



COMMUNITY STORIES

Наші Історії

The newsletter of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre

Щорічне видання Українського Центру засобів і розвитку (УЦЗР)

2019 at a glance

The Ukrainian Resource Development Centre (URDC) is the bridge that connects MacEwan University's faculties and schools, partners in Ukraine and the Ukrainian-Canadian community, staging meaningful collaborations and relationships between them. Cultural mindfulness, intercultural dialogue and reciprocity are at the heart of everything we do.

2019 was an incredible year! Imagine a field school where Canadian students travel to Lviv to consider the circumstances of at-risk youth within Ukrainian and Canadian contexts. Such an international initiative has now been realized through a partnership between URDC and the Department of Sociology. Imagine a space where young Ukrainians and Canadians unite to explore global and planetary health from various disciplinary perspectives. MacEwan and Ternopil National Medical University students had precisely this opportunity last May to engage, reflect and learn together in Ukraine through a course collaboratively designed and taught by Canadian and Ukrainian faculty.

Imagine a community service learning opportunity where Canadian students work side-by-side with Ukrainian and North American volunteers in a summer camp for disadvantaged children in Ukraine. Such an experiential learning experience exists through our partnership with the Help Us Help organization. Imagine a world in which conflict is resolved not through violence but rather through negotiation and compromise rooted in mutual respect. This vision propelled into being the Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations in March. Three institutions are now connected: the Ukrainian Catholic University, the National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy and MacEwan.

Truly, the personal growth, academic enhancement and civic learning for the students, faculty, staff and many others touched by these projects are endless! Take a moment to read our stories and imagine new ways in which we might take flight together!

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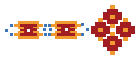
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Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations

Imagine a world in which conflict is resolved without violence but rather with negotiation, compromise, dignity and respect. With this idea in mind, the Canada-Ukraine Model United Nations project was launched in March 2019, together with Dr. Chaldeans Mensah, Ashlee Rolheiser and other MacEwan United Nations student club executive. It connects young people from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and MacEwan. Launched in 1968, the National Model United Nations, affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information, gives students all over the world the opportunity to practice intercultural negotiations and resolution writing following official UN procedures and practices.

In a project initiated by URDC, the executive members of the club and its faculty advisor, Dr. Mensah, are mentoring and training faculty and students from two universities in Ukraine. Using proven training techniques that the club has developed over its 25-year history, the MacEwan students have been sharing their expertise in using diplomatic strategies

to build consensus. The project aims to create UN student clubs throughout Ukrainian Universities where all educational materials and training itself are done by students, under careful advisement of a Political Science professor – the model proven to be successful and sustainable at MacEwan.

Last June, after three months of cross-Atlantic video conferences, students from the MacEwan United Nations Club finally got to meet their peers from two Ukrainian universities in person.

The peer-to-peer training project has the MacEwan club members sharing their expertise in international relations, foreign policy, diplomacy, public speaking and research to help establish Model UN delegations at National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU).

The students met up in Kyiv for a condensed, one-week version of the months of training the MacEwan club's executives provide for their members each year. But the Ukrainian students certainly weren't the only ones learning. "I used to naively believe that 'travel expands the mind' was a bit of a silly trope, but that changed when I learned things on this trip that I otherwise wouldn't have – hearing the history of the Kievan Rus

Empire, seeing Soviet remnants in the architecture and understanding the contemporary struggle for independent Ukraine," says Sean Waddingham, former director-general of the MacEwan UN Club. "This experience showed me firsthand how high the stakes are in political and cultural discourse."

The new appreciation Sean gained is exactly why Dr. Mensah feels the project is so valuable. "As a newly independent country establishing itself in the global community, Ukraine will require a deep corps of diplomats to engage in fruitful relations with many countries around the world," says the professor of political science, who has been the faculty advisor for the MacEwan UN Club for 25 years. "The Canada-Ukraine project is a small contribution to building the skills of negotiations, learning the rules of procedure in the UN, and ensuring that the coming generation of Ukrainian diplomats get the benefits of experiential learning."

"The Model UN is an excellent educational tool for political scientists, diplomats and lawyers, which can help to prepare motivated specialists to protect the interests of Ukraine in the international arena. Therefore, it is time for Ukraine to engage in these competitions and the first step has already been made," said Dmytro Sherenhovskyy, Head of the Academic

Students from MacEwan's United Nations Club connect with another group of students 7,000 kilometres away through a video conference screen.



Department of UCU and one of the project coordinators.

