

MacEwan and its Partner Universities in Ukraine Hold a Major Faculty Development Event in Lviv



Seminar participants in front of the Ukrainian Catholic University

Fourteen MacEwan faculty representing seven different programs and two administrators visited Ukraine in November 2018 during the Fall Reading Week to take part in a comprehensive academic experience-sharing event. This seminar was built around the model of MacEwan's Great Teachers Seminar, spearheaded by our Office of Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) (formerly the Centre for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence, or CAFÉ).

The seminar focuses on teaching and is designed to develop a community

of practice in which university faculty members share best practices and engage with each other's' experiences in the classroom. Each participant is encouraged to develop a self-reflective and intentional approach to teaching in higher education. Participants join as a cohort of peers to learn from each other. Seminar participants engage in a learning process of shared information and experiences, reflection and action planning as they explore together a variety of teaching strategies, innovations, instructional challenges, and solutions. The format of the seminar

is minimally structured and evolves throughout the week based on ongoing assessments of the participants' needs.

The theme underlying all seminar activities is the quest to identify the nature of the "The Great Teacher." As in any quest, those on the journey learn much about themselves along the way. This seminar is not meant to be a "reward" for accomplished teachers, nor is it limited to the already "great." It is designed especially for those teachers striving to be great. Over the past 12 months, URDC has been working together with MacEwan's TLS and our partner universities in Ukraine – National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) – to lay the groundwork for the success of this event, which included several workshops in Ukraine and Canada as well as preparation of the core group of Ukrainian trainers/facilitators. Our partner universities developed conceptual understanding, knowledge and practical skills, which allowed them to co-facilitate this Teaching and Learning Services-type event aimed at a multi-lateral and multidisciplinary exchange of professional experiences and opinions.

The seminar brought together 16 participants from MacEwan, one participant from the University of Lethbridge, 14 participants from UCU,



Striving to be great teachers

11 participants from NaUKMA and eight participants from TSMU – a formidable team of 50, which was spearheaded by the seminar leader Kevin Hood, and a group of facilitators, including Lynne Honey, director, TLS (MacEwan); Shelley Josey (MacEwan); Tracey Cyca (MacEwan); Jody Marshall (MacEwan); Oksana Boyarchuk (TSMU); Oleksandr Avramchuk (UCU); and Natalia Starynska (NaUKMA).

"Canadian and Ukrainian faculty face similar challenges," noted Oksana Boyarchuk, professor of medicine at TSMU. "We are looking for the best ways to keep our students engaged," she continued, "[and] we are trying to resolve the universal issue of 'too much material/too little time.'"

Oleksandr Avramchuk, professor of clinical psychology at UCU, shared his ideas regarding group projects, and was eager to learn about different approaches aimed at motivating students to use a broader range of learning materials.

Natalia Starynska, manager of the recently established Centre of Innovative Teaching and Learning at NaUKMA,

noted that establishing in-house professional development services is a vital necessity for Ukrainian universities, since the existing system of special professional development institutions is obsolete and often fails to keep up with the growing demand for contemporary teaching methodology. "I believe the seminar has increased the capacity of three participating Ukrainian universities to establish contemporary demand-driven institutional faculty development services as a model for [the] post-secondary education system in Ukraine, [which is] looking for transformation of [its] current professional development infrastructure," said Natalia. During her internship at MacEwan last June, she also noted that "it was really important [for her] get a thorough understanding of how TLS operates to serve the needs of the faculty." "I am very grateful to the TLS administrators, who shared with me their policies and procedures and helped me grasp the process of initiating and developing different faculty development courses," she also noted. "These documents and ideas helped us to establish the Centre of Innovative Teaching and Learning at NaUKMA," concluded Natalia.

According to Lynne Honey, full outcomes of the initiative for MacEwan faculty will be assessed through a survey, debriefing and reflection sessions. She noted, however, that "it is evident that through participation in this seminar, MacEwan faculty members experienced a unique, cross-cultural development opportunity with Ukrainian partner institutions." "I think they gained broader and deeper awareness of research, teaching and learning as they are practiced in another culture of post-secondary education," she added. Lynne concluded that the seminar was "instrumental for building and furthering collegial relationships with faculty from partner universities in Ukraine, and more broadly, [that it] provided new opportunities for our faculty to continue enhancing their professional practices in Canada and internationally."

