) sponsors students to attend international conference

Generous sponsorship by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) provided several MacEwan and University of Alberta students with the opportunity to take part in a prestigious international conference co-organized by the Centre for US Ukrainian Relations and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, held at the University of Alberta campus October 23-24, 2015. Titled "Contested Ground: The Legacy of the Second World War for Eastern Europe," the conference brought together experts from Ukraine, Poland, Canada, the United States and other countries. All academic sessions of the conference were well attended. Dr. Lana Krysz, the Kule Chair, was invited to serve as a moderator for the event, featuring Professor Yaroslav Hrytsak's presentation



Photo credit: Bryan McNeil

"Grappling with Fateful and Painful Memories: From Holocaust to Katyn Forest" (Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine).

Stefania Nedoshytko, a third-year political science student at MacEwan, remarked that the ability to attend

provided her with an eye-opening experience to expand her view of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, and further her understanding of the historical implications of the region. "With Ukraine facing such tragedy and hardship," she remarked, "we should all stand together as a Ukrainian community to fight against aggression." Ms. Nedoshytko has expressed her gratitude to UFCE and URDC for the ability to attend the conference. She believes that students benefit greatly from such opportunities. "[The conference] was extremely informative [...] and has inspired me to look further into a career I feel passionate about," wrote Ms. Nedoshytko. "Learning does not stop outside of the classroom."

Twenty-second annual Kyiv Konnection Banquet hosts Dr. Basil Kalymon and honours John Chomiak



John Chomiak (left) receives UFCE President's award from Dr. Ernest Skakun

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), the 22nd annual Kyiv Konnection Banquet was

held on May 14, 2015. Proceeds of this fundraiser support the activities of URDC, especially its educational programs, which benefit students and young professionals in Ukraine.

Along with opening and closing prayers and greetings from Dr. David Atkinson, president of MacEwan, this year's Kyiv Konnection Banquet boasted a notable keynote presentation from Dr. Basil Kalymon, Professor Emeritus, Ivey Business School, University of Western Ontario, and chair of the Economic Advisory Council to Ukraine's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (2014-15). For over 30 years, Dr. Kalymon has served as an expert financial witness in regulatory energy hearings across Canada and in the US. Currently, he is a member of the Advisory Council of Kyiv Mohyla Business School, as well as a board member of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. Titled "Crisis in Ukraine's Economy: What Needs To Be Done?," Dr. Kalymon's speech highlighted the successes and challenges of the economic reforms in Ukraine after its 2013-14 Revolution of Dignity.

Preceding Dr. Kalymon's enlightening keynote address was the presentation of the KKB-UFCE President's Award by Dr. Ernest Skakun, president of UFCE. The 2015 recipient for the President's Award was John Chomiak, long-time president and CEO of Hemisphere Engineering. For over a decade (ending in 2011), Mr. Chomiak served on the UFCE Board and consistently supported UFCE's fundraising activities. Mr. Chomiak was described as insightful, modest, committed and reliable, and is acknowledged for his dedication in his field and within the community. "By serving as an information resource to Alberta's Ukrainian community, and strengthening further cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine," remarked Dr. Skakun during the presentation ceremony, "Mr. Chomiak has furthered the objectives of URDC and UFCE."

Third annual Charity Golf Classic a success and fourth event in store

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), the United for Ukraine Charity Golf Classic took place on Friday, June 19, 2015.

As the key aim of UFCE is to assist URDC in its projects and programs to link MacEwan to its Ukrainian counterparts, proceeds from the fundraising event supported the creation of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) training module, which would enable practicing nurses and other health professionals to provide effective stress relief and medical care to those affected by war in Ukraine.

The UFCE and the Charity Golf Classic organizational committee extend their immense gratitude to all sponsors, participants and volunteers who made the event a success. A special thank-you goes to Morley Workun, whose dedication as a UFCE Board member and chairman of the Charity Golf Classic committee has been indispensable to the success of UFCE fundraising events.

UFCE's next charity golf tournament will take place on Friday, June 17th, 2016, the proceeds from which will go to support the Mykola Fund, designed to aid in the travel, accommodation in Canada, future care, and medical



Gene Zwozdecki, Dr. Oksana Suchowerski and Ed Stelmach supporting the United for Ukraine Charity Golf Classic

treatments of an 11-year-old boy, who lost three limbs in a tragic accident, caused by an undetonated grenade in eastern Ukraine.

Second issue of Social, Health, and Communications Studies Journal published

Social, Health, and Communication Studies Journal (SHCSJ), published by MacEwan in partnership with National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU), is an international peer-reviewed journal that provides a forum where academics communicate a diversity of ideas and information on issues concerning social, health and communication studies. The inaugural issue of the journal was dedicated to the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine.

The second issue was released in February 2016 under the umbrella theme of "Conflict and the Social Body." The journal is a result of hard work by a joint editorial board spearheaded by Lucille Mazo, chair of MacEwan's Bachelor of Communication Studies program.

"The authors in this second issue are cognizant of how conflict deeply affects individuals, families and groups at many levels. These articles examine real conflict, providing meaningful insights into those who are affected and the actions that need to be taken to mitigate the harms of conflict. You are invited to read, contemplate and consider the effects of conflict," comments Mazo.

The URDC congratulates all the authors, editors, designers, staff and supporters who contributed to this publication!



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