The Ukrainian and Canadian students met once again in November 2019, this time in Erfurt, Germany where they jointly participated in a National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference and won an honourable mention award and a position paper award. This was the first representation of Ukraine in such an international conference. In March 2020 they'll come together once again, first in Edmonton, and then joining thousands of students from around the globe for the world's largest NMUN conference in New York.

Kateryna Bila, National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) said, "The support of MacEwan team (in Erfurt) was especially valuable. They were always ready to give us a helping hand. Gaining experience in intercultural communication was especially useful, while it proved that even though people may have different life-perceptions and backgrounds, they can collaborate on finding effective solutions for global issues."

URDC would like to thank the following organizations for their generous donations towards this initiative: National Model United Nations (NMUN) Board of Directors, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, Alberta Society for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies, Alberta Ukrainian Commemorative Society, Alberta Ukrainian Self Reliance League; as well MacEwan University.



MacEwan and Ukrainian delegations at the NMUN Conference in Erfurt and during training in Kyiv.





Community Service Learning - Building Peaceful Communities

By **Jessica Nelson** | Bachelor of Communication Studies student

Eight MacEwan University students in the COSL 301: Community Service-Learning – Building Peaceful Communities course spent months preparing to work at a summer camp for Ukrainian children and youth who live in the country's orphanages or who have been affected by war. The project was a collaboration with Help Us Help (helpushelp.charity) an organization that brings humanitarian aid and education to the people of Ukraine.

The class started at MacEwan with a week of lectures and seminars on Ukrainian history and politics, power and privilege, ethical community service learning and intercultural communication. This was followed by four weeks in Ukraine, including a week of language and culture education at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, and then three weeks of community service learning at a summer camp in the village of Vorokhta. Students worked alongside Ukrainian and North American volunteers at the Help Us Help summer camp. They delivered workshops in yoga, line dancing, shelter building, computers in addition to working as group counsellors.

Reciprocity, empathy and compassion were at the heart of this experience. Students learned from each other how to live well with others by building on our similarities and engaging in our differences. Many of the students noted that this was one of the most transformative and meaningful experiences of their lives. They also learned the power of communication, despite language barriers. "I quickly found that through body language, hand gestures, and a positive attitude and energy, I would be able to create lasting

relationships with both youth and volunteers," said Jillian Higgins, a student in the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care program.

The three weeks they spent in the Carpathian Mountains were a lesson in culture, compassion and humility, says Jillian. "It's incredible that we could foster such close connections with children and youth when we could only speak a very tiny amount of Ukrainian," she says. "We met amazing people, we stuck together, and we supported each other."

"I am so proud of each of the students who joined me on this challenging, yet exciting, adventure," says Larisa Hayduk, course instructor and director, Ukrainian initiatives with MacEwan's URDC. "Our trip has come to an end; however, the journey for each of us, touched by children and other Ukrainian and Canadian volunteers, will continue."

And the journey also continues for Jillian, who initiated a fundraising and awareness campaign for Help Us Help in September 2019. She aims to run the Banff Marathon in the spring of 2020 to honour the learning gained in the camp. As part of training, Jillian decided to run the Hypothermic half marathon in February with Running Room. After hearing Jillian's story, Running Room agreed to make Help Us Help the recipient of all proceeds from the run! If you would like to join the effort, please email Larisa at hayduk@macewan.ca.



MacEwan students and children at the Ukrainian summer camp.



MacEwan students and children at the Ukrainian summer camp.



MacEwan students at UCU, Lviv, learning Ukrainian language and culture.



“I’m a science student – a computer programmer who’s interested in fish. I’m not studying child and youth care or social work. I’ve always wanted to reconnect with my Ukrainian heritage, but what could I possibly have to offer at a summer camp for Ukrainian youth who live in orphanages?”

More than I thought, it turns out.

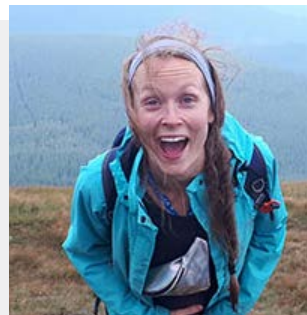
One of the camp counsellors was running computer labs, so I asked if I could help out. I was setting up the computers, when he said, “You should run the lab and I’ll interpret for you.”

So, I downloaded some super easy programming apps, and we just started. Some of these kids had never touched a computer before, but they picked it up really fast and a few of them were flying through the code three steps ahead of me. I spent extra time teaching them some of the tricks I’ve picked up along the way. They were so energized and wanted to learn. I can’t describe how good it felt to be connecting with and making an impact on these kids.