URDC is grateful to all participants, contributors and organizers of this wonderful event!

Our thanks also goes to Cynthia Zutter, Carolyn Ives, Paul Martin, Shelley Josey, Serhiy Kvit, Alina Synytska, Galyna Protsyk and Oksana Pasychnyk, who took part in organizing and implementing a series of workshops in Canada and Ukraine that led to success of the Great Teachers Seminar in Lviv.



General discussion after group work

MacEwan and UFCE Sign a New Agreement

On September 11, 2018 Dr. Deborah Saucier, president of MacEwan University, and Gordon Gordey, president of UFCE, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which sets priorities for this strategic partnership for the next two years. Dr. Craig Monk, provost and vice-president, Academic, pro tempore, also took part in the signing event.

"The original purpose of the URDC, to be a respected and recognized source of scholarly and educational activities and resources relevant to Ukraine and its Diaspora, remains central to the commitment of MacEwan University and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)," states the memorandum. It continues: "To achieve this end, UFCE collaborates to support the teaching and research mission of MacEwan University as it pertains to Ukraine through off-campus study programs; faculty, staff and student exchanges; and research and teaching activities grounded in MacEwan University's expertise and experience." It also notes that "MacEwan University recognizes its historic connection with UFCE as a representative of the larger Edmonton Ukrainian community and as a valued supporter and advisor on MacEwan's engagement in Ukraine."

Over the past two years, UFCE, has contributed over \$60,000 to support a variety of MacEwan faculty and student exchange programs in Ukraine in the areas of nursing, sociology, business, journalism, arts and science. The MoU also provides new opportunities for the parties to establish the chair of International Health at MacEwan, using the proceeds of the chair of International Health Endowment and other sources. The mandate of the chair,

as stated in the Terms of Reference of the MoU, contains among its eight goals the goals to "Advance studies in international health at MacEwan," to "give priority to health issues in Ukraine and Eastern Europe [in the context of world health topics];" and to "assist students to develop careers in international health."

critical examination of where and how UFCE fits into the history of community-university engagement (CUE).

As a graduate history student at the University of Alberta, I was, unsurprisingly, rather thrilled to begin original research with such notable academics as Dr. Bilash and



(L to R) Craig Monk, Deborah Saucier, Gordon Gordey

UFCE-URDC-MacEwan celebrate 25 years of Community-University Engagement

By Kane Mullen, BA

Over the summer, and under the supervision of Drs. Roman Petryshyn and Olenka Bilash, a program was undertaken to study the historical significance of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE). The project was initiated to recognize the organization's 25th year and is the first

Dr. Petryshyn. I quickly became acquainted with the everyday functioning of UFCE – attending the annual golf tournament was especially rewarding!

The direction of my research was set through rigorous readings of secondary-literature and weekly meetings with my supervisors. It was ultimately decided that UFCE is best understood as "representing an engaged ethnic and diaspora community." Essentially, for 25 years UFCE has mobilized Alberta's Ukrainian community to engage with MacEwan University and advance and maintain the Ukrainian community at home and abroad. I set out to discover the meaning behind this revelation.



Kane Mullen speaking at the UFCE Board meeting

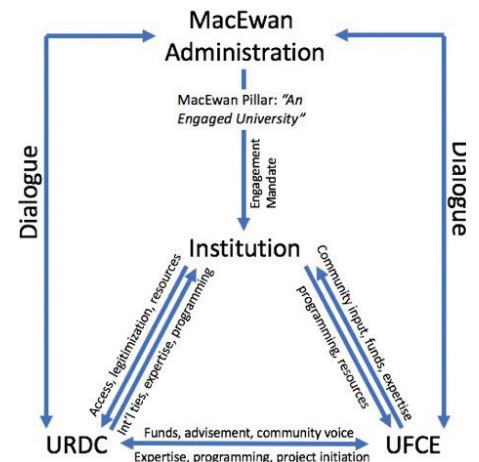
A number of data sources were consulted to find out how UFCE had been successful in this endeavour. The secondary literature on CUE revealed that very little had been written on the type of engagement sustained by UFCE and MacEwan University, and thus our study seemed to grow in importance. UFCE archival material – meeting minutes, correspondence, project reports and URDC’s monthly newsletter – disclosed the real history of the group. Among the reports on major projects of URDC and UFCE, documents on the acquisition of major endowments, and the innumerable memos on scholarships and fundraisers were interesting anecdotes – for instance, did you know that URDC’s first Kyiv office was set up in a one-bedroom apartment? Or that UFCE’s first president served in the National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces (RCAF)? Lastly, I conducted in-person interviews with past UFCE presidents and ran a survey with former and current UFCE Board members.