And of course, they were making an impact on me too. They made me see my university program in a different way – like I did back in first year when everything was exciting and new. They showed me how good it feels to keep pushing forward – to keep trying new things and new experiences.

At the end of the two weeks, the campers were asking if I was coming back next year. I’m not sure what next year will hold, but I can’t tell you how badly I want to be able to say yes.

– Eric, fourth-year
Bachelor of Science student



I hit a wall. I was emotionally burnt out. I had been working in the non-profit sector with homeless youth for several years and was frustrated with the many barriers that keep us from properly supporting people.

I’m a wholehearted believer in prevention, so I came to MacEwan to finish my degree, wanting to find ways to support families and help children grow and thrive – and hopefully help youth from ever becoming homeless in the first place.

Taking a course that led to volunteering at a summer camp in Ukraine for children and youth who live in orphanages changed my life. As soon as I stepped off the bus, I was engulfed in this bubble of positivity – people were hugging me and smiling and giving me high fives and putting their hand on my shoulder.

It sounds weird in a Canadian context, but I immediately felt so loved and so supported. It was therapeutic in a way that I didn’t understand or expect. I felt comfortable being the silly, outgoing woman that I am. I reconnected with that person at camp.

The kids taught me about the importance of stepping outside of your comfort zone, of believing in yourself and of trying something new. And they reminded me of a dream I had years ago to start a summer camp of my own.

– Jillian, fourth-year
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care



Sociology students in Lviv, Ukraine.



Inaugural Sociology Field School fosters student/faculty collaborations

By **Jessica Nelson** | Bachelor of Communication Studies student

In May 2019, 10 sociology students from MacEwan University travelled to Lviv, Ukraine as part of the inaugural MacEwan Sociological Field School (SOCI 395). While there they visited the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, where they collaborated on issues that were relevant in both Canada and Ukraine with a focus on youth at risk and examined how national and cultural contexts impact social issues. Students studied issues faced by youth at risk, ranging from LGBTQ+ matters to gang

involvement. The students participated in numerous academic activities and attended lectures at both MacEwan University and UCU. They studied law, policy, history and the culture of both Canada and Ukraine and how these practices may impact social issues.

On top of academic work, students had the opportunity to tour and meet with staff at the Boyle Street Community Centre, Edmonton Police Service and the John Howard Society in Edmonton.

In Ukraine, the students visited an orphanage, a police station, a drug rehab centre and Lviv city council.

At the end of the course students published their research in the journal *Crossing Borders: Student Reflections on Global Social Issues*. Their work can be viewed online at Journals.MacEwan.ca/CrossingBorders.

The field school will be offered again in spring 2020.

Nursing course in Ukraine provides student with new perspectives on global health and family

For the second year running, MacEwan Bachelor of Science in Nursing students travelled to Ukraine to learn alongside nursing students at the Ternopil State Medical University, where faculty members from both universities teach lectures as part of HLST 400: Global Health Perspectives.

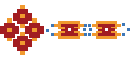
This year, the course was framed around the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, specifically focusing on migration – appropriate given that we live in an era with an unprecedented number of people on the move, either voluntarily or involuntarily, says Dr. Elizabeth

Burgess-Pinto, who taught HLST 400 with Yvonne Shelast. Both are assistant professors in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Conversations about how education, politics, housing and transportation impact people's health were informed by the students' experiences of life in Canada, Ukraine and Nigeria (several international nursing students from Nigeria who were studying in Ukraine also took part in the course). Those perspectives were incredibly valuable, says Candace Haspeck, a third-year nursing student. "What stood out to me was that everyone, no matter where

we live, has the same goal – healthy communities," says Candace. "I think it helped to restore my faith in humanity to see that we all care and want the same thing and that we just go about it a bit differently."

Comparing systems in a middle-income country like Ukraine with Canada is part of a larger focus on planetary health and well-being, says Dr. Burgess-Pinto. "The idea is to give students an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective on health understanding to develop their capacity as global citizens," she explains. "One aspect of doing that is



creating space for different ways of knowing and being, and how these enhance health and well-being.”

Tanner Watmough, also a MacEwan nursing student, so appreciated the experiences, hospitality and compassion the Ukrainian and Nigerian students shared that he decided to give a small education grant to one student from each group.

“It’s not something a broke university student typically does,” he says. “Spending time with people from other countries who have different experiences to share and hearing about the challenges they face made me realize that you can do a lot more to help than you think. It just felt like the right thing to do.”



Students participating in a hypertension awareness campaign.



“It was an amazing trip for me. I found some of my long-lost family in Ukraine.

I was an EMT for 20 years before I decided it was time for a career

change. I want to work abroad, and I thought going to Ukraine would be a great opportunity to get a taste of what it would be like to work and live in another country. It really was. And the experience wasn’t over when the course ended.

I decided to extend my stay and met up with my mom and sister who also travelled to Ukraine to join me. We had the name of the village my great-grandparents had emigrated from, but the last time any of our family was there would have been over 30 years ago. Anyone in Canada who might have been able to tell me if our relatives still lived in the village were long gone. But we went to the village anyway and actually found our family. The whole trip was life-changing.”

-Candace, third-year
Bachelor of Science in Nursing student



“I learned so much in Ukraine – about a culture I hadn’t experienced before, what it feels like when you’re in a country where you can’t speak the language, and exactly how much a dollar means to a Canadian student versus a

Ukrainian or Nigerian student.

The Nigerian and Ukrainian students were so welcoming and showed us so much hospitality and so much love. They allowed us to see life from another perspective, one where they seemed to be happy with so much less than we’re used to. I’ve always wanted to give back – to start some kind of foundation or charity, but I thought I’d need to have a lot of money to do it. Spending time with people from other countries who have different experiences to share and hearing about the challenges they face made me realize that you can do a lot more than you think.

It’s not something a broke university student typically does, but I decided to set up two \$250 grants in Canadian dollars and asked our instructors and fellow students to identify a Ukrainian and Nigerian student who they thought were really exceptional. It just felt like the right thing to do.”

-Tanner, third-year
Bachelor of Science in Nursing student



Shivani Sharma, MacEwan student, volunteers for GoGlobal-GoCamp in Ukraine.

GoCamp a win-win for volunteers and Ukrainian Children

By **Jessica Nelson** | Bachelor of Communication Studies student

MacEwan student Shivani Sharma was in the small village of Kolky in Ukraine, volunteering for GoGlobal GoCamp, the largest volunteer organization in Eastern Europe. GoCamp teaches foreign language skills to Ukrainian students in rural and urban settings. Program volunteers have the opportunity to not only share their language skills but experience Ukrainian culture.

“Leaving Edmonton, I was nervous about what to expect, but when I got here everyone from the camp team was very nice and understanding,” says Shivani. “I am getting love from everywhere in Ukraine – from new friends, host family, the GoCamp team, teachers and my kids.”

Shivani’s main responsibility during the program was to speak English to encourage, improve and engage Ukrainian children in learning the language. Volunteers do not have to prepare or conduct lessons; Shivani was there to support the teacher and make English learning for children fun. As any former participant can attest,

GoCamp is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer, see the world, experience Ukrainian hospitality and find meaningful relationships that might grow into life-long friendships.

GoCamp educates a new young generation of active and conscious citizens of Ukraine, who are capable of lifelong learning, prepared for the challenges of the 21st century, fluent in foreign languages and open to other cultures and experiences. Program volunteers mentor children, helping them to break language and cultural barriers. So far, 700 volunteers from 75 countries and 120,000 children all over Ukraine have been involved in the project.

GoGlobal promotes language learning and volunteer movement in Ukraine, fostering intercultural dialogue and public diplomacy. GoGlobal is working on ensuring that Ukrainians speak foreign languages, and thus have a chance to be heard all around the world.



If you are interested in volunteering for GoCamp this year, please contact Larisa at haydukl@macewan.ca. MacEwan students may also request a co-curricular record, an official recognition of volunteer experiences by MacEwan University.



Recipients of the Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Visiting Scholars Fund

Five years into MacEwan University's partnership with Ternopil National Medical University (TNMU) much has been accomplished: student and faculty exchanges, joint teaching initiatives, course development and collaborative research on hypertension and post-traumatic stress disorder.



Dr. Svitlana Yastremska working with MacEwan faculty member Yvonne Shelast.

Faculty members from both universities are teaming up to conduct nursing research that could help inform how nursing fits into comprehensive health-care system reform that is currently happening in Ukraine. Dr. Svitlana Yastremska and Dr. Lyudmyla Mazur, both physicians and faculty members at TNMU, are partnering with MacEwan Bachelor of Science in Nursing faculty members Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, Dr. Mary Asirifi and Dr. Judee Onyskiw along with Dr. Olenka Bilash of the University of Alberta to look at perceptions of nurses in Ukraine to see if there are gaps or opportunities to shift the role nurses could play in the future.