UFCE's inaugural meeting on February 3, 1994.

These sources were instrumental in finalizing our developing framework of engagement. Through the interviews and surveys with a number of past UFCE presidents and members, we were able to characterize UFCE as the first iteration of an engaged diaspora – its success coming from its mobilization of the resources of the Ukrainian diaspora in Alberta, the diverse experience of its membership and its hold on cultural knowledge. Such characteristics have allowed and continue to allow UFCE to engage with MacEwan University on equal terms, to organize and accrue support from the community, and to develop international projects in Ukraine.

Our analysis culminated in the formation of a model describing the triangular relationship between UFCE, URDC and MacEwan University. UFCE and URDC, offering cultural expertise, programming and community resources, engage senior MacEwan personnel for mutual benefit. The relationship depends on specific roles played by the members of each group, while a collective commitment to the dynamic upholds its integrity. Understanding how individuals within the community, as well as the community itself, contribute to an engagement dynamic allows us to ensure its continuity and growth, and can also provide a model for CUE at other institutions.



UFCE-URDC-MacEwan engagement

Other products consisted of a comprehensive timeline of UFCE’s history and a graphic of past UFCE presidents as well as an exhaustive account of membership. Intimately tied to the activities of the URDC, the timeline charts specific projects, illustrates the range of product areas and tracks the landmark events and fundraising activities that typify UFCE. The UFCE-URDC projects in business and management, farming and agriculture, inclusive education and deafness studies, and nursing and health care alongside the varied scholarships, bursaries, travel grants, fundraising for endowed chairs and partnerships to support student/faculty exchanges can

be seen as products of the URDC-UFCE-MacEwan engagement partnership.

Business Management 1996-2010	Farming and Agriculture 1991 - 1995	Nursing & Healthcare 1994 - present
Deafness and Inclusive Education 1999-2015	Chairs, Fundraising, and Endowments Over \$7M	International partnerships, faculty exchanges 1992 – present, 5 Ukraine schools
Bursaries, scholarships, student exchanges 1990-present		

The various fields of work of URDC-UFCE-MacEwan

Our research has yielded these preliminary results. The data foreshadow exciting opportunities to further develop and test our theories in the name of building a more complete model of engagement based on the actions of the Ukrainian Canadian ethnic and diaspora communities. Such a model, fully realized and operationalized with practical outcomes, will fortify the relationship between the Ukrainian community and MacEwan University and may help direct the engagement activities of other diaspora at other institutions.

The history of UFCE is significant – the organization has achieved much, and without an understanding of what has happened it is impossible to fully grasp why it is or isn't of issue. In documenting the history, our research grew to include an original model of community-university engagement. We are hopeful that such research will have practical results for the organization as well as influence on the academic field of engagement studies.

The research conducted from May through November 2018 will yield a brief history in brochure format, a longer and more detailed history of the UFCE and its relationship to MacEwan University, an academic article and five posters on the leadership of UFCE, a timeline and snapshot of the multidisciplinary nature of UFCE-sponsored events, an outline of the many boundaries that UFCE has spanned

and the impact of its projects.



Valeria (second from right) and her team

MacEwan School of Business, URDC and UFCE Help NaUKMA and UCU Join European Innovation Academy

For a number of years, MacEwan University has been taking part in the summer programs organized by the European Innovation Academy (EIA). Last summer, over 20 MacEwan students, led by Launa Linaker of our School of Business, attended the program in Italy and Portugal. The main purpose of the program is to let students from around the world set-up creative teams and come-up with innovative social, educational and business projects to be pitched to the international investors and other organizations for further development and implementation. The program is open not just to business students, but also to students enrolled in different programs (for example, journalism, economics, etc.) at all levels

– from undergraduate to PhD.