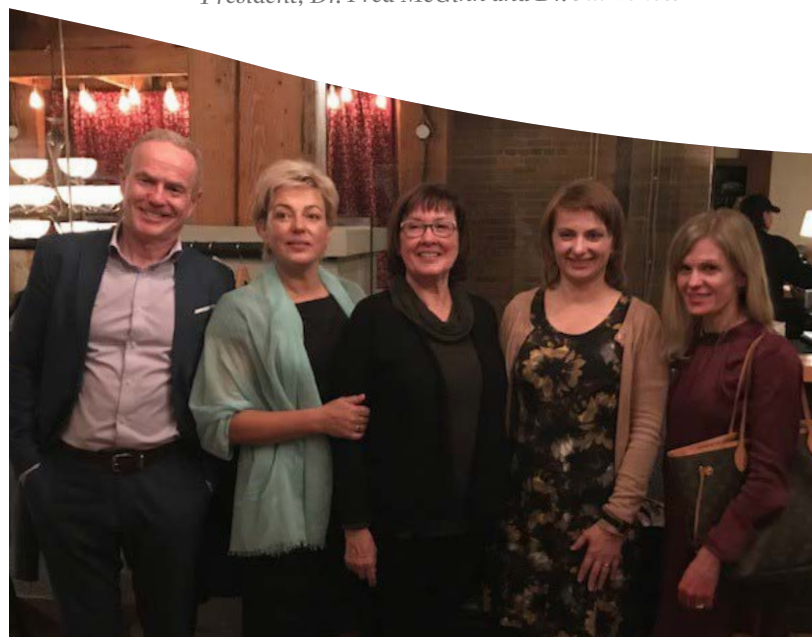


Drs. Svitlana Yastremska and Lyudmyla Mazur during their visit to the Clinical Simulation Centre.

Because the health systems – and nursing professions – in both countries are very different, the opportunity to visit in person and discuss both the systems and the research is critical, says Dr. Yastremska. “Meeting face-to-face helps us see the whole picture and realize opportunities to learn from each other,” she says. During their time together at MacEwan, the faculty members also planned for further development and improvement/enhancement of the Global Health Perspectives course that they will once again co-teach to Canadian and Ukrainian students next summer. This year, their focus will be on the impact of diabetes on global health.

Drs. Yastremska and Mazur were the beneficiaries of the Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Visiting Scholars Fund, offered through URDC. This fund supports faculty exchanges between MacEwan and Ukrainian universities. The Faculty of Nursing, in collaboration with URDC, hosted the scholars in October 2019. A number of class and simulation centre visits were organized, as well as visits to the community health centres, research meetings and discussions with Ukrainian community members.

Meeting with John McGrath, MacEwan President, Dr. Fred McGinn and Dr. Jill Vohos.





Mykola Lysenko Music Academy celebrates its 175th anniversary.

New partnerships and exciting opportunities in music

MacEwan University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Lviv National Music Academy of Mykola Lysenko (Ukraine). In December, Dr. Allan Gilliland, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, and Dr. William (Bill) Richards, chair of the Department of Music, paid an inaugural visit to the Lviv Music Academy to meet in person and discuss possibilities of collaborative initiatives in the near future. The Academy celebrated their 175th anniversary on December 14, and Dr. Gilliland and Dr. Richards participated in the festivities.

Dr. Gilliland presented at the international music conference as part of the academy's celebrations where English was one of the five working languages. His presentation titled "Music Education in Canada: Where we've been and where we're going" was very well received.

Drs. Gilliland and Richards met with the Lviv Academy of Arts and MacEwan's long-time partner, Ukrainian Catholic University, to explore the future opportunities in design and arts management.

The first visit to Ukraine went well. Both Dr. Gilliland and Dr. Richards made many connections and enjoyed beautiful Lviv. The trip proved to be the beginning of initiatives that are mutually beneficial to MacEwan and the Ukrainian institutions.

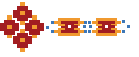
The academy's jazz group invited Dr. Richards to sit in on their set, and relationships blossomed through the language of music. It is planned that the MacEwan University Big Band will travel to Ukraine in June 2020 to play at the Leopold Jazz Festival. The Ukrainian partners are truly looking forward to hearing the band perform with John Stetch, the award-winning Canadian jazz pianist of Ukrainian decent, who will join the band in Lviv.



Dr. Richards with a grad student in front of the Academy.



Drs. Gilliland and Richards at the Lviv Academy of Art.