Yulia Kleban from Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and Valeria Vasylychuk from National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) joined the MacEwan team in Turin for an intensive three-week program. Yulia Kleban, who was a member of the international team engaged in developing a platform for startup community, said of her experience in Turin and the EIA program "provided [her] with several benefits regarding professional and personal development. From [a] professional point of view, there are the following outcomes:

- The course Social Entrepreneurship that [Yulia teaches] at the faculty will receive the EIA materials. That means that the students will get access to the well-developed templates of each step in the idea validation, product-market fit process, etc.,
- The material of EIA and [Yulia's] updated skills at the program are good ground to build a full new course for the students at the bachelor level (Computer Science and IT and Business Analytics majors),
- The startup idea development experience [gave Yulia] the insights to become a mentor for the students at the UCU Center for Entrepreneurship.



Valeria Vasylychuk (L) and Yulia Kleban (R)

Valeria Vasylychuk enjoyed teamwork with MacEwan students and noted that "communication with MacEwan students was a real pleasure for [her], [adding that she] felt genuine kinship with Canadian students in different aspects." "I think the EIA materials could be useful for people from all specialties at my university," she added. "I am pretty sure that NaUKMA needs a separate course in entrepreneurship and innovation, including social entrepreneurship," concluded Valeria. Upon return to NaUKMA, Valeria has been assigned to teach a new course on Social Entrepreneurship and Finance, and she is confident that the innovative materials and methodology she learned at EIA will enhance this new coursework to benefit Ukrainian students.

Supporting Global Health Education

Last May, 20 students from the MacEwan Bachelor of Science in Nursing program successfully completed their three weeks of intensive studies in Ukraine.

The visit began with the customized orientation course provided by the School of Ukrainian Language and Culture at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), MacEwan's partner university in Lviv. Apart from learning conversational Ukrainian, the students also mastered medical terminology and visited several health-care facilities in



MacEwan and TSMU students studying in joint groups



MacEwan students attending the Ukrainian language and culture program at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv

Lviv. Numerous excursions, walking tours and a special "vyshyvanka" workshop provided true immersion into Ukrainian history and culture, and the language instructors Christina Tsymbrovska and Oksana Lyalka were also instrumental to the experience.

After the language and culture orientation, the students moved to Ternopil to take HLST 400 - Global Health Perspectives, a for-credit course done together with their peers from Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU). The aim of the course was to familiarize students with the challenges of globalization, which are inextricably linked to global health issues, and to communicate Sustainable Development Goals, officially known as "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" that were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

The course focused on the three main areas of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental

– the adoption of measures aimed at optimal use of scarce resources and the use of environmentally friendly technologies, saving nature, energy, and resources to preserve stability of social and cultural systems, and maintaining integrity of biological and physical natural systems. Since both Ukraine and Canada are members of the United Nations, the course focused on the idea that both countries must actively participate in the implementation of programs and measures to implement 17 global goals for sustainable development.

Key themes of this course included global health, global citizenship, equity and inclusion, as well as the influences of physical and social environments and policies on health and wellness.

The course was successfully co-delivered by Dr. Elizabeth Burges-Pinto (MacEwan), Christine Shumka (MacEwan) and five TSMU faculty: Hanna Saturdayska, Yurii Petrashyk,

Natalia Petrenko, Natalia Haliyash and Olha Namisniak.

"The course broadens the horizons of students and teachers," noted Yurii, "[and] opens their minds to better understand different cultures and perspectives, helps appreciate the workings of public health, [as well as] diverse nursing roles in Canada and Ukraine." "I believe there is a lot to gain from this program," he added, "and we will use this experience to get better at what we do."

For two weeks, Canadian and Ukrainian students worked in joint teams to discuss different aspects of health-care reform in Ukraine, presented by Ukrainian professors, and undertook a comparative analysis of health-care systems in Canada and Ukraine in the global context. They also had a chance to visit several health-care facilities to observe the work of Ukrainian nurses and other health-care professionals in different settings ranging from outpatient clinics and family planning centres to psychiatric and pediatric wards.

On one of their days together, MacEwan and TSMU students took part in a joint health promotion action called "Learn More About Hypertension." They measured blood pressure and surveyed Ternopil residents to find out whether they are aware of the factors that might lead to the development of arterial hypertension. Students educated the public about risks of hypertension and the principles of a healthy lifestyle.

When our students returned to Canada, Kimberley Howard, executive director of MacEwan International, conducted a formal evaluation of the visit, which was very positive. Student responses about the visit cited improvement of professional communication skills, reflections on biases, and knowledge about what it means to be a Canadian in an international context. Further,



Dr. Vince Salyers, dean, Faculty of Nursing, (third from right) hosting TSMU and MacEwan colleagues

the Canadian students remarked on the friendliness and hospitality of their Ukrainian peers and professors.

Our special thanks go to senior administrators of the three partner universities, who provided ongoing support to this innovative educational initiative: Vince Salyers, dean, Faculty of Nursing (MacEwan); Margaret Milner, program chair, Faculty of Nursing (MacEwan); Mykhailo Korda, rector (TSMU); Taras Dobko, first vice rector (UCU); Svitlana Yastremska, director, Institute of Nursing (TSMU); Nazar Danylkiw, director, School of Ukrainian Language and Culture (UCU); Galyna Protsyk, director, International (UCU).

The students and the faculty are also grateful to the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) for its generous support of the program.

Warm Welcome at MacEwan for Visiting TSMU Faculty Despite Unusually Chilly Summer

Hanna Saturdayska, Olha Namisniak and Yurii Petrashyk, faculty members of the Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU), visited MacEwan between September 23 and October 7, 2018.

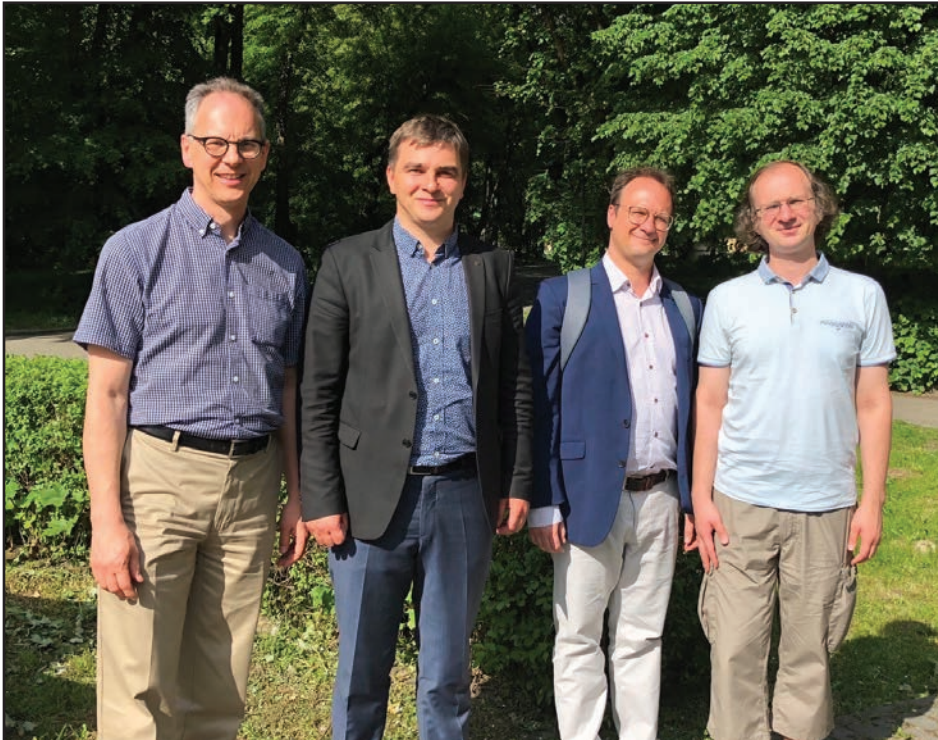
The visit was part of a long-term partnership program between TSMU and the MacEwan University Faculty of Nursing. Last May, Hanna, Olha and Yurii took part in the delivery of the HLST 400 - Global Health Perspectives course described in the previous section.

The program of their visit included a range of academic engagements, tours of the main local health-care facilities, meetings with students, as well as professional discussions regarding different ways of consolidating and enhancing the delivery of the course in Ukraine next year, scheduled for May 5 to 24, 2019. In particular, the plan is to have not just Canadian and Ukrainian students enrol in the course, but also engage TSMU's international students from African and Asian countries to broaden global health perspectives for all participants.



Visitors from Ukraine (centre) attend a blanket exercise together with nursing students at MacEwan

How Many Sociologists Does It Take to Start a Meaningful Exchange Program Between the Sociology Departments of MacEwan and Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU)?