News from Drs. Doris and Peter Kule Chair

Dr. Svitlana (Lana) Kryś, assistant professor and Kule Chair at MacEwan University, reports the following academic activities for the period of January 1-December 31, 2019. A productive research and collaboration-intensive year was marked by a series of organized talks, several Ukraine-related publications and student and community engagement.

The Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies Speaker Series brings scholars of Ukrainian studies to MacEwan to deliver lectures on Ukrainian culture, history, society, language, literature and the arts. In 2019, Lana invited three speakers to deliver presentations in this series: Dr. Sergiy Yakovenko (instructor, MacEwan University), Dr. Maryna Romanets (professor, University of Northern British Columbia) and Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky (associate professor, University of Kansas).

All talks were open to MacEwan staff, faculty and students as well as the general public. They were delivered as

part of Lana's classes, offering students a rare opportunity to listen to the most recent scholarship on Ukraine. Dr. Yakovenko's lecture, "The Centre and the Spectre: Bruno Schulz's Ukrainian Town," was also part of MacEwan's Global Awareness Week. Dr. Romanets' talk was dedicated to the Ukrainian postcolonial Gothic and the monstrous feminine. Dr. Chernetsky's lecture focused on post-Euromaidan Ukrainian neo-Gothic literature and Ukraine's search for itself.

In May, Lana hosted two Ukrainian delegations. The first, a delegation from the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People in Ukraine, participated in a film screening and a discussion panel co-organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and URDC at MacEwan to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the deportation of the Crimean Tatars after World War II. The second, from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, was co-hosted with the Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society. Lana organized a tour of MacEwan for the UCU visitors and presented on Ukrainian initiatives at MacEwan. She also arranged a meeting for them with Kimberley Howard, executive director of MacEwan International.

Together with MacEwan's writer-in-residence, Anna Marie Sewell, Lana co-organized and co-hosted the multilingual performance event "By Heart: A Spoken and Sung Celebration" in November, which brought together faculty, community and student artists to celebrate cultural diversity through language, literature and creative spirit. Lana recited Ukrainian poetry at the event.

Lana serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* (EWJUS, EWJUS.com), which is sponsored by the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. Two issues of EWJUS (vol. 6, no. 1 and vol. 6, no. 2, spring-fall 2019) were published in 2019 (approximately 500 pages in total).

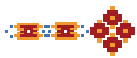
Among Lana's recent publications is a special issue of *Canadian Slavonic Papers* (vol. 61, no. 4, 2019), titled "Postcoloniality and Neo-Gothic Fictions in the Post-Soviet Space," which she co-edited with Dr. Maryna Romanets. Lana is currently preparing a book manuscript titled "At the Origins of the Ukrainian Gothic."

Dr. Kryś with the UCU visitors, May 2019.



Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky presenting in the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies Speaker Series, September 2019.





URDC records deposited in MacEwan archives

In 2019, MacEwan archivist Valla McLean accepted over 60 boxes of URDC records covering the 30-year period of 1986 to 2016.

The files are grouped by theme and subject, including the founding of URDC; the history of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE); materials on donors and five major endowments; URDC's involvement in multiculturalism; URDC's immediate response to help universities in Ukraine as soon as Ukraine became independent in 1991; MacEwan faculty and student international exchanges; scholarships; and externally-funded projects in Ukraine managed by MacEwan in the departments of business education, nursing, sociology, deafness and disability studies, inclusive education, faculty development and other disciplines.

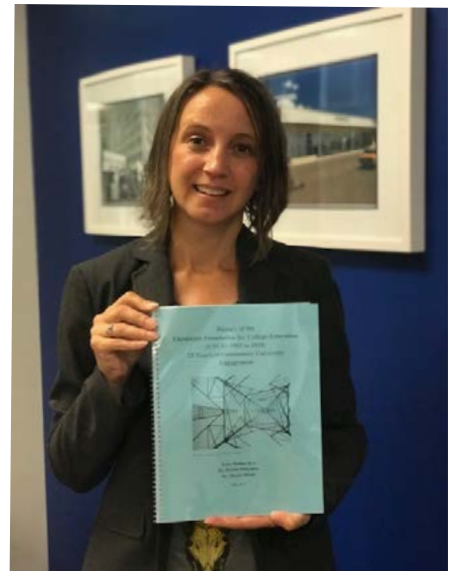
A large collection of URDC photos and films are included in the collection. URDC's relations with external

organizations are also documented (e.g. the Government of Alberta; the Ukrainian Language Education Centre (ULEC) at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta; the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE); the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Alberta; the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF), Shevchenko Foundation, and others).