(L to R) Drs. Gulayets, Kashchuk, Stepnisky and Sudyn in Lviv

URDC received this question from Dr. Michael Gulayets. The question turned out to be rhetorical, as the attached picture (below) contained the answer.

Please join URDC in congratulating (from left to right) Dr. Michael Gulayets (MacEwan), Dr. Myroslav Kashchuk (UCU), Dr. Jeff Stepnisky (MacEwan) and Dr. Danylo Sudyn (UCU), who developed and successfully completed a two-week faculty exchange program at UCU in Lviv last May.

The program included several lectures and a presentation based on Dr. Jeff Stepnisky's research on the Maidan/Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine, viewed through the lens of the Atmosphere Theory. This topic is of special

importance to UCU, since one of its faculty, Bohdan Solchanyk, heroically fell defending the values of the Revolution of Dignity and is venerated as a member of the Heavenly Hundred. Our special congratulations go to Jeff, whose article was published last summer by the prestigious journal *Space and Culture*. The abstract summarizes the article as follows:

"This article uses atmosphere theory to describe the revolutionary events on Ukraine's Maidan Nezalezhnosti as they unfolded from November 2013 to February 2014. Like other recent occupation movements (Tahrir Square, Gezi Park, Zuccotti Park), the Maidan protestors created a vast infrastructure that supported large-scale protest and

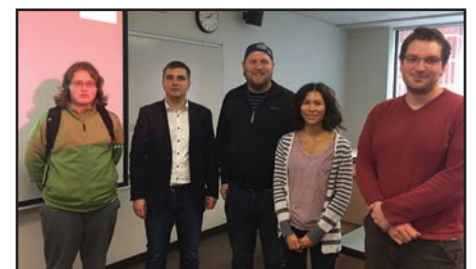
daily life on the square. I argue that atmosphere, or the feeling of place, was important to the makeup of Maidan. Like other occupation movements, Maidan became a "world" unto itself because it generated unique feelings that held the place together. Drawing on atmosphere theorists Peter Sloterdijk and Gernot Böhme, I describe the atmospheres of Maidan, show how these atmospheres were generated, and then describe how these atmospheres influenced the course of the revolution."

The full article is found at: <http://journals.sagepub.com/d.../full/10.1177/1206331218773671>.

The faculty exchange continued in October and November 2018, when Dr. Myroslav Kashchuk and Dr. Dmytro Myronovych (UCU) visited MacEwan to engage in professional discussions with colleagues from our department of sociology. They also delivered several lectures to students on topics such as "Ukrainian Crisis through [a] Realist's Lens" and "[the] Religious Situation in Ukraine," which was of special interest in view of anticipated autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.



(L to R) Dmytro Myronovych, Yuri Konkin, Oksana Mikheeva, Myroslav Kashchuk



Dr. Kashchuk (second from left) and a group of MacEwan students

The visit also focused on preparation to launch a for-credit course called the "Sociological Field School," which will be offered for the first time in May 2019 in Edmonton and Lviv.

Dr. Oksana Mikheeva, chair, Department of Sociology (UCU), who also visited Edmonton as a speaker at the international conference "Russian Policy and the War in Ukraine's Donbas," believes that the new course will



(L to R) Michael Gulayets, Dmytro Myronovych, Myroslav Kashchuk

provide excellent learning and research opportunities for UCU and MacEwan students.

"The goal of the Sociological Field School," explained Dr. Michael Gulayets, "is to explore a social issue of relevance to both Canada and Ukraine. In the inaugural Field School next May, our goal is to focus on the issue of at-risk youth. Each student will examine this broad issue from a different viewpoint, such as family, dynamics, poverty, interactions with police, substance abuse, homelessness, etc. students will be required to study the relevant laws, policies, history and culture of both countries and provide some sociological insight into this social issue. Over the course of the field school, students will visit and meet with staff (and possibly clients) at both Canadian and Ukrainian agencies and institutions that deal with at-risk youth. In addition, MacEwan

students will meet with and work collaboratively on this project with UCU students."

URDC is happy to report that this project has received unanimous support from MacEwan and the UFCE Board, who provided sponsorship to help offset travel costs of up to 10 MacEwan students.

MacEwan Student Works with Shumka to Explore Ukrainian Dance and Identity



Davina (right) conducting her survey

Last summer, Ukrainian Shumka dancers hosted MacEwan sociology student Davina Eisenstat, in a URDC-funded summer research project. The project provided Davina with valuable experience in conducting sociological research on the topic of identity and folk dance. This research equipped Shumka with knowledge that can potentially be used to make decisions about future direction.

Dr. Jeff Stepnisky, chair of the Department of Sociology at MacEwan, provided research support and advice to Davina. Darka Tarnawsky, executive director of Shumka, provided



Davina presenting her research project at MacEwan

supervision for Davina's daily work at Shumka during the duration of this three-month project.

According to Davina, it was a valuable and exciting experience from academic, professional and personal perspectives. She noted the following about the project: "Nine months ago, I embarked on the most rewarding experience during my time at MacEwan University. I recall my excitement when I first heard about a research project on Ukrainian dance, specifically on the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers. Although I've never done Ukrainian dance, I've been involved in dance most of my life, specifically Israeli Folk dance. My passion for sociology and folk dance combined into one project; a perfect fit! As I learned more about the origins of Ukrainian dance, I learned more about my personal heritage in Ukraine, discovering my mother's side has Ukrainian Jewish roots. One day I hope to visit Ukraine and see a live performance by the Virsky Ukrainian National Folk Dance Ensemble.

This project has given me the chance to develop not only my personal academic skills, but also my professional skills. Under the guidance of Dr. Jeff Stepnisky, I navigated the challenges of planning an applied research project, towards implementation of the study. From January to April, I busily made preparations to carry out the study from April to August. The main focus of

the study is exploring the sociological meanings of Ukrainian dance through the themes of tradition, innovation and identity. Through surveys and interviews, I collected data that would help me answer questions about how change and innovation in Ukrainian folk-dance impact Shumka's audiences and members. In April, I conducted surveys at Shumka's Ancestors and Elders shows and at the Shumka School of Dance Year End Show held at the Jubilee Auditorium. Getting the chance to see the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers perform live was an emotionally riveting experience. However, the most impactful part of this project occurred during my interviews with 10 members of the Shumka dance community where I learned about Ukrainian culture and dance through the first-hand experiences of people living in Edmonton.

This research project has opened my eyes to the importance of Ukrainian dance and how it has shaped people's lives. As I near the end of my undergraduate degree, I feel confident in my future endeavours and will apply the skills gained from this project towards pursuing graduate studies. I am very thankful for the URDC in supporting this research project, as well as the opportunity to work alongside Darka Tarnawsky. I am grateful for the mentorship from Dr. Jeff Stepnisky and for the support from the faculty and staff at MacEwan University."

Darka Tarnawsky, executive director of Shumka, believes this research project will assist the renowned dance company in its strategic planning. She noted: "I learned a lot from the project as well, and am thankful to Davina for her commitment and professionalism, to Dr. Jeff Stepnisky for his guidance and genuine interest, and to URDC for assisting with funding the research. This MacEwan-Shumka initiative will help us make informed decisions in our strategic marketing, development and positioning of our programs among Ukrainian and broader audiences in the future."



Stephanie (centre) and Robert (first left) among student leaders in Lviv

MacEwan Student Government Leaders Take Part in the International Student Hackathon in Lviv

Last spring, Stephanie Nedoshytko, president of the Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU), who also serves as president of the Ukrainian Canadian Students Union (SUSK), and Robert Lepp, SAMU's vice-president, Academic, visited Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), our partner university in Lviv, where they took part in the International Student Leadership Forum. Stephanie provided a detailed summary of the experience, which follows below.

"Robert, the VP Academic of SAMU, and I had the honour and privilege of meeting with our international student leader partners, Ukrainian Catholic University Student Government and National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy Student Government. Last year, three student leaders from Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU), National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), visited MacEwan and were hosted by SAMU. This year, it was SAMU's turn to be hosted by our partners. Co-sponsored

by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) and Canada-Ukraine Alliance (CUA), we were able to participate in the International Student Hackathon that was organized by the UCU Student Government, led by President Andrew Rubtsov.