In the earlier absence of an archival program at MacEwan, the boxes had been stored pro bono for the previous four years by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education at a community facility. Thanks are due to George Zaharia and Dr. Roman Petryshyn of UFCE for securing the materials and transporting them to MacEwan.

Valla McLean has indicated that the materials will be selected, catalogued and a finder's aid prepared to materials will be appraised, arranged and described.

URDC materials are among the first to be accepted into the MacEwan archives and will help to document MacEwan's local and international involvement with Ukraine through a successful model of community university engagement.



Valla McLean holding the history of UFCE research.

MacEwan was established in 1971 and will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021. URDC founder and former director, Dr. Roman Petryshyn, was interviewed by the university's archivist. The purpose of the oral history project is to document the history of the institution through the personal accounts of alumni, faculty and staff who were involved or affected by events during 1971 to 1999.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Valla McLean at mcleanj14@macewan.ca.

News from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)

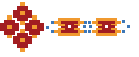


New UFCE President, Dr. Olenka Bilash.

UFCE Board elects new president

Members of the Board of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) are community members, professionals, educators and business people who have supported cooperative developments in education between Canada and Ukraine since 1994. Board positions are voluntary. In October 2019, Dr. Olenka Bilash was elected as the new president of UFCE.

Dr. Bilash is currently the acting director of ULEC at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. She is founder of the summer high school Osvita program, author of NOVA, a Ukrainian language development resource intended for non-native Ukrainian-



speaking children, and a proponent of the power of technology to increase connections between people and programs. Dr. Bilash is passionate about building bridges between people, cultures, disciplines and institutions. She was the principal investigator of the Research Initiative on Democratic Reforms in Ukraine (RIDRU) and co-director of the Contemporary Ukraine Research Forum (CURF), two digital humanities projects to increase capacity of Ukrainian studies

on four continents. A former associate dean of graduate studies, she has helped to build a culture of research at several universities in Canada and South Africa and has worked with several hundred graduate students. Dr. Bilash has received numerous awards, including the prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship and the Stephen A. Freeman Award for best publication in Second Language Education.

We thank UFCE Board members for continued financial support of programming at MacEwan University.

MacEwan students in the spotlight again at the Kyiv Konnection

Every year, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) holds their major fundraising event, the Kyiv Konnection banquet. Proceeds are part of the support for undertakings of URDC at MacEwan, in particular educational programs benefiting students and young professionals in Canada and in Ukraine.

Members of the Board of UFCE are volunteers consisting of community members, professionals, educators and business people who have supported co-operative developments in education between Canada and Ukraine since 1994.

On May 2, 2019, the 26th fundraising banquet greeted over 150 people who came to support the work of URDC. Oleksandr Danyleiko, General Consul of Ukraine in Edmonton, talked about

the challenges of the education system in Ukraine and the importance of Canada Ukraine collaborations in education. Myrna Khan, vice president of University Relations at MacEwan, emphasized the importance of the university's partnership with UFCE. The benefits and opportunities it provides for students, faculty and staff to reach out into the world are hard to overestimate. She noted, "These experiences change our students forever. They help them see where they fit in the world. They allow them to dream of ways they can create and contribute to vibrant communities – at home and abroad."

The keynote speakers were, once again, MacEwan students. This time, Jessica Katerenchuk and Charday Motley from the Faculty of Nursing shared their experiences from the 2018

Global Health Perspectives Study in Ukraine. Both speakers talked about the significance of such experiences in their educational journey. Charday maintained that planetary health is an evolutionary concept in the field of global health. "With the world we live in today, what each and every one of us does impacts the billions of people that live on this planet," she said. "We are all interconnected. This course has taught me much more than any class lecture could on global health and the social determinants of health."

URDC and UFCE express their gratitude to all supporters and donors.

UFCE Executive at the MacEwan Donor Wall.



Keynote speakers with Dr. Judee Onyskiw and Gordon Gordey at the Kyiv Konnection banquet.





Members at the Gene Zwozdesky Memorial Charity Golf Tournament.



Gene Zwozdesky Memorial Charity Golf Classic – United for Ukraine

This year, UFCE's golf fundraiser was a special event. The newly renamed Gene Zwozdesky Memorial Charity Golf Classic – United for Ukraine tournament brought together 105 golfers in Mundare, Alberta, making it one of the best attended in the event's history.

Mr. Zwozdesky was a board member of UFCE, an outstanding Albertan who supported countless initiatives to enrich every area of this province

and a key supporter of the UFCE golf fundraiser since its inception.

As always, it was a fun event, with lots of laughs, koobie on a bun served by Honourable Ed Stelmach and his wife, and a deluxe Ukrainian dinner to cap off the day. Thank you goes to all participants who made the tournament so special and for support of the programs offered by URDC at MacEwan.

UFCE acknowledges and extends a big thank you to Gene Zwozdesky's family for their approval to rename the golf fundraiser to honour the legacy of this exceptional man.



Threads That Connect International Ukrainian Embroidery and Textile symposium

Are you interested in Ukrainian culture and fashion? On May 14-17, 2020, URDC of MacEwan University, in collaboration with the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA), will be hosting Threads That Connect: International Ukrainian Embroidery and Textile Symposium. The event will feature learning opportunities through lectures and master classes, as well as exhibits, cultural tours, an artisan market and a fashion show.

The primary focus of this project is twofold – to increase the awareness of rare and unique textile art forms from the past, and to inspire contemporary fiber artists and the community through the exposure to these

textiles. The initiative will provide a unique educational opportunity to the Ukrainian and wider Canadian community to learn about Ukrainian culture as it is represented in embroidery and textiles.

The Threads that Connect project will include the curation of a contemporary exhibition of textiles, focusing on how they evolved and how they continue to inspire artists in new and innovative ways today. Over 20 volunteers have been working on this project for nearly a year, and they look forward to bringing it to fruition. Don't miss this exciting event! For more information, visit acuarts.ca and click on Events.





URDC Awards

URDC congratulates the 2019 award winners:

Tymothy Jaddock | \$500

The Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) Award.

Olga Zaitseva-Herz | \$500

Serge Eremenko Music Award.

Olga Zaitseva-Herz | \$750

Roman Soltykewych Music Award.

Clayton Amero | \$1,000

Ukraine Millennium Foundation Award.

Mitchell Palahniuk | \$1,000

Ukraine Millennium Foundation Award.

Fabio Henao Caviedes | \$1,000

Ukraine Millennium Foundation Award.

Les Sereda

(Documentary *Dancing on Eggshells: The Making of Shumka's Ancestors and Elders*) | \$1,000

William and Mary Kostash Award for Media Arts.

Lianna Makuch

(*Blood of Our Soil*) | \$1,300

Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers.

Drs. Doris and Peter Kule celebrate their 99th birthdays

The first week of January 2020 saw two of MacEwan University's major donors – Drs. Doris and Peter Kule – both celebrate their 99th birthday. URDC extends best wishes to Peter and Doris on behalf of the MacEwan community. Happy Birthday! Mnohaia Lita!

Both Peter and Doris were born in January 1921, although in different countries. Peter Kule was born in Stratyn, currently in the Rohatyn district of Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ukraine. The same week, Doris (nee Radesh) was born near Boian, AB, Canada. Her parents had come to Canada from the Bukovyna region, Ukraine.

Peter, along with his two brothers and mother, set out in 1938 to reunite with his father Michael, who had preceded them to Canada and settled in Two Hills, AB ten years earlier.

Both Peter and Doris were excellent students. Even though Peter had completed high school in Ukraine, he also mastered the Canadian curriculum in English within a year. With his talent

for mathematics, he completed his training as a certified public accountant. Doris became an elementary teacher in Derwent and other rural locations and eventually spent the majority of her career teaching at a school in the Beverly community in Edmonton.

Peter and Doris met in 1943 and were married one year later. Peter became a well-known and trusted accountant and opened his own firm in Edmonton in 1945. In 1990 the firm merged with Kingston Ross and became one of the largest local accounting firms in Edmonton with a total of 100 employees.

Peter also invested in real estate and hotel properties across Alberta. Eventually this enabled him to donate substantial endowments in Ukrainian studies to various Canadian universities, including MacEwan where he established the following endowments:

- Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Chair in Ukrainian Community and International Development Fund
- Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Visiting Scholars in Ukrainian Studies and Culture Fund
- Health and Nursing Technology Fund
- Additionally, Peter and Doris contributed to MacEwan's Chair of International Health Endowment Fund



Photo courtesy of the Kule Folklore Centre, University of Alberta.

Together with matching funds and growth of investments made by the MacEwan Foundation over the years, the capital value of funds launched by the Kules grew and currently are assessed at over \$8 million.

The Kules also created additional endowments at the University of Alberta, University of Ottawa and with the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Fittingly, a book about Peter and Doris published in 2009 is titled *Champions of Philanthropy*.

MacEwan University wishes Peter and Doris good health and happiness as they approach their 100th birthday celebrations in January 2021.