The focus of this event was to attempt to find solutions that affect students internationally and their involvement in student life, in addition to exchanging best practices. The event began with various speakers, of which I was one. I was able to discuss my experience with student leadership and the networks that were built through it. I also spoke on a few items such as supporting LGBTQ+ students and the prevention of sexual violence on campus. The event was attended by students from various countries, the majority of whom were from Ukraine, with others from Armenia, Poland and Belarus.

While we stayed awake for over 36 hours, the non-stop 24-hour conference was meant to allow for enough time to solve various cases. Participants were divided into groups of seven to eight people. Each group had to present a concrete plan at the conclusion of the conference. The cases were as follows: the role of student government in solving conflicts between professors and students; motivating students to be

active in student government; increasing the quality of education and the role of advocacy; methods of communicating and engaging students as well as community partners; the progress of student associations; creating interuniversity projects and methods of collaboration; improving the profitability of student associations; developing a model for international non-academic student exchanges; and the role of student government in preventing plagiarism and cheating. Robert and I had the role of floating through various cases throughout the 24 hours to be able to gain and provide unique perspectives. I had the opportunity to work with a few groups, including increasing the quality of education through advocacy, methods of



MacEwan students Rebekah (left) and Daniela presenting at KKB

engaging students and community partners, and motivating increased student involvement in student government. Despite SAMU being more developed than other student organizations, I gained valuable information and perspectives to bring back to our students.

Later in the week, Robert and I met with students on the UCU campus to discuss the similarities and differences of SAMU and the UCU student government. Other students who weren't involved with the student government also attended, as they were interested to hear about



(L to R) Gordon Gordey, Olenka Bilash, Deborah Saucier and George Zaharia KKB May 2, 2018

MacEwan University and how we interact with different stakeholders, including administration and different levels of government.

Overall, I can't emphasize how valuable and inspiring this experience was. The scale of event that was organized by a purely volunteer organization was unbelievably impressive, and the amount fundraised by a relatively small group of students is motivating. I hope that SAMU can work with international partners in the future, as this is something that is taking place in Europe."

MacEwan and U of A Students Steal the Kyiv Konnection Event

The 25th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet that took place on May 2, 2018 at St. John's Cultural Centre brought together over 160 community activists, educators, professionals and business leaders in support of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) and the Ukrainian Resource Development Centre (URDC).

Dr. Deborah Saucier, president of MacEwan University, attended the event for the first time, and was impressed by the massive continuing support accorded to MacEwan and its programming in Ukraine by the Ukrainian community of larger Edmonton.

The featured presentations by MacEwan and the University of Alberta (U of A) students were the highlight of the banquet.

Rebekah Fortier and Daniela Villa Orozco from MacEwan won the audience's hearts with their emotional presentation about their experience at the summer camp for Orphaned and Disadvantaged Children in Vorokhta (Western Ukraine). The program was spearheaded by Larisa Haiduk, faculty advisor at MacEwan, and was organized by MacEwan University as a for-credit Community Service Learning Course in partnership with a well-known Toronto-based NGO - "Help Us Help the Children" (HUHTC) - which has been running summer and winter camps for kids in Ukraine for over 20 years. "It was a really transformative experience for us, which helped us grow in every possible way," said Daniela.

Megan Hollinshead and Stefania Kostiuik from U of A did a beautiful presentation

about their participation in the summer program, "Ukrainian Through Its Living Culture," in Lviv. This innovative program, organized by professor Alla Nedashkivska (U of A), is designed to help Canadian students learn Ukrainian language through daily interaction with local people, whom they meet on the streets of Lviv or in its fabulous social venues, such as local cafés.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all participants of the Kyiv Konnection Banquet, whose generous support contributed to UFCE's co-sponsorship of the MacEwan/URDC programming in Ukraine

United for Ukraine Charity Golf Classic Scores More Birdies

Our traditional annual fundraising golf tournament took place on June 15, 2018 at the Whitetail Crossing Golf Course in Mundare. A good mix of semi-professional golfers and real rookies got together to help UFCE and URDC support the Global Health Nursing Education Partnership between MacEwan University and Ternopil State Medical University in Ukraine.

The tournament was a great success and a lot of fun. Some first-time golfers – like Christine Shumka from MacEwan – even scored a birdie!

We thank all participants and organizers for their ongoing support and generosity.



Gordon Gordey (left) presenting the tournament trophy to Steven Kashuba, captain of the best team



Two teams from MacEwan did pretty well

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